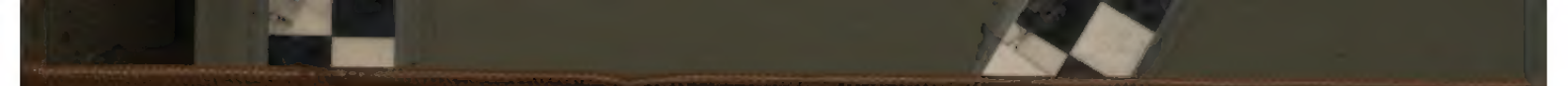

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LORD CHARLES BERESFORD AT TOKYO.

IMPORTANT SPEECH AT A JAPANESE RECEPTION.

THE OPEN DOOR IN CHINA.

JAPANESE AND BRITISH INTERESTS.

THE QUADRUPLE ALLIANCE SCHEME.

The reception and dinner given to Lord Charles Beresford on Saturday evening, Jan. 21st, by the *Toho Kyokai*, or Japanese Oriental Association, and the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce was a most gratifying success, and must have had a very encouraging effect on the noble lord who is appearing in a new *rôle* as the commercial representative of the most commercial nation of the world. The Imperial Hotel, where the function took place, was crowded with guests; indeed, the number was so great that many who desired to take part had necessarily to be disappointed. The gathering comprehended representatives of every influential class in the Empire. There were Cabinet Ministers, in office and *en retraite*, members of the Peers' House, deputies, officials, Naval and Military notabilities, great leaders of commerce and industry, and a very large sprinkling of Japanese journalists. Most of the guests adopted the orthodox evening dress, but there was a considerable minority who attended in the national costume.

The dinner with which the proceedings opened was an elegant repast worthy the best traditions of the Imperial Hotel, about 150 persons sitting down. There was no formal toast list, but at the commencement of the dinner Mr. Inagaki spoke a few words of welcome to the guest of the evening, and at the conclusion Lord Charles himself proposed the health of the Emperor of Japan, Count Soyeshima, President of the Oriental Association, reciprocating by giving the health of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Selections of the national music of both countries were given during the dinner. At the subsequent meeting there were over 500 persons present. It was impossible, in such a large gathering, to distinguish all the notabilities present, but among the principal Japanese were Prince Konoye (President of the House of Peers), presiding; Count Itagaki, Count Okuma, Marquis Tokugawa, Viscount Watanabe, Count Soyejima, Viscount Soga, Viscount Nagaoka, Baron Senke, Mr. Kataoka (President of the House of Representatives), Mr. Shibusawa (President of the Chamber of Commerce), Mr. Oishi, Mr. Nozume, Mr. Kuga, Mr. Kondo, Capt. Saito (Vice-Minister of the Admiralty), Mr. Kimotsuki, Mr. Miyaki, Professor Hijikata, Mr. Matsuura, Mr. Kato, Mr. Okura, Mr. Kaguchi, &c. There were comparatively few foreigners present, but among them were Sir Ernest Satow, H.B.M.'s Minister, Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, British Consul at Yokohama, and Mr. P. Mollison. The Japanese audience was most enthusiastic; the speech of Lord Charles Beresford was followed with keen and most intelligent interest by those who understood the language, and was punctuated with applause. It was afterwards interpreted into Japanese in a most able manner by Mr. Ichibara, of the Bank of Japan.

PRINCE KONOYE'S TRIBUTE TO LORD CHARLES.

Prince KONOYE, as Chairman, introduced his Lordship in a short speech, of which the following translation was handed to the Press:—

Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—I have the honour of introducing to you our illustrious guest Lord Charles Beresford. As you well know, his Lordship is of noble birth; while young he joined Her British Majesty's navy, and subsequently rendered many meritorious services, especially in Egypt. As Member of Parliament, his Lordship has always been one of the strongest advocates of strengthening the British navy and of preserving peace in the Orient, and his Lordship's views command our high respect. His visit to the Far East must have confirmed his conviction, and this must be a matter for congratulation to those countries which he visited. His Lordship's visit to our country and especially his favouring us with his presence here to-night should be heartily appreciated. Ever since we heard of his Lordship's coming here, we desired most eagerly to meet him and hear his views, while at the same time he might have opportunity to observe our country. That we have been enabled to satisfy our desires to-night is a subject for deep gratification. In spite of the limited time at his disposal, his Lordship will now favour us with a speech, from which I dare say we shall all learn a great deal.

AN IMPORTANT VISIT.

Mr. SHIBUSAWA, President of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, followed. He also spoke in Japanese, the substance of his remarks being as follow:—

Lord Charles Beresford, Excellencies, and Gentlemen,—I have the honour to represent the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce this evening, and in that capacity I deem it my good fortune to be able to express our sincere gratitude for the honour conferred upon us by our distinguished guest with his presence at this meeting. The name of Rear-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford has always been associated even here in the Extreme East with civil as well as military honours of high distinctions and we naturally expect very much to hear his political and naval opinions, but, knowing that his present mission is to inquire into the commercial condition of our neighbour China, at the request of British Chambers of Commerce, we, as merchants and manufacturers, would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to ask for his Lordship's views about our trade, especially at the present moment when we are placed under an urgent necessity of developing our commercial capacity. Commerce being the motive power for a nation's political and military progress, its prosperity bears a close relationship to our national welfare, and this is proved by the history of the great nation which his Lordship represents. And as a commissioner for the inspection of Chinese commerce and trade I think we can say that his Lordship's mission is not without very important bearings upon this country.

JAPAN'S DEBT TO GREAT BRITAIN.

Before venturing to ask his Lordship's advice I must dwell first of all on the source from which we have derived stimulus and inspiration in our commercial development, that is, Great Britain. Helped by her, our commerce has been developed, and I am glad to say that the tradal relations of the two countries are growing more and more intimate and extensive. For their helping in our new career as a commercial nation we deem it only our duty to express our warmest gratitude, and at the same time I venture to ask his Lordship to bear witness of the good will and gratitude which we entertain toward the people of Great Britain. As a nation we were formerly taught to look upon agriculture as our national foundation, and to attach the greatest importance to military attainments; so that the mercantile and industrial development has been comparatively slow and imperfect with us. Forty-two years ago, during the administration of the Tokugawa Shogunate, a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation was signed between Great Britain and this country. This was an event that roused our merchants and manufacturers, nay, the whole of our people, from the lethargy of exclusion, and it was from this time that we began to attach a great deal of importance to commerce and industry. But in those days our people were generally given to theorizing, and were yet far from attaining practical progress. Some went so far as to advocate an exclusive policy of an extreme nature, and this involved the nation, in some instances, in the misfortune of having its commercial development obstructed. In the midst of difficulties consequent upon the narrow and exclusive ideas of people in those days, British patience and perseverance prevailed and gradually gained the day, until we have realized what we see at present. In fact, Japan may be said to have been regenerated.

THE REVISION OF TREATIES.

And also in revising the Treaties that were signed in those days and were naturally imperfect, Great Britain led the way in acceding to our wishes in 1894. Other nations followed her example, and now we are approaching the happy time for carrying out the revised treaties. Glancing over our commercial conditions, we feel satisfied with the gradual progress thus far achieved in this line. About 1874, the total amount of our imports and exports was 18,780,079 *yen*, but the latest report, that is from January to November, 1898, shows a big total of 398,183,939 *yen*,—an increase of over twenty times—of which Great Britain had a share of 129,346,939 *yen*, or 32½ per cent of the whole volume. These figures go very clearly to show the condition of our tradal relations with Great Britain, a condition with which we are highly gratified. Lord Charles Beresford, on the occasion of a reception given him at Osaka, drew a comparison between this country and his own. We quite agree with his Lordship as to the similarity of the physical nature of the two countries, their limited size, and the insular formation, and also of the abundance of population necessitating supply of food material from other countries. But I am constrained to confess the truth that there is a vast difference in the economic condition of the two nations. Look, for instance, at the high rate of interest and low standard of wages prevailing in this country. This proves nothing else but the primitive condition of our commerce and industry. It is a matter of great regret that such a state of things still exists, and we are placed under an imperative necessity of remedying this prevailing condition in our country.

RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

Since 1895, we have come to see the necessity of developing our commercial relations with our neighbour, China. Should our neighbour open the door more widely, it would not

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be too much for us to expect to realize an opportunity of cooperation with Great Britain and other nations for an increased commercial activity in this part of the world. The sudden expansion of our commerce and industry during the past few years has not been free from evils, from the effects of which we are suffering at present. In order to remedy this evil and realize a further development, it is of the first importance to provide facilities for the introduction of European and American capital. But I regret to find the actual condition of our commerce and industry is only imperfectly known abroad. There was such a thing as an exclusion policy before the Restoration, but now I am glad to say that even a shadow of that kind of idea does not exist among our business men. We all stand on a cosmopolitan platform and I venture to assure his Lordship of this fact and to hope that his Lordship on his return home will give expression to this state of feeling prevailing in this country at present. Before closing I beg to say that, on account of the shortness of his Lordship's stay in this country, it is to our great regret that we could not find time sufficiently to entertain his Lordship and also to offer him better opportunites to see more fully the actual state of our commerce and industry. But it would be expecting too much to claim more time of a gentleman of his Lordship's standing and ability, and all we can do under the circumstances is to trust to his Lordship's power of insight, whereby we on this side of the globe as well as those in the other hemisphere will be benefited, so that this meeting here this evening may become a bright landmark in the history of Japan's tradal relations with the world and become a strong link in our future intercourse with Great Britain. I hope and trust that on the occasion of his Lordship's renewed visit to this country, if we may entertain such a hope, or when some of us meet him in his Lordship's own country, the pleasure of observing a growing amicability between the two countries will be realized. The pleasure we experienced this evening would thus be increased a hundredfold. Finally, I would beg on behalf of all gentlemen present to express our warmest appreciation of the honour and pleasure conferred upon us by his Lordship's presence here this evening, and his kindness in favouring us with an address.

A REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.

Lord CHARLES BERESFORD, who on rising was received with great applause, said :—

Your Highness, your Excellencies, my Lords and gentlemen,—When I came to Japan my object in coming to this country was to ascertain, as far as I was able, what the opinions were in this great Empire with regard to the future condition of trade and commerce in China. I unexpectedly received an invitation that I should make you a speech. I did not come here to give you my ideas. I came here to ask you for yours. I cannot conceal, Sir, from myself that you have paid me a most distinguished honour, for I am informed that all classes of the community in this great Empire are represented here this evening. I am informed that there are both sides of political opinions; that there are distinguished Cabinet Ministers, or ex-Cabinet ministers, that there are leaders of all parties. I myself observe distinguished soldiers and sailors, and I am glad to know there are a very large number of Chambers of Commerce, and those interested in commerce—that with which I am particularly associated at the present moment—to hear the few remarks I may address you this evening. I, Sir, am perfectly unofficial. I represent, however, the greatest power in Great Britain, that is the Associated Chambers of Commerce, and let me tell you why it is the greatest power. When the Government makes proposals, it is the duty of the Opposition to criticise these proposals, and as a rule they do so very drastically. But when Chambers of Commerce in my country—I have not been long enough to say what the custom in yours is—but in my country when Chambers of Commerce make their voices heard, Governments have to listen. Therefore it is highly satisfactory to me to know that when you ask me to speak, there is a very large number of these Chambers of Commerce in the audience which is here to listen to my remarks. Now, Sir, with regard to the view of the future of China. I have held in the few remarks I have made in that country, that the interests in the future, of trade and commerce in China are identical, absolutely identical, as far as Japan and Great Britain are concerned.

THE OPEN DOOR.

Great Britain, as you know, has declared in the most public manner that her policy in the future with regard to the safety of her interests and trade and commerce, must be the policy of the open door—(applause)—and as far as I can gather from the many kind interviews I have received in this country, the people of this great Empire are determined that the policy of the open door shall continue in China as far as they are concerned.—(Applause.) Therefore I say that our policy and our interests for the future are identical. But, Sir, it is all very well to put down a policy in a theoretical manner. Practical people endeavour to find out how it is to be carried out, and if you will allow me I will make a suggestion following those remarks as to the necessity of the policy of the open door, as to how I think it could be carried out without the slightest fear of war, and war, remember, is the one thing that affects trade and commerce in a very bad way. My policy—the one I have the honour to propose—I think would make for peace. Well, I have had the honour, several times in my own country and also a little in China, of suggesting that there should be a commercial alliance—well, let us call it an understanding (applause)—but if it is an understanding let it be a definite understanding, a clear understanding, that not only our countries, those four which I hope will join in this understanding, not only that they should understand it clearly and perfectly but that other countries should understand it clearly and perfectly as well.—(Hear, hear, and applause.)

GERMANY'S ATTITUDE.

This understanding or alliance should be in my opinion based on the principle of the open door. It will not be very much use unless you determine that China shall maintain its integrity.—(Applause.) Very well. Now, the four nations that I have referred to are the four great trading countries with China, and therefore it is to their interests to have this definite understanding and to base that definite understanding on the integrity of China, as that the door can be kept open. There was a remark made to me that Germany had not quite agreed to this point, or rather her action would incline one to believe that she would wish to take territory. I rather demur to that. Germany may in the interests of her nation have thought it proper to have land in China, but she has most definitely declared to all nations that Kiaochow shall be an open port, and that the territory she has at present shall be open to all nations. That is a definite and declared understanding of Germany between all the other nations. Therefore I cannot see that any objection should be made to Germany joining the other nations I have mentioned—or rather which I shall mention now, viz., Great Britain, Japan, Germany, and America. The policy of the open door is not a selfish policy. It is a most unselfish policy, because it means a fair field and no favour to all nations and that all nations should trade as they think fit without tariffs, in the great Empire of China. But, sir, speaking to a Japanese audience, I must confine my remarks perhaps to why I think it is necessary for Japan to maintain the policy of the open door.

THE EXPANSION OF JAPAN.

Japan is a very growing Empire. You have now, I believe I am correct in saying, something like forty-two million people; those people are increasing largely every year, but as I understand it you only have in your great Empire some one-twelfth part of it which you can by any means utilise for growing food for your people. That being so, it is imperative that you will have to buy food for your people in the near future, more particularly if you have bad years. Well, you must have money to buy that food; therefore it is absolutely essential that the Japanese nation should increase her manufactures and should have a fair and regular output for those manufactures in the nearest country to her, which is China.—(Applause.) It is China and Korea.—(Applause.) In some respects your country is very like Great Britain. We have to buy increasingly each year large food products for our people; but we have this advantage for the moment over your country, for as soon as the beginning of the century, when we won great victories at sea and had the command of the sea, Great Britain has to a great extent had the monopoly of the trade of the world. Now Great Britain is a competitor, but the result of her having that monopoly for so many years was that our capitalists invested their capital in trade not exactly with Great Britain itself, but in trade between other foreign nations. Therefore it became a great trading interest for Great Britain, and the result was that the interest of that capital went to Great Britain and enabled us with the aid of our large manufactures to buy food for our people, and to put ourselves in a better position. How then will Japan be in the future when her population increases, and her food supply decreases in proportion if she has not what she has the right to demand—an out-put for her great manufactures in the near future in China and Korea?—(Applause.)

THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

Sir, in thinking of the great question of this character, which is the future of trade and commerce in China,—I venture to suggest that it is one of the most important questions of the future that the world possibly will have to face—it is worth while to study the history of the world in the past and to study the history of those nations that form that world. There are nations in the world—I am always very careful as a public man to be most courteous to all nations because I believe nations have a right to go in any way they think is for their own interests—but there are nations in the world whose policy appears to be the annexation of territory, and those nations we know very well, when they do annex territory, put on tariffs. Well, they put on tariffs in their own interests, but what we have to do in these days is to see that while other nations are embodying a policy which they conceive to be for their own interests, they do not do anything which hurts our interests. And I think you will agree with me that if nations take territory in China and put on tariffs, it would certainly be to the detriment of the trade and commerce of Great Britain, and certainly of Japan.—(Applause.) Now, Sir, it is the duty and business of our country certainly, and of the country to which you, gentlemen, belong to watch most carefully and most cautiously what other nations are doing, and if you see them putting themselves in a predominant position of advantage and by getting that position of advantage they may do something to affect your trade and commerce in the future, it is your bounden duty, and that of Great Britain also, to take such steps as will stop them interfering with your interests of trade and commerce in the future.—(Applause.)

THE VALUE OF DIPLOMATIC ASSURANCES.

Now let me turn for one moment to what is called the policy of the open door. I am suggesting to you nothing new. It is the policy that is supposed to exist at this moment. All that we want in Great Britain, all that I imagine you want here, is to stick to the treaties as they are laid down now between your country and China, and not allow them to be interfered with in any way whatever. That is all you require. But it is no use making treaties and it is no use having great quantities of documentary evidence unless you take steps to see that those treaties are enforced, and that your interests are not interfered with; and here again I want to point out the necessity

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for a commercial alliance or undertaking such as I have already remarked upon, for ensuring that your interests are not interfered with, and assuring that those treaties which you enjoy at present are rigidly kept. There is also the question of trade and commerce and financial interests which you either enjoy or shortly hope to enjoy in China and Korea. Well, there again comes a point, and a great point, for Japan to look into. You should be very careful also to take steps that your vested interests in that country are not affected in any way. How can you do it better than by joining such a commercial alliance as I have indicated to you to secure the open door for the future? Well now, gentlemen, there is this point to remember, that trade and commerce and vested interests cannot be enjoyed or secured in the future by protocols, by diplomatic utterances, or by paper assurances, particularly when one side holds nothing but those diplomatic utterances and paper assurances, and the other side holds a very important and very formidable military force to carry out the objects which it may have in view. I believe you will agree with me, I believe that the people at home will very soon wake up to the fact that the diplomatic utterances and paper assurances are not sufficient either to keep the peace or to ensure the development of your trade in the future, and the security for that trade, when once you have developed it.—(Applause.)

A COMMERCIAL ALLIANCE NECESSARY.

Well, gentlemen, those are my views with regard to the open door. I have tried to show you that I think this commercial alliance or understanding is necessary. I am absolutely certain of this—that if you can get the four countries, Great Britain, Japan, America, and Germany, whose interests are identical with regard to the open door, to join together and put down a definite policy, there will be no war.—(Applause.) I am perfectly certain that if they do join together it will be the better for trade and commerce in the future, and I believe myself that if this alliance would make for peace if we all think it out and the great trading classes of those countries think it out, it will be perfectly possible to bring about such an understanding as I have suggested. This is my view of the case. Now it is no use having such an understanding as I have suggested in China without you have another sort of security. The basis of all commerce, of all trade, of all peace, and of all security is an efficient military or police force in a country—(applause)—as I think you will all agree.

THE CONDITION OF CHINA.

Well, I have been all over China. I have been treated with the greatest courtesy and the greatest kindness by the whole of the Chinese officials. I have inspected their armies,—all their armies but one—I have been allowed to put them through their manœuvres, to see what they knew; I have been to all their forts and have also trained their guns myself; I have been to all their arsenals, to all their training establishments, and to their ships, and to their one dock-yard; therefore I think I may say, being a naval man and knowing something about military service, I am in a position to judge how far they can give that security which it is our right to demand for our vested interests, and for our trade and commerce. Well, I found in China a very excellent lot of men—as good a lot of men as I suppose any country could produce. I believe they would make most excellent soldiers. I am told by those who know them better than I do—your own officers—that they would make excellent soldiers if they were properly trained, properly led, properly fed, and properly clothed.

THE HONEST MANDARIN.

I have also found in that country some very patriotic and honest Mandarins. I do not say there were very many of them—(laughter),—but there certainly were some, and those that did hold these characteristics I found invariably very poor men.—(Laughter.) But I do not blame the other Mandarins. If I am going to speak harm of anybody I rather like to put myself in the same position, and I do not know if I were asked to manage one of those great provinces containing from twenty to ninety million people, and if when I accepted I had to pay a very large sum of money for going there and was then told I would get no salary whatever—I do not understand how it would be possible for me to undertake the Government of that province unless I went through the process which is generally described as "squeezing."—(Laughter). Therefore I say that it is the system which is all wrong, and if we got this understanding which I have referred to it would be our business—the business of these four countries—to see first that China did give us that security which is imperative for the success of our future development in trade, and, having seen that they did that, that we should help them ourselves to try to get their army into proper order for police purposes. You will agree with me that it is no use calling loudly for the open door, and demanding that the door shall be opened, unless the room inside is in order.—(Laughter.) And therefore it is for us to consider how to put that room in order. We may invest our money—this country and Great Britain and the other two I have referred to—in trade and property in China, and in commercial enterprises, but if there is no military and police a mob may come down and burn the whole of your property and everything may be destroyed in a short time. There are two cases to be looked at. One is the open door, and I have tried to show that it is necessary you should see how to keep it open. And the second case is that you should have that security and that efficiency of police and military without which your trade cannot continue in China.

A VALUABLE ALLY.

I think the four countries I have already referred to have the right to this, that the Army should be put in order, and I would point out to you, that if we can carry this idea out, China will be a very valuable ally to those countries, when her army and her organisation are efficient. When she has her army in proper order she will improve her own condition enormously, so it will be the business of this great empire to help us to keep the door open and to keep her integrity intact. But first of all I would refer to your own country. The Japanese understand the Chinese better than any nation in the world, and the Japanese officers have told us the Chinese would make very good soldiers. Now, why should not the Japanese officers try to put the Chinese army in order on the understanding that the Chinese should keep the door open?—(Hear, hear). In this connection I can refer to Germany. I have myself seen a large number of Chinese troops drilled by the Germans, and nothing could possibly be better than one of those Chinese armies which was drilled by those German officers. Unfortunately, through the influence of another Power, or perhaps it may be through their own decision, the Chinese have turned off all those non-commissioned officers and officers of the German Army, and the consequence is that these men who have been drilled, and most excellently drilled, by the Germans, are going back in their drill, as every officer knows men will go back if they are not kept up to the mark and drilled day by day. Then I come to my own country, Great Britain. We have been not unsuccessful in drilling men of eastern nations, and I hope and believe Great Britain will be glad to help these other countries in making the Chinese army efficient. I am in hopes also that America, that great continent whose trade is increasing by leaps and bounds in the East, will see the necessity of looking to it that the door is kept open in a thoroughly practical way; and I daresay she would lend some officers and men to help to get this great army of China in order. For my own part, I have nothing but a good word to say for the Chinese.

A ROTTEN SYSTEM.

As I said before, the people are a very good people; the traders are honest; the people are very easily handled, very docile, and they are a very peaceful people; but their system is bad, and as rottenly bad as any country could suffer under. I have been through all their six arsenals, but there are only two of those arsenals, that at Shanghai and that at Tientsin, turning out anything useful; and these two arsenals are more or less under the management of countrymen of my own. I found guns in some of their forts that neither you, nor Germany, nor France, nor England, could make better, but the fronts of their forts were in many cases in ruins, and the forts themselves were not defended in the rear, and that is not a very good position for a gun—(laughter); and it is upon these points that China wants to be shown how to put herself on a level with other nations with regard to defence. Well, gentlemen, I was speaking about these four nations. I am rather a practical man myself, and I think there is a great sympathy here and at home with regard to what is going on in China; but I believe that sympathies with nations are often generated by personal interests. You know very well that in these days fleets and armies are not created by countries for gaining territory, or for some domestic dispute, or for the settlement of differences of opinion between monarchs. Fleets, and armies now are created to look after our interests and our trade and commerce, and therefore, when I see a great country like your country getting, or rather I should say already having got, your army and your fleets into the excellent condition they are in, I look upon that as merely for defensive purposes for yourselves, and to look after your trade and commerce in the future. Now, what is the other possible policy with regard to China? There is a policy which you have all heard called the policy of spheres of influence.

A DANGEROUS POLICY.

I cannot conceive any policy more absolutely certain to provoke tradal and commercial conflict, and therefore more certain to lead to war than that policy. There has been much discussion with regard to the outcome of that policy, but to my mind this is what the result would be. Some countries would say that this "sphere of influence" belongs to them, and they would thereupon proceed to put on a restrictive tariff. I do not know how you are to allow countries particular spheres of influence and then tell them what they are to do in those spheres, and as soon as these countries do take those spheres of influence, and put on preferential rates, their action in this regard will ultimately lead to war. Therefore anything I can do to prevent this policy going into effect I shall do; and I most earnestly hope that your great commercial classes will think this question out and determine to do their level best to prevent such a policy being carried out.—(Applause.)

THEN AND NOW.

Might I for a moment refer to the extraordinary progress your country has made in the last thirty years? I was here thirty years ago as a young lieutenant, and I remember very accurately all I then saw, and I do not believe it is possible for any country to progress at a greater rate than the Japanese have done. I have read there is nothing in history that approaches it nearly. I have heard continually the remark—I have read it in different papers on the Continent and sometimes at home—that Japan was going too fast, but to my mind that is rather a ludicrous remark. How can any country go too fast in the direction of progress? I think rather Japan has at times delayed, but she has never gone back, and until I see Japan going back I shall not think Japan is going too fast. She has never failed yet in anything she has undertaken. I may say this, and it is a notable fact, that Japan is the first Eastern nation that ever had a budget. I understand that you have an eight years budget for your defensive forces, and if you have I must take the news home for my own people, because for years I have been trying in the House of Commons, and have succeeded on two occasions, to get a programme laid down based on what you want, vote the money for it, and spread

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that money out over so many years. Then you get a properly efficient force for your money, whereas yearly estimates for defences on such questions as the question of an army or navy, must be very expensive to a country and less efficient.

EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY.

This is the first Eastern country that ever had free education, which is the beginning of national prosperity. Governments which teach their people how to understand important problems are bound to prosper. Then you have a very excellent system of technical education, so as to give your people some chance in life when they begin. I wish I could stay here a year—(hear, hear)—to see all I want to see and all there is to be seen. But I have seen something. I have visited some of your manufactories. I went to Osaka, went over the cotton and sugar mills, and nothing could exceed the excellence of the management of these establishments or the excellence of what is turned out. I found on enquiry that some 75 mills have been established in the last thirty years, representing four millions sterling I have seen it remarked in the papers, "Oh, if Japan opens up great industries it will clash with Great Britain's interests or America's interests." Now in my opinion there never was a more insensible thing said. It is the greatest mistake to think that one country's trade and commerce will suffer because of another's opening up.—(Applause).

SHIPBUILDING AT NAGASAKI.

Well, then, I went to another manufactory, your great shipbuilding industry in Nagasaki, and was perfectly delighted to see the great merchant ship laid down there. There are two points about it that struck me with special force. It is a safe ship, either going over a mine, or in the event of being rammed, or anything. She has got a double bottom, and she has bulkheads with no watertight doors. I shall continually speak about this ship, and hold her up as an evidence of the enterprise of Japan. Then I went to Kyoto and visited the electric plant, and I have never seen one which, in my opinion, was more excellent or successful than that. It works some 60 industries, a tramway and the electric light, and as for the machinery itself, it is the most perfect I have ever seen, a fact which is due to our cousins in America, who can certainly produce electric machinery second to none in the whole world. Then I saw the Japanese Army, and there has never been anything more striking than the progress of that Army in detail. I saw the Army in company with a notable man, and I am a very good judge of discipline, and when I went on the ground, which I did with the Minister of War, I saw there was no non-commissioned officer in too great a hurry to salute his officers. I saw the men looked cheery, well contented and thoroughly drilled, and in fact you could not have a more perfect organisation. I made one remark to the Minister of War. I said I did not think the gaiters which the men wore were very good for service because the buttons come out and I thought there were no buttons to put on in their place; but the Minister of War took me around when all was over and showed me for myself that each man had three spare buttons on his gaiters. I took off my hat to the Minister and apologised for what I had said.

THE CHINO-JAPAN WAR.

You have proved yourselves good also in war. Nothing could be better than your hospital arrangements, your transport, commissariat, and your reserves of ammunition. During my progress through China I asked many Mandarins questions on the subject, but I heard no remarks except those which were civil and courteous to Japan, which proved to me that your arrangements after the war were those which are exhibited by all civilised nations. May I refer for a moment to the Navy? You have a Navy second to none in the world for its size. I know a good number of the ships.—I have seen them in England,—and a good many of the officers who handle them. And you have officers who can navigate the ships, and as I understand took a large number of troops in the transports without one single accident during the most difficult and dangerous operations. You have officers who can bring the ships through any sea, and bring them safe to any port in the world; and therefore you have the more wonderful organisation for rapidity of growth in history.

THE TREATIES.

Turning to another point in my remarks, I do not think anyone in the room will misunderstand me. I believe I personally was the first public man in England that ventured to suggest that what would be for the interests of your own country and ours would be an alliance between the Empire of the West and the Empire of the East.—(Applause.) In view of my friendliness to Japan, as whenever I have had an opportunity that has been made as apparent as I could make it, in the remarks I am going to make now I am confident I will not be misunderstood. There have been great fears expressed in some papers at home and here with regard to the new treaties; but I may point out that the new treaty as it stands first received great sympathy from England.—(Applause.) I myself have not the slightest fear as to the success of that treaty. I have heard curious arguments from people, and those arguments seemed to imply in some cases that if a man is sent to prison, he is to be sent there for his own pleasure, but I do not think everybody will agree with those arguments.

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS.

But there is this point. In England, we had our personal liberty long before we got our political liberty. I do not know how you are in this country. If we arrest a Japanese for some offence in England we endeavour to give him the help of counsel, let him see his friends, and render him assistance, especially if he cannot speak a word of the English language. In England we hold that a man is innocent until you have proved that he is guilty. I don't know exactly what your rules are in Japan, but if you arrest a man and do not allow him the advantage of counsel and do not allow him to see his friends, then it seems to me you are holding him guilty until he has proved himself innocent. It is the English and Americans who are in predominant numbers among the foreigners in Japan, and it is English and Americans who hold those principles of justice to which I have referred. I may ask—I put it forward only as a suggestion—would it be possible for the Japanese Government, not to alter the treaty—but to take the case into consideration whether there should not be some reciprocity with regard to the matter, so that Japanese should pursue towards English and Americans in this country the course English and Americans pursue towards them in their own.—(Applause.) I say this most respectfully, gentlemen. I find no fault with the treaty, but I merely say I want to do all that within me lies to make this country and the country I have the honour to belong to cement a strong friendship for each other, and I find there is this feeling, and after the extraordinary kindness and courtesy I have received from you I don't think it would be honest and straight for me if I did not tell you this feeling exists.

LAND OWNERSHIP.

One question more. It is a question which arouses some consideration and reflection in England. It is the subject, gentlemen, of foreigners buying land. I have spoken to several Japanese gentlemen about that and they think it is not possible. Now I have always thought that if either a nation or an individual offers to tell another nation or another individual its business it is most impertinent conduct. But when we are here on friendly terms we can—not give advice—but ask opinions. One or two of the Japanese gentlemen have said to me, "I am afraid the land question will be very difficult, but under the new Treaties the foreigners will be allowed to take shares in railways or cotton mills or other manufactures." I said, Yes, but you have missed one point. Suppose the foreigner takes shares in a railway or other enterprise that becomes insolvent and the only asset left is the land, where does the foreigner come in? Under the law he can have nothing to do with it. I put it forward respectfully for your consideration. I believe in the future if this country wanted money to increase her great resources she could get it from England. England has plenty of money to lend, and is willing to lend it. This country may want to borrow from her, and I am sure she could get much better terms if this question of foreigners holding land were carefully considered with the one object to increase the friendship—and when I say friendship I mean that friendship of two nations which is based on vested interests—to bring the two countries nearer together in the future.—(Applause.)

THE FUTURE OF JAPAN.

Well, I will say, gentlemen, in ending my remarks, that I regard the future of Japan as assured.—(Applause.) I have none of those gloomy forebodings that some people have. I like to see things as they are and not as they might or could be. Japan has gone on, not steadily but by leaps and bounds. I see nothing to stop that progress; I see every reason why it should be continued. If any remarks I have made can increase the cordial friendship which I am persuaded exists between Japan and the nation I have the honour to belong to I shall be very happy. Your finances are excellent; you have no foreign loan and you have not even the luxury of a national debt—I do not know, of course, how long you will be without it.—(Laughter.) You have the certainty that the Pacific Ocean must be in future the highway of the world; whatever policy is carried out China will be opened and Japan will benefit from the opening. You are a sort of point of departure from China and a point of arrival from America. You are absolutely certain in my opinion to progress provided you and the countries I have named will work together for the objects I have named —the integrity of China and the open door.—(Applause.) I must apologise for having brought in the political question as well as the commercial question. But there is not really much reason for apology. The political question and the commercial question are absolutely undivided. Upon your political action, upon the political action of Great Britain, America, and Germany, depends the commercial future—whether it will be of success or whether it be of failure. Therefore I hope you will not think I have in any way exceeded my mission by placing the political question side by side with the commercial question. When I get home I shall take an early opportunity of letting the important commercial bodies I represent know of this meeting, and I shall also take an early opportunity of letting the Cabinet and the Government of Great Britain and its great Empire know of this meeting. And I do hope it will promote your interests and the interests of Great Britain, America, Germany, and China, and the interests of the trade and commerce of the whole world and of all nations. I think you will agree with me that the remarks I have made tend in that direction, and in that of the greatest interest of all, which is the interest of peace.—(Loud applause.)

The speech was afterwards interpreted by Mr. Ichibara, of the Bank of Japan. Taking very few notes, Mr. Ichibara expounded the speaker's words for the space of about three-quarters of an hour, and even a very imperfect acquaintance with the language showed how thoroughly he entered into every point mentioned. It was a wonderful display not only of memory but of command over the two languages.

"COMMON INTERESTS AND COMMON DUTIES."

Prince KONOYE then, turning to Lord Charles Beresford, addressed him in these words:—

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Your Lordship.—On behalf of all assembled here, I beg to express to your Lordship our sincere thanks for the great honour and benefit you have conferred upon us by your able and valuable speech, which has been warmly appreciated by us all and will be as warmly appreciated by the public at large when they read it reported by the press. Allow me to say that, from what I have been able to gather from your instructive speech, your Lordship has been marvellously successful in your inquiries into the condition of things in the Far East. I hope, all of us hope, most ardently that, on your return to your great country, the valuable information your Lordship has been able to gather in your travels out in the East will bear fruit, and that the views with which you have favoured us will be carried out in practice. In conclusion, allow me also to express our hope that the relations of the two nations, which have common interests and common duties, may become closer and firmer through the presentation of your views before the enlightened public of Great Britain—views which are so fair, so just, and so conducive to the cause of peace and civilization.

JAPAN'S SENTIMENTS.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD, in reply, said :—

Your Highness—I have to offer you my most grateful thanks for the way in which you have received me. I gather from the translation of your remarks that has been handed me that you approve of the proposals I have to make. I am glad to see at the end of his Highness's speech the remark that these proposals tend to the peace of the world and to the spread of civilisation, both of which points must be for the future benefit of trade and commerce. I thank you most heartily for your kind reception, and I shall make it my duty on my return to let my people know what your sentiments are.

A resounding *Bansai* was then given for the guest, and after partaking of Japanese refreshments, the meeting dispersed.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD AT YOKOHAMA.

RECEPTION AND DINNER BY BRITISH RESIDENTS.

THE "OPEN-DOOR" AND EXPANDING TRADE.

BRITISHERS AND JAPANESE UNDER NEW TREATIES.

MUTUAL GOODWILL TO SMOOTH THE WAY.

THE DESTINY OF JAPAN AS A DISTRIBUTING CENTRE.

Lord Charles Beresford was entertained on Monday night by the British communities of Tokyo and Yokohama with a dinner at the Oriental Hotel. Seldom before, we venture to suggest, has a heartier welcome been extended in Japan to a public man than was accorded to the distinguished guest of last evening. Every unit of the big assembly was animated with the one desire, to do honour, and fitting honour, to a representative Britisher. The magnificent dining room of the Hotel presented a beautiful sight when, at a quarter to 8 o'clock, Lord Charles Beresford entered with the Reception Committee. The tables had been charmingly decorated and appointed ; light festoons of greenery were entwined in the electric-light chandeliers, otherwise the heavy carved oak of ceiling and walls was left in its splendour unadorned. Before the Chairman was placed a handsome pot of orchids—(the cultivation of these exotics is a hobby of Lord Charles) —while every participator in the feast was provided with a spray of flowers. The *menu* was simple in design but very happy, the white and red ensigns being printed in their appropriate colours above Nelson's famous signal, "England expects that every man will do his duty." The company seated themselves to the strains of the Yokosuka Naval Band and full justice was done to the capital feast provided. M.M. Muraour and Dewette are to be congratulated on the success of the serving as well as on the viands and wines they placed upon the board ; nothing could have been better in any way. The *menu* was as follows :—

Huitres au Citron.
Potage, Bisque de Crevette.
Potage, consomme Regence.

Saumon a la Victoria.
Pommes de Terre a l'Anglaise.

Bouchees a la Pompadour.

Filet de bœuf a la Godard.
Becassines a la Marechale.
Jambon d'York a la Gelee.

Punch au Kirch.

Asperges Sauce Mousseline.

Cuisso de Chevreuil Sa Venaison.
Dindonneau truffe.
Salade.
Pouding Diplomate a l'abricot.

Bombe glacee.
Dessert.

As originally arranged on the printed table plan, Mr. W. F. Mitchell (Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co.), was in the Chair and had the guest of the evening, Lord Charles Beresford, R.N., C.B., M.P., etc., on his right. Next to this Lordship sat Mr. H. M. Bevis, Yokohama Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank ; then Colonel Churchill, military *attache* at the British Legation ; the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Mr. A. Woolley, Dr. D. T. Hoskyn, R.N., and Mr. Robin Grey, Private Secretary to Lord Charles Beresford. On the Chairman's left sat His Honour Mr. Justice Hiram Shaw Wilkinson, Mr. N. P. Kingdom, His Excelleney Governor Asada, of Kanagawa ; Mr. J. H. Gubbins, C.M.G., Mr. E. Flint Kilby, Mr. Montague Kirkwood, Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, H.B.M. Consul ; and Dr. E. Divers, F.R.S. To the right of the Chairman, running down the room, sat Messrs. J. P. Mollison, Otani Kahei, Chairman of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce ; W. Waters, J. D. Hutchison, W. R. Bennett, M. H. R. Harris, Simon Strauss, J. C. Nicholson, J. F. Lowder, E. Coutts, James Martin, H. W. Lea, J. W. Cain, A. B. Brown, A. R. G. Clarke, V. R. Bowden, G. Blundell, J. B. Coulson, J. W. Hall, J. Conder, H. C. Pigott, E. Beart, J. M. James, M. Beart, K. F. Crawford, A. Le Prevost, G. Syme Thomson, J. McArthur, F. J. Lias, H. W. Buckland, and F. R. Daniel. To the left of the Chairman sat Messrs. W. B. Walter, R. G. E. Forster, T. B. Glover, E. M. Janion, Capt. Brinkley, A. B. Walford, H. M. Arnould, R. Howie, R. J. Kirby, L. Pollard, C. J. Strome, G. S. Gregory, R. P. Forshaw, H. MacArthur, J. Diack, A. J. Lines, E. W. George, H. N. Robson, H. Rose, A. J. Lefroy, C. Thwaites, F. T. Leak, H. W. Fraser, E. G. Fradgeley, A. B. McDonald, E. Hutchinson, L. J. Healing, B. Hyde Pearson, J. Maclean, & L. Jephson. Supporting Mr, James Dodds (Messrs. Butterfield and Swire), Vice-Chairman, sat Messrs. P. de C. Morriss, D. McLaren, J. Stewart, G. A. Adam, G. W. Rogers, H. F. Arthur, T. Herlihy, F. Harrold, C. J. Heep, C. Lefroy, E. C. Fox, H. Moss, J. J. Efford, C. M. Martin, J. G. Watson, F. Gillett, F. E. White, W. Reid, W. G. MacVicar, A. Scott, C. V. Sale, H. J. Sharp, W. G. Bayne, A. C. H. Potts, and J. R. Parsons. Mr. R. D. Robison, Chairman of the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce, the second Vice-Chairman, was supported by Messrs. R. Paget, W. Gordon, W. Sutter, H. J. Snow, F. J. Hall, P. C. Potts, F. L. Taverner, E. A. Leather, B. J. Jackson, F. Elliott, Herbert Bethell. W. B. Clayton, F. H. Bugbird, P. E. F. Stone, W. H. Forbes, J. Johnstone, J. H. Curtis, F. W. Thomas, W. F. Page, W. B. Mason, A. J. Easton, H. Bent, W. K. Wilson, Dr. Gordon Munro, J. H. Brooke. At the middle table inside the horseshoe sat Dr. Wheeler, Messrs. James Walter, E. Whittall, H. Parlett, A. S. Garfit, R. A. Wylie, F. S. James, C. B. Stedman, Yeend Duer, E. C. Davis, R. S. Schwabe, F. Townley, L. Plummer, W. C. Duncan, K. Wilson, H. V. Henson, four representatives of the Press ; A. F. MacNab, G. R. D. Singleton, T. A. Singleton, W. K. Tresize, C. M. Duff, G. Philip, A. H. Cole Watson, C. W. Ure, W. W. Till, T. W. McIlraith, T. Harrington, W. Silver Hall, J. T. Griffin, A. J. Wilkin, Capt. M. Squire, Prof. Hillhouse, Rev. E. C. Irwine and Mr. H. C. Litchfield.

The above is the list as printed. Unfortunately, owing to indisposition, Mr. W. W. Till, Capt. Brinkley, Mr. F. Townley, Mr. W. G. Bayne, Capt. J. M. James, and one or two more were prevented from attending, but their places were occupied by other Britishers whose applications came in after the list had closed, so that eventually 162 sat down—a most representative gathering in every way, as the names given above will show.

The following was the list of guests invited to meet Lord Charles Beresford : —Sir Ernest M. Satow K.C.M.G., Mr. J. H. Gubbins, C.M.G., Mr. Justice Wilkinson, Mr. H. A. Bonar, Lt. Col. A. G. Churchill, Mr. R. S. Paget, Mr. Robin Grey, Staff Surgeon Donald T. Hoskyn, R.N., Mr. R. G. E. Foster, the Rev. E. C. Irwine, also the Governor of Kanagawa and the Chairman of the Yokohama (Japanese) Chamber of Commerce. Sir Ernest Satow was not able to be present.

THE TOAST LIST.

At the conclusion of the repast the CHAIRMAN rose and proposed the healths of the Queen and of the Emperor of Japan. These having been honoured, he submitted the health of "Our Guest Lord Charles Beresford." In speaking to the toast Mr. MITCHELL, said :—

GENTLEMEN.—I rise to propose the toast of the evening, our illustrious guest Rear-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford—(applause)—whose fame and achievements are well known to us. —(Applause.) It would be an onerous matter for me to attempt to refer to his many public services this evening, but I may say that amongst Britishers in the Far East his name is more particularly associated with the renewed interest in the Navy—(applause)—which he by his own efforts, aroused at home.—(Applause.) And I am sure that we all of us very much appreciate the stimulated interest which has been taken in that very important branch of the service.—(Hear, hear.) The candid criticisms of his lordship on a branch of the service which is of vital importance to our country have aroused our enthusiasm and I am sure that you will unite with me when I say that the British Navy is to us a matter of very great importance.—(Applause.) My lord, I wish to express on

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behalf of the branch of the China Association of this port and of the British community in general the very great pleasure which it gives us to meet you here this evening.—(Hear, hear.) And I may say that we have looked forward with very great pleasure to this opportunity which has been afforded to your countrymen of meeting with you on this occasion. We are indeed delighted to be able to offer you our congratulations on the very many services which you have by your own efforts produced on behalf of ourselves and our countrymen.

THE OPEN DOOR.

We have been much interested in be question of the commercial alliance which you so strongly advocate.—(Hear hear.) And we are in full sympathy with the movement of the open door in China and of the means of keeping it open. (Hear hear.) Many of those who are present this evening are very much interested in China, and to them the question is one of vital importance, and if the methods which you have brought forward are the means of opening this door and of maintaining British trade and supremacy in the Chinese Empire we shall consider that your lordship has achieved a work of which this generation will not be forgetful. (Loud applause.) Unfortunately the shortness of your visit to Yokohama was unknown to us or we should have wished to make this meeting this evening of a more cosmopolitan nature. But when your desires were communicated to us it was unfortunately too late to change the arrangements already made for this dinner. I can only say had we known earlier we should have been only too pleased to have united our forces with those of other nationalities in extending you the hearty welcome we give you this evening.—(Applause.) Our object in meeting to-night is to extend to your lordship a hearty welcome—possibly it may be undemonstrative, but it is none the less sincere.—(Renewed applause.) Had your visit been a few months later you would have found this community quietly settled down under Japanese jurisdiction. I say quietly, because I believe it is the desire of the Japanese Government that foreigners should be fairly and liberally dealt with—(hear, hear)—and I am sure that it is their wish, gentlemen, that we should feel as little as possible the loss of our own laws and customs, which we have been so long accustomed to enjoy and have in fact grown to regard as a sort of feature of this country.—(Hear, hear.)

JAPAN'S PROGRESS.

It is an undisputed fact that this country has progressed with remarkable rapidity.—(Hear, hear). One of the most striking points in the development of trade. In 1868 the exports and imports amounted to some £5,250,000, taking the rate of exchange as it was in those days—unfortunately it is no longer so.—(Laughter.) If we go on to 1897 we find that the trade of the port has advanced to the remarkable figure of £46,000,000. The fact, gentlemen cannot be overlooked that to this foreign enterprise has largely contributed. The country has advanced, gentlemen, as I am sure you will be only too willing to recognise, and the British merchants have certainly had their share in the advancement of these figures which I have just given to you, and therefore it is to our interest that this country should continue to prosper in the future as it has done in the past. If the Japanese wish to maintain their trade they must pursue a liberal policy with regard to the facilities for re-export, which at the present time are unfortunately in a very primitive condition. We feel that in this respect it will be necessary that some arrangement shall be made whereby re-exports from this country may be vastly facilitated—(hear, hear);—the present arrangement are not such as would facilitate the question of re-exports from Japan. My lord, I may say that Tokyo and Yokohama are ringing with the speech that you delivered last Saturday, and I can assure you that this community is very much in accord with the remarks that were made in regard, to I have said before, to the open door in China and also in respect to the policy of the Japanese Government as regards foreigners under the conditions of the Revised Treaties. We have to thank your lordship for your very kind services in mentioning one or two matters which, when placed before the Japanese Government in the light your lordship placed them, must have a satisfactory effect on the Government. —(Hear hear.)

DESIDERATA.

As your speech is now public property I hope I shall be excused in referring to it again. Your lordship referred to the position of Japan, situated as it is with the American continent on the one side and Siberia, China, Manila, and the Straits on the other, and said there is every reason that it should become a distributing centre. But in order that this may be arrived at it is necessary that the Japanese Government should provide a proper system of drawbacks. I have no doubt this institution will receive their attention, but at the present moment there is certainly a necessity that some arrangement should be made which would enable importers to receive goods in Japan and afterwards to export them with facility to the points that I have mentioned.—(Hear hear.) For the development of the country foreign capital is required for its trade, its mining, and its industrial enterprises, but I doubt if it will be forthcoming until aliens are allowed the absolute right of ownership of land.—(Applause.) His lordship referred to this at Tokyo, and, as I said before, I am quite sure his words will be considered. We are most desirous of cooperating with this nation and if they offer us the facilities which will enable us to do so I am perfectly certain we shall lose no opportunity of bringing capital into the country, which will be of very great service to it and at the same time will increase the investments of the British merchants who are represented here this evening.—(Applause.)

TAXATION OF CAPITAL.

I may further say that although this would be a most important concession, the value of such will be greatly minimised if the Japanese Government places heavy taxes on capital, which, in the best interest of the country, should be free and unfettered. If capital is to be imported into this country it must not be taxed, and while there is a heavy tax on money which foreigners may introduce for commerce or mining enterprises they will be very loth indeed to bring it to Japan. And I hope that the methods which the Japanese Government contemplate of increasing taxes or of raising money will not, at any rate, be placed upon capital, as there is no doubt that capital is the soul of trade, and if we have no capital we can do no business. The bankers might tell us differently, but I think that the policy of the two great Banks that are here represented—(A Voice: "Three")—the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China—are such that in future we can rely on them as we have done in the past. We cannot work without a proper amount of capital. My remarks are actuated with a desire to see the country go on and prosper, and that the trade of the place may not only be satisfactory but may increase to the same extent that it has done before.—(Applause.) We as British merchants here to-night are largely interested in the advancement of Japan.—(Applause.) It is our desire to see the country make that progress which we may say she deserves, and as far as within us lies we, I am sure, will do all we can do contribute to her prosperity. Foreigners and Japanese alike will sink their prejudices, and seek by mutual concessions to advance their common interest both socially and commercially.—(Hear, hear.) I would ask you, gentlemen, to now unite with me in drinking the health of our illustrious guest, Lord Charles Beresford, and every success to his mission in this and the other countries he has visited, and we hope that on his return to the old country he will be able to lay before our fellow countrymen such a list of successes that they will be delighted to receive him —(Loud applause.)

The toast was drunk with musical honours, and amid loud cries of "Well done, *Condor*."

LORD CHARLES'S SPEECH.

Lord CHARLES BERESFORD, in reply, said:—

Mr. Mitchell, your Excellency, and Gentlemen—I have to offer you, my warmest and most grateful thanks for the far too complimentary speech which you, Sir, made concerning me, and you, gentlemen, for the kind way in which you received it. It was much too complimentary.—("No, no.") That is my opinion, gentlemen; it may not be yours.—(Laughter.) You spoke, Sir, of what you described as my achievements. There are a lot of Britishers in this room, and I think one of the characteristics of our race is that when a man does his best for his country he doesn't want any credit for it.—("Bravo.") It is his business to do it, and it has to be done to the best of his ability. My countrymen are always very kind to me because probably they think I have had an uphill game. However, with the aid of some of the Navy officers, and with the aid of the Press—when they came round to my way of thinking (laughter)—we succeeded in getting the Navy placed in that position that it was right for every British person, and particularly those connected with trade and commerce, to demand. You have spoken also of what you described as the many services I have rendered out here.—(Applause.) I cannot lay claim to any services whatever, but I have secured a very substantial backing, and when I get home I hope I may be able to render some small service to trade and commerce in the Far East. As you may know very well, I was asked by the Associated Chambers of Commerce to go out to China to see how British trade was getting on, how it could be further developed, and what security there was for such development and such trade as at present exists. I was not told to go to Japan, but I had several invitations from Japanese gentlemen to come here, and I had many more invitations from our cousins in America to go home that way, so I thought to myself, well, perhaps I can further the ends of my mission if I go to those countries and try to find out from their Chambers of Commerce and perhaps from their Governments what views they hold of the future of the Far East. And that accounts for my presence among you this evening.—(Applause.)

THE QUADRUPLE ENTENTE.

I am desirous of doing this because I have publicly advocated what I believe to be the best plan for securing our trade, certainly, and in securing that it means the trade of all nations.—(Hear, hear.) In securing our trade by means of the open door in China, I thought if I went to those countries I should be able to see how far they agree with that proposal which I have made publicly of trying to get a commercial alliance, or, if they do not like that word, an understanding—(laughter)—of a very definite character. They should combine as far as Germany, America, Japan, and Great Britain go, to secure that upon which our trade much depends in the Far East—the open door and the integrity of China.—(Hear, hear.) Well, Sir, when you were good enough to ask me to this meeting I expressed the wish that it might be cosmopolitan because the days of splendid isolation as far as the British go, I am afraid, are done.—(Laughter, and a voice, "No, No!") A gentleman says "No, No." I must have a little argument with that gentleman.—(Laughter.) Perhaps he has not calculated it as far as I have. At this moment our Empire is so large that even if we had conscription we could not properly police it in the event of there being a disturbance in several of our properties at once, and in the event of there being what I may describe as disagreeables with foreign countries. Therefore, in the interests of trade and commerce, which are our great interests—we are called a nation of shopkeepers; thank God we are, or we would not be where we are—(laughter)—that being so we must look about

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for other nations whose interests are identical with ours, to try to leave that door open to our trade with China on which our great future trade will depend. Therefore I think my friend opposite will agree that my view of the case will perhaps be more substantial to his interests in the future—(laughter)—than if we adopted the old idea of splendid isolation.

THE LOST MONOPOLY.

But I must once more attack him. In the old days we had, owing to the last war at the beginning of the century—when we absolutely had command of the sea—we had the monopoly of the trade of the world. That is past. We have gone from monopolists to competitors and that being so I again say we must try to keep the tariffs clear and the doors open so as to enable us to have a fair chance as competitors, and in taking the place of competitors instead of monopolists Therefore, again I think my friend will agree with me that my view of the case is the proper one.—(Laughter and applause.) Sir, in your remarks, which I thought were so conciliatory and so fair with regard to the altering conditions in this country, I was delighted to hear you say that under this new treaty with regard to the judicature especially, the British were going to enter into it with a sentiment, or wish, that it should go smoothly, and as far as they can, they will try to make it go smooth. After all the British are celebrated for respect for law and order.—(Hear, hear.) In the remarks I ventured to make the other night, to which you call attention, I pointed to one or two things which I knew my countrymen felt keenly here, and which I knew they felt keenly about at home. But I did it in terms which I hope every one of my fellow countrymen here and, more particularly the Japanese,—because after all we are in a foreign country; it does not belong to us remember—(laughter)—that the Japanese seeing the respectful way that I called attention to it, which after all is only due to a foreign country—is only due to those under whose rule we live here—that in the way I presented it, they would take the matter into consideration in future and see that something were done in the case of the law, something of a reciprocal nature certainly as far as the English and Americans go. I ventured to point out that as they are the majority of the foreign community, possibly if there are such persons found that may have to go to prison—(laughter)—those persons will be in the majority so far as Americans and English are concerned.—(Laughter.) But I hoped and trusted further that the Japanese Government will try to let the preliminary stages of these prisoners if confined, be something similar to what they are in England and America, where we always hold that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty—(Hear, hear,)—and not that he is guilty until he is proved innocent.

THE LAND QUESTION.

And I also made, Sir, some remarks relative to the land, which I endeavoured to make in the same conciliatory tone, but as I have made those remarks it is no use repeating them, but what I am delighted to see is that you and this great assemblage of my fellow countrymen approve of what I said in that speech generally. —(Hear, hear, and applause.) That I need not say has given to me the most intense satisfaction. In your remarks you made an observation as to Japan being the future distributing point of this great ocean. That I believe is as assured as anything can be assured in this world. And you made some remarks relative to capital and other points. But I would say with great respect though I sympathise undoubtedly with your view, that this country cannot do everything at once. This country has gone forward by such leaps and bounds in the direction of progress that I have every faith that those points that you called attention to will be looked into in the future, and if they are brought before the Japanese Government in the same manner that you spoke, and more in the nature of argument than in a dictatorial character, I am perfectly certain that all will be smooth and that things will go as you would wish them to go,

THE WORLD WIDE BRITISH.

Sir, I am entertained to-night by the British community. I have been a very great deal about the world; I think I have been three times round the world, and as I have been round both Capes I have that privilege which seamen enjoy of being able to put both my feet on the table.—(Laughter.) When I look upon the picture in this room I remember that wherever I have been about the world there I found the persevering, energetic, may I say pushing, British merchant, and here I find in this room in Japan this large assembly to bid me a welcome, and when I look round it, and see two bankers near me, I cannot quite calculate what this room represents in income—(laughter)—though being an Irish landlord I only wish I had a hundredth part of it.—(Laughter.) Sir, there are some points in the East that have been very much brought to my notice with regard to the British merchant. One is the British merchant sometimes complains.—(Laughter.) I may add that I have heard a very large proportion of their complaints—and I have as far as I was able looked into them very narrowly to get at the facts—but I must say that in a great number of cases I have not been able to see the facts calculated to make my argument listened to at home. In other cases I have got very palpable facts, but there is one fact the British merchant has brought to my attention particularly in China; he has not said it to me here, but I dare say he will—(Laughter.) He has said to me: "This is a monstrous thing; I believe I understand that the British merchant by his enterprise and energy, and sometimes by his blood has opened up the trade of the East. He made the platform possible for other nations to come in and enjoy trade." (A voice: "So he did.") Quite right—so he did my friend.—(Laughter.) That point will be argued and I think always agreed with. My friend has not heard the rest of my argument.—(Laughter.) The British merchant then proceeds to say something in this way: "This has to be stopped!" "Here,' some gentleman would say, "I came here at such and such a time, and developed trade and my friends helped me to make this trade. Now here come the American and the German, and will you believe it, he is underselling me?" "Well," I said, "I can quite believe that, but my actual business mission was not so much individual industries as the volume of trade in which this great Empire is concerned." What I wanted to point out to my friend who said this—and I did point it out—was that it was a very disagreeable case and I quite sympathised with him, but it was this case of making trade and making it with the open door that made us the Empire we are; and again I say that it is the enormous volume of our trade which has made our people so rich, so happy, and so contented, and therefore it was on this point that I used to say to my friend that if I was to touch such a thing as this, or if you or the British communities should do so, you would defeat the very object of the whole of the British communities whether at home or abroad, which is to keep that open door, whether the other nations come in and profit by individual enterprises, so long as we have a fair field and no favour.—(Applause.)

A WORD FOR THE MERCANTILE MARINE.

Sir, on your programme I observe two flags,—(applause)—and they give me the keenest pleasure. I hope in the future those two flags will be oftener seen together than they were in the past, because there was not quite so much sympathy between the two great services—the mercantile and military shipping—the navy and the mercantile marine—that there should be. That sympathy has grown. The mercantile marine depends upon the strength of the fleet, and to the mercantile marine we are more dependant than is generally given in the way of credit. Upon their energy, readiness of resource, upon their pluck and insistence we are able to carry on the great trade of our Empire. The British mercantile officer and seaman has a very hard life, but remember most of our commerce is water-borne, nearly all our food is water-borne and it depends upon the punctual and certain delivery of those cargoes whether our trade flourishes or whether it does not flourish. The defence of that mercantile marine depends upon efficiency and accuracy of seamanship, and therefore those two services ought to be like brothers, more particularly when you remember that in time of war if we want reserves we shall call heavily upon that mercantile marine. Therefore I say I am delighted to see those two flags interlocked as I see them on that card, and as far as I am concerned I have not lost an opportunity for many years to try to get those services more together as they are dependent upon each other so for the welfare of our country.—(Applause.)

A HIT AT ARM CHAIR POLITICIANS.

Sir, the education of a seaman is a very practical education. As far as the word education goes I do not think we can apply it very literally to the British seaman, whether he be a man-of-war's-man or a mercantile seaman. I know myself in the House of Commons, I often feel quite ashamed of my want of education —(Laughter, and deprecation.) My education has been the practical one which you get by going about the world, by seeing a great number of people, by having conversations and arguments with a great number of people, but it is not quite that education which is so useful and powerful in the House of Commons. But there is this about a British seaman: he really does understand foreign policy very much better than a great number of people who have charge of him.—(Loud laughter and applause.) I hope that what I have just remarked will in no way be understood to indicate that I have the slightest intention of applying what somebody called the pin-prick lately, to our most gallant, excellent, and talented Foreign Secretary Lord Salisbury.—(Applause.) I was merely saying what has often occurred to me in the House of Commons. I have heard a gentleman get up after I have ventured to say what should be done—not rudely, but in a courteous manner, but certainly very clearly—and afterwards I have sat down and listened to that gentleman. What his profession was I do not know; I know he had never been out of England, and he would rise in the House of Common and say: "Don't listen to that man. He may be a good sailor, but what in the world can he know about foreign policy." I often replied that those who go about the world and see the effect of foreign policy are better able to judge about that question—better able to judge about it than people who never go about the world and who get all their information from books and other sources.—(Applause.)

A WORD OF THANKS.

Sir, I must thank you, and I must thank this most distinguished assembly, for the great honour you have done me to-night. I do not intend to make a speech.—(Cries of "Go on! ") I think I said during an hour and some minutes the other night all I could possibly say about the great question of the trade in the East, but what I was going to say at this moment—I do not intend to make a speech—but I must give you my most warm thanks for your having taken the trouble to the number of 160 British merchants of the British community here, to come and welcome me at this most excellent dinner to-night. It has been a most excellent dinner. I have heard most beautiful music, which I understand is by a naval band. Well, wherever the band came from, if it is a naval band it would be a credit to any ship—(Hear, hear.) I have been delighted with my favourite plant. I don't know where they come from, but whoever grew them understands orchids. The only regret I had during my visit to China is that I have been entertained soluxuriously and so well that either I shall have to let my stirrup leathers down two holes, or let my staylaces out. —(Loud laughter.) I am perfectly certain that I have got into a condition that if I had a wick put in me now I should burn like a nightlight—(Loud laughter.) Everywhere I have been received with extreme courtesy and kindness, and sympathy by the people of those countries, and I shall not forget that kindness and

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courtesy; but I shall also remember with warm gratitude that 160 of my countrymen in Japan took the trouble to entertain me and to send me off to my own country with good wishes and an honest British farewell.—(Loud and long continued applause, during which his Lordship resumed his seat.)

THE HEALTH OF THE GOVERNOR OF KANAGAWA.

After a short interval, the CHAIRMAN rose and said:—

Gentlemen, we have had the pleasure of listening to the interesting remarks and sound advice of our distinguished guest, Lord Charles Beresford—(applause)—and on your behalf I thank him. If only Yokohama had a few orators like him what could we not achieve—(Hear, hear.) I will now call upon you to drink to the health of His Excellency the Governor of Kanagawa.—(Loud and prolonged cries of *Bansai*).

A CORDIAL GREETING.

Governor ASADA in reply, said—

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen all—I feel very pleased and gratified to be the guest of the Yokohama Britishers this evening, and I esteem it a very great honour to be able to meet your noble guest, Lord Charles Beresford.—(Applause.) I am sure his visit to Japan will conduce to draw closer the relations that already exist between this country and Great Britain.—(Hear, hear.) I feel equally sure that the policy that he so earnestly advocates—the policy of the "open door"—will be a very great benefit to the commerce of all the nations trading in the East.—(Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, I have the honour of drinking to the continued prosperity of all the British Community here.—(Loud applause.)

A POPULAR TOAST.

The CHAIRMAN next gave the toast of the health of Mr. Otani Kahei, Chairman of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Yokohama. In doing so he again referred to the regret that the Britishers of Yokohama felt at the shortness of Lord Charles' visit which prevented them from giving him the reception that they would have wished. Had time allowed it would have been possible to have made the meeting a truly cosmopolitan one, for many Americans and Germans had expressed a wish to join in the welcome to Lord Charles. Unfortunately the space at the Committee's disposal had been all too short, and they had only been able to extend their invitations to the Governor of the Prefecture and Mr. Otani Kahei, the genial Chairman of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce. He now begged to propose the toast of the health of Mr. Otani coupling with it the hope that such meetings as they were holding that night would act as a stimulant to draw closer together the bonds that existed socially and commercially between the Japanese people and the foreign communities.—(Applause.)

A HAPPY SIMILE.

Mr. OTANI KAHEI (whose remarks were ably interpreted by Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul) said—Mr. Chairman, your Lordship, and gentlemen: I have been a long resident of Yokohama, but I confess it to my shame that I am not able to speak to you in English, and I crave your permission to speak in Japanese. As a representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Yokohama I must state my gratitude for the kind sentiments expressed this evening for my country. Lord Charles Beresford has come to China to inquire into the condition of trade, and in connection with his visit he has come to this country. In 40 years or so, owing to the excellent tuition imparted to us by Great Britain, we have been able to attain the position we now hold as regards commerce. With reference to the new condition of things after July next, when mixed residence etc., will prevail, I wish to say this: For the subjects of an enlightened country like yours to meet this new order of things is like placing you in the position of a bride-groom who receives an inexperienced bride. We are the inexperienced bride; we come to you knowing but little; we are anxious for your regard and therefore only too conscious of our shortcomings; we beg you to condone our faults, to bear with our inexperience, and to continue to impart the tuition and education that you began in our infancy, so that finally we may be thoroughly competent to carry out the duties that have now been assigned to us.—(Loud and long continued applause.) Gentlemen, I thank you, and in drinking the health of Lord Charles Beresford, I wish also to drink to that of all the members constituting this assembly.—(Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Otani for his remarks and then called for three cheers for the guest of the evening. These were given and then the meeting spontaneously broke out with "Rule Britannia," during which Lord Charles retired. The healths of the proprietors of the Hotel, the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen were then informally given and all were received with hearty applause, the assembly finally breaking up about an hour after midnight.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

DEAR SIR:—As I see by your newspaper that the dinner to be given this evening has not been quite understood, I venture to trouble you with a few lines of explanation to those whom it may interest. At the first sight, the mission of Lord Charles Beresford, representing the Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain, seemed to us Englishmen peculiarly worthy of our approval as his countrymen, and it was thus that the Branch of the China Association here, which is composed entirely of British residents in this settlement,—an Association which had welcomed him all over China and in Kobe,—it seemed to be peculiarly their duty and pleasure to welcome him in Japan. Their Committee, therefore, organized a social party to meet him at dinner this evening. We have since learned by his speeches, and heard from Lord Charles himself, that his object is not a national one, but an international one. The object that he has in view "the greatest amount of good to the greatest number of people," and that while he was glad to meet his own countrymen, he would have preferred to meet a cosmopolitan body of the residents of Yokohama and Tokyo. We have also since heard from some of our fellow residents of other nationalities, that it would have been a pleasure to them to have joined us in welcoming our guest, and it would have been our unanimous pleasure to ask them to join us, but the capabilities of the largest dining-room here are limited, our number is already so large that it would have been simply impossible to have increased it, without making invidious distinctions, and we have therefore, with regret, to abandon the idea.

I may add that the General Chamber of Commerce here had taken the matter in hand some time back, but finding that the China Association had already moved in the matter, and learning that Lord Charles' time was very limited, the idea was not followed up, and now we find that his engagements prevent our carrying out any such project.

Yours truly, R. D. ROBISON,
Chairman of the General Chamber of Commerce.

Yokohama, 23rd January, 1899.

CHINA NEWS.

Shanghai suffered from two fires on the night of the 15th instant. The first broke out in rooms occupied by Mr. Cecil Brent in Messrs. Bavier's magnificent premises at 18-B Szechuen-road, but was fortunately soon under control, damage to the extent of a couple of hundred dollars only being done. The second fire broke out in the store of Messrs. Ah Ping, furniture dealers, Bubbling Well Road, and, despite the endeavours of the brigades, spread, assisted by a moderate North-east wind, to the adjoining premises. The whole block was eventually burnt out. Immediately behind is a terrace of foreign dwelling-houses but fortunately the wind was in the right quarter or they must have gone too. Mr. Jackson, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, on entering the "Metropole" had a narrow escape, a falling beam struck him on the head and inflicted a nasty facial wound, and P.C. Johannsen had to be taken off the premises by the fire-escape, the staircase, his only exit, being envolved in flames. The houses burnt are Ah Ping and Co. already mentioned; the Hotel Metropole;—Mr. Schiemanofski the proprietor of the waxworks is, with his wife and family, left destitute and has suffered a loss of some $6,000;—a Chinese dwelling-house; Messrs. Fong Kwo Tsing-sue and Co. curio dealers, and the International Bicycle Co. The estimated loss amounts to Tls 52,000 and the insurances effected stand at Tls. 64,300. The buildings were covered by the Royal for Tls. 20,000, and the contents as follows:—Ah Ping's furniture store, Manchester, Tls. 10,000, Imperial, Tls. 10,000, and South British, Tls. 5 000—total Tls. 25,000. The Hotel Métropole, including personal effects, was insured for Tls. 3 300 in the Hongkong Fire, and for Tls. 1,000 in the New Zealand,—total Tls. 4,300. The London and Lancashire had a line of Tls. 15,000 on the International Cycle Co., and have the police and others to thank for the small loss sustained.

The Shanghai mandarins received on Jan. 14th an important telegram from Ichang reporting the capture by rebels—*Kolao Hui*—of the district city of Changlo in Shinan prefecture, Hupeh province, on the 12th instant, and the reported murder of the district magistrate, besides other officials. Changlo, says a contemporary, is about a hundred miles to the south-east of Ichang, as the crow flies, and borders on the Hupeh-Hunan frontier. About a fortnight ago troops sent by Viceroy Chang visited the place and drove the malcontents into Hunan and having restored order were sent back to Ichang.

The Belgian Consul in Hankow, says the *Universal Gazette*, has communicated to the Taotai and Director General Shêng requesting the grant of a settlement in that port, but the Taotai and Director General have decided to refuse this on the ground that Belgian commercial interests are comparatively small there.

The *Sin Wan Pao*, states that the French Consul in Tientsin has received a sum of 5,000 francs from the Foreign Office in Paris to found a French school in Tientsin for the training of Chinese students. The Consul has engaged a teacher and made the necessary arrangements and the school will shortly be opened. Already a number of students have applied for admission.

According to the *Universal Gazette*, Count de Bezaure has given up the negotiation of the Ningpo Joss House Affair which is to be settled by the French Minister and the Tsungli Yamên. It is stated that the Minister adheres to the six original demands made by Count de Bezaure. The Tsungli Yamên was advised by one of the Foreign Ministers to accede to the demands, but this was objected to by Viceroy Liu Kunyi.

The following is the *N.-C. Daily News* translation of a dispatch received lately by Governor Liao of Cheking from the R.C. Bishop of the province with reference to the recent anti-missionary outbreaks in Yenchou and Tunglu:—"On the 20th of December last some 400 or 500 members of a secret society belonging to the district of Chientê, Yenchou prefecture, attacked the R.C. Chapel in the hamlet of Tsililung, plundered the converts, and set fire to several of their houses, destroying property valued in all at over Tls. 4 000. At daybreak on the 22nd of the same month the members of the same society attacked the R.C. Chapel in Tunglu district and burned it, doing damage to a total value of over Tls. 2,000. I have therefore to request your Excellency to investigate these outrages and make compensation therefore, etc., etc.,"

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JULY 2ND, 1898.

BIRTH.

On the 26th inst., at 17, Reinanzaka-machi, Akasaka, the wife of ALFRED R. PATTISON, Chief Engineer, Royal Navy, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

At Nagasaki, on the 22nd June, 1898, by the Rev. A. R. Fuller, JAMES MARKHAM DOW, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to ISABEL MARION, eldest daughter of J. M. ANTHONY, Esq., of Penang.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A NEW Mexican legation is being built at Nagatacho, Tokyo.

DYSENTERY is rather prevalent among the coast villages between Oiso and Atami.

Marquis Ito is reported to have expressed a desire to retire completely into private life.

THE new Cabinet is remarkable for the number of untried men who have been given portfolios.

AT present the following German warships are in Manila Bay:—*Kaiser*, *Kaiserin Augusta*, *Irene*, and *Cormoran*.

A DEAD body was found in the water near Shohei bridge, Kanda, Tokyo, on the 23rd ult. It was that of a coolie named Tahara Gentaro, 53 years old. It is supposed he missed his footing, and fell into the water while intoxicated.

THERE is some talk of Mr. Hoshi Toru being recalled from Washington to assume the direction of foreign affairs.

A NEW Cabinet has been formed with Count Okuma as Minister-President, and Count Itagaki as Minister for Home Affairs.

THE Italian warship *Marco Polo*, which is now in Hongkong, will probably leave there for Yokohama about the middle of July.

PRESIDENT McKinley has proclaimed an extensive blockade of the whole of the southern coast of Cuba, also San Juan de Puerto Rico.

THE new *Takasago Kan*, lately built at Glasgow for the Japanese Navy, arrived at Aden on the 26th June, and left on the 29th for Corombo.

A CLERK of the Tokyo Central Post Office named Yamamoto, 49 years of age, is charged with stealing stamps and money. He unsuccessfully attempted suicide.

THE news of the American landing at Santiago has excited intense agitation at Madrid. Senor Sagasta has prorogued the Cortes owing to heated and futile debates.

IN the House of Commons, Mr. Curzon stated that the Government would insist on the Chinese Government revising the regulations for inland navigation in a satisfactory sense.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, in the House of Commons, stated that the Government has decided to sanction the re-enactment of the Hongkong Contagious Diseases Act.

ON the 28th, 200 Japanese emigrants left for Hawaii by the steamer *Gaelic*. About 550 will leave for the same port on the 10th inst. by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha's steamer *Keelung Maru*.

AN arrangement has been come to whereby the portfolios of War and the Navy have been removed from the political arena, so that Viscount Katsura and Marquis Saigo remain in their old positions.

THE *New York Herald* states that the U.S. Government is sending a fleet under Admiral Schley to bombard Spanish ports and pursue Camara. The Spanish are actively preparing for defence.

H.M.S. *Powerful* left Yokohama on Saturday last. On Friday H.M.S. *Barfleur*, *Grafton*, *Undaunted*, *Fame*, and *Hart* arrived from the North, but only the two torpedo-boat destroyers came inside the breakwater.

A HONGKONG telegram, dated the 7th inst., states that the insurgents are encroaching closer and closer on Manila. The Spanish have decided to fall back on the castle, where great quantities of powder and ammunition are stored.

WANG WÊN-SHAO has been appointed Chinese Minister of War, in place of Wang Tung-hwo, who has been relieved of his office; and Yung Luh has been promoted Minister of the North Sea and Viceroy of Chihli (the offices formerly held by Wang Wên-shao).

IT is reported from New York that the Americans have cut the watermains supplying Santiago. General Merritt is to hurry to Manila, and on arrival is ordered to issue a proclamation announcing the establishment of a Provisional Government.

A WOMAN named Fujii Teisu, the wife of Doi Fusanori, living at Hana-machi, Honjo, Tokyo, on the 12th May murdered her younger sister, 28 years of age, in a fit of jealousy. She was sentenced, on the 28th ultimo, to 15 years' penal servitude.

ON the 28th ultimo, the Kanagawa Kencho issued a Regulation for the control of the milk business, to be enforced from the 1st inst. The principal points are the enforcement of cleanliness in dairies, and punishment for selling milk of poor quality.

A MAN named Tajima Masataro, 25 years old, living at Tate-Daiku-cho, Kanda, Tokyo, attempted suicide by cutting his throat, about 4 a.m. on the 30th June, in a house of ill-fame in the Yoshiwara. He was sent to the hospital at once, but is in a very serious condition.

THE Mexican Emigration scheme promoted by Viscount Enomoto, Messrs. Sakuma, Nemoto, and others, is showing reviving prosperity. The Japan and Mexican Emigrants' Association has purchased land to the value of *yen* 97,500, to be paid for within 15 years. The emigrants are now principally cultivating coffee.

ADMIRAL CAMARA, with a squadron of two ironclads, two cruisers, three torpedo boats, and five transports, was refused coal at Port Said by the Egyptian Government. He was then ordered to proceed to Suez. It is reported that arrangements have been made for colliers to meet the squadron in the Red Sea or elsewhere.

THE following law officers on the 27th ultimo resigned their respective posts by request:—Mr. Kitabatake, President of Osaka Appeal Court; Mr. Toshi, President of Tokyo Appeal Court; Mr. Nomura, Public Procurator of Tokyo Appeal Court, and Messrs. Kurizuka, Nakamura, Judges of the Court of Cassation.

ON the 26th ult. over 1,400 female members of the Red Cross Society in Kanagawa Prefecture held a general meeting at the Yokohama School. H. I. H. Princess Komatsu, accompanied by Princess Mori, Marquise Nabeshima, and other ladies, was present. The princess presented medals to Mesdames Otani, Watanabe, and Minoda.

BUSINESS cannot be said to be looking bright in Yokohama from the Importer's point of view, but still it is not quite so bad as it was a week ago. A few small sales of wire nails have been effected as well as some parcels of galvanized wire. In yarns, grey shirtings, fancy cottons, and woollens the dreary tale of the past few months is repeated. Kerosene is dull, only retail business passing at the moment. In view of large arrivals of brown sugars, prices have been tumbling down a few points, 10 *sen* for Chinas, and 45 *sen* per picul for Formosas. White refined sees no change. The market for raw silk opened on 22nd of last month and up to the 25th, 33 piculs changed hands at 870 *yen*, this being given for No. 1 filatures, coarse sizes. Europe has been paying more attention to the staple lately and many enquiries were set afloat. It is expected that this year's crop will be smaller than last season's. Total settlements last year, including 12,000 piculs direct shipment by Japanese, was 57,730 piculs against 50,162 for 1896 97. Very little is doing in waste silk at unchanged rates. Tea is as brisk as ever, the scare of the U.S. duty having entirely died away. Over 11,987 piculs were settled during the week at gradually hardening prices, making the total settlements for the season 114 050 piculs against 124,388 piculs at corresponding date last year. Fish oil continues firm, but in Japan copper there is nothing to report

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the organization of the so-called "Constitutional Party" and the political outlook in general occupy a large share of the vernacular journals' attention. The *Chuo Shimbun* (National Unionist organ) attacks the new association with much vigour, pointing out that while it proclaims a very fine platform made up of such planks as the maintenance of the Imperial prestige, the promotion of industry and commerce, the encouragement of intellectual and material progress, and the facilitating of State business, its acts are calculated to operate in precisely the contrary manner. All the objects that it appropriates for itself are, in reality, the very objects which the Government has uniformly endeavoured to compass, and the course which Dr. Hatoyama, spokesman of the new Party, mapped out for it to pursue is the most effectual course conceivable for defeating those objects. If the Cabinet retreats, says Dr. Hatoyama, and suffers us to take its place quietly, well and good. If not, we shall drive it out by the simple expedient of refusing, session after session, to vote the Budget. Unless the Budget is voted, all progress must be suspended, so far as the Government is concerned. The business of administration can, indeed, be carried on as directed by the Constitution; namely, by working with the old Budget. But there can be no advance in any direction. Yet the Party professing such a plan of campaign merely for the sake of hoisting itself into power pretends to be solicitous about progress and development.

* * *

Journal after journal devotes long articles to the problem of domestic politics. It would be strange if the leading vernacular prints failed to discuss this topic, for the present crisis is certainly the most interesting and important that has been witnessed during the *Meiji* era. In view, however, of the very definite turn that events have now taken, it were merely wearisome to reproduce the long arguments marshalled by our contemporaries for the purpose of proving that "clan cabinets" are out of date; that the progress of the country must be interrupted unless the party system of government is introduced, and that the nation can no longer brook the fruitless friction now taking place between the administration and the political associations. Such points have been deprived of any vivid interest by the announcement that wholesale ministerial changes are on the *tapis*. We, therefore, refrain from any further reference to numerous articles, and ask our readers to understand that if the dimensions of this summary are much smaller than usual, it is because they could not developed to their usual extent without embodying unreadable matter.

* * *

That very antiquated subject, the relations between a bride and her parent-in-law, is discussed at great length by the *Jiji Shimpo*, but the article is so cleverly written that the *Jiji's* readers are not likely to quarrel with its dimensions. When Kaibara composed the *Onna Daigaku*, which might almost be called the woman's gospel so reverently has it been regarded ever since, he wrote that the destiny of a girl when she grows up is to enter another house and there practise obedience to her husband and his parents. From her tenderest years every Japanese girl learned to look forward to that time, and when, dressed in her bridal robes, she thrust a little sword into her girdle before setting out for her husband's home, she doubtless whispered to herself a firm resolve to abide by the purpose thus portrayed, namely, to die by her own hand rather than return to her parents with the disgrace of having failed to please her husband and to conciliate her mother-in-law and father-in law. It was a fine system upon paper, and ought to have secured the eternal sunshine of peace and contentment. But it did not work at all in practice. Wives received their divorce without cutting their throats, and fought with their mothers-in-law without recalling any of the fine texts of the *Daigaku*. They found that to live with parents-in-law was perfect hell (*shiraji*), and that instead of remembering the three duties (*sanju*, namely, obedience to parents in youth; to husband in middle life, and to children in old age), the seven causes of divorce (*shichi-kyo*) occupied a prominent place in their existence. They even learned to regard a second marriage, after divorce, not as a permanent disgrace, but as a consolation. Nor is the fact to be wondered at, for the sufferings they endured at the hands of their mothers-in-law were enough to break down any strength of patience. The *Jiji* gives an account of these sufferings. The impression its writing produces is that the Japanese mother-in-law must be among the worst specimens of her class to be found in any country, but the truth is simply that she occupies a more prominent place in married life than does her Occidental representative, for whereas a mother-in-law living with her daughter is the exception in the West, it is the rule in Japan. The *Jiji's* object is to change the rule. It advocates a separate establishment for the married couple wherever such an arrangement is contrivable in any way, and says that an incredible amount of suffering would thereby be obviated.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* writes in very emphatic terms about the Hispano-American war. It declares the struggle to be between liberty and despotism; between enlightened civilization and benighted stagnation. The condition of the Cubans and of the inhabitants of the Philippines under Spanish rule invited the interference of the civilized world, and if America has drawn the sword in their behalf, her success must be the earnest wish of all progressive countries. What we have to hope for Spain is that she herself will emerge with a new system of Government and a new development of progressive tendencies. As for the future of the Philippines, the *Jiji* unhesitatingly declares that Japan must desire to see them in American hands. It is out of the question that they should be declared independent and placed under the control of the semi-barbarous people now in rebellion. The result would merely invite future complications. It would be impossible for the inhabitants to maintain their independence, and their manifest inability to repel aggression would afford a constant temptation to Powers whose propinquity to her shores Japan could not view without disquiet. But she knows that the policy of the United States is one of commercial expansion only, and with every nation honestly pursuing such a policy her relations can not be too close. She has no ambition for territorial aggrandisement herself, and she entertains such a genuine sentiment of friendship toward America that she desires nothing better than to have the Great Republic for a neighbour.

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS.

On Sunday afternoon, June 26th, a meeting of Japanese and foreign journalists was held at the Club Hotel, Yokohama, to discuss and adopt a constitution and set of rules for the proposed Japan International Association of Journalists, as drawn up by the provisional committee elected in Tokyo a month previously. There were present, Mr. Shimada, *Mainichi Shimbun*; Mr. Taguchi, *Keisai Zasshi*; Mr. Schroeder, *Eastern World*; Mr. Adam, *Japan Daily Advertiser*; Mr. R. Hay, *Japan Gazette*, Mr. Tsuchiya, *Jiji Shimpo*; Mr. Kotegawa, *Kenzo Zasshi*; Mr. Sakuma, *Sekai-no Nippon*; Mr. Matsumoto, *Dai Nippon*; Mr. Isobe, *Chugai Yeigo Zasshi*; Mr. Arnold, *Japan Times*; Mr. J. H. Brooke, *Japan Herald*; Mr. Tsuda, *Nogyo Zasshi*; Mr. Quinton, *Japan Advertiser*; Mr. Tennant, *Japan Gazette*; Mr A. Bellamy Brown, *Japan Mail*; Mr. Uchimura, *Tokyo Dokuritsu Zasshi*, and Mr. Takahashi, *Japan Times*.

Mr. Uchimura took the chair and briefly announced the object of the meeting. The following constitution, after considerable discussion, in which all present bore a part, was unanimously adopted.

I.—That an Association be formed to be called "The Japan International Association of Journalists," with the view of promoting goodwill, interchanging views between, and extending mutual aid among, the members of the journalistic profession both Japanese and foreign; and we, the undersigned organize ourselves into "The Japan International Association of Journalists."

II.—The meetings of the Association will be held in Tokyo or Yokohama at least once in two months or oftener as the Committee may decide.

III.—The meetings of the Association shall be attended exclusively by professional journalists.

IV.—Admittance to membership of the Association shall be decided by the Committee, who shall have it in their power to fix the qualifications of each member.

V.—A committee of five shall be appointed to consist of three Japanese journalists and two foreign journalists, which Committee shall include a Japanese Treasurer and a Japanese Secretary who shall reside in Tokyo, and a foreign Secretary who shall reside in Yokohama, the Committee to appoint its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman: the Japanese members of the Association shall elect their own representatives on the Committee, and the foreign members their representatives, the election to be confirmed by the whole meeting.

VI.—The expenses of each meeting shall be collected each time on the spot.

VII.—Each member shall pay yearly towards the support of the Association the sum of two *yen*, out of which the postage, cost of printing circulars, and other miscellanies be defrayed: the amount of subscription to be altered when occasion demands.

VIII.—The Committee shall be elected for one year by ballot at each annual general meeting of the Association, which shall be held each year in the month of June: any vacancy in the ranks of the Committee shall be filled by the same method at the next gathering of the members after the vacancy has been declared.

The Managing Committee of five elected at the meeting comprised Mr. Takahashi, *Japan Times*; Mr. J. H. Brooke, *Japan Herald*; Mr. Kotegawa, *Kenzo Zasshi*; Mr. Uchimura, *Tokyo Dokuritsu Zasshi*; and Mr. A. Bellamy Brown, *Japan Mail*.

After the meeting, the members of the new Association sat down to a capital dinner supplied by the Club Hotel. Mr. J. H. Brooke took the chair. Mr. Shimada Saburo (*Mainichi Shimbun*), late M.P. for Kanagawa Prefecture, proposed the toast of the Japan International Association of Journalists in an eloquent speech. He thought that great good should result from such an association of professional gentlemen. Journalism was the most suitable vehicle, he held, for promoting a better understanding between Japanese and foreigners, and in view of the near approach of mixed residence the duty of the profession lay clear before its members. He wished the Association a long career of usefulness. Other speeches followed, a most enjoyable evening being spent.

RUSSIA IN THE FAR EAST.

A telegram from Odessa, published in *The Times* of May 21st, says:—"The Russian Government, acting in the name of the Russian Volunteer Fleet Committee, will next year station permanently at Vladivostock or Port Arthur two cruisers, which are to be devoted to commercial purposes in time of peace. These vessels are to form the beginning of a large fleet of such cruisers which the Russian Government intends to maintain in those waters. The number is to be increased to six year the after next, and will be considerably augmented later on."

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THE NEW CABINET.

The new Cabinet has been formed, and the portfolios were distributed as follows:—

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs .....Count Okuma.
Minister of—
Home Affairs .....Count Itagaki.
Navy .....Marquis Saigo.
War .....Viscount Katsura.
Agriculture and Commerce .....Mr. Oishi Masami.
Finance .....Mr. Matsuda Masahisa.
Communications.....Mr. Hayashi Yuzo.
Justice .....Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu.
Education .....Mr. Ozaki Yukio.

The five last names on this list should be familiar to those of our readers that have read the debates in the House of Representatives during the past few sessions. Mr. Oishi Masami was for some time a leader of one of the minor political parties which existed before the groups constituting a section of the Opposition amalgamated with the *Kaishin-to* to form the Progressists. He made himself conspicuous in the House in connexion with several questions, especially Korean affairs, and he served for some time as Japanese Representative in Söul, where his diplomacy showed a distinctly "stalwart" tendency. Subsequently he became Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce when Count Okuma presided temporarily over that Department last year. Mr. Oishi is generally regarded as an able man, and he has the advantage of some official experience.

Practically the same description applies to Mr. Matsuda Masahisa and Mr. Hayashi Yuzo. They have been known as Count Itagaki's chief lieutenants ever since the Liberal Party was originally organized, and their influence in the Party of late years has scarcely been second to that of Count Itagaki himself. As to Mr. Hayashi Yuzo, probably no one contributed so materially to the recent amalgamation of the Liberals and Progressists as he did, and that his name appears in the first party cabinet was a foregone conclusion. Mr. Matsuda, like Count Itagaki, owes much of the influence he enjoys to the purity of his character and the blamelessness of his life. He is thoroughly trusted, but we are not aware that he has ever given any evidence of financial ability.

The appointment of Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu to the post of Minister of Justice is a surprise. He has always been a sufficiently prominent figure in politics, and for a long time he had a small but devoted following of his own in the Lower House. But we were not aware that he had distinguished himself to the extent of being eligible for a portfolio.

The ex-Liberals stand before the country as the supporters of the *post-bellum* programme, including the expansion of national armaments, and the ex-Liberals hold the portfolios of Finance and Communications, which—apart from the Army and Navy—are the Departments chiefly concerned in carrying out the programme. We may assume, therefore, that there will be no retrenchment in those directions.

Mr. Ozaki Yukio is a brilliant writer and debater. His reputation both as a journalist and as a member of the Lower House stands very high, and it is probably safe to say that among all the assailants of the so-called "Clan System" not one showed himself, from first to last, more vehement and more uncompromising. We doubt very much, however, whether the educational world will regard his appointment with confidence or satisfaction, though it is possible that his abounding energy and earnest liberalism will enable him to achieve an unlooked-for success.

So far as the number of portfolios is concerned, the claims of the former Liberal Party have received most consideration. If we divide the Cabinet on political lines, the result is this:—

Ex Liberal Party.
Count Itagaki .....Home Affairs.
Mr. Matsuda Masahisa .....Finance.
Mr. Hayashi Yuzo.....Communications.

Ex-*Kaishin-to*.
Count Okuma ...Premier and Foreign Affairs.
Mr. Ozaki Yukio .....Education.

Minor Parties (affiliated with the *Kaishin-to* to form the Progressists.)
Mr. Oishi Masami.....Agriculture and Commerce.
Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu .....Justice.

Meiji Statesmen.
Marquis Saigo.....Navy.
Viscount Katsura.....War.

With regard to the general character of the Cabinet, the most notable point is that it includes so many untried men, thus making a large demand upon the country's trustfulness. We suspect that there has been some repetition of the familiar experience, the tail wagging the dog. Veterans like Count Okuma and Count Itagaki would doubtless have been glad to enlist the cöoperation of some of the so-called "Clan Statesmen," although recourse to such aid might have cast doubts upon their own Party's independent competence. But the sentiment of their followers—sentiment to which we have alluded elsewhere—stood in the way. "Let us prove that we can take the place of the men we have driven out," has been the cry of the rank and file, and the leaders, yielding, have distributed the portfolios entirely among their own followers, the Departments of the Army and Navy alone excepted. It is a courageous venture. The next interesting question is the effect that will be produced on the officials of the various branches of the Government. Will they work contentedly under the new men, or will they resign? We suspect that very difficult tasks await Mr. Matsuda, Mr. Hayashi, and Mr. Ozaki.

There will be much surprise that neither the name of Baron Ito nor that of Dr. Hatoyama appears in the list. The former was confidently spoken of as Minister of Foreign Affairs and the latter as Minister of Justice But Baron Ito's appointment is understood to have been opposed by certain members of the ex-Progressist Party, and Dr. Hatoyama was equally unwelcome to some of the ex-Liberals. Difficulties of that nature ought not to have occurred. Let us hope that they will not be repeated.

An extra of the *Official Gazette* of the 30th ultimo, announces the resignations of Marquis Ito, Count Inouye, Viscount Yoshikawa, Baron Nishi, Baron Suyematsu Kencho, Mr. Kaneko Kentaro, and Professor Toyama.

The delay in performing the ceremony of inauguration was not due to any hitch in organizing the Cabinet. The portfolio-holders were fixed two days ago and submitted for His Majesty's approval. But a curious difficulty presented itself. Mr. Ozaki Yukio, the new Minister of Education, was appointed in the fall of last year to be a *chokunin* Councillor of the Foreign Office. During his occupation of the post the split between the Cabinet and the Progressists occurred, and Mr. Ozaki, while still an official, attended a meeting of the Party and took a prominent part in proposing and advocating a resolution in which the conduct of the Government was denounced in very strong terms. That was, of course, a marked breach of official discipline, and Mr. Ozaki, instead of being allowed to resign his post, was removed from it by way of disciplinary punishment. A sentence of that nature precludes reappointment for two years, and Mr. Ozaki's present eligibility for a portfolio could not be secured without a special pardon from the Emperor. Marquis Ito lent his services to effect the arrangement, but a little delay was, of course, unavoidable. The incident is regrettable as an accompaniment of the inauguration of party cabinets.

DR. HATOYAMA.

Dr. Hatoyama, who delivered the speech of the day on the occasion of the grand amalgamation meeeting of the Liberal and Progressists, has succeeded in getting himself universally talked about, which is an end that publicists are usually pleased to compass. Dr. Hatoyama certainly did not expend any brain power upon the choice of euphemisms. He declared, in the bluntest way possible, that the purpose of the new Party was to drive the Government out of office and step into its place, and he said that for the sake of achieving the object the Party must assume an uniformly destructive attitude in the House, throwing out Budget after Budget, and, in short, employing every available means to render legislation and administration impossible. Some good people are considerably shocked by such language. They find its frankness quite brutal, and they think it really very immoral to talk of getting into office as though that were the sole aim to be achieved. Others deem it necessary to apologise for Dr. Hatoyama, and to explain that he speaks of driving out the Government, not because the leaders of the Constitutionalists covet the sweets of office, but because they desire to have the power of carrying out their own policy. What futile recriminations! Dr. Hatoyama's words need no commentary. They were simply a declaration of war, and nobody imagines, we presume, that the Liberals and Progressists have combined for any purpose except to fight. Their platform is nothing. They have only one object, to introduce the system of party cabinets. The nation is not suffering from any wrongs that their assumption of office would enable than to redress. There can not be the most shadowy pretence that the affairs of the State are not well administered by the present Ministers, that its progress is checked by the incompetence of the men in office, or that its development is impeded because the Ministers of the Crown take their mandate from the Sovereign instead of taking it from one House of the Legislature. If there were any great pro-

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blems, domestic or foreign, that could not be solved by Marquis Ito and his colleagues and could be solved by Dr. Hatoyama and his fellow-politicians; if there were any flagrant abuses to be corrected, any misappropriation of public funds to be arrested, any national misfortunes to be retrieved, the new Party might honestly talk of the things it hopes to accomplish on getting into office, rather than of the steps it intends to take for the sake of getting into office. But it has one aim, and one aim only, to compass—party Cabinets. Dr. Hatoyama was perfectly ingenuous when he refrained from attempting to show what the nation would gain by substituting party politicians for the *Meiji* statesmen. There is nothing to show. We admire his fine frankness,

It appears to us that somewhat exaggerated importance has been attached to the recent utterances of Dr. Hatoyama Kazuo when addressing the amalgamation meeting of the Liberals and Progressists. The rough summaries of his speech originally published represented him as having conveyed to his hearers a solemn warning against any recourse to assassination or physical violence, and the inference has been drawn, not unnaturally, that the standard of political morality must be low in Japan if a publicist considers such an admonition necessary when speaking to a concourse of nominally respectable party politicians. Now it would be absurd to profess any belief that Japan has shaken off all the fetters linking her to feudal times, when life was held cheaper than the purpose to be accomplished in taking it. The old bonds are there still, though they grow looser year by year. Dr. Hatoyama, however, does not seem to have been actuated by the grave purpose subsequently connected with his words. Reference to fuller reports of his speech show that he intended to guard himself against misinterpretation, rather than to warn his hearers against lawlessness. He said that there were two ways of replacing clan Government by Party Cabinets. One was the gentle way; the other the violent (*muri*). Then, having explained that the "gentle way" signified the voluntary retirement of the Clan statesmen and the succession of the party leaders to the vacated places, he passed on to define the "violent way," and prefaced his definition by saying:—"When I use the term violent (*muri*), I do not refer to assassination or anything of the kind: I refer to Parliamentary methods." It appears to us that there was no necessity for such a repudiation. But that is a matter of opinion. Dr. Hatoyama may have thought it expedient to guard himself against the charge of having used an equivocal term, a term certainly apt to be remembered against him, without a very explicit limitation of its intended significance. Be that as it may, we have to note that his deliverance was not an independent exhortation to eschew assassination and violence, but a warning against misconstruction of his own words. The difference is not radical, but, at the same time, deserves attention.

During the passage from Shanghai to Nagasaki, of the N.Y.K. steamer *Satsuma Maru*, which arrived on the 21st inst., a European was robbed of a portmanteau containing valuable articles and a Chinese passenger was also robbed of a packet containing twenty gold rings. After a careful search, says the *Press*, the portmanteau was found and restored to its owner, but the property of the Chinese is still missing.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

It will be readily conjectured that all kinds of rumours, assertions, and conjectures are published by the vernacular press with regard to the political situation. The great majority of them rest on such obviously slender foundations that they seem scarcely worthy of reproduction. Perhaps it may be interesting, however, to refer briefly to some of them as illustrations of the subjects that occupy publicists' thoughts.

Count Inouye's name appears to be on everybody's lips. It is evident that a great deal of uncertainty exists as to his real attitude. At one moment we are told confidently not only that he has abandoned all his old objections to party cabinets, but even that he is ready to resign his official position and take the lead in organizing a party if a suitable person can be found to succeed him at the Finance Department. At another, journalists busy themselves endeavouring to discover reasons why he should not be opposed to government by party and incidents in his career which go to prove that at heart he does not believe in Imperial Cabinets. The truth is, we supect, that Count Inouye has no faith in make-shifts. He would have one thing or the other in a distinct form, but he eschews a *mélange* of both. Thus a cabinet which, while professing to be quite independent of Parliamentary mandates, relies all the time on the assistance of a political party, seems to him a hybrid kind of affair, doomed to failure.

There is another story in circulation to the effect that Count Inouye, having from the first adopted a negative policy in finance, was opposed to presenting the Bill for increased taxation in the special session of the Diet, and advocated waiting until the regular session at the close of the year. It is added, indeed, that he confidently predicted the rejection of the Bill if any such attempt were made to force it through the Lower House. Hence he is supposed to be much chagrined at finding himself saddled with responsibility for a failure which would not have occurred had his advice been taken, and to be determined to resign his portfolio. Marquis Ito—so the story continues—has accordingly approached Count Matsukata, with a view to his return to the Finance Department. These tales appear to us to be altogether groundless. People are evidently determined to imagine that they know Count Inouye's mind a great deal better than he knows it himself; but if there is one thing more certain than another, it is that his financial policy is not negative, and that, whatever step was taken as to the Bill for increased taxation, he was a consenting party.

One of our Tokyo contemporaries alleges that the members of the Privy Council are opposed to the idea of any direct effort by Marquis Ito and Count Inouye to against a political party. They do not at all object to political parties, or to government by party, but they think that Cabinet Ministers should stand aloof from such doings. It is inconceivable, in our opinion, that the members of the Privy Council should be so inconsistent as to endorse the principle of party cabinets and, at the same time, condemn the idea of a Cabinet Minister associating himself with party organization. There is a vast deal of romantic talk about the sacro-sanct character of a portfolio-holder. If party leaders are to have portfolios what conceivable reason is there why a portfolio-holder should not become a party leader?

The Opposition journals industriously circulate rumours calculated to injure the prospects of the new Imperialist Party (*Teisei-to*). They say, for example, that the 127 members who voted for reassessment of the taxable value of land, have lost all cohesion, and are persuaded that assessment and increase of the Land Tax are altogether independent matters, and should be treated independently. The same newspapers report that the *Ko-ha* (stalwarts) in the House of Peers would at once enrol their names as members of the new constitutional Party were they not restrained by special considerations. Thus Prince Konoye, their leader, is president of the Nobles' Club; Viscount Tani has military rank, and Viscount Soga is a Court Councillor. As for the other prominent members of the section, they think that since their own organization in the House of Peers is based on the principle of entirely eschewing party connexions, a split would be caused if they entered the ranks of the new party. The only thing which appears quite certain is that the titled "stalwarts" have not joined the Constitutionalists and do not intend to join them.

Reference is made by more than one vernacular journal to a conference, said by some to have been actually held on the 24th instant in the presence of the Emperor, but reported by others to be pending. The subjects of discussion are believed to be the Cabinet's responsibility and the increase of the Land Tax. We need scarcely say that accounts published by newspapers about such a function must be more or less conjectural, but, so far as the broad facts are concerned, there are apparently grounds for believing that the political problems of the day are deemed sufficiently important to call for a conference in the Imperial presence. The Constitution, as we have more than once pointed out, provides that the Ministers of the Crown shall take their mandate from the Sovereign only, and if that part of the Imperial Prerogatives is now to be delegated to the Diet, it can only be with the consent of the Emperor himself. Whatever may be the theories entertained by publicists in Occidental countries, it is certain that in Japan no right to take a part in the government of the State is supposed to be vested in the people. The Sovereign is the source of all governing power, and if the Sovereign now chooses to extend the Constitution so that a Cabinet's tenure of office shall depend, not on the Imperial will, but on the political complexion of one House of the Legislature, it is for the Sovereign to announce that intention. Marquis Ito is said to be convinced that the change is inevitable, and to be prepared to counsel His Majesty in that sense; but whether the remainder of the elder statesmen will endorse his views is uncertain. We do not see much use in quoting the various hypotheses published by our local contemporaries. The German method of administering public affairs without care for the mood of the majority in the House of Representatives, does not seem possible to pursue in Japan, and the *Meiji* statesmen must be supposed to have reached that conclusion.

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More than one of the leading vernacular journals does not hesitate to suggest that the sudden resolve of Marquis Ito and his colleagues to resign their portfolios and hand over to the Constitutional Party the duty of organizing a Cabinet, was in the main a device to embarrass their assailants. The "Clan statesmen" are supposed to have assumed that the Constitutionalists were not themselves prepared to undertake the task which they have prevented others from performing, and that if they were called on to practically inaugurate the system of party cabinets, they would shrink dismayed from the attempt. This curious idea might be regarded as an illustration of the very light-hearted view which its exponents take of Ministerial responsibilities did not a more obvious explanation suggest itself. The fact is that the party politicians are not a little chagrined to discover how unprepared they really are for the great trust which they have been struggling so long and so vehemently to assume. After all, state the case how they may, they can not conceal from themselves that no Cabinet organised by them could be a working possibility unless it were a compromise. They have to fall back upon the assistance of the "Clan Statesmen," and to confess the somewhat humiliating necessity by leaving the portfolios of War and of the Navy in the hands of their previous holders. Not unnaturally they dread the construction which the public will put upon that phase of the situation. It is not pleasant to foresee the accusation that while they effectually checked the progress of State business for the sake of ousting the men who were conducting it, they were nevertheless unready to conduct it themselves. Their sense of discomfiture suggests an uneasy suspicion that they have been victimized. But they need not be greatly concerned, we imagine. Every system makes a groove for itself if it be suffered to work long enough. The system of Imperial Cabinets has made its groove, a deep groove, too, and the pioneers of party government will not be seriously blamed by history though they fail to smoothe out the ancient furrows and build their own system on an even foundation from the very outset.

JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES.

A Reuter's telegram from Washington, dated May 19th, says:—

Mr. Hoshi, the Japanese Minister, when calling upon Mr. Long, Secretary for the Navy, and Mr. Alger, Secretary for War, in order to obtain credentials for Lieutenant Narita and Major Shiba to act as observers respectively of the naval and military operations against Spain, definitely confirmed the denial previously given that Japan purposed to protest against an American occupation of the Philippines. He declared that Japan was naturally interested in all that affected the Philippines, for there were many Japanese in the islands, which, moreover, were geographically allied to the Japanese Empire. But Japan had not shown the slightest intention of interfering in the present course of events. The fact that the reports of a Japanese protest came *via* London was regarded by Mr. Hoshi as suggestive.

German surveyors at Potato Island, in Kiaochou Bay, have discovered several errors in the British Admiralty chart of 1893. The Germans are said to have found land between the north-west side of the island and the mainland, which is covered only by very high spring tides. They have further discovered two other ways to the island which can easily be raised above high water mark.

THE SPANISH SQUADRON.

There can not be any doubt, we imagine, that Admiral Camara's Squadron is bound for the Philippines. The announcement made by the Minister of Marine in the Cortes might not be regarded as conclusive, but the fact that the ships have been detained at Port Said settles the question. It is not surprising that considerable uncertainty should exist as to the movements of this Squadron. It has been behaving in a most mysterious manner. A telegram dated "London, May 30th," said that the Spanish Reserve Squadron had left Cadiz, and that "its destination was either Cuba, the Philippines, or America as the Government might deem expedient." That intelligence apparently emanated from a Spanish source, and was framed with the object not of informing but of deluding the public—an object to which Reuter's agents seem to have lent themselves with charming naïveté. The next news came from London, under date of June 20th. It said that the Cadiz Squadron under Admiral Camara, accompanied by six liners, carrying 4,000 troops, had finally sailed, and had passed Gibraltar, on Thursday, June 16th, going east. A day later the Squadron was sighted off some place the name of which came to us mutilated beyond recognition in passage across the wires, and nothing could be inferred except that a squadron was actually at sea. But on June 22nd Reuter telegraphed:—"The American Government has learned that the Cadiz Fleet has returned to a Spanish port." Thus again everything became dubious. It now appears, however, that the knowledge attributed to the American Government is erroneous, for a telegram, dated "London June 27th," says:—"The Spanish Fleet has been sighted at Port Said." We have often had occasion to comment on the very misleading method pursued in dating the telegrams now published in Japan. This last message is a case in point. "London, June 27th" is naturally interpreted to mean that the telegram was sent from London on the 27th, from which it would follow that the Spanish Fleet was in the neighbourhood of Port Said on the 26th, at latest. But the truth is that the date "27th" is fictitious: it is added at this end, the recipients of the London telegrams being apparently of the opinion that intelligence published by them should be given an air of freshness, by superscribing a date only 24 hours old. Now, London time being nine hours behind Japanese, even direct telegrams to Tokyo could scarcely be in time for insertion in a newspaper which goes to press on the evening of the day of the telegram's despatch. For example, a telegram sent from London at 9 a.m. would start on its journey at 6 p.m. by Tokyo time, and could scarcely reach Japan before midnight. But there are no direct telegrams. All these press messages go round by India, Singapore, Hongkong, and Shanghai. It is generally safe, therefore, to conclude that the time of a telegram's despatch from London is some three days earlier than the date of its publication in Japan. Applying the correction to the present case, we arrive at the result that the Cadiz Squadron passed Gibraltar on June 16th and reached Port Said on June 24th. We know now that it consists of two ironcrads, two cruisers, three torpedo boats, and five transports. The ships collected at Cadiz on May 18th, and said to be then in readiness for sea, were as follow:—

	Tons.	Speed Knots.
Pelayo, Battleship	9,900	... 16
Carlos V.	9,235	... 20
Alfonso XIII., Second-class Cruiser	5,000	... 20
Vitoria, First-class Cruiser	7,250	... 14(?)
Alfonso XII., Auxiliary Cruiser ...	3,020	... 17½
Pepido, Auxiliary Cruiser	570	... 18
Buenos Aires, Auxiliary Cruiser ...	?	... ?
Antonio Lopez, Auxiliary Cruiser...	?	... ?
Gralda, Despatch-boat	?	... ?

Three torpedo vessels.

With regard to the four liners said to be accompanying the fleet, they seem to be the *Rotida* and *Patriota*, two Hamburg-American steamers which have been fitted as cruisers, and the *Audax* and the *Proserpina*.

The above is certainly a formidable squadron. There are no American ships in these waters competent to cope with the *Pelayo*, the *Carlos V.* and the *Vitoria*. It is true that both the *Pelayo* and the *Vitoria* are old vessels, the former having been built in 1887 and the latter in 1865. But the *Pelayo* recently underwent thorough repairs at La Soyne, and the *Vitoria* has just been rebelted and supplied with new machinery. The *Carlos V.* is the newest and probably the finest of the trio. She was launched in 1895, and had not been completed when the war broke out. Had the battleship *Oregon* (10,288 tons) remained on the Pacific station, the situation would now be different. Since her withdrawal to the Atlantic, the strongest fighting ships that fly the Stars and Stripes on the Pacific side are the two double-turreted monitors *Monterey* and *Monondnock*, each 4,000 tons, with speeds of 13.6 and 14.5 knots respectively. There is a belief among American experts that these vessels are a match for a battle-ship. We find some difficulty in sharing that view. The *Monterey* is considerably stronger than the *Monondnock*. Let us compare the former with the *Pelayo*:—

Monterey, 4,000 tons—13.6 speed—13" belt—14" gun"—3" deck—two 12-in., two 10-in. armour-piercing guns—six 2 2"; four 1-4" quick firers.

Pelayo, 9,900 tons—16 speed—18" belt—19" gun—4" deck—two 12½-in., two 11-in. armour-piercing guns—nine 5.5"; two 2 7"; four 2.2"; four 1 4" quick firers.

There can not be much question, we think, as to which of the two ships is the more powerful. The *Monterey* is now on her way eastward and she will doubtless be quickly followed by the *Monondnock*. In fact, we may assume that no time will be lost in assembling all the American Pacific ships at the Philippines. Were that accomplished, the United States Squadron would consist of the following:—

	Tons.	Knots.
Monterey, monitor	4.000	... 13 6
Monondnock, monitor	4,000	... 14 5
Olympia, cruiser	5 870	... 21.6
Baltimore, cruiser	4.413	... 20
Philadelphia, cruiser	4.324	... 19
Charleston, cruiser	3,730	... 18
Raleigh, cruiser...	3.213	... 19
Boston, cruiser	3,000	... 15.6
Concord, cruiser	1,710	... 16.8
Yorktown, cruiser	1,710	... 16
Bennington, cruiser	1,710	... 17 5
Wheeling, cruiser	1,200	... 12
Petrel, gun-boat	892	... 11 8

There should now be no difficulty in getting these thirteen vessels to Manila before the arrival of Admiral Camara's Squadron.

Apparently the object of the Spanish Government in sending out Admiral Camara is simply a naval engagement. Cuba has evidently been abandoned to its fate. It is interesting to note that the arrival of Admiral Cerveras' squadron at Santia-

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go, without encountering the combined American fleet, was regarded in Madrid as "a triumph of naval strategy." We are at a loss to see how the operation justifies such an epithet. If the Admiral had convoyed a flotilla of transports, carrying a military force for the defence of the island, he might justly have been congratulated on eluding the United States ships. But he had no such duty to perform, and the result of the step taken by him is that his squadron has been placed completely *hors de combat*. He seems to us to have sailed into a trap, where he will have nothing to do but to await destruction. If the topographical features at Santiago were such as to expose him to the danger of being sealed in, he certainly ought never to have entered the harbour; or, having entered, should not have remained there a day without making provision against an exploit like Lieutenant Hobson's. It is true that incidents such as that of the *Merrimac* do not belong to the category of every-day doings, and a commanding officer may possibly be excused for not reckoning them among ordinary contingencies. But the history of naval wars waged by Anglo-Saxon seamen can not have been familiar to Admiral Cervera, or he would have known better what to expect. He was said to be the most popular man in Spain when the news of his safe arrival at Santiago was received. Probably a different feeling is entertained towards him now.

The broad fact is that Spain has virtually denuded herself of all capacities for maritime resistance. One half of her fleet is hermetically sealed up in Santiago; the other is detained at Port Said for lack of coal, the Egyptian Government refusing to supply its needs, and, pending further orders, the ships remain there. Spain lies helpless and undefended. It would be easy now for the squadron of either Admiral Sampson or Commodore Schley to visit the whole Spanish coast from Cadiz to Barcelona. And that is a course Reuter tells us, on the authority of the *New York Herald*, the U.S. Government intend taking.

There is a vague sentiment of alarm lest Germany should be preparing some design with regard to the Philippines. She has assembled all her available ships in Manila Bay, and since the object of such a manœuvre is not immediately apparent, some people suspect that she contemplates taking over the Philippines or the Carolines from Spain should the latter succeed in recovering temporary possession of them. It may be presumed that Germany would gladly embrace any legitimate opportunity of acquiring a colony to attract and retain her surplus population; and it must be granted that her action at Kiaochou evinced remarkable ability and promptitude to take occasion by the hand. But the project now attributed to her is too large, and has too many issues, to be lightly entertained. We can not imagine that in sending Admiral Camara eastward the Spanish Government has any understanding with Germany. Manila was the only place where Spain saw any chance of striking a successful blow, and she made a gallant effort to strike that blow. There is nothing more in the matter, we imagine.

THE NEXT SESSION OF THE DIET.

It is stated by vernacular journals that the next session of the Diet will not be an extraordinary session. The Lower House having been dissolved on the 10th instant, it becomes necessary, according to the Constitution, that the Houses shall be called together again before November 10th. Now November used to be the month for opening the regular session. Owing to special reasons December was chosen in 1896 and 1897, but that was purely a matter of official convenience. November is perfectly suitable from a general point of view. It would obviously be absurd, however, to convene a special session in October, lasting fifteen or twenty days, and thus to prorogue the Houses until November or December. If there were any particular business to be done, the case would be different; but the revised Civil Code and the Supplementary Budget having been passed already, there is nothing to occupy the Diet's attention in a special session. Then there is another consideration which very probably weighs with the Government: namely, that if a special session were convened, it would be incumbent upon the Cabinet to present the Bill for increased taxation once more, and the House, as a matter of course, would again decline to to discuss it unless it were accompanied by the Budget of expenditures. To convene a special session, therefore, would be merely to precipitate another dissolution. The better plan is to make the regular annual session commence in November, when it will be possible to submit the Budget for 1899-1900 simultaneously with the Bill for increased taxation.

THE CHINESE CUSTOMS.

It is confidently asserted that the long-wished-for increase of salary has at length been granted to the officials of the Chinese Customs Service. The rumour could be more easily credited if the amount of the increase were not so large, but when we are told that "the pay of the indoor staff has been doubled and that of the outdoor staff proportionately raised according to degree," the magnitude of the change suggests doubts which are not dispelled by the conundrum-like terms of the announcement. To double the pay of one set of men and increase the pay of another set "proportionately" is to double the pay of the whole, if words have any meaning. The prolix ambiguity of the statement invests it with an air of considerable uncertainty. At any rate we can not suppose that the Chinese Government has been persuaded to adopt such a munificent line. Neither would it be fair, indeed. Even the most uncompromising complainants have never insisted that the whole loss resulting to the foreign *employés* from the appreciation of gold should be borne by the Chinese employers. However, the fact may probably be accepted that the currency grievance has received recognition. We shall know the details by and by. Meanwhile it is perhaps permissible to regard this incident as one of the first results of the very prudent stipulation recently made by Her Majesty's Government about the permanent direction of the Customs Service by a British subject so long as British commercial interests preponderate in China. Such a stipulation means a great more than the mere retention of the post of Inspector-General for a British subject. It means the continued organization of the service on a solid basis, and, with that assurance to strengthen him, Sir Robert Hart doubtless felt warranted in pressing for an act of justice which he would have insisted on long ago had not he apprehended that importunity might prove injurious to the general interests of the service. The Japanese Government has been fortunate in escaping this troublesome problem. Its attitude towards all interference in such matters is very different, we are aware, from that of the Chinese Authorities. It would never think of pledging itself to any permanent procedure in the case of its foreign *employés*. But there is no concealing the fact that the foreign *employés* of this country have suffered keenly from the appreciation of gold. There are men now in Japan's employ who, after 15 or 20 years' zealous service, find themselves receiving about one half of the salary—measured in gold—that they received when they first came to the East. Their ability to save money for returning to their own country is proportionately reduced, and since it is too late to think of striking out a new line, the vista before them must wear a dreary aspect. We presume that the same may be said in a less marked degree of foreigners who have adopted Far-Eastern commerce as a profession. Twenty years ago, the pay of a young clerk in a Yokohama merchant's office was something like £400 a year. To-day the same salary of 150 *yen* monthly represents only £185. However, in Japan's case the era of speculation and complaint is passed. Every one knows now exactly what the sterling value of his stipend will be next year or ten years hence. Things can not become worse. There is some comfort in the reflection.

DEMOCRATIC IDEAS.

We have always been accustomed to regard the *Jiji Shimpo* as the representative of Japanese "common sense." It habitually looks at every question from an unemotional, moderate point of view, and avoids extremes of theory as carefully as it eschews excesses of criticism. Of course its writings do not invariably suggest the perfection of moral equipoise, but the best of us has his moods, and on the whole if the columns of the *Jiji* reflect the mind of educated Japan, the nation's thoughts and impulses are remarkably sound, if we may venture to say so without seeming to arrogate any superiority of judgment. Is it then to be inferred that the curiously democratic doctrines now propounded by our contemporary represent a veritable tendency of public thought, or must we regard them merely as an idiosyncracy of the *Jiji's* editor? It has hitherto been a general belief that the instinct of aristocracy is firmly rooted in the *morale* of the Japanese people. Rank certainly claimed and received profound respect through all the eras of the Fujiwara, the Taira, the Minamoto, the Ashikaga, and the Tokugawa. It once fell to our lot to compile a list of the various official titles in the departments constituting the Bakufu Administration, and the result was 31 pages of foolscap, or about 930 names of offices. Every one of the occupants of these posts, whether he was a *Haku*, a *Tayu*, a *Daisuke*, a *Dainagon*, a *Chunagon*, a *Shonagon*, a *Daigeki*, or what not, had a tolerably emphatic conception of the respect due to him by

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the non-official classes, and had also a tolerably emphatic way of exacting that respect. Never was there a country where rank lived in a loftier atmosphere of self-esteem, or where deeper obeisance was paid to every mark of governmental authority. In no other country, too, has the distinction between patrician and plebeian impressed itself so strongly upon the language. Very careful study and most circumspect practice are necessary if a foreigner desires to avoid shocking rudenesses in speaking Japanese; above all if he desires to observe the various nice distinctions of phraseology applicable to the sayings and doings of personages in high places; and, as for the language used in official documents, it has as fine a flavour of *de haut en bas* as the proudest palate could desire. What could be more natural than that titles of nobility should exist in such a country? It has been sometimes stated that they did not exist in old times. But surely that is a complete misconception? Every feudal chieftain had his title of *Kami*, and though only one order of nobility was represented in official terminology, there was as wide a gulf between the titled and the non-titled sections of the nation as ever separated lords and commons in any Western society. Many of our readers doubtless remember the embarrassing interregnum between the fall of feudalism and the creation of new titles of nobility eighteen years afterwards. During that interval no means existed of verbally distinguishing a some-time *Daimyo* from an insignificant upstart. All the old landmarks had been swept away, and it seemed as though the most genuine *sangre azur* in the world was about to be washed white by a tide of radical innovations. The public were honestly pleased, we think, when Marquis Ito and his fellow-thinkers averted that catastrophe by advising the Emperor to create the "Five Orders" (*Ko-ko-haku-shi-dan*), and when the "immemorial" aristocrats, every one of whom had imperial blood in his veins, were once again lifted above the general level, their ranks being at the same time recruited and their place in public esteem elevated by a draft from the ablest men whom the vicissitudes of the Restoration had thrown to the surface. It is against these titles that the *Jiji Shimpo*, the well-balanced, sober-minded *Jiji Shimpo*, has been recording its protest for some time, and now records it with renewed vehemence. When the Emperor conferred the title of Count upon Mr. Itagaki Taisuke, the leader of the Liberal Party—it was just eleven years ago, if we remember rightly—the latter made a strenuous effort to decline the honour, and finally accepted it with a considerable show of genuine reluctance. The *Jiji* opines that he regards the title now very much as he would regard a dilapidated pair of boots! However, he can scarcely hope to get rid of it, and Count Okuma is in the same predicament. Surely these are strange sentiments to hear publicly enunciated in Japan? It is possible that the *Jiji's* objections do not extend to titles in general but only to titles granted in recognition of administrative or diplomatic ability. That distinction is not clearly set up, however, and indeed such a contention would be far more irrational than the condemnation of titles *in toto*. Besides the *Jiji's* ground seems to be that everything calculated to create barriers of rank between man and man is an abuse. The *Jiji* presses unbounded satisfaction at the fact that Japan has at length a Cabinet the members of which may be said to be without titles, and it urges that another step of reform should be taken by abolishing the names of offices as they now exist, and substituting the terminology of every-day business organizations. An example of the ideal method is furnished by the United States. The head of the Government in America is called "President," and so is the officer that supervises the affairs of a bank, or a railway, or any commercial or industrial enterprise. Instead, therefore, of using the terms *Daijin* (Minister), *Jikan* (Vice-Minister) and so on, the *Jiji* would use *Tori-shimari-yaku*, or *Shihai-nin*, or some other of the names commonly found in the vocabulary of business corporations. We gather that our contemporary's dominant object is to introduce a state of affairs in which officials shall recognise that they are servants of the public, instead of regarding themselves as a race of superior beings who may have condescensions towards laymen, but need not be tormented by any sense of duty. That condition has been realized in England, a country where special official titles are conspicuously absent, though their absence has nothing whatever to do with the spirit that animates officialdom. Perhaps one of the measures most conducive to such a desirable result in Japan would be to do as the *Jiji* suggests, so far as the names of officers are concernd. That is a point upon which we have no qualifications for expressing an opinion. But why abolish titles of nobility? Does our contemporary want Japan to be more democratic than England, where titles of nobility exist and are highly valued, or does it desire that Japanese officials should have a stronger sense of their duties towards the public than British officials have, or be more courteous in their dealings with laymen than British officials are? It appears to us that the general excellence of our contemporary's contention is somewhat spoiled by its sentimental radicalism in the matter of the nobility. However, the fact that such writing finds a prominent place in issue after issue of the leading Japanese journal is a very interesting sign of the times.

"JAPANESE ART FOLIO."

The celebrated photographic artist, Mr. Ogawa, has published another of the beautiful pictorial albums which have contributed so much to his reputation. The new publication is called a "Japanese Art Folio." Mr. Shugio, the well known connoisseur is the editor, and the brief preface informs us that the object of the book is "to facilitate the study of Japanese art and to satisfy, in a modest way, the desire of many who can not enjoy the privilege of seeing the originals." Such an unpretentious description disarms criticism, and, indeed, we should not feel disposed under any circumstances to speak harshly of a work conceived so wisely. There is undoubtedly plenty of room for a book which will enable the general public to form a really intelligent conception of Japanese pictorial art. Picture galleries are happily unknown in this country—happily because Japanese pictures, in every age, have been printed as parts of a scheme of religious splendour or domestic decoration. To bring them together into a gallery would be to do violence to the large artistic sense that presided at their creation. But if the pictures are to be congratulated upon that fact, it does not operate so happily for the general public, since they are deprived of an opportunity offering in all Western capitals, the opportunity of examining master-pieces by great artists of the present and the past. If one calculates thoughtfully the number of persons among the foreign residents of Japan that have seen a genuine drawing by one of the art celebrities of this country, the resulting figure is startlingly small. That is probably the chief reason why such extremely divergent estimates exist as to the quality of Japanese pictorial art. The average individual speaks of it with contempt; the student finds in its features that elicit his enthusiastic admiration. If Messrs. Ogawa and Shugio, by reproducing a number of the really admirable pictures that lie hidden in temples, storehouses, and private collections, can provide materials which will help the average individual to make the acquaintance of real Japanese art, they will do something that deserves to be remembered. On the other hand, we can not congratulate them unreservedly upon the selections they have made for the first part of the "Art Folio." The volume opens with a chromo-xylograph from a picture by Shunsho. It is a very mediocre example of the Popular School's work, and even if it stood much higher in its class, the drawing of the extraordinary dog sitting in a begging posture at the lady's feet would mar the painting. We have, next, a somewhat trivial specimen from the great Sesshiu's brush—a specimen that scarcely recalls the magnificent achievements of the Classical School at the period of the second great Chinese *renaisoance*. Still this picture is better in its limited way than No. 3, which is introduced as "one of Motonobu's master-pieces." It does not deserve to be thus described, for, though forceful and broad in treatment, it shows some of the worst mannerisms of the Chinese School,—painfully accentuated outlines, entirely untrue to nature, and water flowing in two directions at the same time. It has, indeed, the redeeming feature of being full of poetry, but justice is not done to the great Kano master when we are asked to judge him by this work. Korin's "Daruma" (Plate IV.) deserves the prominence given to it, if the object is to display the class of painting in which this most original and daring master least distinguished himself. Were our judgment of Korin based on the extravagant puppets that he gravely offered to the people of his time as lofty conceptions of mythological beings, we should merely have to lament that such power of line as even these burlesques display were prostituted to such purposes. But when we come to No. V., an exquisite example of the delicate, refined, and harmonious work of Hoitsu, the founder of the revived Korin academy, we remember what that academy really was. Scarcely less beautiful is No. VI., from the brush of Kiitsu, a worthy follower of Hoitsu. We sincerely welcome the appearance of this Folio, and look forward with much pleasure to its successors. Mr. Ogawa's part of the work is beyond praise, and we may be permitted to hope that since he has embarked upon this most serviceable enterprise, he will endeavour to choose really representative pictures, for the series of volumes will certainly have a large influence in forming the public's estimate of Japanese pictorial art.

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THE CABINET.

June 24th.

RUMOURS of a change of Ministry are current. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is most circumstantial in its assertions on the subject. It describes visits paid by Count INOUYE, Viscount KATSURA, Baron SUYEMATSU, and Baron ITO to Marquis YAMAGATA, and speaks of a conference lasting eight or nine hours at the Palace, when Marquis YAMAGATA and Count INOUYE were questioned by HIS MAJESTY about the political situation. Other movements and discussions are reported to have taken place, but we need not speak of them in detail. They may be summed up in the brief statement that the Choshiu statesmen (Marquis YAMAGATA, Count INOUYE, and Viscount KATSURA), together with Barons SUYEMATSU and ITO, are chiefly devoting themselves to dealing with the present crisis. According to the *Nichi Nichi*, Marquis ITO'S first idea was to form a political party in opposition to the *Kensei-to*, but he experienced difficulties which led him to conclude that only by resigning his office and titles could he hope for success in such an undertaking. The question then arose—indeed our contemporary hints that it presented itself vividly to Marquis ITO from the outset—whether the EMPEROR should not be advised to entrust Counts OKUMA and ITAGAKI with the task of forming a new Cabinet. That course, however, was not universally approved, and it was suggested as more advisable that Marquis YAMAGATA should form a ministry. Everything must depend, however, upon the views taken by the EMPEROR himself, and, despite the long conferences that have taken place, nothing has yet transpired as to HIS MAJESTY'S ultimate opinion. Meanwhile, the *Nichi Nichi* alleges that Marquis ITO has tendered his resignation, not merely of his office as Prime Minister, but also of his titles and Grand Order of Merit. Our contemporary publishes the text of the resignation :—

> With profound reverence Your Majesty's servant Ito Hirobumi ventures to submit that, having been the recipient of the Imperial favour, and having been graciously entrusted again and again with important offices, he has endeavoured zealously to discharge these duties; but he now finds, to his profound humiliation, that, owing to his defective abilities, he has failed to carry out his intention. To cling to empty power and thus constitute an impediment to the Imperial purpose would be to obstruct Your Majesty's views. Most humbly, therefore, Your Majesty's servant tenders his resignation of office, and further prays to be permitted to resign his Order of Merit and title of Marquis. He earnestly entreats that Your Majesty will graciously condescend to grant his prayer and accept his resignation. With the deepest obeisance, etc. (Dated) June 25th, 1898.

There is no reason to doubt the substantial accuracy of the above facts, so far, at any rate, as they refer to Marquis ITO'S resignation and to the uncertainty between an OKUMA-ITAGAKI Cabinet and YAMAGATA Ministry. In short, the main problem now awaiting solution is whether the SOVEREIGN will at once endorse the principle of party cabinets, or whether another attempt will be made to work on the basis of an independent ministry. Marquis ITO is understood to have definitely made up his mind that the time for party cabinets has come, and that to endeavour to ignore the fact would merely create needless friction between the Administration and the Legislature, and impede national progress. His Excellency has advised the EMPEROR in that sense, and, as an inevitable corollary, has laid before HIS MAJESTY the desirability of entrusting to Count OKUMA and Count ITAGAKI the task of forming a Cabinet. It would appear, however, that the EMPEROR has not pronounced any final decision. HIS MAJESTY probably wishes to be informed as to the ability and willingness of the two Counts to undertake the responsibility. The newly-organized Constitutional Party is a powerful body, and that it will command an over-whelming majority in the next House of Representatives can not be questioned. But, however rich it may be in politicians, it is eminently poor in men of administrative experience. If Count OKUMA and Count ITAGAKI be excepted, the Party does not possess any member who has ever held a portfolio. We have often said that an essential preliminary to the inauguration of party cabinets would be a split in the camp of the *Meiji* Statesman, and the affiliation of one section of its occupants to each of the political parties. The reason for entertaining such a view was that since the duties of the Administration had been discharged solely by the *Meiji* Statesmen and their followers during the past thirty years, they possessed a monopoly of the executive experience without which the government of a country can not be conducted. That such a view was correct, the facts of the present situation demonstrate. Counts ITAGAKI and OKUMA would unhesitatingly accept the task of forming a Ministry if they could command the assistance of experienced administrators to preside over the various Departments of State. In short, they are obliged to appeal to the *Meiji* statesmen, and the latter, in turn, know that to entertain the appeal is to acknowledge the principle of party Cabinets. How many of them are prepared to accept that principle and how many are determined to reject it? This is a question of the most profound interest. The incidents of the keen struggle between party politicians and the so-called "Clan Statesmen" have not for an instant obscured the broad fact that Japan has been splendidly governed during the *Meiji* era; that her destinies have been directed by a group of brilliant administrators to whom she owes not merely her independence but also one of the most substantial national and international successes ever achieved by any country under cognate circumstances; and that, if judged by their administrative record only, the *Meiji* statesmen deserve, not to be driven from office by a mob of untried agitators, but to be confirmed in the life-long tenure of power. The struggle, however, does not rage about records or achievements. It is a fight for a principle. From the moment when the Parliamentary system was introduced in Japan, party cabinets became an inevitable result, and the immense credit that would otherwise have accrued to the *Meiji* statesmen has been marred by the spectacle of their apparent opposition to an issue which their own act had rendered unavoidable. In foreign eyes no greater misfortune could overtake Japan than the annihilation of the *Meiji* statesmen by this wave of political progress. The country can not possibly do without them. Marquis Ito, as we have said, fully recognises that the time has come for party Cabinets, Will he, then, cooperate with Count OKUMA and ITAGAKI to render the principle a practical possibility? It would seem to be his duty to do so, and at this moment of writing things tend in that direction. Counts OKUMA and ITAGAKI know that they can not hope to form a successful Cabinet without the cooperation of some of the *Meiji* statesmen, and it is understood that they have asked Marquis ITO to assist them. Should that arrangement be effected, the office of Premier would be taken by Count ITAGAKI, that of Finance by Count OKUMA, and that of Foreign Affairs by Marquis ITO. On the other hand, should Marquis ITO find it impossible to agree with the two Counts, the latter will probably have recourse to Count MATSUKATA, who is now on his way to Tokyo, and the result would be Count ITAGAKI Premier, Count MATSUKATA Finance, and Count OKUMA Foreign Affairs. Meanwhile, a tolerably strong group of officials advocate another attempt to maintain the principle of Imperial cabinets, their programme being that Marquis YAMAGATA should become Premier. As to the probable portfolio-holders in the event of the adoption of the latter plan, we are not in a position to speak. Nor does it seem necessary to discuss the contingency, for at present everything points to the triumph of the party-cabinet principle. Count INOUYE'S proclivities would be of great importance were he disposed to take an active line, but we believe that he will return to the life of political seclusion which he was with difficulty induced to abandon a few months ago in deference to the wishes and needs of his old friend, Marquis ITO. It remains to add that if Marquis ITO does not lend his assistance to Counts OKUMA and ITAGAKI, there is confident talk of his resigning his title and devoting himself to the organization and education of a political party. We do not anticipate that result.

There can not be much room for doubt as to the issue most conducive to the nation's interests. A Cabinet including Marquis ITO, Count OKUMA, and Count

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ITAGAKI, and supported by the Liberals and Progressists in combination, would mean not merely the end of the political struggles now dissipating the nation's energies, but also the establishment of the first really solid ministry enjoyed by the country since the opening of the Diet in 1890. Japan has no time to waste over these dissensions. They check her progress and lead the Powers to form a contemptuous estimate of her condition. She can not possibly get on without foreign capital; she can not procure foreign capital until she adopts some definite line of financial policy; and she can not adopt any definite line of financial policy until the Cabinet has the support of a majority in the House of Representatives. In the field of foreign affairs, too, Marquis ITO'S assumption of the portfolio suggested for him in the OKUMA-ITAGAKI cabinet would be a most happy event. Japan has no statesman better qualified than Marquis ITO to manage the various complicated issues connected with the operation of the Revised Treaties. He would command the entire confidence not only of the Foreign Powers but also of the foreign residents.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

June 26th.

IT will be readily conjectured that all kinds of rumours are circulated with regard to the political situation. Every incident, however insignificant, is recounted sententiously and made the basis of surmise or prediction, and every movement of the statesmen in office or the leading politicians in opposition furnishes food for inference. The National Unionists and their most prominent figure, Viscount TAKASHIMA, are much *en evidence*; not because they show any signs of special activity, or because they are strong enough to be important, but because the public regards them as the garrison of the last citadel occupied by the so-called "clan statesmen," and concludes that if the principle of independent Cabinets has any remaining vitality, they alone can contrive its effective revival. We could easily fill one or two columns with stories from vernacular journals or news-agencies, but we presume that what our readers desire to hear is the issue of all these complications, not the details of their progress. Thus far, then, the decision arrived at is, we believe, that Marquis ITO will not take any post in the new Cabinet; that Count OKUMA will be Premier and Count ITAGAKI Minister of State for Home Affairs; that Marquis SAIGO will retain the portfolio of the Navy, and Viscount KATSURA that of War, and that, with these two exceptions, all the members of the present Cabinet will retire. Comment has already been made in these columns on the chief difficulty that besets the party politicians in their attempts to form a Cabinet. They may find among their own leaders men willing to try the experiment of presiding over Departments of State, but they have no assurance of finding the staffs of the Departments willing to work with the new presidents. The champions of party cabinets, in their anxiety to prove that without the practical recognition of the principle they advocate the smooth conduct of State affairs is impossible, have spoken and written in a manner reflecting very injuriously on the reputation of the whole body of officialdom, and their words could not fail to rouse more or less resentment among the men that constitute the vertebra of the Administration, namely, the Vice-Ministers, the Heads of Bureaux, and the Secretariat in general. All that large class of able officials, specially trained for their various functions and taught by invaluable experience, can not but feel strongly attached to the leaders under whom they have served for years—men whom they have learned to respect and trust—and can not but be indignant that the really remarkable achievements of Japanese officialdom during the *Meiji* era should now be disparaged and even sneered at by politicians who have no apparent qualifications to be critical. The necessity of placating these natural sentiments is probably most imperative in the cases of the Military, Naval, and Financial Departments, where the duties devolving on the Heads of Bureaux and their principal assistants are of such a nature that they could not be undertaken by untrained persons. Unless, therefore, the portfolios of these Departments can be excluded from the operation of the "party system," or held by men retaining their touch with the *Meiji* statesmen, it becomes exceedingly difficult for the leaders of the Constitutional Party to form a Cabinet. The problem would be solved, of course, if Marquis ITO remained a member of the Cabinet, for his presence ensures the allegiance of all the junior officials. That solution not being attainable, however, recourse has been had to the alternative of leaving the port folios of War and the Navy in the hands of their present holders, with the understanding that these two Departments shall be considered to be beyond the range of party politics. As for the Department of Finance, unless it be taken by Count OKUMA, in conjunction with the post of Premier, no prospect of finding a satisfactory successor to Count INOUYE is yet in sight. We explained in our last that in the event of Marquis ITO'S continuing in the Cabinet, Count OKUMA would probably go to the Finance Department, Count ITAGAKI becoming Premier; and that the alternative was Count OKUMA at the Foreign Office and Count MATSUKATA at the Finance Department. But our latest information is that Count MATSUKATA will not be in the Ministry. Probably, therefore, Count OKUMA will combine the control of Finance with the duties of Premier. There remains one other Department of the highest importance—the Foreign Office. No arrangement could be more appropriate than Marquis ITO'S presence there at this juncture, when so many intricate and novel matters have to be arranged in connexion with Treaty Revision. But since that is no longer to be hoped for, people turn to Baron ITO MIYOJI as the most probable candidate. Count ITAGAKI and the Liberals in general would certainly approve warmly of Baron ITO'S appointment, nor would any objection be raised by Count OKUMA, we imagine. But Baron ITO is not a favorite with the old *Shimpo-to*, and their opposition may mar his chances. There is talk even of Mr. MATSUDA MASAHISA as a more suitable candidate. The Foreign Powers would be much surprised, however, were a totally untried and inexperienced politician put into such a position, and we may be allowed to hope that nothing so rash will be attempted. Reference may be made in conclusion to a supposition which seems to be generally entertained, namely, that, pending the organization of the new Cabinet, Count KURODA will be appointed Premier *pro tem.* No such arrangement is now in contemplation, we understand. The question of the Army and the Navy having been solved, there will probably be very little delay in transferring the administration to Counts OKUMA and ITAGAKI.

NEW FORMOSAN ADMINISTRATION.

MERE perusal of the law just issued for reorganizing the Formosan administration will probably fail to convey to our readers any clear idea of the new system and of its departures from the old. A word of explanation may, therefore, be useful.

Ordinary maps convey the impression that the island of Formosa is divided into approximately equal halves by ranges of mountains running from north to south. That is a very inadequate conception. The fact is that nearly five-sixths of the whole island are mountainous. The hill districts occupy the eastern section. They have been little explored and are inhabited by autochthonous tribes, commonly spoken of as "savages," but in reality people to whom such an epithet is not properly applicable. Westward of the hills,—that is to say, between the hills and the Gulf of Formosa—lies a strip of country, varying in width from 25 miles to 2 or 3, which is virtually free from mountains, especially along the coast. The whole of this western strip is peopled by Chinese immigrants. But in order to understand the administrative problem it is necessary to note another feature; namely, that between the mountainous district and the coastward plains there is a central belt of

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country, more or less hilly, inhabited by so-called "rebels"; that is to say, Chinese immigrants who live by marauding and refuse to ackowledge the control of any laws. The aborigines are not "rebels." They appear to be quiet inoffensive folk. But they consider themselves the just owners of the districts they inhabit, and they resent anything like high-handed encroachment. Thus it happens that whereas, in the southern part of the island, where nothing has yet tempted industrial or agricultural incursions into the highlands, the aborigines create no disturbance nor give any trouble whatever, in the northern part the process of exploiting the camphor forests has led the Chinese immigrants to trespass upon the territory of the aborigines, and the latter have learned to retaliate by organizing the now notorious head-hunting raids. The immigrants in the western plains and the autocthons in the eastern mountains have absolutely nothing in common. Any attempt to govern them by the same laws or to bring them under the same administrative control must end in signal failure. When China ruled the island, it was her habit to leave the aborigines severely alone. A cordon of military posts was established throughout the belt of country lying at the base of the hills, and beyond that cordon the eastern tribes were not allowed to penetrate westward. The Japanese pursued a different method. They abolished the outposts, and adopted, theoretically at any rate, the principle that the aborgines need not be imprisoned or kept at arms' lengths. But they did not recognise and apparently have not yet recognised, the importance of completely differentiating the administrative systems applied to the autocthons of the hills and the immigrants of the plains, respectively. Their first plan was to divide the whole of the lowlands into six "prefectures" (*ken*) and the highlands into two "administrations" (*cho*), the Pescadores forming a third administration. Subordinate to the prefectural governments were 78 executive offices (*bemmu-sho*), four of which were in the Pescadores, and immediately subordinate to the administrations were 12 "colonization offices" (*bukon-sho*). The administrations in turn being responsible to the prefectures, it will be seen that no genuine division existed between the system applied to the autocthons and that applied to the immigrants. Still, considerable freedem of action, and even of initiative, seems to have been left to the colonisation offices, and, on the whole, the methods were successful. As for the belt of territory inhabited by the Chinese rebels, its administration was conducted similarly to that of the lowlands, the only difference being that, as a matter of course, considerable numbers of soldiers, police, and gendarmes were stationed in the former.

The principal change effected by the new organization is a reduction of the number of prefectures from six to three, and of the number of executive offices from 78 to probably 40. We say "probably," for the exact figure does not appear to be yet fixed. It is to be determined by the Governor-General, though, strange to say, the total establishment of officials for service in these offices is limited to 307. In short, the Governor-General is invested with power to determine how many executive offices there shall be, but has only a certain complement of officials to distribute among them. The "administrations" (*cho*) remain as before—one in the Pescadores and two in the highlands of the main island. But the highland administrations cease to be responsible to the prefectures, and pass under the direct control of the Civil Department in the Governor-General's Office. We find no trace of the colonization offices (*bukon-sho*) in the new system. Yet it is scarcely conceivable that they should have been abolished altogether. We infer, rather, that they remain as before, and are subordinate to the "administrations." In view of the fact that the latter are now removed from the purview of the prefectural governors, and brought into direct relation with the Civil Department, it would seem that there has been some idea of radically differentiating the governments of the autocthons and the immigrants. But it is the opinion, we believe, of publicists most intimately acquainted with the island's condition, that an entirely separate department ought to be instituted for managing business connected with the autocthons and with forestry. The importance of establishing good relations with the former is paramount. Until they are brought within the pale of civilized law and order, Japan can not claim to be administering Formosa, though she governs it. As for the forests, they are one of the chief sources of Formosa's apparent wealth. In the production of tea and sugar the country has powerful rivals, but as a camphor-producing district it is preeminent. At present no attempt is made to protect the industry, still less develop it. The cutting of camphor trees is not supervised, nor is any provision made for their replanting. It would seem to be a matter of obvious expediency that the direction of business connected with the highlands should be entrusted to a separate department in the Governor-General's Office. Certainly the task is large enough to engross the attention and occupy the energies of a whole department, and far too large to be abandoned to the control of officials already charged with the supervision of prefectural and executive business. The diminution in the numbers of prefectures and offices is an excellent reform; but it would appear to outsiders that the drafters of the new scheme, bent solely upon effecting reductions, overlooked an increase which would have been eminently useful.

Passing from these general features of the new organization, we find several points that invite comment. A very wise change has been effected in putting the civil police under the direct control of the executive offices, but we observe with surprise that no reference is made to special qualifications for policemen. Nothing, surely, could be more essential than that Japanese police serving in Formosa should acquire the language of the country with all possible expedition. It is known that many, perhaps a majority, of the executive mistakes hitherto committed in Formosa by the Japanese have been due to the difficulty of communicating with the people. If the task devolving upon Japan in Formosa had to be undertaken by England, the first regulation issued would be one requiring every British policeman and every British official serving in the island to acquire a working knowledge of the language. The new system provides that, after two years' service, civil officials shall receive an increase of salary amounting to 5 per cent., and the police an increase of 8½ per cent. Apparently that is unconditional. We should have expected that it would be conditional on passing an examination in the language. Further, the whole arrangement as to salaries seems to us unwise. Apparently the British system of extra pay for foreign service has been followed. Thus, while the regular salary of a civil official remains the same as it is in Japan proper, he receive a special allowance amounting to 30 per cent. We venture to think that the addition should be made to the salary itself, and that it ought to be much larger, so as to attract really competent men by rendering the Formosan service popular not merely for the sake of the emoluments it offers to active officials, but also for the sake of the pensions attached, which depend, of course, upon the nominal salary and are not affected by the extra allowances. And in connexion with finance it is to be noted that the Chief Treasurer, instead of being the independent head of a department, as heretofore, is now made subordinate to the Head of the Civil Department in the Governor-General's Office. A corresponding arrangement in a British colony would be the subordination of the Auditor-General to the Colonial Secretary, and the consequent disappearance of the wholesome check which the former official, in his independent position, is expected to exercise upon administrative expenditures. Altogether there is, in our opinion, an evident failure to appreciate the importance of getting really good men to serve in Formosa, and setting a higher standard of responsibility. The Councillor-in-Chief, for example, if he is to be of any genuine use in such a post, and

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if his advice is to carry any weight, should be an official of rank and competence with colonial experience. The present holder of the position does not appear to satisfy those conditions. His practical knowledge seems to have been acquired entirely in the Legislative Bureau, and we imagine that he has never visited a colony in his life.

On the whole, imposing as this new system looks upon paper, we see little hope that it will bear much fruit in practice. The reduction of the number of prefectures and executive offices, and the placing of the civil police under the control of the latter, are useful reforms, but they stand in an insignificant ratio to the two great desiderata which no attempt has been made to secure, namely, the organization of a really competent civil service, and the satisfactory management of the affairs of forestry and the aborigines.

THE SPANISH FIASCO.

THE latest incident in the Hispano-American war is a veritable fiasco. Admiral CAMARA'S squadron lies at Port Said, unable to proceed because the Egyptian Government has refused permission for the ship to coal there. Did any one ever suppose that the Egyptian Government would grant such permission? The possibility of so much complaisance never presented itself to us. In common, we imagine, with all onlookers at this end, we conceived that the transports accompanying the squadron were laden with coal, so that Admiral CAMARA would be entirely independent of local coal supplies throughout his trip eastward. The question whether coal can be considered as contraband of war admits of no general answer. Coal belongs to the class of articles which are of indiscriminate use in peace and in war, and its contraband or non-contraband character must depend on the circumstances of the moment. But surely when a State has declared strict neutrality, it can not possibly permit a belligerent squadron to enter its ports and obtain coal there for the definite purpose of proceeding to attack the fleet of the other belligerent? It appears to us—and it must so appear to every one, we imagine—that had Admiral CAMARA been allowed to coal at Port Said, he might just as well have been allowed to take in arms and ammunition, if he found it convenient to do so. That part of the affair seems plain beyond all possibility of discussion. The perplexing feature is the action of the Spanish Authorities. They evidently proceeded upon the assumption that England would be so unmindful of her duties of neutrality as to materially assist the progress of CAMARA'S squadron eastward. It can not be imagined for an instant that the coal problem did not present itself to the mind of the Government in Madrid. It presented itself to the mind of the veriest outsider. If the responsible Spanish statesmen did not think of it, they must have been in a condition bordering upon dementia; and if, duly thinking of it, they nevertheless sent CAMARA'S squadron to Port Said on the off chance that he might receive more than benevolently neutral treatment at the hands of the British Government, they behaved with very singular recklessness. There will be a great many harsh criticisms of Spain's procedure in this instance. We foresee that even the sincerity of her purpose in dispatching CAMARA'S squadron will be doubted. There is, of course, no room for any scepticism of that kind. We shall probably be nearer the truth if we say that the Spanish Government has acted either with childish improvidence and limitless folly or with mature deliberation and profound sagacity. Spain's position is quite hopeless. Admiral CERVERA'S squadron might as well be non-existent: it is hermetically sealed in Santiago. Admiral CAMARA'S squadron, even though it succeeded in reaching the scene of operations in the Pacific, could not hope to hold its own against the fleet of thirteen American ships which it would find awaiting it at Manila. Cuba lies at America's mercy. The Philippines are virtually lost. What remains then for Spain except to surrender? One thing remains, and that is to enlist the active sympathies of the European continental Powers in her favour. She has their passive sympathies. There can be no doubt that Russia, France and Germany are with her, and would most gladly intervene in her behalf if some practicable opportunity of doing so presented itself. It is conceivable that she looks to furnish such an opportunity by means of the Port Said incident. A theory exists in Europe that the Suez Canal should be regarded as an ocean highway, open to all the ships of the world under all circumstances. When we speak of an open highway, we mean a road where people can pass at all times unobstructed, with freedom to obtain shelter, provisions, and other necessaries of travel. If one of the ordinary means of locomotion on such a road were steam trams, it would certainly be considered a part of the programme that supplies of coal should be obtainable *en route*. By parity of reasoning, if the Suez Canal and the territory forming its banks were absolutely neutral—that is to say, if their neutrality did not depend upon the policy of any one Power but was guaranteed by all alike—there might be some ground to maintain that the ships of a belligerent have just as much right to obtain supplies of coal during their passage of the Canal as the ships of a non-belligerent. Of course England would never agree to such a doctrine. She is mistress of Egypt—for the present at all events—and her control of the Suez Canal gives her an enormous advantage which she is not so infatuated as to surrender. But England is the only European Power that entertains English views on that subject, and this Port Said incident constitutes an object lesson which will bring the difference of opinion into startling prominence. Russia, Germany and France are now assured that if they went to war with either China or Japan, England standing neutral, they would be unable to send reinforcements, either naval or military, through the Suez Canal, unless they sent, at the same time, a special fleet of colliers, and would have to fall back upon the interminable route *viâ* the Cape of Good Hope. Will Russia, Germany and France be content that Great Britain's occupation of Egypt should involve such a result, or will they refuse to accept the situation? If Spain, by despatching CAMARA to Port Said, succeeds in dragging that question into the realm of active politics, she may presently find herself supported by powerful allies. Perhaps the destination of the Cadiz Squadron is not belligerent, but diplomatic.

Of course this action on England's part will be bitterly resented by Spain and correspondingly applauded by the United States. From a purely strategical point of view it is a procedure not more injurious to the former Power than helpful to the latter; for since Spain's only chance of temporarily retrieving her shattered fortunes lay in getting CAMARA'S squadron to Manila before DEWEY could be reinforced from the Pacific coast, the detention of CAMARA at Port Said may be said to inflict a final blow on the Spanish cause. We can not pretend to regret the fact since our sympathies are entirely with America, much as we admire Spain's indomitable gallantry and tenacity of purpose. But it will not be right to construe the incident as in any sense a departure from the strict duties of neutrality. Assuming the Suez Canal to be under British control—an assumption which England will not suffer to be questioned—, it is plain that to allow CAMARA'S squadron to coal at Port Said would have been a distinct evidence of partiality, and as such, would have justly invited protest from America's side.

N.Y.K. STEAMER WRECKED.

A despatch dated the 26th ult., from Hakodate, reports that the N.Y.K.'s steamer *Nagoya Maru* ran on an unseen rock near Hachinohe, Awomori Prefecture. A heavy fog prevailed at the time. The steamer was nearly filled with water, terrible damage was done, and the ship must become a total wreck. The crew was safely landed. The ship struck about 7 p.m. on Saturday. A large hole was made in her and water poured in so rapidly that all hope of saving her had to be abandoned. The *Nagoya Maru* was a steamer of 2,836 tons, and was under the command of Captain P. Cottier.

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MR. FREDERIC YATES' PORTRAITS.

Mr. Frederic Yates, who has been in Yokohama for some months and has evidently worked with remarkable assiduity, gave an exhibition of his portraits in the Masonic Hall on the 29th ultimo. All the pictures are capital likenesses, and some present artistic features of a very high order. Perhaps the best are those of Mr. Justice Wilkinson, Mr. N. P. Kingdon, and Miss Mabel Sharp, but there is not much interval between these really admirable achievements and the portraits of Dr. Eldridge, Mrs. Eldridge, Miss Eldridge, Miss F. Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Hellyer, Miss Wheeler, and Miss Alice Walter. A profile picture of Mrs. Read is very beautiful as a picture, but does not strike us as a perfect likeness. The point of view, however, may be responsible. Mr. Yates has been so manifestly happy in other cases that one hesitates to question the fidelity of his work in any instance. He is faithful before everything, his first care being to fix the likeness. Even in painting ladies he makes no sacrifices for the sake of idealization—rare courage on the part of a portrait-painter. We note with some surprise that the Japanese have not taken advantage of such an unique opportunity as his presence offers. There are no pictures of the statesmen and other celebrities of the *Meiji* era, and as Mr. Yates is the only really competent painter of portraits that has visited Japan, it is surely a pity that his services are not enlisted.

JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS.

The *Yorozu*, discussing the amalgamation of the Liberals and Progressists, says this virtually necessitates the combination of the Satsuma with the Choshiu coterie, inasmuch as the life of these cliques is now seriously threatened. A scheme is under contemplation by the government officials with a view to attaining that end, and Counts Matsukata and Kabayama are reported to have determined to return to Tokyo to negotiate the matter.

According to the *Tokyo Shimbun* a party of politicians attached to the Liberals and Progressists held a meeting on the 20th instant ■ the Kaikwatei Restaurant at Sakana-machi, Tokyo, with a view to organise a social club. A committee of five was elected to draft the regulations, and these were submitted to another conference held on the 23rd. It was decided that members of the Club should be limited to non-members of Parliament. Among the Directors are Messrs. Yamada Itaro, Yenjoji Kiyoshi, Watanabe Kanjuro, Morimoto Shun, Kawamura Akira, and Sase Tetsuyu. A motion was adopted that a representation be forwarded to the Head Office of the Constitutional Party in egard ■ the question of increased taxation.

The *Yorozu* claims to have interviewed Prince Konoye, and represents him as saying at the recent union of political parties s worthy of admiration. The amalgamaon, however, was so wonderfully easy that it wakens in him anxiety as ■ the possibility of n equally easy dissolution. Though he sincerely approves the measure his present situaon does not allow him to enlist himself as a ember and he would in any circumstances ithhold himself from recklessly joining until a new Party takes a little more definite ape. He thinks the clan system of Governent is losing strength, and may be expected annihilate itself naturally before long. A tle perseverance on the part of the popular rties will secure to them the reins of government without recourse to any serious agitation. Without the genius of Bismarck, even Marquis Ito and Count Inouye will be unable to preserve the "Isolation" Cabinet for any considerable time. Forbearance ■ this juncture should be the motto of every popular party.

One of the *Shogyo's* staff who lately returned from Hokkaido makes the following remarks:—The misery in the North is beyond discription. Last year's failure in fishing was followed by another still worse this year. The output of herrings for the current year, though not precisely ascertained, is estimated not to exceed 500,000 *koku*, or about half the amount realized in ordinary years. About 300,000 *koku* out of this amount are manufactured into fertilizers. The appreciation of rice and the stringency of the money market has almost crippled the industry, in which most of the northern inhabitants are engaged. Fishermen are thus on the verge of bankruptcy "The legal advocates and bailiffs," naively adds the *Shogyo*, "alone are reported to enjoy the utmost prosperity."

The naval armament expansion scheme has entered upon its third stage remarks the *Hochi*. Some of the new vessels are already on their way to Japan, while others are in process of construction. A few, however, remain for which the period of completion is not yet determined. The vessels constructed in the second term of the original programme numbered 20, inclusive of 3 first class torpedo boats. Those now in course of construction are 12 in number, and may be tabulated as follows:—

Name of Vessel.	Classification.	Displacement Tons.	Speed Nautical Miles.
Asama	1st class cruiser	9,855	22
Takasago	2nd class "	4,227	23
Kasagi	" "	4,978	23
Asahi	1st class battleship	15,443	18
Hatsuse	" "	15,240	18
Shikishima	" "	15,008	18
Tokiwa	" "	9,855	22
Yakumo	" "	9,800	22
Asuma	" "	9,456	22
Chihaya	Despatch vessel	1,250	21
Izumo	1st class cruiser	9,906	22
Chitose	2nd "	4,336	23

The following comparative table shows the result of investigations in May this year and in December last, as to deposits received, and loans issued, by various leading banks:—

	December, 1897. Yen.	May, 1898 Yen.	Increase or decrease. Yen.
1st National Bank—			
Deposits ...	4,389,308	4,482,665	+ 23,357
Loans	5,534,452	6,029,799	+495,347
3rd National Bank—			
Deposits ...	4,100,471	4,881,362	+780,891
Loans	5,580,520	5,546,059	— 40,463
15th National Bank—			
Deposits ...	3,825,556	4,677,005	+851,446
Loans	6,274,056	6,340,080	—433,976
27th National Bank—			
Deposits ...	975,228	942,193	— 33,046
Loans	1,631,485	1,593,139	— 38,346
100th National Bank—			
Deposits ...	3,575,599	3,244,262	—331,337
Loans	3,527,255	3,010,807	—516,448
Mitsui Bank—			
Deposits ...	10,539,262	10,655,698	+116,436
Loans	6,105,457	5,233,643	—871,814
Mitsubishi Bank—			
Deposits ...	5,270,956	6,034,829	+762,873
Loans	4,926,908	5,027,524	+100,616
Yasuda Bank—			
Deposits ...	4,778,741	4,899,662	+120,921
Loans	3,971,556	4,728,660	+757,104
Imperial Bank—			
Deposits ...	4,509,050	5,060,320	+551,270
Loans	6,099,441	7,576,611	+147,717
Tokai Bank—			
Deposits ...	1,658,161	2,492,222	—165,939
Loans	2,275,040	2,354,736	+ 79,696

The figures on the whole show a tendency to increase on the side of loans, the deposits hardly coming up to the amount estimated. The Tokyo Allied Banks' reports indicates the gross amount of deposits last December to have been 56,404,036 *yen*, as against 58,413,540 *yen* for May this year, an increase of over two millions *yen*. Enhanced interest, however, has failed to achieve the result anticipated, the fact being simply attributed to scarcity of funds among the people.

An Imperial Ordinance for Formosa, issued on the 20th instant, refers ■ the establishment of a Medical Department in the Governor-General's Office. The *personnel* of this Department consists of a Director, a Chief Medical Adviser, Physicians, a Chief Pharmacist, Clerks, and others, who are to be engaged in the treatment of patients and in the preparation of medicine. Another ordinance relates to the organisation of a Training Institute for the benefit of police and prison officers. The object of this institution is to impart practical instruction necessary for the discharge of the functions of police inspectors, constables, prison clerks and jailers. The instructors are to be seven in number, two of them being of *sonin* and five of *hannin* rank. A third ordinance embodies the revised rates of salaries for Formosan officials. According to the reformed schedule, the Governor-General of Formosa is to receive an annual salary of 6,000 *yen*, the President of the Civil Administration from 4,000 to 4,500 *yen*, a Chief Councillor and a *chokunin* Commissioner from 3,000 to 3,500 *yen*. The annual allowances for local Governors are fixed at from 3,000 to 4,000 *yen*, and those for the Superintendents of local offices and Prefectural Secretaries and Chief Police Inspectors from 1,000 to 1,800 *yen*. The Directors of Police Offices are paid at rates varying from 800 to 1,800 *yen*.

THE CONSTITUTIONALISTS' MANIFESTO.

We published in our last issue a translation of the new Constitutional Party Platform (*Kōrei*), but erroneously called it the Party's Manifesto (*Sengen*). The latter runs as follows:—

Nearly ten years have elapsed since the promulgation of the Constitution and the opening of the Diet, and during that time there have been five dissolutions of the House of Representatives. The reality of constitutional government has not been attained, neither has the influence of political parties been extended. Thus the abuses of clan cabinets are confirmed, with the result that harmony between the Government and the people is impaired and the business of State is impeded, to the profound regret of all patriotic persons. Considering the state of affairs at home and abroad, we have determined to dissolve our two parties, the Liberals and the Progressists, to the end that, by uniting all those that entertain similar views, we may form one great party, and make a new effort to carry the principle of constitutional government into perfect practice.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

The following items will be of interest to our readers:—

Lieutenant Niblack's successor at the United States Legation, Germany, is Commander Barber, late naval attaché in Tokyo, who was lately placed on the retired list for reasons of health, and has since been residing in Europe. Commander Barber, who is expected to arrive in Berlin in a few days, is a particularly good man for the place, his knowledge of torpedoes and of ordnance in general being particularly thorough.

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S GENEALOGY.

Thomas Dewey, born in Sandwich, Kent county, England; came to America in 1663; first settler, Windsor, Conn., and locally known as "The Settler."

Jeremiah Dewey, born in Windsor, Conn., 1704, served in Continental army throughout Revolution; moved to Hanover, N. H.

Jeremiah Dewey, born in Hanover, N. H., about 1733.

Simeon Dewey, born near Hanover, N. H., 1769, farmer; moved to Montpelier, Vt.

Julius Y. Dewey, M. D., born in Montpelier, Vt., 1801, farm-boy, physician; starts National Life Insurance Company.

George Dewey, born in Montpelier, Vt., in 1837, cadet, midshipman, lieutenant-commander; in command of Asiatic squadron, 1898; made rear-admiral for victory over Spanish forces at Manila, May 1, 1898.

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FAREWELL DINNER TO WOR. BRO. ANDREW PATTERSON.

A very notable function took place at the Oriental Hotel, Yokohama, on Thursday evening, the occasion being the tendering of a farewell dinner to Wor. Bro. Andrew Patterson (32° S. R.), who is leaving Japan for Scotland in the course of next week. Never before in Yokohama have so many Masons gathered together under one roof, over one hundred being the number present last evening. The list of subscribers included Bros. L. H. Abel, H. A. Ahrens, B. W. Anderson, J. Barr, W. Barrie, T. E. Beatty, W. R. Bennett, C. T. Benney, H. Bethell, H. M. Bevis, F. Bielfeld, George Booth, V. R. Bowden, T. L. Brower, A. B. Brown, G. C. Charlesworth, H. Clare, A. R. G. Clark, C. B. Clausen, J. G. Cleveland, J. W. Copmann, J. B. Coulson, W. A. Crane, J. H. Curtis, J. Delbourgo, A. M. Delf, L. Dewette, J. G. Doering, E. Eagling, J. J. Efford, Stuart Eldridge, M.D., F. L. Elliott, W. H. Forbes, E. C. Fox, F. Gil, W. Gordon, J. F. Gowey, F. M. Gowey, I. T. Griffin, L. J. Grimmesey, B. Guggenheim, Jno. W. Hall, W. Silver Hall, A. J. Hare, H. B. Haskell, George Hay, Robert Hay, H. Heckert, J. Helm, F. Herb, T. Herlihy, G. Hodges, Rev. E. C. Irwine, E. L. James, J. Johnstone, O. Keil, E. F. Kilby, E. E. Kildoyle, S. Komor, A. Kuhn, T. M. Laffin, A. Langfeldt, P. Launay, H. W. Lea, F. J. Lias, A. F. MacNab, B. Martinolich, R. McCance, W. H. McGowan, T. W. McIlraith, E. Mendelson, C. D. Moss, H. Moss, N. G. Munro, M.D., H. J. Owen, E. P. Pallister, C. A. Peterson, H. Pollak, C. F. Pope, A. H. Potts, F. Reis, C. F. Rhine, R. D. Robison, Th. Ruhen, H. J. Sharp, Dr. A. G. Smith, Henry Smith, Rev. J. O. Spencer, W. H. Stone, W. S. Stone, L. Stornebrink, F. W. Thomas, J. A. Thomas, C. Thwaites, J. L. Tornöe, T. H. Tripler, M.D., W. Tucker, S. E. Unite, L. Ph. von Hemert, G. N. Weed, Rev. W. J. White, A. Woolley, and Rev. W. S. Worden.

There were not half a dozen absentees and the magnificent dining hall of the Oriental Hotel presented a most animated appearance when Wor. Bro. O. Keil, District Grand Secretary, took the Chair at 8.15 o'clock. Wor. Bro. Patterson had the seat of honour, and supporting the chair at the head table were Wor. Bro. Alf. Woolley, Wor. Bro. Dr. Cleveland, Wor. Bro. Clarke, Wor. Bro. the Rev. E. C. Irwine, Wor. Bro. S. E. Unite, Wor. Bro. Stuart Eldridge, Wor. Bro. Barrie, Wor. Bro. J. F. Gowey, Wor. Bro. E. Flint Kilby, Wor. Bro. A. Bellamy Brown, Wor. Bro. H. W. Lea, etc. Wor. Bros. Sharp and Griffin took the vice-chairs. In all thirty-four past masters were present. After the splendid dinner had been done full justice to, Wor. Bro. Alfred Woolley, D.S.G.W., proposed "Our Ancient and Honourable Fraternity," in well chosen words. Wor. Bro. J. F. Gowey, in an eloquent speech, proposed the toast of "The rulers of our respective countries," and was loudly applauded. Then the Chairman gave "Our Guest." He referred to Bro. Patterson's long connection with Masonry in Yokohama and to the honours that his Brethren had bestowed upon him. Four times had he been elected Master of the Lodge Star in the East, 640, S.C., beside filling numerous other offices. Allusion was made to the work that Bro. Patterson had done in all the Lodges of Yokohama and Tokyo and to the high esteem in which he was held by the Brethren in Japan. In conclusion the Chairman voiced the sentiments of the gathering in wishing their guest a safe and speedy voyage, with prosperity, happiness and a long life of usefulness in the old country. The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Bro. Patterson on rising to response was greeted with loud and long-continued applause. In feeling terms he returned thanks for the honour paid him that evening—an honour that he thought quite undeserved, for he had always had a very poor opinion of his own merits. He then alluded to the duties that devolved upon Masons, impressing upon his hearers the truth of the tenets that the system inculcated, and the necessity for all to bear in mind that the world judged the character of the Brotherhood by the conduct of each individual member of the Craft. In conclusion he referred to the charities of the Order and expressed a hope that they would ever be nobly supported. The next toast, "Our Charities" was given by Wor. Bro. S. E. Unite, Wor. Bro. H. J. Sharp responding. The last toast was "The mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of Masons," given in a most eloquent fashion by Wor. Bro. A. R. G. Clark, and responded to by the Last Initiate (Bro. E. Mendelson). Songs were given during the evening by Wor. Bros. H. J. Owen, Sharp, Unite, Clark, Delf, and Bro. Launay, Wor. Bro. Griffin acting as accompanist. The gathering dispersed about midnight.

WU MOW-TING.

We don't suppose that the above name will encourage many readers to peruse this paragraph. Yet no little interest attaches to it, for Mr. Wu has just been appointed Managing Director of the North-China Railways, and unless all indications are defective, the railways of Northern China are destined to attract a considerable share of public observation within the next few years, or, perhaps, the next few months. Several years—fifteen, if we remember rightly—have passed since the attention of the Chinese Government was first drawn to the paramount importance of establishing railway communications with Mongolia and Manchuria. Astute foreign observers saw plainly enough what must be the ultimate position of an Oriental country which allowed its borders to be steadily approached by an Occidental State possessing great military potentialities, and took no steps to bring the threatened regions within the sphere of its own strategical competence. That is a simple description of what China was doing. Russia, in whatever light she might be regarded by the Chinese, was steadily drawing near to positions of vantage from which she would have China at her mercy, and the only way for the latter to secure herself was, in the first place, to provide means of concentrating a military force on the threatened frontier, and, in the second, to provide the military force. England is now seeking to bring about the organization of an efficient army and navy for China, and China seems disposed to carry her railways eastward to the neighbourhood of Liaotung. If she adheres to her present purpose in the latter respect, we may understand that she entertains—for the moment, at all events—a resolute idea of opposing the territorial expansion of the great northern Power. Mr. Wu's appointment to be Managing Director of the North-China system of railways is thus a very interesting fact, for Mr. Wu not only is a man of sterling qualities, as he proved when he had charge of the railway administration some years ago, but also has a strong pro-English bias. On his retirement from that post—retirement resulting from intrigues against his inconvenient integrity—he was the recipient of an address from Mr. Kinder and the other foreign employés of the railway, bearing high testimony to his official capacity.

CHANGES OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS.

Some changes of Prefectural Governors are gazetted, in consequence of two of the present occupants of that position being placed on the Retired List, namely, Mr. Sugimoto, Governor of Oita, and Mr. Takenouchi, Governor of Saga. The resulting changes are:—

Mr. Ohikawa from Yamagata to Oita.
Mr. Sone to Yamagata.
Mr. Hirayama to Saga.
Count Kyozumi from Yamanashi to Ibaraki.

MARQUIS ITO'S RETIREMENT.

The *Mainichi* makes the following remarks in regard to Marquis Ito's resignation:—When the fact of Marquis Ito's retirement from office was first known, all officials, especially the younger ones connected with him, were struck with surprise, and made every effort to dissuade him. The Marquis, however, refused their entreaties on the ground that any attempt at a political conflict on his part would be extremely injurious to the development of the State, and that there was no alternative but to yield to popular sentiment. His resolution was the result of a conference with his oldest colleagues. He chose to retire from the field of politics, and to pass his declining years in seclusion. "At all events," said he, "I am determined not to participate in political affairs. So long as I am not out of the world I am liable to be moved by my environment to action in the field of politics. My presence in the political arena can scarcely fail to create disturbance and turmoil more serious than have hitherto been experienced." The Marquis even entreated his young adherents to imagine that he was dead to the political world. These views he repeated to Counts Okuma and Itagaki, whom he requested to accept the Imperial mandate for the reorganization of a new Ministry. He definitely announced his intention of leading a retired life, adding that he would in no circumstances consent to have a voice in political counsels even if his opinions were sought by the two Counts.

An article in the *Mainichi* refers to the responsibility of the Constitutional Party in organising a new Ministry on the basis of party principles. In the first place it is remarked that Marquis Ito's resignation and his immediate recommendation of the two Counts—Okuma and Itagaki—to the Imperial sanction for the formation of a new Cabinet is a repetition of former events, but involves an entirely different spirit. When Count Itagaki entered the Cabinet before as Minister for Home Affairs, he simply joined Marquis Ito as one of the oldest statesmen of the Restoration. So it was with Count Okuma when he entered the Matsukata Cabinet as Minister for Foreign Affairs. The responsibilities of these two Counts, though they were the leaders of their respective parties, were not shared by the Progressists and Liberals as a whole. Things present a different aspect at the present juncture. The new constitutional Party was formed with a view to command a majority in the Diet, and, its leaders having now been taken into the Cabinet in this spirit, their political position differs entirely from that which they formerly held. They are now called upon to bear full responsibility for the new Cabinet, and, while enjoying the honour of formulating for the first time a party Cabinet, must surely be conscious of the gravity of the functions with which they are entrusted. The development of parties has hitherto been aimed at; efforts must now be made to show the benefits of a party Ministry. The party cabinet which is about to be organised is evidently on its trial. Its success or failure has a vital influence upon the destiny of party administration or responsible cabinets. Public spirit is absolutely indispensable to the consummation of a constitutional system, and the energy directed to the overthrow of a clan government must be turned to the suppression of "clannism" which seems to exist even among the members of the party.

FOURTH OF JULY BASEBALL.

The following will compose the teams for this match on Monday, July 4th:—Messrs. Reed, Bain, Burnett, Onderdonk, Smith (Captain), Morse, Dyer, Woolsey, and Abel; *versus* Messrs. Merriman, Gowey, Blake (Captain), Jolme, McCheaney, Edwards, Howard, Stone, and Curtis. The game will begin promptly at 9 o'clock, and players are requested to be punctual.

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JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL FUTURE.

The *Shogyo* writes at some length in regard to the foreign competition which the domestic industry of Japan is likely to experience after the operation of the revised tariff. It says the cheapness of Japanese products in general can hardly fail to increase foreign demand for them, while the augmentation in output tends to decrease the expenses of manufacture. There is no doubt about the wisdom of importing such articles which it is more expensive to produce at home. According to official investigations articles of this nature are:—Wool, glass panes, tortoise shells, tea lead, quinine, silk pongees, odourless wax, packing mats, oil paintings, elephant's ivory, aniline, and other dyes. Among the commodities which may be produced in Japan, but in regard to which no prospects exist as to the possibility of reduction in import, the following may be enumerated:—Peas and beans; cotton, raw, spun, and old; hemp and flax; flour, indigo, India rubber wares; photographic and surveying instruments; kerosene oil; lead pipes, mercury, microscopes, molasses and syrups; oil; nets, ropes and rigging; brown and white sugars; tin, umbrella frames, wine; anchors and chains; iron, bar, rod, lump, sheet, and plate; roofing iron; iron nails; cylinders, pipes, and wires; sheet lead; railway locomotives; electric batteries; machinery for mining, iron works, tailoring, and spinning; steel and iron rails; telegraph wires; gauzes; carbolic and salicylic acids; subnitrate of bismuth; extract of logwood; amorphous phosphorus.

The staples of import which may be produced by domestic industry with prospects of success may be set down as follow:—Alcohol, flaxen canvas, watches and clocks, rigging (hemp), handkerchiefs and napkins, cotton yarns, caps and hats, leather (all kinds), muslin de laine, railway cars, silk and cotton satins, figured shirtings, caustic soda, cut tobacco, woollen cloth, brass piping, cotton satins, blankets, chintzes, coal, corks, flaxen yarns, raw cow-hides, flaxen stuff, cement, rice, sel, vages, bleached shirtings, boilers and engines, turkey reds, woollen and cotton cloth, copper piping, sheet copper, butter, cigarettes, cheese, *Unsai* (cotton stuff), cotton thread, shooting guns and accessories, lacquer, liquid gold, printing paper, salt, coloured shirtings, bicarbonate of soda, T-cloths, cinnabar, worsted, iron screws and nails, sheet zinc, candles, chlorate of potash, copper wire, cotton canvas, cotton velvet, leather soles, coloured oil, pumps, satin, grey shirtings, timber and boards, wheat, flannel, and cigars.

RAILWAY ASSOCIATION.

The *Jiji* reports the inauguration of a Railway Association under the auspices of Messrs. Matsumoto Shoichiso, Watanabe Koki, and Mori Jinsuke. Its head office is to be in Tokyo, and its main object is to assist in the development of railway enterprises. The Association will begin by making various investigations in regard to railways, and securing an interchange of information and the cultivation of intimacy among its members. The latter are of four classes, of which those who are actually holding a prominent position in railway enterprises, or who have occupied such positions for more than three years, or are possessed of knowledge and experience connected with railways are to be enlisted as the legitimate members of the Association. Contributors of over 100 *yen* are to be admitted as honorary members. As to the officials of the Association, it is stated that a President and Vice-President together with 40 Councillors, are to be elected from among the legitimate members, the term of their service being two years. The gist of important reports from the Council and of useful statements in the various magazines is to be published in pamphlet form for distribution among members.

JAPANESE TRADE WITH INDIA.

The Japanese Consul at Bombay, who lately returned to Japan, is reported to have told the *Jiji's* representative that the famine in the interior of India has had the effect of considerably decreasing the area of cotton farms, as greater profit attaches to the cultivation of corn. But as the climate this year has been exceptionally favourable, the total output of cotton is expected, despite the above fact, to exceed the usual amount. As to imports from Japan, the Consul remarked that the staples most popular at Bombay consist of matches, silk textiles, umbrellas, camphor, peppermint, &c., together with lacquer wares, fancy matting, bamboo screens, and other miscellaneous articles. Amongst these commodities, however, matches present the most hopeful prospect. Prior to the war between Japan and China, matches were chiefly imported from Switzerland, the Japanese manufactures imported amounting in value to only 100,000 rupees. The export of matches from Japan after the war has rapidly increased, the figures now aggregating about a million rupees, and Swiss manufactures have been virtually driven out of the market. Piece goods are also in great demand, being chiefly used for ladies' costumes. The number of umbrellas imported every year does not fall short of 200,000, the retail price of each being 1½ rupees; but the reputation of this commodity has been considerably impaired by coarse manufacture, and imports from London are gradually replacing the Japanese manufactures, on account of their stability, though the price is much higher. Japanese umbrellas are better than those from London in regard to the stuff used for them, but in all other respects are far inferior. It is worth while for manufacturers to direct attention to this point.

THE EX JUDGE OF FORMOSA.

Mr. Takano, ex-chief Justice of Formosa, who regarded the Cabinet's order placing him on the retired list as an unconstitutional proceeding, and who insists that he is still Chief Justice, is reported by the *Osaka Asahi* to have resolved upon making a tour to Europe and America in July or August. He would undertake the journey with the title of Chief Justice, in order to receive treatment due to his exalted position. But Japanese Consuls or Ministers in any country where he might happen to travel might object to such proceedings. A dispute similar in nature to that which disturbed the country some time ago would revive abroad, and Mr. Takano might find himself liable to be arrested on a charge of fraudulent assumption of official titles. The journals of various nations would probably discuss the incident, and the Japanese Government would then find itself "advertised" in an unpleasant manner. It is said that at the time of his leaving Formosa, Mr. Takano received the hearty sympathy of the English and Americans, some of whom appear to have entreated him to go over to Europe or America and appeal to the opinion of the world on his case. We (*Japan Mail*) can only observe that any one giving such advice was running counter to the views of all the jurisconsults whose opinions have been expressed on the subject. Formosa is not within the pale of the constitution and never was.

DEPARTURE OF MR. AND MRS. VON TREUTLER.

On the 28th instant the Secretary of the Imperial German Legation and Mrs. Von Treutler left Tokyo by the 9 a.m. train for Yokohama, where they embarked in the *Gaelic* for San Francisco. A great concourse of people, foreign and Japanese, assembled at Shimbashi to say farewell. Among them were representatives of the Imperial Court; the Ministers of Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Brazil, and Portugal; Vice-Admiral Viscount Ito; Messrs. Makaka, Nabeshima, and Mitsuhashi, of the Foreign Office; Mr. Y. Ito, on behalf of the Minister-President; Viscount, Viscountess, and Miss Aoki; Count Pourtales; Viscount and Viscountess du Dresnay; various members of the Legation staffs, and many of the sincere friends that the departing couple have won in Japan during their three years' residence.

MR. GLADSTONE.

The sentiment of profound grief aroused throughout the whole civilized world by the death of Mr. Gladstone is a splendid tribute to the memory of the great Englishman. In Paris, in Berlin, in St. Petersburg, in Vienna, in Rome, in New York, in Madrid, in Athens, in Brussels, everywhere in short, there was an unanimous outburst of admiration for the man and of regret for his death. The only note of discord came from the *Osservatore Romano*, the official mouthpiece of the Vatican: even death does not silence the *odium theologicum*. If space permitted, we should gladly reproduce some of the touching and brilliantly discerning comments of the French and German press. But it would be difficult to make any selection: they must be read in their entirety. We shall quote, however, the words of the *Journal de St. Petersbourg*, for reasons which need not be set forth:—

"England has just lost one of her greatest statesmen. . . . A life so long and so profoundly worthy of respect leaves ineffacable traces in the memory of mankind, and the tributes to his memory which are forthcoming from every quarter bear witness that the human race still places in the first rank those statesmen who are inspired by the broadest and most generous ideas. England may be proud of her just claim to have given birth to men whose political action has manifested itself in favour of a cause which concerned the interest of the many. The name of Gladstone will remain in that noble constellation which makes the greatness of a country and does honour to humanity."

In England, of course, the eulogies were universal. *The Times* devoted thirteen columns to a review of his career, and every journal, whatever its political complexion, added its voice to the nation's expression of sorrow, of reverence and of esteem. The speeches in the two Houses, when the Prime Minister in one and the leader in the other introduced motions for a public funeral and tomb in Westminister Abbey, were remarkable specimens of appreciative eloquence. Lord Rosebery seems to us to have been most happy in his treatment of the sad subject, but it is to the speeches of the great statesman's political opponents that we turn with liveliest interest. Lord Salisbury's words were comparatively few, but they presented a remarkable aspect, doubtless the most remarkable aspect, of Mr. Gladstone's character:—

My lords, very few words, I imagine, are necessary, or would be fitting, to commend this motion to your acceptance, nor is it necessary to dwell upon the career which closed yesterday. His history, his merits, his wonderful authority, have been dwelt upon by many tongues and many pens. I need not repeat them now. But the point which seems to me remarkable, and which, I think, will attract the attention of foreign nations more than any other, is the universal assent of all persons, of all classes, and of all schools of thought in doing honour on this sorrowful occasion to a man who has been more mixed up in political conflict than probably any man of his generation. The controversies of the past are so far forgotten that there is no difference of feeling or of opinion in the honour which we may pay to the great statesman, or in our desire that that honour shold be duly displayed before the eyes of the world. What is the cause of this unanimous feeling? Of course, he had qualities which distinguished him from all other men; and you may say that it was his transcendent intellect, his astonishing power of attaching men to him, the great influence which he was able to exert on the convictions and thought of his contemporaries. But these things, which explain the attachment and the admiration of those whose ideas he represented, would not explain why it is that sentiments almost as fervent are felt and expressed by those whose ideas were not expressed by his policy. I do not think the reason is to be found in anything so far removed from the common feelings of mankind as the abstruse and controverted questions of the policy of the day. They have

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nothing to do with it. Whether he was right or whether he was wrong in all the measures or in most of the measures which he proposed, those are matters of which the discussion has passed by and would certainly be singularly inappropriate here, but which are really remitted to the judgment of future generations, who will securely judge by experience what we can only decide by conjecture. But it was more on account of considerations common to the mass of human beings, to the general working of the human mind that any controverted questions of policy, that men recognized in him a man guided—whether under mistaken impressions or not, it matters not—but guided in all the steps he took, in all efforts he made, by a high moral ideal. What he sought were the achievements of great ideals, and whether they were based on sound convictions or not they could have issued from nothing but the greatest and the purest moral aspirations; and he is honoured by his countrymen because through so many years, across so many vicissitudes and conflicts, they recognized this one characteristic of his action which has never ceased to be felt. He will leave behind him, especially to those who have followed with deep interest the history of his later years—I might almost say the later months of his life—the memory of a great Christian statesman set up necessarily on high, whose character, motives, and intentions could not fail to strike all the world. He will leave a deep and most salutary influence on the political and social thought of the generation in which he lived, and he will be long remembered, not so much for the causes in which he was engaged, or the political projects which he favoured, but as a great example of which history hardly furnishes a parallel—of a great Christian man.

From Mr. Balfour's speech we make two extracts embodying a weighty verdict as to Mr. Gladstone's parliamentary record :—

If I venture to say anything to the House it is rather of Mr. Gladstone as the greatest member of the greatest deliberative Assembly that so far the world has seen. Sir, I think it is the language of sober and of unexaggerated truth of say that there is no gift which would enable one to move, to influence, to adorn an Assembly like this that Mr. Gladstone did not possess in a supereminent degree. Debaters as ready, orators as finished, there may have been. It may have been given to others to sway as skilfully this critical Assembly, or to appeal with as much directness and force to the simpler instincts of great masses of our countrymen, but it has been given to no man to combine all those great gifts as they were combined in the person of Mr. Gladstone. From the conversational discussion appropriate to our work in Committee to the most sustained eloquence fitting some high argument and some great historical occasion, every weapon of Parliamentary warfare was wielded by him with the sureness and the ease of a perfect, absolute and complete mastery. I would not venture myself to pronounce an opinion as to whether he was most excellent in the exposition of some complicated Budget of finance, or of legislation, or whether he shone most in the heat of extemporary debate. At least this we may say, that from the humbler arts of ridicule or invective to the subtlest dialectic, the most persuasive eloquence, the most cogent appeals to everything that was highest and best in the audience he was addressing—every instrument which could find a place in the armoury of a member of this House he had at his command without premeditation, without forethought at a moment and in the form best suited to carry out its purpose. . . . One service he did, in my opinion incalculable, which is altogether apart from the judgment that we may be disposed to pass upon particular opinions, particular views, or particular lines of policy which Mr. Gladstone may from time to time have advocated, Sir, he added a dignity and he added a weight to the deliberations of this House by his genius, which I think it is impossible adequately to replace. It is not enough, at least in my opinion, for us to keep up simply a level, though it be a high level, of probity and patriotism. The mere average of civic virtue is not sufficient to preserve this assembly from the fate which has overcome so many other assemblies, the products of democratic forces. More than this is required, more than this was given to us by Mr. Gladstone. He brought to our debate a genius which compelled attention, he raised in the public estimation the whole level of our proceedings and they will be most ready to admit the infinite value of this service who realize how much the public prosperity is involved in the maintenance of the worth of public life and how perilously difficult most democracies apparently feel it to be to avoid the opposite dangers into which so many of them have fallen.

The *Times'* gives the following description of the last hours of Mr. Gladstone :—Mr. Gladstone had lain for many hours in a state of unconsciousness, he could take no nourishment, his lips could merely be moistened with diluted spirits, and it became only a question of endurance. When would the end come? was asked with anxiety of the medical men. Was it possible there would still be another of those wonderful rallies which had time after time astonished all in attendance? But the breathing and the pulse both indicated that the end could not long be delayed. At midnight all the members of the family gathered for the parting. Mrs. Gladstone, stricken with grief, and having passed the previous night wholly in the sick-room, sat at Mr. Gladstone's bedside, grasping his hand occasionally pressing and kissing it. The Rev. Stephen Gladstone at intervals read a prayer. It was a little before 5 when the medical men saw that death was to be a matter of moments. Mr. Gladstone's breathing had become more laboured. There was nothing of a struggle, but rather a kind of panting as of a person walking up a hill. Then, as 5 o'clock struck, there were two slight gasps, and Mr. Gladstone had passed away. The end came so peacefully that the fact had to be announced to the distressed members of the family by the medical attendants. It was, as our informant observed, a passing from the sleep of life to that of death, so gentle was it.

This is *The Times'* estimate of Mr. Gladstone as an orator :—The great instrument by which Mr. Gladstone has moved Parliament and the people has been his oratory. Of his oratory in general it may be said that its most salient characteristic—the one we mean which, after listening to him for many years, remained uppermost in his hearers' minds—was its fluency. He avoided rhetoric in its highest flights and its most artistic form. He was not witty. He had not Mr. Bright's command of nervous English or simple directness and pathos. He had not peculiar force which belonged to the speeches of Lord Derby. But he had what neither Lord Derby, the Prime Minister, nor his distinguished son, neither Lord Beaconsfield nor Lord Palmerston, nor any of their successors, ever had—the *torrens dicendi*, the power of sustaining an unbroken stream of limpid utterance for hours, and of interspersing it with metaphorical terms which served only to illustrate his meaning and attracted no attention for their own sake. With this, which we conceive to be a very high merit in an orator, Mr. Gladstone was endowed very largely. He had likewise during the greater part of his career the art of persuading his hearers as he went along that he was thoroughly in earnest. No doubt this oratorical art can never be entirely dissociated from the moral character and general reputation of the speaker, and Mr. Gladstone's general reputation for earnestness always reinforced the particular facility in question. But still he possessed it in a very remarkable degree. His voice, at once sonorous and flexible without being too musical, his action, which, though rather mechanical, always seemed to be spontaneous, his flashing and commanding glance, and the expression of his countenance, which, though occasionally harsh or even peevish, was always serious and concentrated, combined to impress upon his hearers the belief that every word he uttered was the dictate of profound conviction.

JAPANESE LEGAL DECISIONS.

The *Daishin Hanketsuroku* is a record of the civil and criminal cases of the Supreme Court of Japan, compiled by the officials of the court. Since the charge of its publication was entrusted to the Tokyo Hogaku-in (Law Institution), a few years ago, a great improvement has been made in it; and it is now published monthly. Book 4, vol. 3, published in May, contains the decisions of cases heard during March, 1898, many of which are very important. We translate here some which may interest our readers :—

Case No. 70 of the 30th year of *Meiji*, decided on 30th March, 1898.—This was an application for the removal of an obstruction in a public thoroughfare. The Appeal Court held that no right on the part of an individual to demand the removal of an obstruction in a public thoroughfare exists, because the right of passing is not a private right, and no civil action can be instituted even if obstruction was caused to the appellant by any act of the respondent. The Supreme Court reversed the judgment for the following reasons: Every man has a right to use a public road, this being essential to his being and to his enjoyment of other privileges; and the right should be protected by private law even though it is already provided for by public law. Any obstruction in a public way is not only a public nuisance, but at the same time may infringe the privileges of a private person. This infringement is a tort to be sued for in a court of law, and he who commits such a wrong renders himself liable to an action for damages or for removal of the obstruction.

Case No. 149 of the 31st year of *Meiji*, decided March 1st, 1898.—The first paragraph of Article 51 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides that a complaint (*kokuso*) shall be made by a signed and sealed statement in writing by the complainant. In the present case, it was decided that, a "*boin*" (a mark made by the nail to a document as a seal), which is even now commonly used in Japan, both inside and outside of the courts of law, by persons having no seals, is as effective as an ordinary seal, and the objection raised against the present complaint, in which a "*boin*" was used instead of a seal, was rejected. The reasons given were that the "*boin*" (or *tsumeiu*) is a kind of seal which has been used from time immemorial in Japan, and that affixing it to a document is equal to affixing a proper seal.

Case No. 169, 31st of *Meiji* (decided on 3rd March, 1898.—A purchaser of paper gave the seller a 10 *yen* note in mistake for a 5 *yen* note, and the seller retained it, changing it subsequently for 2 five *yen* notes. The question raised was whether the act constituted an unlawful appropriation of deposited money under Art. 395 of the Penal Code. The public procurator argued that the buyer's intention to treat the overpaid sum as a deposit and the intention of the accused to receive it as a deposit, should be tacitly presumed. The Supreme Court, however, held that as the buyer had no intention to deposit, and even had no intention to pay the amount in excess of what was due, no such presumption could be permitted. The act did not constitute an offence under the article, nor was there any other law in Japan which makes such an act guilty.

Case No. 1208, the 30th year of *Meiji* (decided March 25th, 1898). — Article 49 of the Law of Constitution of the Courts of Justice provides that "when a division of the Supreme Court, after hearing an appeal, forms an opinion contrary to a former decision of one or more divisions of the court upon the same point of law, such division shall report the same to the President of the Court, who shall, upon receipt of such report, order all the civil or all the criminal divisions, or all the civil and criminal divisions, of the court, according to the nature of the appeal, to sit together, and re-try and decide the appeal." The present decision was given by all the criminal divisions of the Supreme Court assembled together in accordance with the above article. It has hitherto been considered right that the members of the "judicial police" (Shiho-Keisatsu-Kwan), that is to say, police inspectors, sergeants, officials and non commissioned officials of the Gendarmie, and others, shall, in a case *flagrant delict*, examine the accused, and put the examination in writing, without attending the place where the offence was committed, and such examination in writing may be used in evidence against the accused. The evidence thus taken by the officials, who are scattered all over Japan, constitutes a large part of judicial evidence. Former decisions of the Supreme Court have held such proceedings and evidence as legal; but it is now decided that members of the judicial police have no such right, that they are not at liberty to examine the accused without attending the place where the offence was committed, and that evidence in writing taken by them at any other place shall be null and void. The reason given is that according to the Code of Criminal Procedure the right of the members of the judicial police relating to preliminary examination of the accused is only that mentioned in Art. 144, (by virtue of Article 147 of the same Code), which clearly points out that such right is to be used only in cases where the police attend the actual place of offence. The new decision seems to interpret the Article according to its literal sense, not permitting the wide and rather loose interpretation given to it in former decisions.

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NOTICES TO MARINERS.

The following notices to mariners are issued by Mr. W. Ferd. Tyler, Acting Coast Inspector of the Imp. Mar. Customs: No. 321:—(Tientsin District.) Change in position of Lightship *Taku*.—Notice is hereby given that in consequence of the Bar having extended further seaward, the Lightship *Taku* has been moved 9¼ cables E. by S. ½ S., magnetic, from her old position, and that she is now moored in 19 feet at low water spring tides.

Approximate position:—
Latitude..... 38° 54′ 36″ N.
Longitude..... 117° 51′ 46″ E.

No. 322:—Yangtze River (Chinkiang District). Bethune Point Beacon Light.—Notice is hereby given that the Bethune Point Beacon Light has been shifted 200 yards N. 84° E. from its last position, in consequence of the washing away of the land on which it stood.

No. 323:—Yangtze River (Kiukiang District.) Point Haines Beacon Light.—Notice is hereby given that the Point Haines Beacon Light has been shifted 90 yards S. 46 E. from its last position, in consequence of the washing away of the river bank.

No. 324:—(Swatow District.) Mud Flat Buoy Discontinued.—Notice is hereby given that the Mud Flat Buoy, No. 2 in the published List for 1898, has been removed, and that mooring dolphins have been erected 70 feet outside of the position it occupied.

KOREAN ITEMS.

Intelligence from Korea, dated the 13th inst., and published in the *Yorosu*, is to the effect that the dignitaries who accompanied the Emperor on the 5th inst. on his tour of inspection through the various imperial mausoleums, but who on their return journey fled in various directions, leaving the Emperor alone by the roadside, in consequence of a sudden downpour of rain, have been sentenced to a forfeiture of one month's salary. They were, however, afterwards absolved from this punishment, after severe reproaches. The officials numbered 41 in all.

The Minister of Justice was recently removed from his post on account of the gross iniquity of his judgments. The judicial plunder of a private individual's dwelling house made him especially notorious. His vacancy was supplied by Cho Pyong-chick, formerly Minister of Education.

The Russians, having experienced considerable inconvenience in the retention of marines for the protection of their Legation in Söul, have determined to replace them by land troops, which arrived in Inchhon on the 12th instant. They are all Cossacks, numbering 20, with an officer attached.

The charges for telegrams have been hitherto 1 *sen* for every Korean character, and 3 *sen* for every Chinese. The rates are now raised to 2 and 5 *sen* respectively.

A scheme for the establishment of a Commercial Samples Museum at Chemulpho seems to have taken ground. The project having secured the approval of the Settlement, premises have been leased free of rent, the Japanese Consulate, agreeing to contribute a certain amount of encouragement money for the time being.

The Korean Monarch has rearranged his working hours and now announces that he will receive Ministers in routine as in the table given below:—

Sunday—Rest.
Monday—Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Department.
Tuesday—Ministers of the Foreign and Finance Departments.
Wednesday—Prime Minister and the Minister of War.
Thursday—Ministers of Law and of Justice.
Friday—Minister of Agriculture and a Councillor of State.
Saturday—A regular meeting.

We expect to find funny things in the *Independent*. The file of the 11th ult., is not disappointing, as witness the following paragraph under the heading "Local Items:"—The editor went into the country last Tuesday morning to attend the 61st birthday celebration of one of his relatives. He left "a man in charge" of the office. As this man does not read the "character," the readers will be obliged to forego the luxury of knowing who the latest appointees as "imperial gravekeepers" or "chusa" in the several departments of the government are. For the same sufficient reason the kaleidoscopic view of the working of the Government as exhibited in "Departmental News" will have to go over to the next issue.

The Korean Council of State recently went into Committee of Supply, and before it rose the following items of expenditure were passed:—

To pay out of the Reserve Fund, $2,476 for making cakes, etc. of sacrificial offerings at the mausoleum of the late Empress; and $788 for repairing the road, and bridges for the last procession:—

Various expenses in connection with the the late Imperial procession	$3,403 92
Additional expenses for the renewed stone works at the Mausoleum of the late Empress	$700 00
Trees to be planted around the Mausoleum	$2,159 32
For airing and sunning the books in the four Imperial Libraries	$80.00
Deficit in the Salaries of the Home Dep't Supplied.....	$510.00
Deficit in the Salaries of the Education Dep't Supplied	$883.33
For engraving seals for Police Dep't and its branch Stations	$18.40
For Medical treatment of the wounded in Chemulpo.....	$177.20

The Finance Department was further authorized to add $100,000 to the Reserve Fund.

CHINESE NEWS.

A Chinese Imperial edict of the 18th instant appoints Hsu Shuming, President of the Court of Censors, to be acting President of the Board of Revenue *vice* Wêng T'ung-ho, dismissed from office.

M. de Giers, son of the former Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and himself formerly *Chargé d'Affaires* at Paris, and Russian Minister at Rio de Janeiro, has been appointed Russian Minister to Peking.

At his second audience with the Emperor of China, H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia presented the Emperor with the insignia of the Order of the Black Eagle, conferred on the Emperor of China by the German Emperor.

Mr. August Edeter, of the firm of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., died at the Shanghai General Hospital from typhoid fever on 20th June.

It is a curious coincidence, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that the three Foreign Ministers last appointed to Peking, Mr. Conger, the U.S. Minister, M. Pichon, the French Minister, and M. de Giers, the Russian Minister, were all recently colleagues at Rio de Janeiro.

A Foochow dispatch to a Shanghai paper reports that the Imperial Chinese Government has courteously acceded to the request of the British Admiral and has permitted British men-of-war to use the Foochow Naval deckyard at Pagoda Anchorage for repairs, etc., whenever needed.

The *Shên Pao* says it has been arranged between the Tsung li Yamên and the Inspector-General of Customs that the officials in Hupeh will apportion an amount of money from the salt revenue and hand it to the Commissioner of Customs at fixed periods for the payment of the Foreign Loan, but the management of the salt business will be retained by the Chinese officials.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 11th inst. says:—An important item of local social news is that *Rory* has joined the majority, for *Rory* was quite a celebrity, in his way. He was the "fightingest" dog ever known in Foochow. The Bank will never be so well protected. He was cleverer than any dog ever written about in the *Spectator*. He considered himself a member of the Club and whenever he wanted a little light refection between meals he toddled up to the Club-house and munched biscuits. A history of his career would have eclipsed that of *Rab and his Friends*, but our contributors are too busy in their tea-rooms just now to compile it. Had it been written, it would have been lengthy and sensational.

Wên Ting-shih, an ex-Censor, at one time a great favourite of the Emperor, but who was degraded and dismissed from office about three years ago for being too straightforward in his denunciations of the Empress Dowager's intermeddling with the prerogatives of the Throne, recently sent to the Emperor a memorial strongly advising his majesty to throw himself and the country upon the protection of Great Britain. The memorialist, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, derides the pretended friendship of Russia, and gives a plain sketch of the whole story of the retrocession of Liaotung by Japan, bewails the sad fact that every one in China was misled by the pretensions of Russia, and winds up by saying that in the friendship of Great Britain alone lies the salvation of China.

An Imperial Chinese edict of the 20th June, in answer to a memorial from a Censor named Tsêng Ch'ung yen suggesting the importance of establishing western mining schools at Tientsin and Nanking, commands the Tsung-li Yamên to report on the scheme, and, if favourable, to make the necessary arrangements for establishing first-class mining schools at the ports named, and then to extend the scheme to other provinces where mines of all sorts abound, which, owing to the lack of competent Chinese mining engineers, have never been exploited.

Permission to open the following valuable mines in Hunan has been given by H.E. Ch'ên Pao-chên, Governor of the province. An antimony deposit in the district of Liling, at a place called Tungyuankang; an antimony deposit in Hsiu-hua district, at a place called Lienpeichi; a quicksilver deposit in the sub-prefecture of Chienchou, at a hill called Saddle hill (Maanshan), alleged to be very rich; and a galena mine in Hsinning district at a place called Sankouiung. All the above are to be exploited by syndicates headed by the local gentry and notables of the above places.—*Daily China Progress.*

Says the *N.-C. Daily News*:—After a water supply of the most distressing and precarious kind, which has obtained for several hundred years, the native city of Shanghai is now to be provided with an adequate and pure service, which will embrace the latest improvements in water engineering. The contract, the amount of which has not been made public, has been let to Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., who have secured the services of Messrs. Atkinson and Dallas to do the preliminary surveying forthwith. The works we understand, will be proceeded with without delay. When it is taken into consideration what horrible and indescribable abuses of the commonest laws of sanitation have prevailed in the city for so many years, the task of opening up the soil for the purpose of laying the mains may be better imagined than described.

According to the *Avenir du Tonkin*, as quoted by the *Echo de Chine*, Kuangchou Bay in Kuangtung, which has been leased by France, is by no means an ideal acquisition. The entrance is difficult and often obstructed by sandbanks, and the *Avenir* declares that the cruiser *Duguay Trouin* got in on a high tide, and has been sounding and sounding again ever since and cannot get out. The population hate the French; the French flag has been several times removed, and a buoy stolen. There is only a second class military mandarin there, who refuses to do anything except under orders from the Taotai at Linchou, and this official remains quietly in his Yamên, relying on the force of inaction, in the use of which the Chinese are so proficient. The Governor-General of French

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Indo China, M. Doumer, being unable to get any mandarin to visit him, sent word on shore that he would visit the local official at his Yamên. He went at the time named and found nobody there, and had to come away, leaving the *Duguay Trouin* to continue sounding. While quoting the *Avenir's* article, the *Echo de Chine* says that it is informed by a French naval officer that Kuangchou Bay is regarded by many sailors as a port of the first rank.

In regard to the foundering of the Chinese cruiser *Fooching* off Port Arthur, it is alleged in a Tientsin official dispatch that the unfortunate vessel arrived late in the day at the entrance to Port Arthur, but owing to the presence of the Russians she could not enter before getting permission to do so. It so happened that the port officer was inside one of the forts at the time and no one at the port office would take the responsibility of giving the permission, so although it was blowing a gale the unlucky *Fooching* had no alternative but to lay-to under steam until the morning. Unfortunately the Engineer in charge had too little steam on, and when later in the night the gale increased in fury the vessel could make no headway and so foundered. This story is scarcely credible, for according to the terms of the lease of Port Arthur, Chinese men-of-war are entitled to use the harbour at all times.

Shanghai has been growing rapidly these past few years, and in consequence its populations, foreign and Chinese, have over-flowed the limits of the settlements originally mapped out and set aside by Treaty. The evil-smelling districts of ill-built houses and work-shops that have sprung up outside the settlements are of course without the pale of the Municipal Council's jurisdiction, and hence have long been a source of danger to the health of the community, besides causing annoyances of a description we need not particularise. The Council and the Board of Consuls on various occasions have memorialized the Taotai for permission to extend the settlement in order to take over the new suburban districts, but these appeals have all been useless. As one speaker at a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held in Shanghai to discuss the position of affairs pithily put it, local negotiations have broken down, having come up against a brick wall. The meeting just referred to resolved to petition direct to Peking and passed several resolutions in which were set forth the reasons for the measures suggested and the dangers that loom ahead if the present state of insanitary arrangements and general lawlessness continue. Commenting on the debate, the *N.-C. Daily News* says:—It is somewhat remarkable that none of the speakers on Friday brought up, as an argument for the recognition of our right to have the Settlement extended, what occurred here in the early sixties. The native authorities here then were only too anxious to get the foreigners to assume jurisdiction not only over the small area that we propose now to add to the Settlement, but an area of some 2,800 square miles, that is, an area with a radius of thirty miles, Shanghai being the centre. The English and French spent freely of their blood and money to clear this area of Taiping rebels, and Colonel Gordon, the hero of Khartoum, made the definite offer to Mr. Edward Webb, who was then Chairman of the Municipal Council, to clear this area permanently and maintain order and peace in it, if the Council would take over its administration. Shanghai would have been a free city with an area of rich land sufficient for its support. The Council did not feel strong enough in those days to accept the offer. We are only asking now for a little bit of what the Chinese would have too gladly given us then, and this fact undoubtedly strengthens our claim to have our boundaries extended.

Eleven cases of cholera have appeared in Yokohama this spring. Three of the persons attacked died, and one is under medical treatment. The other seven have recovered.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A New York despatch, dated the 26th inst., says the enforcement of the Tea Duty in Canada has been postponed until January next year.

On the 14th inst., the captain of the British sailing vessel *Creedmoor* that arrived at Nagasaki from Cardiff on the afternoon of the 8th inst., was fined 60 *yen* for having neglected to enter his vessel at the Customs within the limit of time specified by treaty.

Dysentery is now prevailing at Yoshihama village, near Atami. Three temporary hospitals have been established. A kind of fever has been prevalent for some weeks in Tobe jail, Yokohama. Twenty cases have already appeared but the cause is not yet known.

The arrival of the Grand Duke Cyril, who is about to visit Japan, will, it is anticipated, take place on 7th proximo. The Shiba detached palace, says the *Asahi Shimbun*, will be prepared for his accommodation. The officials of the Ceremonial Bureau are busily engaging in preparations for welcoming the Prince.

The Agent of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company is informed by a Yokohama firm that letters posted here on the 14th April by the *Empress of China* were delivered in Copenhagen on May 9th. The *Empress of China* sailed on the 15th April at noon, and the actual time in transit was, therefore, only 24 days.

Further details of the floods are reported. In Toyama Prefecture, the rivers Sho, Koyabe, Shintsu, Gwanjoji, Kurobe, Shakuhaya, Katakai, and others overflowed, and banks were broken and the public roads near by flooded. Many bridges were destroyed and 374 houses were submerged. In Aichi Prefecture, the rivers Kiso and Shonai were in flood, and a part of the bank of the latter was destroyed. Much damage was done to houses and rice fields.

A man and wife, aged 55 and 39 respectively, living in Mishima district, Osaka, were arrested on Saturday on a charge of infanticide, says the *Chronicle*. They are alleged to have received about twenty babies with money for their maintenance, and to have either thrown them into the river alive or poisoned them. Their "infernal action," as an Osaka paper describes it, was discovered by the authorities and both the man and his wife were arrested.

The Russian Government lately resolved to enlarge considerably its trading vessels engaged in the Baltic, and also in the Black Sea trade, and at the same time to found several steamship companies. Her action is in perfect harmony with her usual tradal methods. She has declared that from and after January 1st, 1900, no vessels flying a foreign flag shall be admitted to take part in Russian home and inland trade. These measures will strike a very heavy blow at the immense amount of freights at the present moment carried in Danish vessels to and from, and also between, various Russian ports.

Discussing the bombardment of Puerto Rico by the Americans, *The Times* expert says it is clear that, either on account of bad armaments or want of skill, the Spanish gunners made miserable practice. Admiral Sampson gave his total loss as one killed and seven slightly wounded, adding that no serious damage was inflicted on any of the American ships. Considering that on July 11th, 1882, the totally unskilled Egyptians succeeded in hulling the British ships about 75 times, although they had no range-finders and their smoothbore guns had no sights, the apparent failure of the Spaniards is at least remarkable. Such a battleship as the *Iowa* presents an enormous target, of which only a fraction is armoured, and any shell bursting between decks would have done much execution. The bombardment seems to have been carried out at somewhat long range, which should confer advantage upon the shore batteries.

Manila, as most people know, was captured by the British in 1762. The force employed consisted of some 2,700 of all ranks, including bluejackets and marines, under Brigadier-General, afterwards Sir William, Draper, the naval part of the expedition consisting of eight ships of the line and three frigates under Vice-Admiral Cornish, an able and experienced officer. The squadron arrived at Manila on 23rd September, a landing was effected the same evening, and on the 6th October the place was stormed and captured. The British total loss in the siege was 150 of all ranks killed and wounded. The British remained in possession till the end of March, 1764, when news of the treaty of peace arrived, and England lost by the pen what she had gained by the sword.

About half-past five o'clock on Monday morning, as the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Shanghai* was trying to take up her berth on the east side of Kobe Pier, she collided with the structure and caused considerable damage. About a third of the way in from the end of the pier, and close to one of the traversing tables, the eastern fore and aft beam is badly damaged, and two or three of the vertical piles are bent, if not broken, as well as several of the cast-iron caps and wrought-iron ties and braces connected with them. The rails are also displaced and a considerable part of the woodwork carried away, with other damaged material. The injury to the ship is slight, if she has sustained any at all. We believe this is the second time the *Shanghai* has been so unfortunate as to collide with the pier, but this is Captain Peter's first experience.—*Kobe Chronicle.*

The following paragraph, taken from the *Singapore Free Press* of the 10th inst., refers to former Yokohama residents:—As Mr. and Mrs. Whitefield were driving down to the Town Hall for the concert last night, from their residence at Mount Pleasant, they met with an awkward accident at the corner of Kampong Java-road, close to the narrow bridge leading to the race-course. It was very dark, and a native, clad in white, suddenly came round the corner into the light of the lamps. The pony shied, and upset the carriage into the ditch on the right side. Mr. and Mrs. Whitefield were thrown out, but happily not injured, although the latter was severely shaken, and had to be taken back to Mount Pleasant. The pony was with difficulty at last extricated from the ditch, which is very deep, but it was by that time impossible for Mr. Whitefield to come on to the Town Hall, where his non-arrival as the accompanist to the choir caused considerable anxiety. These duties had therefore to be discharged, at a moment's notice, principally by Miss Reutens, Mr. Ruchwaldy also assisting.

The Commission which has been sitting lately in St. Petersburg to examine the plans for the construction of the new iron bridge over the Amu Daria river on the Central Asian Railway and 130 miles north-east of Merv, has issued its decision in the matter. The projected bridge will replace the wooden one at present in use, which was erected when the Trans-Caspian railway was built, and it will be 2 miles 1,173 yards in length, as the river overflows its banks far and wide in spring. The spans of the new bridge will be 72 feet above the normal level of the water, and this height has been fixed upon in order to keep the bridge clear of the huge masses of driftwood and uprooted trees which are brought down by the swollen river. The cost of this gigantic bridge is estimated at £500,000, and the iron parts to be used in its construction have already been ordered in a Russia iron foundry. Steps will be taken to begin the building of the bridge at once. The administration of the Trans-Caspian Railway has been transfetred from the Department of the Ministry of War into that of the Ministry of Ways and Communications.

At the half-yearly meeting of the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company, held on the 14th of June, the directors recommended a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on preferred stock, and an interim dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock of the company.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF FORMOSA.

The *Official Gazette* publishes the revisions made in the official organisation of Formosa as follows:—

Art. XIV.—In the Governor-General's Office shall be established a Cabinet, where confidential affairs shall be transacted under the management of two Adjutants and two Private Secretaries exclusively devoted to the work. The Adjutants shall be chosen from among field or company officers; the Private Secretaries shall be of *sonin* rank.

Art. XV.—In the Governor-General's Office shall also be established a Section of Civil Administration, and Military and Naval Staffs. The regulations for these Staffs shall be especially determined.

Art. XVI.—The Section of Civil Administration shall superintend all affairs relating to civil and judicial administration.

Art. XVIII.—The following officials shall be appointed for the Governor-General's Office:—President of Civil Administration, Chief Councillor, Commissioners, Councillors, Engineers, Clerks, Assistant Engineers, and Interpreters.

Art. XIX.—The President of Civil Administration shall be of *chokunin* grade, and superintend the affairs of the Section under the direction of the Governor General.

Art. XX.—The Chief Councillor shall also be of *chokunin* rank, the two Councillors being of *sonin* grade.

Art. XXI.—The Commissioners, 15 in number, shall be either of *chokunin* or *sonin* grade, and shall preside over the affairs of the various Bureaux or Sections, with instructions from the Governor General or the President of Civil Administration.

Art. XXII.—The Engineers shall be 15 in number, of *sonin* grade, and shall, subject to the orders of their superior officials, supervise matters connected with engineering in general.

Art. XXI.—Clerks, Assistant Engineers, and Interpreters shall number 200 in all; and be of *hannin* rank.

Art.—XXIV and XXV shall be cancelled.

APPENDIX.

The above Regulations shall be enforced from June 20th of the 31st year of *Meiji*.

Imperial Ordinance No. 107 embodies the revised regulations for the Council established in the Governor General's Office. The Council is to consist of the following members:—Governor General, President of Civil Administration, Chiefs of the Military and Naval Staffs, Chief Councillor, Commissioners (less than five in number), and Councillors holding no additional office. The Chiefs of the Military and Naval Staffs can participate in debate only when matters of warfare are involved.

The Governor General reserves to himself the right of directing other civil and military officers to attend the Council whenever he deems it necessary to do so, provided that they shall not have a voice in the decisions. The Commissioners who are entitled to attend the Council must submit to the regulations established by the Governor-General of Formosa. The Council in fact is required to deliberate on and decide the ordinances embodied in Law No. 63 of the 29th of *Meiji*. These provisions are also to be put into operation from the same date as was fixed by the preceding regulations.

There are still other regulations promulgated by Imperial Ordinance No. 108, involving alterations in the organisation of local governments in Formosa. The most prominent may be given as follows:—

Art. I.—In Formosa there shall be established prefectural offices for Taipeh, Taichang, and Tainan, and administrations for Ilan, Taitung, and the Pescadores. The location and jurisdiction of these offices and administrations shall be determined by the Governor-General.

Art. II.—Each prefecture shall have the following officials:—Governor, Secretary, Chief Police Inspector, Taxation Commissioner, Engineer, Prison Superintendent, Clerks, Assistant Engineers, Police Inspectors, Chief Jailers, Prison Clerks, and Interpreters.

Art. III.—In each administration the following officials shall be appointed (except that no Secretary, Engineer, Chief Jailer, or Prison Clerks shall be appointed in Taitung, and no Secretary or Engineer in the Pescadores):—President, Secretary, Chief Police Inspector, Engineers, Clerks, Assistant Engineers, Police Inspectors, Chief Jailers, Prison Clerks, and Interpreters.

Art. VIII.—The Clerks, Assistant Engineers, Police Inspectors, Chief Jailers, Prison Clerks, and Interpreters in prefectural and administrative offices shall be 720 in all, and of *hannin* rank.

Art. X.—The Governor or President of a prefectural or administrative office may, by virtue of his own authority or special commission vested in him, issue an ordinance within the whole or part of his jurisdiction, involving a provision for imprisonment for a period of not more than 25 days, or for the infliction of fines not exceeding 25 *yen*.

Art. XI.—The Governor or President of a prefectural or administrative office may, if he deems the procedure adopted or regulations issued by the Directors of the Police Offices prejudicial to public interests, or in excess of their authority, suspend such procedure or regulations.

Art. XII.—A Governor or President may apply to the Governor General for military force in case it is needed for the preservation of peace in his jurisdiction. In cases of emergency, however, application may be directly made to the Commandant of Brigade or Garrison in the nearest place, so that troops may be immediately despatched.

Art. XXVIII.—A Governor or President may, if he deems it necessary, establish a branch prison with the sanction of the Governor-General.

TAX COLLECTION IN FORMOSA.

Notification is given that regulations for dealing with inhabitants in Formosa whose taxes are in arrear, have been established by the Formosan Government and sanctioned by the Emperor. The text of the regulations is as follows:—

LAW NO. 5 OF THE FORMOSAN GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

REGULATIONS FOR DEALING WITH TAXES IN ARREARS.

Art. I.—If any person fails to pay his taxes (customs duties excepted) on the expiration of the period of payment, distress shall be levied on his property, and taxes collected out of the proceeds of the sale thereof. Should no buyer be found, the property shall be bought by the Government, and its value appropriated for the payment of taxes in arrear. If, however, it is deemed in the cases mentioned above that the proceeds of the sale will not be sufficient to cover the taxes in arrear, the process of distraint may be withheld.

Art. II.—If the person failing to pay the tax or any third person, shall complete the payment before his property under distrain is sold, the process enforced for distraint shall be withdrawn.

Art. III.—The obligation of persons whose taxes are in arrear shall end with the conclusion of the procedure prescribed by these Regulations. This provision shall also apply to cases when distraint is withheld in accordance with the 2nd clause of Article I.

Art. IV.—In carrying out the procedure with regard to taxes in arrear, any money shortly falling due for taxes shall be collected, together with the taxes in arrear.

(NOTE.—Such money, however, shall be limited to the amount payable in the next period of collection.)

Art. V.—Taxes in arrear shall take precedence of all other liabilities. This provision is equally applicable in the case of taxes for which the period of payment has not yet arrived, but where the taxpayer has had execution at law or a declaration of bankruptcy in consequence of his other liabilities, or has become liable to be dealt with by these Regulations.

Art. VI.—When officers concerned enter the dwellings, godowns, or other buildings owned by persons whose taxes remain unpaid, for the purpose of distraint, they shall present certificates from a local Governor showing their official capacity.

Art. VII.—Any debtor, who has received notice of distraint is under obligation to pay his debts to the officers, and any procedure carried against him before such obligation is fulfilled shall have no legal effect.

Art. VIII.—Any person who is entrusted with the protection of the property under distraint shall not resist distraint, but the expenses for protection shall be borne by the person who failed to pay the taxes.

Art. IX.—If, in distraining property owned by persons whose taxes are in arrear, any goods are found to have been previously pawned or mortgaged, the same must be delivered by the mortgagees to the officers concerned.

Art. X.—The procedure in regard to taxes in arrear is not to be interfered with by any temporary stoppage carried out by a law court.

Art. XI.—The following articles shall be exempted from distraint:—(1) Clothing, bedding, furniture, and kitchen utensils, which are absolutely indispensable for sustenance of the defaults and his family. (2) Food and fuel for one month, necessary for consumption by the above. (3) Personal seals and things necessary to professional occupation. (4) Stone tablets, burial grounds, and articles for use in worship or religious service. (5) Genealogical chronicles, diaries, and other documents indispensable to the family. (6) Uniforms, religious costumes, and judicial robes necessary for personal position or profession. (7) Decorations and other marks of honour. (8) Books and instruments necessary for the education of any member of the family. (9) Inventions or literary works not yet made public.

Art. XII.—Any person who, in view of distraint, conceals or withdraws his property, or enters upon a false contract, shall be sentenced to major imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 month and not more than 2 years, or to a fine of from 30 *yen* to 500 *yen*. This provision shall also apply to the overseer of property who concealed, withdrew, or purposely injured the same. Any person who knowingly assisted or consents to enter into a false contract of the kind indicated in the preceding clause shall be punished.

APPENDIX.

Art. XIII.—These Regulations shall also be applied, for the time being, to all Government taxes.

Art. XIV.—The penalties embodied in Law No. 10 of the 28th year of *Meiji* shall be abolished from the date of the operation of these Regulations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DR. HATOYAMA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In the issue of the *Mail* of to-day the speech of Mr. Hatoyama, made to the members of the Constitutional Party on the 22nd instant, is summarised. In your stricture upon the speech you say "that to call the makers of modern Japan useless and talentless must impart an element of extreme absurdity to the whole of the meeting's proceedings."

There was in the speech of Mr. Hatoyama, as given in the *Mail*, more than an element of absurdity. An element which must give to every foreign who reads it grim reflections that can but modify what faith he may have entertained relative to the progress made by the Japanese in civilization. That Mr. Hatoyama thought it nesessary to advise his hearers that "there must be no violence; no assassination" in their methods of antagonizing the Government would indicate that he thought it timely to do so. When it is taken into consideration that Mr. Hatoyama was not addressing a mixed crowd of irresponsible fellows but that he was advising with the better class of his countrymen; responsible members of the communities they represented; men who assume that they are competent to guide the political future of the Empire: who assume to be better than the members of the present Cabinet in politics and political honesty; the caution given them not to resort to violence or assassination has a deep significance. Would any member of any respectable party in England or in the United States of America, were he in antagonism with the Government, think it of importance that he should counsel the members of his party not to resort to assassination to overthrow the Ministry? It speaks well for Mr. Hatoyama that he disapproves of the crime of assassination, the most cowardly of all crimes, but in what light does it place his hearers? It must be supposed that he knew his company and that he feared some of them would resort to assassination if not restrained. Consorting with men who have to be reminded that they must not resort to assassination to obtain political supremacy should be repugnant to every lover of his good name. It is to be hoped that the advice of Mr. Hatoyama will be heeded by his compatriots.

Yours, X.

SUICIDE IN YOKOHAMA.

On Thursday morning, about 3.30, a woman named Yoko, 83 years old, mother of a man named Shimoda Mimekichi, living at No. 53, Ishikawa, 7-chome, Yokohama, committed suicide by jumping into a well. Deceased, who is supposed to have been insane, has been suffering for five years.

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GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL.

An interesting ceremony took place on Thursday at the Girls' High School, 48 Bluff, the presentation of prizes to successful scholars being made by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine. A good many parents put in an appearance, and the scholars and their little friends, boys and girls, in pretty summer costumes, made a verry happy party. The formal procedings were of a very simple character. Mrs. Cahusac prefaced the presentation of the prizes with a few remarks on the progress and work of the school. She said:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I should like to say a few words first to explain the awarding of the prizes. They have been given strictly according to the marks obtained. The conduct prize is given for marks for good conduct, and includes, besides general good conduct, good behaviour during prayers and Scripture reading; punctuality, and neatness. The class prize is given for marks obtained in class since Christmas, and for the late examinations, and here I wish to thank the teachers past and present, both on my own behalf, and that of the girls, for so kindly giving prizes for various subjects, and thus much increasing each girl's chance of winning one; of course, as we go strictly by marks, absence from any cause, is much regretted. Una Brockelbank and Muriel Harington have both unfortunately been ill; Lily Preston too lost a week this term. As to the work of the school I will say very little, as it must be judged by results. We have gone on quietly and steadily, and I think on the whole good work has been done, and progress made by the girls. Annie Bunting, who is top of the school, has done very well; all her papers are good and thorough; Lily Preston too, who is 2nd, deserves mention, being a good steady worker, and for having made very good progress since she came here. Alice and Edna Mendelson and Elsie Esdale, who are 1st in the II., III., and IV. classes respectively, will be moved up to a higher class, and I think in some cases the next one will have to be moved up too. I take this opportunity of thanking my teachers, and particularly Miss Leach, for their able assistance. I am sorry to have to record the loss of Miss Lucy Wilkin and Miss Annie Moss as teachers in the School; but am also glad to say their places are well filled with such capable teachers as I have found in Miss Ross, and Miss Mary Wilson, and Miss Carst. Miss Griffin has been absent the last two months owing to the illness of her sister, but we hope, and not only selfishly, to see her among us again soon. I heartily thank you all for coming to-day. A little outside interest is a great help and encouragement to teachers and children alike, and to the parents of my girls I should like to say that I hope you all look on me as not only the teacher but also the friend of your children, and that you will at all times come freely to me about any little matter concerning their welfare in the school.

The Rev. E. Champneys Irwine then, after a happy and appropriate little speech, handed the prizes to the following:—

CONDUCT PRIZES.—Class I. Annie Bunting; Class II. Alice Mendelson; Class III. Edna Mendelson; Class IV., 1 Elsie Esdale, 2 Marion Watson and Iris Irwine. Certificates—Florence Wales, Edith Wilson and Edith Bunting.

CLASS PRIZES.—Class I., 1 Annie Bunting, 2 Lily Preston; Class II. Alice Mendelson; Class III. (a) Edna Mendelson; Class III. (b) Bertie Cahusac; Class IV. Elsie Esdale. Certificates—Vera Irwine, and Edith Bunting.

FRENCH PRIZES (Presented by Miss E. B. Leach—Div. I. Annie Bunting; Div. II. Alice Mendelson; Div. III. Gerald Irwine; Div. IV. Pauline Cleveland. Certificates—Florence Wales, Lily Preston, Edna Mendelson, and Elsie Esdale.

GERMAN PRIZES.—Div. I. Ettie Kuhn; Div. II. Lily Preston.

DRAWING PRIZES (Presented by Miss A. Moss).—Div. I. Ettie Kuhn; Div. II. Edith Bunting; Div. III. Bertie Cahusac. Certificates.—Lily Preston, Annie Bunting, Gerald Irwine, and Iris Irwine.

SINGING PRIZES (Presented by Miss E. B. Leach).—Div. I. Bessie Burns; Div. II. Gerald Irwine; Div. III. Iris Irwine. Certificates.—Lily Preston, Edna Mendelson, and Leslie McWilliams.

NEEDLEWORK PRIZES (Presented by Miss L. Wilkin).—Edith Wilson.

PRIZE for Improvement in Music.—Florence Wales.

At the close of the distribution cheers were raised for the Principal, and the rest of the evening was spent in games which the youngsters entered into with a vigour that cared nothing for eighty odd Fahrenheit.

THE "PATROCLUS"-"MELPOMENE" CASE.

In H.B.M.'s Court for Japan on Wednesday afternoon, His Honour Judge Wilkinson heard arguments of counsel in the case of the owners and Captain of the Austrian Lloyds steamer *Melpomene* and the owners of the British steamer *Patroclus*. The case had been referred to the Registrar to assess damages, and both parties now appeal from the Registrar's decision.

Mr. F. J. Lowder appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. A. B. Walford was for the defendants.

The Judge said he would take the objections of the plaintiffs first.

Mr. Lowder—I have received notice from the other side of the intention of the defendants to ask for special leave to use certain evidence, and it seems to me that it would be more convenient if that were disposed of first.

Mr. Walford—There is another question. It will be difficult to argue this case unless we know what evidence can be used. I have taken objection against some evidence taken before the Registrar. There are therefore two questions of evidence.

The Judge—I will hear you first as to the evidence you wish to introduce. You wish to introduce the evidence of Antonio Auguste Martinolich, who is one of the plaintiffs in this action?

Mr. Walford—Yes, and I wish to use his evidence as admissions which are to some extent inconsistent with the portion of the claim which is the subject of the enquiry. That evidence I endeavoured to get in before the Registrar, but he ruled that it was inadmissible.

Mr. Lowder objected to this. He submitted that it would be regular for the application to be supported by affidavit and not merely by a statement of counsel as to his remembrance of what might have occurred.

The Judge, however, said that he had made it a rule to discard affidavits except when they were quite necessary. In some cases of course it was imperative that they should be filed, but when it was a matter that rested on the recollection of counsel, and there was not likely to be any dispute as to fact, he thought it desirable that they should be allowed to make a statement—subject of course to the right of correction on the other side.

Mr. Lowder—It is possible that the recollections of counsel may not be the same, and it is also possible that the recollection of the Registrar may not be the same.

The Judge—I have the Registrar's own notes of the evidence. I think affidavits should be resorted to as little as possible. The rule of the English Courts has been to object to Registrars making affidavits; their feeling is that the Registrar's word is good enough. It is the same sentiment that I feel.

Mr. Walford then proceeded with his application, observing that he had made an application to the Registrar for the admission of this evidence and it had been refused. The matter first arose during the plaintiff's case, and the Registrar was then so strongly against him (Mr. Walford) that when his own case came on he hesitated to go to the expense of having the copy of the evidence certified. He contended that the matter came under Order 33 Rule 25 of the Supreme Court Rules, which stated that all evidence taken at the hearing or trial of any cause or matter may be used in any subsequent proceeding in the same cause or matter. He urged that these rules applied in England to the Court of Admiralty as to the other Courts, the Supreme Court of Justice including the Admiralty Division. The grounds on which the Registrar ruled that this was inadmissible was that in Rule 56 there was no reference to any such evidence being admitted, Rule 56 referring to Admiralty alone.

The Judge—Just read me any case you have.

Mr. Walford—I have no case to adduce—only the common practice in Chancery. But this is not the only ground. If the decision of the Registrar be supported on that particular ground, there is another ground for introducing this. According to the same Rule 56, the rules which apply to ordinary appeals apply here.

The Judge—This is an application to admit this evidence on special grounds. Granting for the moment that the Registrar was right in his refusal there are other grounds which you would put forward that it may be admitted?

Mr. Walford—For this reason, that it is a matter of natural justice. I say that the claim now made by the plaintiff is inconsistent with the statement made by him at a previous period, and therefore I ask him now to reproduce this statement. The admissions of the plaintiff, whether they were made in the street, or on the ship, or anywhere, were relevant to the enquiry, and were admissible as evidence.

The Judge—He is one of the plaintiffs, and not a witness?

Mr. Walford—No, if it had been a witness my case would not have been so strong. I should not have been able to apply on the second ground.

Mr. Lowder, in replying, enumerated the rules which affected the case, and argued that the rules Mr. Walford had quoted had no application to Admiralty cases.

The Judge—Can you refer me to any particular case in which this has been decided with regard to Admiralty?

Mr. Lowder—I don't know whether the matter has arisen except in two cases with regard to the question of costs.

Mr. Lowder further argued that the reference to the Registrar was not "the same cause or matter" as the action, and did not therefore come under the rule quoted by Mr. Walford; and he further took the objection that there was not the usual two days' notice at the hearing before the Registrar of defendants' intention to call for this evidence.

The Judge agreed that there should have been notice.

Mr. Lowder then quoted the rules of the Japan Court, and particularly referred to Rule 246, which dealt with cases of witnesses who were dead, or insane, or unavoidably absent (which was the case with the present witness), and which stated that the Court may receive "proof" of any evidence given in any former judicial proceedings. That proof might be given by affidavit, *viva voce*, or by admission. He submitted that it was a fact which wanted legal proof like any other fact; and the only means to prove it was to bring a witness as to what took place or file an affidavit. The Judge's notes were the private property of the Court of Appeal and counsel could not of right claim access to them.

The Judge said he might point out the difference between notes taken in that Court and notes taken in other Courts. Where there were any other provisions made they were the private property of the Judge and they might be burnt or destroyed; they had no place in the records of the court. But by the order referring to courts like the one of Japan they were ordered to be kept, and to form part of the records of the Court.

Mr. Lowder—I think the same distinction is made at home between the High Court and the County Courts. He submitted that defendants had no right to inspect the notes without an order.

Mr. Lowder was proceeding with the argument as to the admissibility of further evidence when the Judge intervened, and said that the inclination of his own mind was to admit any evidence that should be admitted. Whatever might have been the mistaken view of counsel in making his application if they could lay aside technicalities and admit the evidence that ought to be admitted he thought they should do so. He thought it was only right and proper in the interests of both parties. He did not agree with the Registrar in his refusal to accept the evidence, but he agreed that he had good grounds for doing so at the time he refused it.

Mr. Lowder said in that case he must ask for the usual notice to be given him and for the costs of that argument.

The Judge said he should reserve the question of costs.

Mr. Walford, with reference to the question of notice to which his Honour had alluded, said there was nothing in the procedure to state that notice was necessary in a case of this kind.

The Judge—Then I decide that notice must be given. It is in the very nature of things that you must give notice. As to the question of costs I will not go into it now. You have succeeded in your application so far. I order that Mr. Martinolich's evidence be admitted.

Mr. Walford then proceeded with his objections to the evidence of Mr. Wilson and Captain Efford, whose evidence had been taken before the Registrar.

The Judge—I think I may say there are two questions—the question of its admissibility and that of its weight. I will say that you have a good deal to contend against if you say it is not admissible at all.

Mr. Walford considered the evidence quite inadmissible.

His Honour—I may say I take as much notice of the evidence of Captain Efford as if any one had said in cross-examination that he considered the plaintiff was entirely right and the defendant was entirely wrong. He thought his evidence was admissible, but that it had no weight whatever. A general statement unaccompanied with grounds was of very little account against evidence given as to details. He also thought Mr. Wilson's evidence was of no more value than his (the Judge's) would be.

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Mr. Walford—Of course they acted quite *bonâ fide*.

The Judge—Of course, we are all sure of that.

Mr. Walford thereupon withdrew his objections, and the case was adjourned to next Wednesday at 10 30.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

THE WAR.

INSURGENTS STILL FIGHTING.

AMERICAN TROOPS EXPECTED DAILY.

THE GERMAN FLEET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Manila, June 23 (via Shanghai, June 27).

The Insurgents are still fighting in the districts around Manila. The American troops are expected daily. The U.S.S. *Boston* has left to meet them, with provisions, at Bolinao. The presence of five German cruisers here is exciting much comment. The British Admiral is sending the *Bonaventure*, *Narcissus*, and *Iphigenia*.

ARRIVAL OF H.M.S. "BONAVENTURE."

BRITISH PROTECTING CHINESE.

Later.

H.M.S. *Bonaventure* has arrived. Mr. Vice-Consul Ramsden, accompanied by Mr. Cunningham, arrived here this morning from Malabon, where the Consul had gone to rescue fifty Chinese families from the clutches of the insurgents.

(FROM THE "JAPAN TIMES.")

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT AT HONGKONG.

London, June 25.

Mr. Chamberlain, in the House of Commons, stated that the Government has decided to sanction the re-enactment of the Hongkong Contagious Diseases Act.

AMERICANS ADVANCING.

The Americans have advanced inland in Cuba and are occupying the country to the extent of six miles. Admiral Sampson is landing big guns and camp paraphernalia.

SPANISH PHILIPPINE EXPEDITION.

In the Cortes, the Minister of Marine announced that Admiral Camara's Squadron is going to the Philippines.

SPANISH SQUADRON IN SIGHT AT LAST.

London, June 27.

The Spanish Fleet has been sighted at Port Said.

SHARP FIGHTING:—BOTH SIDES CLAIM VICTORY.

AMERICANS STILL ADVANCING.

A force of one thousand dismounted American cavalry attacked two thousand Spaniards in the bush five miles from Santiago and drove the Spaniards to the city. The American losses were thirteen killed and fifty wounded, including six officers. The Americans are constantly advancing, although the troops are greatly fatigued with the heat and forced marches. They are now eight miles from Santiago.

The Spanish official despatch says that the Americans attacked the Spanish camp, but were repulsed. It adds that the Spanish losses were seven killed and twenty-seven wounded, including three officers.

MADRID EXCITED.

TURBULENT CORTES SUMMARILY CLOSED.

The news of the American landing has excited intense agitation at Madrid. Senor Sagasta has prorogued the Cortes owing to heated and futile debates.

STRENGTH OF SPANISH SQUADRON.

CAMARA COAL-STARVED AT PORT SAID.

London, June 28.

Admiral Camara's squadron consists of two ironclads, two cruisers, three torpedo boats, and five transports, carrying 4,000 troops. The Egyptian Government has refused to allow the squadron to coal at Port Said. Pending further orders the ships remain there.

SPANISH PORTS TO BE BOMBARDED AND CAMARA PURSUED.

The *New York Herald* states that the Government is sending a fleet under Admiral Schley to bombard Spanish ports and pursue Camara. The Spanish are actively preparing for defence.

FOUR THOUSAND AMERICANS SAIL FOR MANILA.

CAMARA ORDERED TO SUEZ.

London, June 29.

Four transports conveying the third expedition, consisting of four thousand men, have left San Francisco for Manila. Admiral Camara has been ordered to proceed to Suez. It is reported that arrangements have been made for colliers to meet the squadron in the Red Sea or elsewhere.

OFF TO THE SPANISH MAIN.

Commodore Watson has been appointed in command of the squadron bound for Spain, which consists of three ironclads, four cruisers, and three colliers.

SANTIAGO TO BE STARVED OF WATER.

MERRITT LEAVES SAN FRANCISCO.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR MANILA.

London, June 30.

It is reported from New York that the Americans have cut the watermains supplying Santiago. General Merritt left San Francisco yesterday. He is to hurry to Manila and on arrival is ordered to issue a proclamation announcing the establishment of a Provisional Government.

BLOCKADE ALL ALONG THE LINE.

President McKinley has proclaimed an extensive blockade of the whole of the southern coast of Cuba, also San Juan de Puerto Rico.

THE FRENCH MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

ANOTHER FAILURE AT CABINET-MAKING.

London, June 27.

M. Peytral has failed to form a Ministry. President Faure has summoned M. Brisson.

FRENCH MINISTRY FORMED.

London, June 29.

M. Brisson has completed a Cabinet. M. Brisson takes the Premiership and the portfolio of the Interior, M. Cavaignac becomes Minister of War, M. Delcasse of Foreign Affairs, and M. Geycal of Finance.

CHINA'S INLAND WATERWAYS.

ENGLAND INSISTS ON ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS.

London, June 30.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Curzon stated that the Government would insist on the Chinese Government revising the regulations for inland navigation in a satisfactory sense.

(Received by the *Fiji*)

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Peking, June 24.

Wang Wên-shao has been appointed Minister of War, in place of Wang Tung-hwo, who has been relieved of his office; and Yung Luh has been promoted Minister of the North Sea and Viceroy of Chihli (the offices formerly held by Wang Wên-shao).

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

Peking, June 25.

The Chinese Government has announced amendments in the regulations relating to civil service examinations.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CHINESE NAVY.

Peking, June 27.

It is a fact that negotiations between England and China concerning improvements in the Chinese Navy have made fair progress, but no similar negotiation with respect to the army yet exists.

(FROM THE "SHANGHAI MERCURY'S" CORRESPONDENT.)

Manila, 17th June:—Hongkong, 20th June.

NATIVE TROOPS MURDER THEIR OFFICERS.

The Carbineros, Customs Native Troops, who were thought to be loyal, have murdered their Spanish officers and in a body joined the Insurgents.

MANILA SURROUNDED.

CALOCAN CAPTURED.

The insurgents now completely surround Manila, having succeeded in capturing Calocan and all the suburbs.

SPANISH EXPECTED TO SURRENDER.

It is believed here that the Spanish will surrender on the arrival of troops from the United States. Food of all kinds is very scarce. Buffalo meat is selling at eighty cents per pound.

BRITISH CONSUL OFFERS TO RESCUE WIFE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL.

The British Consul has offered to rescue the wife and the family of General Augustin, the Governor-General, who have been made prisoners, and other Spanish ladies of the Province of Pampanga. British Vice-Consul Ramsden, accompanied by myself, volunteered personally to perform this mission, to which General Augustin consented, but Aguinaldo, the Insurgent Chief, was unable to give us a permit to do so, as the Province was not in his entire possession.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Tacoma, Wash...	N. P. Co.	Victoria 1	Sa. July 2
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan 2	M. July 4
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta 3	M. July 4
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern 4	M. July 4
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Aztec	W. July 6
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. July 7
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic 5	Th. July 7
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	—	W. July 13
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Th. July 14
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Tacoma	Th. July 14

1 Left Victoria on the 27th inst.
2 Left Vancouver on the 21st June.
3 Left Hongkong on the 26th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 29th June
5 Left San Francisco on the 28th June

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Victoria	Su. July 3
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. July 4
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Oceanien	W. July 6
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. July 6
America	P. M. Co.	Aztec	Th. July 7
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. July 8
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. July 8
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	F. July 8
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. July 13
Tacoma, Wash...	N. P. Co.	Tacoma	F. July 15
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa July 16

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

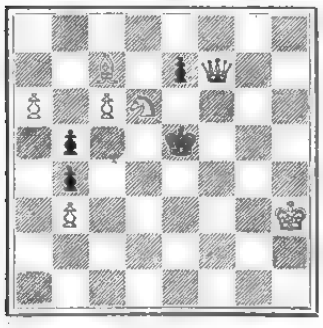
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 373.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to Q 8	1—B to Q 2 or Kt 2
2—P to B 8=Q or R mate	
	1—P to R 4
2—Kt to Q 4, mate	
	1—P to K 3
2—Q to Q 6, mate	
	1—K to B 3
2—Kt to R 5, mate	
	1—R to Kt sq
2—P takes R=Kt, mate	
	1—Kt moves
2—P to R 5 mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., D.D., Macco, and Miss S.

PROBLEM No. 377.
By Dr. A. MUSIL.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in three moves.

GAME No. 403
THE UNITED STATES CHAMPION MATCH.
NINTH GAME.

White—Pillsbury. Black—Showalter.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	25 BxQKtP	R R2
2 P QB4	P K3	26 KtxKt	QxKt
3 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	27 B K4	R(R2) Q2
4 B Kt5	B K2	28 P R3	QxQ
5 P K3	QKt Q2	29 PxQ	R Q8(f)
6 Kt B3	Castles	30 RxR	RxRch
7 B Q3(a)	PxP(b)	31 K R2	P B4(g)
8 BxP	P B4	32 B Kt7	K B3(h)
9 QR Bsq	P QR3	33 P QB4	R QB8
10 P QR4	Kt Kt3	34 RxB(i)	PxR
11 B R2	PxP	35 PxP	R QR8(k)
12 PxP	Kt(B3) Q4	36 P R6	K K2
13 BxB	QxB	37 P Kt6	K Q3
14 P R5	KtxKt	38 P R7	K B4
15 RxKt	Kt Q4	39 P R8(Q)	RxQ
16 R B5	B Q2	40 BxR	KxP
17 Castles	B Kt4(c)	41 K Kt3	P K4
18 R K-q	Kt Kt5	42 B Q5	P R3
19 B Ksq	KR Q q	43 B B7	P Kt4
20 Q Kt3	Kt B3	44 B K6	P B5ch
21 Q B2	P KKt3	45 K B3	K B4
22 Q B3	Q B3(d)	46 K K4	K Q3
23 B K4	KtxP(e)	47 B B5	P R4
24 K R-q	K K2	48 B Kt6(l)	Resigns

Notes (abridged) by Emil Remeny in *The Ledger*, Philadelphia.

(a) In the fifth game of the match Pillsbury played P takes P, followed B to Q 3. The play is quite ingenious, but it has the disadvantage of giving the Black Q B a quick development. R to Q B sq or B to Q 3, as played in the present game, seems, preferable.

(b) Identically the same moves were played in the cable match between Burn and Showalter.

(c) Black's game is not endangered, yet the defence is not an easy one. Better, perhaps, was Q R to B sq, followed by exchange of Rooks.

(d) Better, perhaps, was Q to Q 3. The move selected has the disadvantage of preventing Black from moving the Kt after Kt takes P has been played.

(e) Much better was ■ takes Kt. Black then could double Rooks on the Queen's file.

(f) Black's game looks satisfactory, yet there is some danger.

(g) ■ to Q 3, followed by B to Q 2, K B 3 and K to K 2, would have given Black a pretty safe game, and there was hardly any chance for White to break through.

(h) Black still had the R to Q 3, followed eventually by B to Q 2 and K to B 3 continuation on hand. He also could have played R to Q B8, and his game was not endangered. The text play is a grave oversight.

(i) The sacrifice is sound and forces a win for White.

(k) R to Kt 8 or R to ■ 4 was hardly any better. White's answer would have been P to R 6, R to R 7, and Queening of the Pawn.

(l) Which causes Black to surrender. If P to R 5, then K B 5 and K takes Kt P, otherwise B takes P and B to Kt 4 brings about a similar result.

GAME No. 404.

Vienna has proved victorious in an Evan Gambit—one of the two games carried on by correspondence with St. Petersburg. The moves are given below.

White—St. Petersburg. Black—Vienna.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	18 Q B q	KtxP
2 KKt B3	QKt B3	19 KtxKt	B Q4
3 B B4	B B4	20 K Kt3	P KB4
4 P QKt4	BxQKtP	21 QKt Q2	P B5ch
5 P B3	B R4	22 K Kt2	Q R4ch
6 Castles	P Q3	23 K R-q	Q R4
7 P Q4	B Kt3	24 Q B3	BxP
8 P QR4	Kt B3	25 Q Q3	BxR
9 B QKt5	P QR3	26 RxB	QxKP
10 BxKtch	PxB	27 R KKt-q	QR Kt-q
11 P R5	B R2	28 R Kt2	Q R4
12 Q R4	PxP	29 K Ksq	BxKt
13 PxP	B Q2	30 KtxB	Q Q4
14 P K5	Kt Q4	31 Q B3	R Kt8ch
15 B R3	Castles	32 Kt K-q	Q Q5
16 Q B4	Kt B5	33 ■ Kt2	P B4
17 K R-q	B K3	Resigns	

NOTES.

Information has reached London, says the *Literary Digest*, that Pillsbury will attend the Vienna Tournament. If so, then we may expect the American to be on top at the end. A very interesting proposal has been put forward by American chess players for the consideration of the committee of the Vienna International Tournament. It is to the effect that advantage should be taken of the presence of players from all countries, in order to fix upon an international chess code. The idea deserves to be taken up, as universal chess laws are badly wanted, and any laws which, after due discussion, would be accepted by the competitors at the Vienna Tournament would also be satisfactory to the chess world at large.

"King's Pawn" tells the following strange story in the *Straits Times*:—

Of all the queer characters I have met over the chess board, there is not one to compare with "Amara Couta." He was a man between forty and fifty, with a shaggy beard and rugged features, and the most astonishing thing about him was that he had a very pretty wife who was barely seventeen. She was a Filipino, and he had wedded her in Manila. It appeared that they were on their way to Armenia, the birthplace of "Amara Couta." The queerest thing about this man was that he worked himself into a great state of excitement whenever one of his Knights was threatened, and the surest step to defeat him was to exchange them early in the game. The way he fondled his Knights was a sight to see. One day the man fairly lost his temper when I took both his Knights; his eyes gleamed and, while he was swearing in Armenian, I thought he looked like a person suffering from hydrophobia. Up to this moment I do not know his name, but we all called him "Amara Couta," which was a favourite expression of his own and which means "my horse." I am told that both "Amara Couta," and his wife came to a tragic end in Armenia.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Almond Branch, British steamer, 2,191, Anderson, 25th June,—Rangoon via Kobe, 23rd June, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Irene, German steamer, 2,145, Schüler, 25th June, —Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 18th June, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Rockhurst, British barque, 1,400, Thomas, 25th June,—Beaufort, S.C., 2nd Jan., Phosphate Rock.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 25th June,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 24th June, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Celtic Monarch, British ship, 1,982, George Morrison, 26th June,—Middlesborough, 5th Feb., Coke and Pig Iron.—Captain.

Glenmark, British barque, 1,257, Johnson, 26th June,—Antwerp, 6th Jan., Coke and Pig Iron. —Captain.

Ural, Norwegian steamer, 1,968, Hansen, 26th June,—Kobe, 24th June, General.—Shewan Tomes & Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, P. H. Going, 27th June,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 25th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hector, British steamer, 3,005, John Barr, 29th June,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 28th June, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Oceanien, French steamer, 2,080, R. Schmitz, 29th June,—Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 27th June, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Argyll, British steamer, 1,886, W. Ward, 30th June,—Portland, Oregon, 12th June, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Barfleur (14), British Battleship, 10,500, Capt. R. N. Custance, 30th June,—Hakodate via Sendai Bay, 26th June.

Grafton (12), British Cruiser, 7,350, Capt. E. P. Jones, 30th June,—Hakodate via Sendai Bay, 26th June.

Undaunted (12), British Cruiser, 5,600, Capt. A. C. Clarke, 30th June,—Hakodate via Sendai Bay, 26th June.

Fame (6), British Torpedo Boat Destroyer, 280, Lt. H. A. Gillett, 30th June,—Hakodate via Sendai Bay, 26th June.

Hart (6), British Torpedo Boat Destroyer, 260, Lt. and Com. H. F. Shakespear, 30th June,—Hakodate via Sendai Bay, 26th June.

Shanghai, British steamer, 2,163, Peters, 30th June,—London via ports, Kobe, 29th June, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Duntrune, British ship, 1,456, Winterton, 30th June,—Hamburg, Salt.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Paclolus, American barque, 1,585, S. Watts, 30th June,—New York, 11th Feb., Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Aggi, Norwegian steamer, 2,129, H. Hatteberg, 1st July,—New York via Suez Canal and way ports, Kobe, 29th June, General.—China and Japan Trading Co.

Palladon Hall, British steamer, 2,206, Jeffells, 1st July,—New York via Suez Canal and way ports, Kobe, 29th June, General.—Frazar & Co.

Tantalus, British steamer, 2,299, Hannah, 1st July,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 30th June, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 1st July,—Shanghai viâ ports, 25th June, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Moyune, British steamer 3,016, R. Couradi, 1st July,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 30th June, General.—Strachan & Co.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Trenbridge, 2nd July—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 17th June, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlil & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,682, W. Townsend, 25th June,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Powerful (14), British Cruiser, 14,200, Capt. Hon. Hedworth Lambton, 25th June,—Hongkong.

Rikun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, A. E. Moses, 27th June,—Hongkong via ports, General—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Queen Adelaide, British steamer, 1,835, McNair, 28th June,—Moji via Kobe, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 28th June—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,053, S. Kawamura, 28th June,—Bombay via ports, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, L. de B. Luckyer, 29th June,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails & General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, P. H. Going, 29th June,—Seattle, Washington, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, G. Shimazu, 29th June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ural, Norwegian steamer, 1,968, Hansen, 29th June,—San Francisco, General. —Shewan Tomes & Co.

Banjo Kan (4), Japanese Gunboat, 667, Lieut.-Capt. I. Takakuwa, 29th June,—Yokosuka.

Windsbrant, German barque, 1,253, H. Haase, 29th June,—Portland, Oregon, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Irene, German steamer, 5,145, Schüler, 1st July, —Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.— C. Illies & Co.

Labuan, British steamer, 2,293, J. S. Gardner, 1st July,—Moji, Ballast.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Fortuna, Norwegian steamer, 1,921, Christopherson, 1st July,—Kobe, General.—Frazar & Co.

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Almond Branch, British steamer, 2,191, Anderson, 1st July,—Kuchinoshu, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Alton, British steamer, 1,169, Wm. Nicholson, 1st July,—Kobe, Rails.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Argyll, British steamer, 1,886, W. Ward, 2nd July,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. H. Barrett, Mrs. P. Brady, Mr. E. C. Dalton, Dr. Hardie, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Geisenberg, Mr. C. F. Kupfer, Mr. F. W. Koch, Mrs. A. Clark, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Schwarz, Mrs. Geisenberg, Miss H. Stone, Mr. A. Bannerman, Mr. F. Pocklington, Mrs. McMahon, Mr. Jensen, Capt. T. A. Christensen, and Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Lewis and 3 children, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mr. Ah Wong, Mrs. Fedosief, and Mrs. Chun Shee, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. G. R. Rottger, Mr. J. A. Selby, Mrs. Kwan Yug, Mrs. Lau, Mrs. Fam Sing, Mrs. Leung Hong Wa, Mr. G. S. Northcote, Mrs. E. C. Dalton, Mr. Jay Mon Tong, Mrs. E. T. Williams and child; Mr. and Mrs. W. Hayward and 2 children, Mrs. A. E. Flagg, Miss Daisy Flagg, Miss Ruby Flagg, Master G. Flagg, Mr. Chas. Brenner, Mrs. Hatton, Mr. J. K. Boyd, and Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Towson and 3 children, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Oceanien*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Y. A. Brandenburg, Mr. M. Suzuki, Mr. Mizuno, Mr. Komii, Mr. Suzuki, Mr. Murata, Mr. Terada, Mr. E. Hohl, Mr. G. M. Saltarel, Mr. R. Kuronekina, Mr. O. Sasano, Mr. A. G. Dufitse, Mr. Y. Bell, Mr. Gomès, Mdme. C. Gaillard, two children and servant, Mr. C. Yungheou, Mr. S. Takahashi, Mr. H. Hemmauvitz, Mdme. Masiloky, Mr. Restsoff, Miss Jones, Mr. A. Yunker, Mr. Abenheim, Mr. Y. Kiene, Mdme. Kiene, and Mr. Pichon, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Shanghai*, from London via ports:—Mr. Oakes, Mrs. Bauvada, Mr. Sharp, and Assist. Paymaster Moore, R.N., in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. K. Fujita, Mr. C. Nishiwaki, Mr. K. Kisaki, Mr. K. Takenouchi, Mr. K. Kato, Mr. A. von Bassewitz, Mr. Schmisser, Mrs. Sargent, Miss Sargent, Master Sargent, Mr. F. B. Abenheim, Mr. F. Pooley, and Mr. and Mrs. Yen, in cabin; Mr. S. Muramatsu, Mrs. M. Kondo, Mr. K. Kataoka, Mrs. M. Miye, Mr. Panel Paporukoff, and Mr. H. Malm, in second class; 28 in insteerage.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Sanuki Maru*, for London via ports:—Commander I. Ishida (I.J.N.), Capt. G. Tanaka (I.J.N.), Chief Engineer S. Yedzuri (I.J.N.), Lieut. R. Hashi (I.J.N.), Mr. J. B. Briggs, Mr. W. W. Brown, and Mr. W. Salmond, in cabin; Mr. G. Iwai, Mr. S. Jacobson, Mr. K. Yagi, and Mr. Koh Boh Ren, in second class; 5 European, and 10 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. K. Ashida, Mr. Ah Wong, Mr. J. N. Boyd, Mr. Chas. Brenner, Mr. J. F. Brown, Mrs. Chun Shee, Miss A. Dyer, Mrs. E. C. Dalton, Mrs. A. E. Flagg, Master G. Flagg, Miss Daisy Flagg, Miss Ruby Flagg, Mr. C. M. Flandran, Mrs. Fedosief, Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Griesenbeck, Miss Dorothy Hayward, Mr. R. M. Harrison, Mr. A. B. Hurlbert, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Hurlbert, Mrs. E. G. Hurlbert, Miss Hurlbert, Mrs. Hatton, Mr. and Mr. W. Hayward and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Hetfield, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Jaisbon, child and servant, Mr. Jay Mon Tong, Mrs. Kwong Yug, Mr. T. Katsumura, Mr. John Henry Livingston, Miss Livingston, Miss A. H. Lee, Miss E. L. Lee, Mrs. Leung Hang Wa, Mrs. Lau I, Mr. A. B. Leslie Melville, Miss Alice Nielson, Mr. G. S. Northcote, Mr. R. G. Rottger, Mr. James A. Selby, Mr. H. E. Snagge, Mr. C. E. Spice, Mr. W. C. Tyler, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. von Treutler, infant and maid, Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Towson and child, Master Hatton Towson, Miss Marie Towson, Mrs. Tam Sim, Mr. Thos. H. Williams, Mr. Harry R. Williams, Mrs. E. T. Williams and infant, Mr. R. H. Walker, Mr. K. S. Walbank, and Mr. Alfred Wenz, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Thomas Lamb, Mr. F. Coghill Jackson, Mr. Ernest Walker, Miss Danby, Master Wilkinson and European nurse, Miss Johnstone, Mr. O. Voigt, Mr. G. W. Bramhall, Master Osborne Bramhall, Mr. Jensen, Mr. G. Hodges, Miss Toye, and Mr. K. Kitashima, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mrs. Omstchenks and child, Mr. A. Ishaff, Mr. August Koeri, Mr. Seki, Mr. Thos. Inglis, Mr. Henry Foint, and Capt. Christensen, in cabin; Mr. W. Moore, Mrs. G. Iwami, and Mrs. T. Iwami, in second class; 60 Japanese, 4 Europeans, and 4 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamaguchi Maru*, for Seattle, Washington:—Mr. J. H. Buxton, Jr., in cabin; 21 Japanese, and 15 Europeans, in steerage.

EXPECTED.

Ex German steamer *Bayern* per *Hohenzollern*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Hunter, in cabin.

CARGOES.

Following are the silk shippers per O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco, June 28th:—

	Bales.
Bavier & Co.	50
Herbert Dent & Co.	36
Vivanti Bros.	15
O. Reimers & Co.	15
The Doshinsha	59
The Kiito Shokai	25
Total	200

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco, 28th June:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MONTREAL.	PORTLAND.	BOSTON.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	3,851	834	714	—	87	—	—	5,486
Amoy	581	2,230	438	—	—	1,361	—	4,610
Hiogo	—	—	—	1,3[illegible]6	—	—	—	1,046
Y'hama	3,400	—	—	—	—	—	1,661	5,046
Hongkong	813	—	—	—	—	—	—	843
Total	8,675	3,064	1,152	1,046	87	1,361	1,661	17,046

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	71	—	71
Hongkong	—	111	—	111
Yokohama	—	200	—	200
Total	—	382	—	382

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 186 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 129 bales.

The following are the shipments of tea and silk per N. Y. K.'s steamer *Yamaguchi Maru*, for Seattle, Wash., 29th June:—

TEA.

FROM.	SAN FRANCISCO.	MONTREAL.	BOSTON.	CANADA.	SEATTLE.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hiogo	—	1,085	457	595	—	2,137
Yokohama	—	—	—	—	130	130
Hongkong	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	1,085	457	595	130	2,267

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	—	—	—
Hongkong	—	—	—	—
Yokohama	—	100	—	100
Total	—	100	—	100

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The stagnation which has continued so long still shows no sign of giving way. In yarns and grey shirtings, fancy cottons and woollens there is no movement, and immense quantities still remain to be cleared.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 30 inches	$2.55 to 2.85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.75 to 2.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2.00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.15 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 34 inches best	0.28 to 0.41
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 30 inches	0.15 to 0.17
Cloths—Pilots, 51 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 51 @ 56 inches	0.50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb. per lb	0.50 to 0.60
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 32-3 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.25 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	61.00 to 63.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	75.00 to 76.50
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	69.50 to 76.50
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	114.00 to 124.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$19.50 to —
Indian Broach	19.25 —
Chinese	21.00 to 21.50

METALS.

The market, generally speaking, retains its depressed character, and there is at present no prospect of improvement. A few small sales of galvanised wire and wire nails are the only features.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch. and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4.00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4.90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5.90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.70 to 5.90
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2.—
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

Only a retail business is passing, and the market is quiet. Prices are at last week's level.

American	$2.06 —
Russian	1.93 to 2.05
Langkat	— 1.86

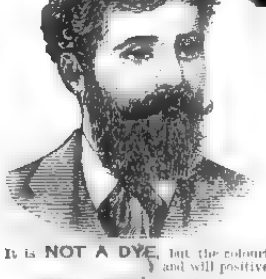
SUGAR.

Prices are about 10 *sen* lower in Chinas, but Manilas are rather higher. Quotations for Formosas show a decline of 45 *sen* per picul. In White refined the prices remain at last week's level, and the market is quite quiet.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.60 to 5.70
Brown Manila	5.50 to 6.30
Brown Daitong	4.25 to 4.30
Brown Canton	4.35 to 6.00
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.25
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

EXPORTS.

There has been a moderate enquiry for new silk, and since the market opened a few fairly large purchases have been made. *Yen* 870 per picul has been given for No. 1 Filatures. It is generally thought the crop will be smaller than last year.



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RAW SILK.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/10, 10/12 den.....	Nominal
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.....	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$870 to 880
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers.....	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	880
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers.....	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	850
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers.....	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1½	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2½	Nominal

WASTE SILK.

For what transactions are doing, prices remain the same as last week. There is, however, practically no business passing. The stock at present is estimated at 3,490, piculs, 1,490 Noshi, 1,570 Kibiso, 430 sundries. Quotations (nominal) are as under.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best.....	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 103
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good.....	100 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium.....	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	85 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 22½

TEA.

The business continues brisk, the effects of the American duty having passed away. The first crop leaf has to all intents and purposes been finished, what has arrived so far of the second picking is of fairly good quality. Prices show a tendency to advance, for fine qualities, to the extent of three to four *yen* per picul. There is a large quantity still on offer.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$33 & upwards
Choice	30 to 31
Finest	28 to 29
Fine	26 to 27
Good Medium	24 to 25
Medium	22 to 23
Good Common	20 to 21
Common	18 to 19

EXCHANGE.

Rates continue steady, and no change reported in silver from London.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0½
— — Bills on demand ...	2/0 7/16
— — 4 months' sight	2 0½
— Private 4 months' sight	2 0⅝
— — 6 months' sight	2 0½
On Paris—Bank sight	2 55½
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight ...	2.59
On America—Bank Bills on demand .	49½
— Private 4 months' sight...	50⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06½
— Private 4 months' sight...	2.10½
On Hongkong—Bank sight	5% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight.....	7/8 dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	78½
— Private 10 days' sight ...	80
On India—Bank sight	151
— Private 30 days' sight ...	156
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/16

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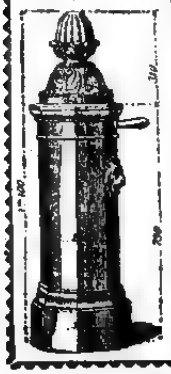

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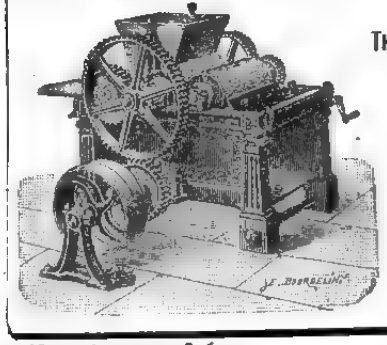

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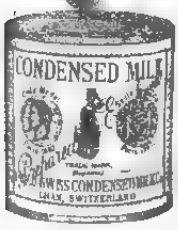

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 2.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, JULY 9TH, 1898. 明治三十一年七月九日發行 VOL. XXX.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"PAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JULY 9TH, 1898.

DEATH.

At his residence in Tokyo, on the 5th instant, of paralysis, Baron KANDA KOHEI, aged 69.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MARQUIS ITO left Tokyo on the 1st inst. for his villa at Sorokaku, Oiso.

THE Cabinet may expect opposition in its measures in the House of Peers.

THE recent official changes in Peking are said to herald the return of Li Hung-chang to power.

SPAIN is determined to fight to the bitter end; to fight until not one Spanish soldier is left in Cuba.

A GERMAN sailor was bludgeoned to death in the brothel quarter of Yokohama on Thursday night.

THE weather in Yokohama during the past week has been extremely hot; in Kobe it was tempestuous.

THE Naval Department is contemplating the establishment of observation towers for use in war time off the coasts of Niigata, Naoetzu, and Sado. A coal yard is also to be constructed on Sado island.

IN Saitama prefecture dysentery is prevailing, and in the week ending the 26th ultimo there were 22 cases.

REVOLUTION is expected in Spain, where the populace is arming. The military are very disaffected.

THE plague is said to have died out in Hongkong. It is very prevalent in Amoy and some parts of Formosa.

THE United States cruiser *Charleston* has hoisted the American flag over the Carolines and the Ladrones.

Messrs. Hellyer & Co.'s tea-firing godown at Kobe was destroyed by fire on Tuesday; damage, *yen* 56,000.

THE Crown Prince proceeded on the 3rd inst., to the detached palace at Numadzu, and will stay there for some weeks.

THE General Election will probably take place on the 15th August. The exact date will be declared within a few days.

THE Crown Prince on the 1st inst. gave audience at the Akasaka Palace to the members of the Korean Legation.

HIS Honour Judge Wilkinson has generally sustained the Registrar's award of damages in the *Melpomene-Patroclus* case.

THE American troops have reached Manila Bay and the news of the hoisting of the American flag over the city is hourly expected.

IT is stated that Mr. Taketomi Tokitoshi, a member of the Constitutional party, will be appointed Chief Secretary of the Cabinet.

THE Constitutional Party has decided to issue a magazine called the *Tohō* as its organ. The first copy will be published on the 15th instant.

THE Empress-Dowager of China has resumed the reins of power, the Emperor being reduced to a nonentity so far as State affairs are concerned.

THE Fourth of July was loyally celebrated in Yokohama on Monday. There were bicycle races, yacht races, a baseball match and fireworks.

THE French Atlantic liner *La Bourgogne* has been sunk through collision with the British ship *Cromartyshire*. The loss of life ran into the hundreds.

THE Agricultural and Industrial Bank, Yokohama, will hold a general meeting on the 10th inst. The directors will probably not recommend a dividend.

PRINCE VLADIMER CYRIL arrived in Yokohama on Thursday on a short visit to the Emperor of Japan. He is a lieutenant on the Russian cruiser *Rossia*.

THE P. & O. steamer *Ganges*, lying in Bombay harbour, took fire on June 30th, and was completely destroyed. The stewardess was burnt to death in her cabin.

TELEGRAMS from Rome state the General Pelloux has formed a new Cabinet. Admiral Canevaro takes the foreign portfolio and General Sun Marzano that of War.

THE Harbour Construction Association recently promoted in Miyagi Prefecture had its ceremony of inauguration on the 4th inst. Mr. Tomita Tetsunosuke was elected President and Mr. Fujisawa Ikunoshin, Vice-President. The object is to reconstruct Matsushima, Nobiru, and Honami harbours. Engineers will commence surveys at the end of this month.

A STUDENT of the Keiwo-gijiku College, named Fujii Kyumatsu, 25 years of age, was drowned on the 1st inst. in the sea near Kanasugi, Tokyo. The body has not yet been recovered.

A COMMERCIAL firm in Twaitutia, Taipeh, Formosa, has inaugurated a service between Tamsui and Hongkong, Amoy, and the Chinese coast. There will be three voyages a month.

ON the 28th ultimo, the Kanagawa Kencho issued regulations for the control of the milk business, which were enforced from the 1st inst. The principal points are the enforcement of cleanliness in dairies, and punishment for selling milk of poor quality.

ADMIRAL CEVERA while endeavouring to escape from Santiago, was caught by the American fleet and defeated. The Spaniards ran their ships ashore and burnt them. There was a heavy loss on the Spanish side, but the American report only three killed. The Spanish admiral was captured.

THE Mexican emigration scheme promoted by Viscount Enomoto, Messrs. Sakuma, Nemoto, and others, is showing reviving prosperity. The Japan and Mexican Emigrants' Association has purchased land to the value of *yen* 97,500, to be paid for within 15 years. The emigrants are now principally cultivating coffee.

A MAN named Murata Yasutaro, a native of Hyogo prefecture, has been arrested at Takao, Formosa, on a charge of having embezzled *yen* 10,000. Defendant, being aware of the fact that a large remittance was being sent to the Anping local government, embarked on the same vessel, and found a chance of stealing the money. After taking it, he sent to his father by parcel post *yen* 9,500.

AT last a resolute effort is to be made to get godowns cleared of contract goods that have accumulated in Yokohama to such an enormous extent. As a result of a conference between the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce and the principal Japanese merchants, the following rules of business have been adopted :—1. That delivery of contract goods imported prior to the 20th of April last shall be carried out by the 15th of this month, and that in consideration of further postponement daily interest of 2 *sen* 5 *rin* per 100 *yen* shall be payable after the 15th inst. 2. That delivery of contract goods imported after the 15th of July shall be carried out within 100 days from the date of payment of Customs dues, and in the event of failure to do so daily interest of 2 *sen* 5 *rin* per 100 *yen* shall be chargeable. These are steps that should have been taken a long time ago. Meanwhile business is slack in all branches of imports, except sugar. A good demand from Europe makes prices firm in the silk market, and they close with a upward tendency. Settlements from the 1st to the 5th July were 239 piculs, of which 63 were old and 176 new filatures. The stock on hand in Yokohama is about 1906. Business is very slow in waste silk and the stock carried forward is heavy. The demand has continued steady for tea and prices have ruled very firm, especially for lower grades. The quality of the second crop is good, and compares very favourably with last year's. So far the shipments this year have been 124,621 piculs, against 138,504 last year.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

Never did a Cabinet take over the reins of office amid such a chorus of applause, comment and censure as the new "party ministry's" accession to power has evoked. Its enemies predict a speedy fall from office and a discreditable series of failures for it. Its friends are jubilant that that the people's representatives have at length become the nation's administrators.

* * *

The *Jiji* is, of course, conspicuously impartial. It dismisses in its characteristic manner the objection urged by the great majority of the Cabinet's critics; the objection that its supporters, instead of being a homogeneous body of politicians, cemented by community of views and by years of friendship, are a motley mob of agitators whose mutual enmities, though subdued for a moment by the strength of destructive purpose, held them hopelessly asunder for many years, and must inevitably blaze out again so soon as they attempt to discharge the duties of constructive statesmanship. The *Jiji* cannot endorse such a prediction. Stout foes, it says, make fast friends. The bitterest enemies in the empire in olden times were the men of Satsuma and Choshiu. But when they combined to obtain the reins of administration, their friendship proved as constant and faithful as their hostility had been implacable and enduring. Perhaps the story of the newly organized Party may furnish another example of the same principle.

* * *

But the *Jiji* is not altogether confident in the truth of its own optimism. It evidently fears that the intoxication of a draught which the Liberals and Progressists struggled so long to drink may betray them into suicidal excesses, and it strongly counsels them not to abuse their hardly won power by driving from office the men whose administrative experience is invaluable.

* * *

The fact that the portfolios of War and the Navy had to be left in the hands of the "Clan Statesmen" is severely noticed by several journals, especially the *Nichi Nichi* and the *Chuo* (Liberal Unionist organ). The *Nichi Nichi*, indeed, denies altogether that the Ministry can be called a party Cabinet. It has received the administrative power as a legacy from Marquis Ito. Without his coöperation the party politicians could never have attained their object. Thus they owe their success to the assistance of the principal among the "Clan Statesmen." They are, in fact, the mandatories of the men whom they claim to have ousted. The *Chuo* advances the same contention, but bases it on different grounds. It alleges that while pretending to have supplanted the "administration of personal influence" and substituted government by the people, this new Cabinet is a flagrant example of the very system it boasts to have destroyed. If it were what it professes to be, the best men in the ranks of the Progressists and Liberals would have received portfolios. But the best men were studiously passed over, and seats in the Cabinet were given to second-rate politicians whose submissive allegiance to Counts Okuma and Itagaki could be confidently anticipated. The old bugbear of personal influence becomes thus once more as conspicuous as ever. Both journals take a similar view with regard to the reservation of the Army and Navy portfolios. These two most important branches of the public service—especially important at the present time—are removed entirely beyond the control of the Prime Minister and his political colleagues. In effect, when it came to the crucial test of taking over the power for which they had so long clamoured, the party politicians proved unequal to the task, and had to rely upon the aid of the men whom it had been their habit to vituperate.

* * *

Count Okuma is the special object of attack by the *Chuo*, as might have been expected. It says that he has always been a conspicuous failure as a Foreign Minister, and that his diplomatic reputation is radically bad in Europe. By way of proof the National Unionist organ retails an amusing canard. It avers that since the Count became Premier only one Foreign Representative—the Belgian Minister—has called upon him, whereas when Marquis Ito became Premier, he received two or three visits at his hotel from the British Minister in as many days. That, of course, is a pure invention so far as concerns Count Okuma. The *Chuo* adds another phantasy, namely, that Mr. Kato, Japan's Representative in London, whom it calls Count Okuma's *protégé*, complains constantly that his efforts are handicapped by the public's knowledge of his relationship to the Count.

* * *

The *Tokyo Shimbun*, organ of the former Liberal Party, is disposed to offer advice rather than congratulations. It appears to think that there may be much anxiety on the part of the new Ministers to curry favour with the people, instead of resolutely carrying out their own ideas. They should recollect that they are the repositories of the nation's confidence and that the public looks to them for leading rather than for obedience.

* * *

Correspondents of the *Kokumin Shimbun* sound the first note of discord in the harmony of the new order. Two writers, calling themselves members of the Constitutional Party, address that journal in critical terms. The first notes that Mr. Den, Vice-Minister of Communications, Mr. Soyeda, Chief of the Bureau of Superintendence in the Finance Department, and Mr. Arakawa, Chief of the Bureau of Local Government in the Home Department, have joined the Constitutional Party, because they knew that without taking that step they could not hope to retain office. What is the outlook suggested by such a precedent? Does it really mean that party ties are to be the qualifications for office under the new regime? The second writer complains that in matters of finance Count Okuma out of office and Count Okuma in office are different persons. The former holds negative views and is directly opposed to increased taxation. The latter has positive ideas and pronounces increased taxes inevitable.

* * *

The *Yorozu Choho* detects danger in the fact that the portfolios have not been more widely distributed. The minor sections of the Constitutional Party—the Sappa, the Kwan-to, and the Tohoku-to—have been left out in the cold. They will probably rebel against such treatment, and the Party will witness a serious secession from its ranks.

* * *

The *Tokyo Asahi*, from which we should have expected a different strain, thinks that the leaders of the new administration will find themselves without the prestige essential to the the exercise of effective control. It is as though the head of a firm had been suddenly removed, and the direction of affairs entrusted to the clerks and shop-boys, who have never had any experience of such a heavy responsibility. Moreover, the Cabinet, regarded from a party point of view, may be said to be half-paralysed: the Army and the Navy are excluded completely from the purview of the Ministry as a body. After such a sweeping analysis one expects some correspondingly pregnant counsel from the *Asahi*. But it sees no remedy except in the general elections. Only by "sweeping the country" can the party politicians acquire the necessary prestige and confidence.

* * *

The revised Civil Code goes into force from the 16th instant, and the unrevised Commercial Code went into force on the 1st instant. But the Law of the Registration of Immovables can not yet be enforced. These facts greatly disturb the *Shogyo Shimpo*. It foresees that the application of the various laws will involve many conflicts and disclose many deficiencies. Our contemporary has written much on this subject, and its writing displays careful research. But the details are too technical for reproduction here.

DR. GEORGE C. NEEDHAM.

The name of Dr. George C. Needham, which appears in the list of the arrivals by the last *Empress* steamer from America, will call to the minds of many, one of the most familiar figures in Christian work in America and England of recent years. Perhaps, with the exception of Mr. Moody, no one engaged in evangelistic effort has a wider reputation to-day than Mr. Needham. The occasion of Mr. Needham's present visit to Japan is first the holding of Bible Conferences during the summer months with Christian workers for the deepening of Christian life. This is a work in which he has had peculiar success both in England and America, he being the originator of the idea of holding such meetings some years ago. It is proposed to hold the conferences at Karuizawa, Arima, and other centres where Christian people may gather this summer. In the fall, a series of meetings will be held in different parts of the country for Japanese, and it is hoped that arrangements will be completed for the holding of a series of meetings for foreigners in Yokohama, Kobe, and Tokyo. Mr. Needham's constant aim is the exaltation of the Scriptures. His experience shows that the people will go where they can hear the Scriptures explained if it is well done. That after many years of labour in conjunction with such workers as Spurgeon, Guinness, Moody, and others, as well as with the rich results of his own study and experience, such a man should come to Japan is a matter for congratulation and may prove to be the opening of a new era in the history of Christian work in this country.—(*Communicated.*)

THE FUGITIVE FORGER.

Oyama Kenichi, the swindler who robbed Messrs. Favre-Brandt and Company of a considerable sum, and then escaped to San Francisco, has just been examined before the Court of First Instance in Osaka, and remanded for trial in the Local Court. Our readers probably recall the case. The foreign firm, having full confidence in Oyama's integrity, signed certain documents represented by him to be of the nature of specifications, but in reality receipts by means of which he was enabled to obtain some eleven thousand *yen* in the firm's name. When it was found that Oyama had fled to America, application was made in due form for his extradition, as a treaty of extradition exists between Japan and the United States. The charge preferred against him was forgery, and some doubts were entertained as to whether American jurists would consent to regard his offence in that light. They did so, however, and the man, having been brought back to Osaka—the scene of his fraud—was arraigned upon two counts, forgery (*shosho giso*) and feloniously absconding (*kaitai*). The latter accusation was declared not-proven, doubtless because the stolen property was not found in Oyama's possession, but on that point we speak from conjecture only. The charge of forgery was amply supported by evidence, and Oyama now lies awaiting trial. Ten persons associated with him in the fraud—including his mother, his two brothers, and his mistress—have also been committed on the charge of receiving stolen goods (*sobutsu kiso*).

A MERCHANT CAPTAIN'S ADVENTURE.

Captain Young, of the steamer *Onsang*, from Iloilo to Yokohama, reports that just off Luzon in the early morning of June 29th, he sighted five steamers. The first of them threw a searchlight on his ship and then fired a gun. At this the *Onsang* stopped and burned a blue light as a signal, but another shot followed, and the warship approached more closely. After a close inspection, however, the searchlight was extinguished, and the *Onsang* proceeded on her way. The war-vessel was probably the *Charleston*, convoying troopships to Manila.

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COUNTS OKUMA AND ITAGAKI.

There are naturally a number of people who busy themselves discovering reasons why the members of the new Cabinet should find it impossible to agree. The strongest argument advanced to prove the inevitableness of discord is that Count Itagaki and Count Okuma entertain very different economical views. Shortly before the recent Parliamentary crisis, Count Itagaki stood forth as a strong advocate of the State purchase of all the important private railways in the empire, the money for the purpose to be obtained by means of a foreign loan. But Count Okuma declared himself wholly opposed to such an expedient. It will be remembered that this question acquired great prominence at the time, chiefly owing to the very pronounced attitude assumed by Count Itagaki. It will also be remembered that whereas, at the outset, Count Itagaki spoke explicitly on his own account and not as the representative of his Party, he subsequently claimed the endorsement of the Liberals. Other divergences of view are now catalogued—as, for example, that while Count Itagaki is unreservedly in favour of the introduction of foreign capital, Count Okuma recommends that no attempt of that kind should be adopted until thorough order has been introduced into the finances, and until public securities sell in the markets of Japan at their face value; and, while Count Okuma approves of extending special aid to industrial enterprise though the agency of the Industrial Encouragement Bank, Count Itagaki regards such a measure as more or less futile. We do not ourselves see why these differences of opinion should prove crucial. If the Liberals and Progressists have been able to bury the hatchet so deeply as to join hands after their long years of bitter animosity, it is not likely that financial theories will separate them now. A year ago, who could have ventured to predict that Count Itagaki and Count Okuma would soon be found working together to organise a Cabinet? The Ito Cabinet went out of office in 1897 because Count Itagaki utterly refused to entertain the idea of serving with Count Okuma. If he has been able to abandon that attitude of hostility in 1898, and to identify himself unreservedly with Count Okuma as a party leader, we may be very sure that the two men will take care not to let minor divergences of view wreck their newly cemented union.

SMUGGLING OF ALCOHOL.

Vernacular newspapers allege that large quantities of alcohol are smuggled into Japan at present for the purpose of manufacturing "mixed *saké*." Thousands of cases are spoken of as coming by each steamer, but that is obviously a gross exaggeration. No hint is given as to how the smuggling is managed; a point about which many people would like to hear something. It is added that the authorities have been advised to resort to the preventive system practised in Europe; namely, to proclaim that one half or one-third of the value of the smuggled goods will be given to any onefurnishing such in formation as shall lea to the detection of the smuggersdl.

THE SPOILS.

We judge from the utterances of newspapers like the *Mainichi Shimbun* and the *Yomiuri*—organs of the newly formed Constitutional Party—that a strong inclination to covet the sweets of office has manifested itself among the rank and file of the Party, and is likely to embarrass the leaders not a little. In short, there is danger that the vicious "spoils system" may be introduced simultaneously with the introduction of Party Cabinets. Happily a strong disposition to combat the tendency is exhibited by the newspaper press. It is pointed out that efficiency of the service can not possily be secured if sweeping changes of administrative officials accompany all the political vicissitudes to which a Cabinet is liable, and that since favoritism in selecting the occupants of Departmental posts has been always inveighed against by party politicians as one of the worst abuses to which irresponsible Ministries are liable, the present is a good opportunity to prove that the people's representatives can act up to their professions. This is a point that will be noted with considerable curiosity. It is a pretty hard trial for party politicians. The present heads of bureaux and governors of prefectures are nominees of the so-called "clan Statesmen," and it is natural that a strong desire to drive them out of office should be felt by the politicians who have now succeeded to power after a struggle extending over many years. If the desire can be controlled within reasonable limits, the result will be very creditable. It must be admitted, we think, that changes of Cabinets in Japan have hitherto involved very little administrative disturbance. Heads of bureaux who may be called the non-commissioned officers of the administrative army, so important are their duties, have been left virtually undisturbed whatever fate overtook the Cabinet. In that respect, at all events, the "Clan Statesmen" have a clean record. The most pronounced disposition to provide official prizes for politicians was displayed last year when, under the influence of the Progressists, the Cabinet created the office of *Chokunin* Councillor, and nominated a number of the Government's political supporters to the new posts. We have never been able to discover that these Councillors were an administrative necessity, or that they furnished any evidence of usefulness during their brief term of office. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the experiment will not be repeated, and it is still more to be hoped that the new Ministry will not make the fatal mistake of dislocating the administrative machinery to gratify personal ambitions. In connexion with this subject we may mention that the United States' system seems to be referred to by one side as justifying a division of the "spoils," and by the other as deterring anything of the kind. As to that we would observe that the United States "system" is not a system at all but an abuse. It is condemned by all the best Americans and would long ago have been effectually reformed were not its practical disadvantages greatly mitigated by the rule of the four-year term. An administrative upheaval which occurs only once in four years may be endured, but the "spoils system," as applied to Japan, might mean a Departmental earthquake every six months. Nothing could possibly be more destructive to the efficient conduct of State business.

COUNT OKUMA ON THE POLITICS OF THE HOUR.

Some remarks made by Count Okuma to a member of the *Hochi Shimbun* staff are very interesting. He pointed out, in the first place, that there was nothing sudden in the change which has now come over Japanese politics. The celebrated message addressed by the Emperor to the Government and the Diet in 1893, on the occasion of the deadlock brought about by the Lower House's refusal to vote an appropriation for naval ship-building, furnished an indication which no thinking person could misinterpret. His Majesty did not blame the Diet alone; he blamed the Ministry also. He did not exhort one side to bring about "harmonious cöoperation;" he exhorted both sides equally. That was the beginning of what may be called the stage immediately antecedent to party cabinets. The Ito Cabinet allied itself with the Liberals, so that the Ministry and the Diet were able to work together. The Matsukata Cabinet similarly allied itself with the Progressists. The next stage could easily be foreseen. When the leaves fall, we know that frost is coming. When the frost falls, we know that winter is at hand. No open-eyed student of the time can have been surprised by what has just occurred. As for the political issues at stake, they have not yet been of paramount importance; not sufficiently vital in themselves, perhaps, to constitute a line of distinct cleavage. But there will be no lack of questions. They will come by-and-by; come thickly and quickly, and the two camps will have platforms defined clearly enough to satisfy anyone. Referring to the possibility that the Constitutional Party might find Marquis Ito among its opponents, Count Okuma spoke of the Marquis as standing in the very fore-front of progressive politicians (*kyokutan no shimpo-shugi*). His action in the recent crisis had furnished another illustration of his profound astuteness. The idea of organizing a new party had doubtless occurred to him, but he understood very well that a strong political association, possessing genuinely cohesive qualities, can not be formed in a moment. He saw, too, that what the country needs before everything is peace from these everlasting collisions between the Administration and the Legislature—collisions that fatally check the progress of national business. All that he waited for was the formation of a party sufficiently strong to wield an undoubted majority in the Lower House, and to be trusted with administrative functions. The fusion of the Liberals and Progressists satisfied the necessary conditions. No sooner was that accomplished than Marquis Ito decided that the moment had at length arrived to crown the edifice of constitutional government. His action was prompt, frank, and wise. There was no *arrière pensée*, as some folks had suggested. The hour had come and the man. Happily a true statesman was there to utilize the occasion for his country's good.

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THE COMMERCIAL CODE.

The Government has allowed the law to take its course. The remaining portions of the original Commercial Code went into force from the 1st instant. Their operation was originally deferred, as we have already explained, until June 30th, for purposes of revision, and the portions already promulgated were subjected to revision at the same time. But as the dissolution of the Lower House last session took place before the revisions had obtained the consent of the Diet, nothing remained except to suffer the remaining portions to go into effect in their unrevised form. The revised Civil Code will become operative from the 16th instant, and it is inevitable that more or less conflict will occur between its provisions and those of the old Commercial Code. That inconvenience will have to be endured, however. Meanwhile it is worth noting that, after all, Japan has been barely able to carry out in time the preliminaries agreed upon as essential to the operation of the Revised Treaties.

A curious difficulty has occurred in connexion with the "Law of Procedure in Non-contentious Matters," which forms one of the adjuncts of the Civil Code. Article 210 of the Law says that it shall become operative from the day when the Civil Code and the Commercial Code take effect. That provision was inserted with reference to the revised Civil and Commercial Codes. Had they both passed the Diet last session, they would have been enacted simultaneously, and the date of their common operation would have become the date for the operation of the Law of Procedure in Non-contentious Matters. But as the revised Commercial Code failed to receive Parliamentary approval, the unrevised Code became effective from July 1st, that is to say, on the termination of the period of postponement, whereas the revised Civil Code was enacted for July 16th. On what day, then, should the Law of Procedure in Non-contentious Matters go into effect—the 1st of July or the 16th? The point has provoked some discussion, but we can not, for our own part, appreciate the perplexity. After all, there is no going beyond the letter of a law, and when the date of a certain law's operation is explicitly made conditional upon the operation of two other bodies of law, it is difficult to see how the operation of one of the latter can be held to have satisfied the prescribed condition.

MARQUIS ITO.

The Emperor has refused to accept Marquis Ito's resignation of his title of nobility and Order of Merit. His Majesty points out that these honours have no connexion with the office of Premier, but were conferred for meritorious services to the country and with the intention that they should be transmitted to the Marquis' posterity. No one seems to be quite clear why Marquis Ito resigned his title, and if the Japanese do not understand his reasons it is not likely that foreigners will be more discerning. Indeed, from a foreign point of view, the proceeding looked undignified and even petulant. Had the Marquis committed any grave blunder, had his counsels betrayed the Sovereign into some act injurious to the prestige of the throne or prejudicial to the interests of the nation, one could appreciate his unwillingness to remain a prominent figure in society. But Marquis Ito has been an eminently successful statesman. Japan owes him a debt that can never be discharged or forgotten, and we entertain no doubt whatever that the course adopted by him at this crisis of Parliamentary institutions will not be the least of the wise acts placed by historians to his credit. It is true that the transfer of the administrative power from the hands of the elder statesmen to the party politicians was managed through his direct agency, but it is equally true that his tenure of a patent of nobility did not depend upon averting that transfer. A suggestion which obtained pretty general credence at first was that the Marquis had resolved to organise a political party, and that he considered his title likely to prove an impediment to success in that line, especially as it would prevent him from sitting in the Lower House. But if any project of the kind inspired his action, he would have chosen some other method of making the resignation. We fear that the event will not increase his prestige. It is referred to in very sarcastic tones by more than one vernacular journal, and no defence has yet been advanced by any publicist.

TOBACCO.

It is alleged that the Authorities are about to raise the sale rate of leaf tobacco from 84 per cent. to 100 per cent. In other words, instead of charging 184 *yen* worth of leaf tobacco purchased under the monopoly, they will charge 200 *yen*. We explained in these columns some time ago that the total annual production of tobacco in Japan is estimated at 90½ millions of lbs., in round numbers, the value of which for purposes of purchase by the Government is put at 12½ millions of *yen*, or about 13½ *sen* per lb. The selling price has hitherto been set down as 22½ million *yen*—we are here using approximations to avoid excessive detail—or 25 *sen* per lb, which represents a profit of nearly 84 per cent; but it is now proposed to raise it to 27 *sen*. Assuming expenses of collection to remain unchanged, the additional revenue accruing from this alteration would be a little over 2 million *yen*. No explanation is given of the reasons underlying the change, but we may fairly assume that the object is to realize the Government's original estimate of income derived from this source of revenue. The gross income was stated in the *post-bellum* financial programme at 10⅛ million *yen*, and the working expenses, together with interest on capital (8¼ millions), being a little over 2 millions, there remained a profit of 7,814,509 *yen*. But it would appear that the actual results have not come up to official expectation—we always predicted that they would not—and that a heavier price has to be charged for the leaf on emerging from the Government storehouses.

There is one interesting question connected with this matter. The price of leaf tobacco according to the increased scale, will average 36.40 *yen* per picul. Now the customs show that considerable quantities of foreign tobacco are imported at about 18 *yen* per picul, laid down in Japan, and as the duty under the Tariff will be 35 per cent., the imported leaf will not cost more than 25 *yen* a picul to wholesale dealers in this country. Of course it is necessary to consider the particular grade of Japanese leaf with which this foreign tobacco would come into competition. We can not express any opinion on that point, but the margin in favour of the foreign leaf is very considerable. Vernacular newspapers assert, however, that the Diet will be asked next session to raise the import duty to 200 per cent.

CAPITAL IN THE FORM OF GOODS.

The insufficiency of the security obtainable by foreign capitalists who would otherwise be willing to invest money in Japan—insecurity owing to the peculiar system of land tenure—is now pretty well appreciated by Japanese merchants and manufacturers. They will probably begin to move in support of the only sound policy, the complete removal of all restrictions differentiating aliens and natives in such matters. Meanwhile the need of money to carry on productive enterprises becomes daily more pressing. We read in the *Tokyo Asahi* that a device for temporarily evading the difficulty has presented itself, namely, to borrow goods instead of money. There does not appear to be anything very novel about such a plan, but our contemporary treats it as a kind of discovery and attributes it to a Mr. Abe, of Yokohama, who, during the past year, obtained rice on credit from Messrs Samuel Samuel and Company to the extent of a million *yen*, and made a very good thing out of the arrangement. It has occurred to others that they also, whether as individuals or as firms, may be able to procure rails, engines, raw cotton, and such staples from foreign importers on a system of payments deferred for six months or a year, and they are now discussing the feasibility of such arrangements in conjunction with the banks. We have always understood that the experience garnered by foreigners engaging in such transactions was not calculated to encourage a repetition of the experiment, but it is possible that the times have changed, and are changing, for the better. Credit is the most valuable kind of capital, but unfortunately it has been little available to the Japanese in their modern career of material expansion.

THE IMPERIALIST PARTY.

Baron Suyematsu, formerly Minister of Communications, was spoken of as one of the most zealous organisers of an Imperialist Party to oppose the new Constitutionalists. But he has denied to an interviewer from the staff of the *Yomiuri Shimbun* that he engaged in any such enterprise. It is the intention and desire of the elder statesmen, he says, to let the party politicians have an undisturbed hand to try their competence for the task they have undertaken. If they commit blunders, they will soon find themselves confronted by a powerful opposition, but for the present they will not be disturbed. Baron Suyematsu virtually confessed to the same interviewer that Marquises Ito and Yamagata had differed very seriously in their views as to the best method of dealing with the recent crisis. Probably much more importance attaches to that difference than people in general suppose.

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MARQUIS YAMAGATA AND THE CONSTITUTION.

It was generally stated, at the time of the recent political crisis, that an influential body of officials, headed by Marquis Yamagata, advocated the suspension of the constitution as the only proper exit from the dilemma. The Marquis explicitly denies the statement. He avers that the idea of suspending the operation of the constitution was never hinted. His own action in the matter was limited to opposing the system of party cabinets—a kind of polity which he evidently condemns—and the transfer of administrative power to the leaders of the newly formed party. His interpretation of the constitution is that it makes the Ministers of the Crown responsible to the Sovereign alone. Hence he holds that if the House of Representatives rejects an essential measure—like that for increasing the taxes—not on its merits but merely in the interests of party politics, dissolution after dissolution may be resorted to in strict accord with the constitution. At the same time, he does not endorse the German theory that the Emperor is competent to proceed independently of the Diet under certain circumstances. There is a little vagueness about this last reservation, but at all events the fact emerges quite plainly that Marquis Yamagata did not advance the somewhat arbitrary doctrine attributed to him. It is certain, however, that he found himself diametrically opposed to Marquis Ito in several important respects.

FOREIGN CAPITAL AND THE TENURE OF LAND BY FOREIGNERS.

As a result of the consultations that have taken place between the foreign and Japanese Chambers of Commerce in Kobe, the members of the Japanese Chamber are said to have been convinced that unless the privilege of owning land be granted to foreigners, the latter can never be persuaded to invest money in Japanese enterprises. But since, in order to remove the existing restrictions with regard to land tenure by aliens, special legislation would be necessary, and since the members of the Kobe Chamber do not feel justified in approaching the Authorities for that purpose without seeking wider counsel, they are said to have resolved upon consulting the chambers of commerce throughout the country, with the view of procuring their cōoperation in a joint memorial. We trust that this news may prove correct. There is not the slightest reluctance on the part of Japanese officialdom to extend to aliens the privileges in question. If the Japanese negotiators stipulated for the insertion of a restriction in the Revised Treaties, it was simply in deference to the exceedingly short-sighted and emotional sentiment of conservatism that grew out of the strict-enforcement agitation of 1892-3. There was a season of vertigo during which the country would have rebelled against any treaties securing to aliens the privilege of land ownership, and since the mercantile and manufacturing classes are now beginning to discover that the restriction will inure almost entirely to their own disadvantage, it may be hoped that a wholesomer system will be inaugurated.

THE CABINET AND THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

It is worthy of notice that the new Cabinet—that is to say, the newly appointed section of the Cabinet—includes no member of the House of Peers and can not be said to command any influence there. The point is dwelt on at great length by the *Kokumin Shimbun*, which gives itself some trouble to demonstrate that, according to the Japanese Constitution, the House of Peers has equal legislative competence with the House of Representatives, and ought, therefore, to be equally considered in the organization of a Cabinet. What is the new Party Cabinet to do if it finds its measures blocked by the Upper House? Will it adopt the expedient said to have been contemplated at one time by Mr. Gladstone, namely, the nomination of members in sufficient number to redress the balance? Its power in that respect is limited. Nominated members must not exceed a certain fixed ratio to elected members. Of course, there is the expedient of creating Marquises who would sit in right of their title, but a batch of new Marquises aggregating twenty, thirty or perhaps more, would be a somewhat extensive order. The *Kokumin* evidently attaches great importance to this question, but its reasoning is not altogether lucid. The present Cabinet assuredly has not the support of a majority in the House of Peers, and may experience great difficulties in consequence. But would that state of affairs be mended by giving portfolios to two or three members of the Upper House? Certainly it would not. Men like Viscount Tani, Viscount Soga, Prince Konoye and so on, will vote with the Constitutional Party's Cabinet whether they have portfolios or do not have them, and the majority of the Peers, who believe in and have hitherto supported the *Meiji* Statesmen, will oppose the present Ministry however it treats them. It is not unlikely that there will be much trouble owing to the latter cause, but we do not see that any remedy lay within reach of Counts Okuma and Itagaki when they organized the Ministry.

MANIFESTO OF THE NATIONAL UNIONISTS.

The National Unionists have issued a manifesto, but we refrain from reproducing it *in extenso*, as our readers must be somewhat weary of politics. The gist of the document is that the national development during the past few years has been so great as to render increased national expenditure inevitable, and that, in refusing to vote the necessary income last session, the Liberals and Progressists sacrificed the interests of the country on the altar of their own selfish ambition. In five years, the foreign trade has doubled, the deposits in the banks have doubled; the postal matter has grown from 300 millions to 5,000 millions; hundreds of miles of railways have been added so that the total length now open to traffic is 3,000 miles; useful products have doubled; land brought newly under cultivation measures two hundred thousand acres; the number of franchise-holders has increased by fifteen thousand. The country must live up to its new standard, and it is the manifest duty of every good subject to assist.

DEATH OF BARON KANDA KOHEI.

Baron Kanda Kohei died of paralysis at his residence in Tokyo on the 5th instant. The deceased was one of the most prominent pioneers of progress in Japan. People were accustomed to associate his name with those of Mr. Fukuzawa and Mr. Nishi Shu as having contributed preeminently to the introduction of Western civilization in this country. He served in various important official positions, including the governorship of Hyogo Prefecture and the Vice-Ministership of the Department of Education. But the public knew him better as an author than as an official, for he edited and published the *Meiroku Zasshi*, the first magazine that initiated his countrymen into the principles of Occidental political science; and he also translated the Constitution of the Netherlands into Japanese. The latter work is believed to have had an immense influence on the trend of national thought. Baron Kanda was also a jurist of wide reading, and possessed a profound knowledge of archæology, which he employed assiduously to throw light upon some of the antiquarian problems of Japan. His title of Baron was conferred on him by the Emperor the day before his death, in recognition of his eminent services to the State. It is characteristic of modern Japan that in the obituary notices of Baron Kanda published by the vernacular press, his eulogists combine to praise him as a "pioneer of foreign civilization." At the outset of the career which won for him that applause, the liberal and enlightened course he adopted seemed likely to lead to disgrace and ruin. So greatly have the times changed.

CHAFFING THE NEW MINISTERS.

The Japanese love to make a jest of everything. They have dubbed the new Minister of Finance "the lodging-house Minister" (*Geshiku Daijin*), because it has been his habit to live at an inn when residing in Tokyo, and they are telling each other with much amusement that when the new portfolio-holders—the party politicians—moved into their official residences, their total baggage consisted of a trunk and a bundle. Indeed, the flittings to and from official residences are now regarded as quite interesting events, to be observed with critical eyes by the commonest citizen. It is quaintly noted that the most conspicuous items in Marquis Ito's baggage when he recently vacated the Premier's mansion were two foreign wardrobes, and that Count Inouye's traps were identifiable by the presence of an antique screen and an artistic brazier. Some other snapper up of unconsidered trifles describes how, during the Cabinet crisis, he happened to pass the private residence of a certain Marquis, and overheard the major-domo informing a large squad of workmen that their presence would not be required on the following day. They had been suddenly employed to prepare the place for the return of its owner, and they were as suddenly dismissed when the noble owner discovered that he need not "return" just yet.

It is considered at Washington that Hawaii, in permitting the *Charleston* to coal at Honolulu, has cast away all semblance of neutrality and thrown in her lot with the United States.

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PROFESSOR TOYAMA.

Professor Toyama, addressing the officials of the Educational Department on the occasion of resigning his portfolio, made some plain and wholesome remarks. He drew attention, in the first place, to the repeated changes that have taken place of late years in the Ministry of Education. His own predecessor had been but sixty odd days in office, and he himself had a still briefer record. He might congratulate himself, however, in having foreseen something of the kind and refrained from moving into the official residence of the Minister. Obviously it was quite impossible that an official liable to be removed from his post after a few weeks or a few months of tenure, could carry out any reform or give effect to any useful idea. His wisest plan was to attempt nothing. He himself did not pretend to have accomplished anything, yet there were two circumstances to which he looked back with satisfaction. The first was that he had made no change whatever in the *personnel* of the Department. Seventeen years ago, a certain Minister, on obtaining the portfolio of Education, had given posts to a number of ignorant men, his own creatures, and at a later period an equally flagrant instance of favoritism had been witnessed. But he, recognising the value of experienced officials familiar with their duties and skilled in discharging them, had not displaced any one. He was glad to be able to recall the fact now. Another source of satisfaction to him was the line he had taken with regard to the friction in the High Commercial School. It had become the custom to allow students to dictate to those in authority. The lads in some provincial school, ventilating a supposed grievance, would enlist the sympathy of a few local politicians, and at once their views were spoken of with respect as an expression of "public opinion." Nothing could be more subversive of discipline; nothing less conducive to the *morale* of the students themselves. He had peremptorily declined to allow such student dictatorship at the High Commercial School, and the result of his resolute methods showed how successful they could be.

We heartily applaud the wisdom of Professor Toyama's remarks, but we venture to doubt whether his policy at the Commercial School has succeeded. Rumour says that the new Director is boycotted by the students, who, if they cannot compass his removal, seem determined to reduce him to a nonentity.

THE TEA-TAX MEMORIAL.

The memorial addressed by the tea-producers and tea-merchants of Japan to the President of the United States with reference to the ten-cent.-per-lb. tax recently imposed on tea imported into America is a document of considerable weight. The memorialists do not attempt to protest against the principle that a State is perfectly free to resort to any and every fiscal measure when funds are needed for warlike purposes. They have also abandoned—and wisely abandoned — the plea that Japan is discriminated against in an unfriendly spirit when a heavy impost is placed upon a staple occupying such an important place in her export trade. Their chief argument now is that not only does the new tax confer a special advantage on coffee as against tea, but also that the advantage is accorded at heavy expense to the American Government. The statistics of the past ten years show that each unit of the population consumes from 1¼ to 1½ lbs. of tea annually, whereas the corresponding consumption of coffee is from ■ to 9 lbs. In fact, while the import of tea aggregates only 93 million lbs, that of coffee averages 900 millions. Thus, whereas a tax of 10 cents. a lb. on tea gives a revenue of only 9¾ million dollars, a tax of one quarter of that amount on coffee would give a revenue of 22½ million. Where such a great income is procurable by a comparatively light tax upon coffee, legislation which imposes an almost crippling tax upon tea for the sake of a very much smaller income, can not be regarded as just or impartial, and suggests a deliberate intention to crush the tea trade, especially when it is observed that the legislation comes in the sequel of measures taken to prevent the import of the coarser grades of tea. The memorial amounts, in fact, to a prayer that coffee may be taxed as well as tea.

THE REVISED TREATIES AND THE TARIFF.

According to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, an understanding has been effected with the Austro-Hungarian Government, so that no farther obstacle lies in the way of putting the Revised Treaties into operation. The prescribed notice will therefore be given to the Powers on the 17th inst., and the Treaties will go into force from July 17th, 1899. Our contemporary does not say what is the nature of the agreement with Austria-Hungary. It is evident that the details are still guarded from public knowledge. But the *Nichi Nichi* does add that the new Tariff will become effective from October 1st. As to that, we believe the Tokyo journal to be in error. The most trustworthy information at present available is to the effect that the Tariff will not go into operation before next year, and we shall not be at all surprised to find that the date ultimately fixed is the commencement of the fiscal year 1899-1900.

With regard to the new Tariff, we observe that doubts are thrown upon our assertion that its operation will probably be delayed until next year, and the old statement is re-iterated that it will go into effect from October 1st. This is not a matter concerning which we should venture to publish any hap-hazard opinion. The facts about the Tariff were fully explained in our columns some time ago; namely, that it could not become operative before September 19th, at the earliest; that the possibility of its going into operation then depended upon the ratifications of the Revised Treaty with Austria-Hungary being exchanged before August 19th; and that, in all probability, the Government, even supposing all obstacles removed, was not likely to enforce it at an earlier date than October 1st. We now say that, according to views attributed to well-informed authorities, the enforcement will not take place before January 1st, if even then.

On Thursday morning the *Yomiuri Shimbun* states that, the Austrian Diet being still suspended, there is no means of passing the Bill approving the revised treaty between Japan and Austria. It is stated that the Austrian Government will agree to a temporary treaty abolishing the Consular Court, and dealing with the chief points of the old treaty in which revision has been made in the case of the other Powers. This, it is thought, will obviate any trouble in enforcing the new Customs Duties and the treaties with other Powers.

PRINCE CYRIL.

Prince Cyril reached Tokyo on Friday at 11.11 a.m., and proceeded ■ once to the Shiba Detached Palace, which has been prepared for his reception. The programme of his doings in Tokyo is published as follows:—

8th instant.—Luncheon at the Russian Legation at 12.30. Imperial Audience at 6 p.m. and dinner at the Palace with the Emperor and Empress at 6.30 p.m. Fireworks at the Shiba Palace subsequently.

9th instant.—At 10 a.m. the Emperor leaves the Palace or proceeds to Shiba to visit the Prince. During the forenoon the Prince witnesses a display of Japanese painting. Luncheon at Prince Arisugawa's palace. In the afternoon, the Prince visits the Imperial Princes and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Dinner at Prince Fushimi's palace at 7.30 p.m.

10th instant.—In the morning up to 10 a.m., the Prince witnesses an exhibition of *jiujutsu*, archery, and net-casting at the Shiba Palace. From 10 to 11 a.m., he receives the Ministers of State, the Members of the Privy Council, the Field Marshals, and the Chief of Staff. Luncheon at 1 p.m. in the Russian Legation, the Ministers of State and other guests being present. After luncheon, an exhibition of dancing (*kembu*). At 2½ p.m., the Prince returns to Shiba; photographs are taken, and there is to be a display of archery. Dinner at the Russian Legation at 8 p.m.

11th instant.—The Prince visits the Foreign Ministers and sends a representative to the Japanese Ministers, the Minister of Foreign Affairs excepted. Luncheon at the Palace of Prince Kanin. Thence to Uyeno Park, where the members of the Naisei-kan give a display of lance, glaive, and gymnel exercises.

12th instant.—The chief priests of the Greek church and the Staff of the Russian Legation lunch with the Prince at the Shiba Palace. The Prince leaves Tokyo by train at 3.25 p.m.

The Russian warship *Rossia*, with the Grand Duke Vladimir Cyril, the Emperor's Royal visitor, on board, arrived in Yokohama harbour on Thursday afternoon, and fired the usual salute, which was acknowledged by the fort at Kanagawa. The *Rossia* also fired 13 guns as a salute to the British warships, and the *Undaunted* replied. The Russian Consul at Yokohama at once proceeded to the warship, accompanied by the Consular Secretary and two military officers. The *Rossia* is a very fine ship, built on the lines of the British *Powerful*, whom she resembles almost as one pea resembles another. She was built on the Neva two years ago, and is of 12,130 tons. Her armoured belt is 10 inches thick, and her armament includes 4 8in, 16 6in., and 64 7in. guns. Her engines develop 14,500 horse-power, which allows of a speed of 20 knots. She has over 700 men on board.

THE FRENCH LEGATION.

Count and Countess Pourtales left Tokyo on the afternoon of the 6th instant for Yokohama, whence they will take passage for Europe by the Canadian Mail. In order to avoid the pain of leave-taking, they were careful to hide from their friends the hour of their departure from the capital. Thus they set out on their homeward journey without receiving any special demonstration at Shimbashi, but we may be permitted to say that their loss will be widely felt and regretted in Tokyo. We learn that Viscount de Bondy has been appointed acting First Secretary of the French Legation during the absence of Count Pourtales.

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THE KOBE SWINDLE.

The affair of the Hyogo Warehousing Company seems to have been a genuine swindle of the meanest type. Mr. Kita Ihei enjoys the honour of having been the principal promoter. He held the post of manager of the company, and in the sequel of various disastrous speculations—which seem to have embarrassed him despite his reported wealth—the idea occurred to him that his position offered opportunities more valuable than a mere salary. He therefore consulted with one Okano Kosaburo, the caretaker of the warehouse, and having secured his cöoperation, he then took into his confidence several fellow merchants, Messrs. Yonezawa, Kusuri, Hashimoto, and Kwanzaki, all, like himself, supposed to be men of substance, but all anxious to recoup themselves for recent losses. The gang then proceeded systematically to remove goods—chiefly rice and fish-manure—which were stored in the warehouse, disposing of them without difficulty and pocketing the money, to the tune of about a million *yen*, it is said, but probably the real figure will prove to be smaller. They also obtained advances on godown certificates from the banks. Ultimately the volume of these transactions began to attract attention. It was thought strange that a warehouse of comparatively small dimensions could afford accommodation to such large quantities of goods. Inquiry, of course, revealed the truth, but the mischief had been done. The Warehousing Company has a capital of 500,000 *yen*, of which 200,000 *yen* is paid up. Its business was very prosperous, the last dividend declared being at the rate of 16 per cent. Vernacular journals, from which we take these details, say that the company enjoyed high credit among Japanese and foreigners alike, and that foreign banks have often advanced money on its receipts. It is believed that the effects of the swindle will be very widely felt, for in addition to the banks directly interested, as detailed in our last issue, several others throughout the Kwansei district are also likely to suffer. It is probable, as we have already said, that these accounts are more or less exaggerated, but even when allowance is made for the embroidery of rumour, there remains enough to suggest serious trouble.

Fuller information shows that there was no actual forging of warehouse certificates in the case of the Kobe frauds. Goods were actually carried to the warehouses and temporarily stored there. The certificates were then lodged with the banks and advances were obtained against them. Then, by the connivance of the warehouse-keeper, the goods were taken out without the certificates. According to the *Yushin Nippo* of Kobe, as translated by the *Kobe Chronicle*, the sums advanced by various banks on the security of these valueless certificates were :—

	YEN.
Specie Bank	330,000
First Bank	225,000
Sumitomo Bank	80,000
Mitsubishi Bank	77 000
Mitsui Bank	50,000
Boeki Bank	45,000
Shogyo Bank...	18,000
Total	825,000

Against this sum there will be available 200,000 *yen*, being the unpaid capital of the Warehousing Company, and 250,000 *yen*, the value of estates surrendered by Yonezawa, one of the fraudulent merchants.

ADMIRAL CAMARA.

The proceedings of Admiral Camara at Port Said seem difficult to reconcile, at first sight, with the terms of the Suez Canal Convention of 1888. The Convention provides that the Canal shall be open to both neutrals and belligerents, but that its ports shall not be available to the latter for procuring stores or provisions except such as are absolutely necessary; that the ships of a belligerent must not remain in those ports for more than 24 hours at a time, unless urgent repairs are required; and that an interval of 24 hours must separate the departures of the ships of two belligerents from the same port. No mention is made of coal, but it is of course included in "stores." There is some ambiguity, also, in the qualification "absolutely necessary." To interpret it we must fall back upon the provisions of international law as endorsed by the Great Powers in their proclamations of neutrality. There we find that the quantity of coal procurable by the ship of a belligerent in a neutral harbour is no more than the quantity required for steaming to the nearest port of her own country. Minorca answers the description of the nearest home territory in the case we are considering, and since from Mahon to Port Said is about 4½ days' steaming, it would appear that Camara's Squadron was entitled to obtain a supply of coal to that extent in Port Said. Of course the question of destination appears at first sight to be crucial in such incidents. Nothing could be more inconsistent with the obligations of strict neutrality than to supply coal to ships outward bound with the obvious intention of engaging in hostilities, under pretence that the coal is to carry them peacefully homeward. But the inconvenience of attempting any scrutiny into a vessel's destination is evidently considered likely to cause more trouble than the injury done to neutral principles by allowing her to procure coal under false pretences. The difficulty is partially obviated in practice by enacting that a belligerent vessel may not obtain coal in any port of a neutral Power oftener than once in three months. In other words, a Spanish ship having coaled at Colombo, for example, would not be eligible to receive another supply of coal in any British port for the space of three months. The three months' limit is not mentioned, however, in the Suez Canal Convention, and we see nothing to prevent Admiral Camara from filling his bunkers at Port Said for the ostensible purpose of a voyage to the Balearic islands; repeating the performance at Aden, and re-iterating it at all the coaling stations of the different Powers *en route* to the Far East. Neither Port Said nor Suez would fall under the category of "British Ports." Hence to have taken in coal there would not disqualify the Spanish Admiral to obtain a further supply at Aden, and he might thus make his way to the Dutch Indies, finally reaching the Philippines without serious difficulty. Was that the programme contemplated when the Squadron left Cadiz? Possibly it was. But how are we to account for the action of the Authorities at Port Said in requesting the Admiral to desist from coaling? He had a right, under the Convention, to take in a supply for 4½ days. We must assume that the objection of the Egyptian Government was based, not on the mere fact of his coaling, but on the quantity that he shipped. Reuter's agent could scarcely be expected to make these discriminations, but the apparent explanation is that the Egyptian Authorities considered the spirit of the convention, not its mere letter. Obviously the intention of the document is that the supply of coal obtainable by a ship shall be limited to her actual needs. If she already has in her bunkers a sufficient quantity to carry her to the nearest home port, she is not entitled to receive any more, and since Camara's Squadron, on its arrival at Port Said, must have possessed at least that quantity, the local authorities forbade the shipping of any more. Camara's subsequent action is easily understood. Meeting with an unlooked for obstacle, he desired to seek instructions from Madrid. But he could not lie at at Port Said for more than 24 hours unless his ships were in need of repairs. He therefore fell back upon that pretext, and set about discharging coal and stores in order to give it an appearance of reality. Presently, instructions reached him to push on to Suez, and after lying there for 24 hours, he doubtless entered the Red Sea, steaming at a snail's pace in order to allow colliers from Spain to overtake him. The incidents of his voyage are of the highest interest as furnishing data to determine the application of international law to the problem of coaling. The problem presented itself for practical solution in the case of the celebrated cruiser *Alabama*. She obtained coal without any difficulty in Australian posts for the purpose of prosecuting her destructive campaign against the merchantmen of the United States, and the delegates of the Washington Government at the Geneva Arbitration endeavoured to fix upon Great Britain responsibility for having permitted the cruiser to ship supplies of the mineral in British harbours. The arbitrators, however, rejected the claim, being guided by the principle that neutrals have rights as well as belligerents, and should not always be forbidden to dispose of their coal to the ships of a state engaged in war. It is probable that the doings of the Spaniards and the Americans in the present war will remove this coal problem beyond the range of all further doubt. What remains to observe is the reason for the Egyptian authorities' refusal to allow coaling at Port Said and the conclusion apparently reached by the Madrid Government that coaling will not be possible for the Squadron at any neutral port *en route*. Still more obscure is the conduct of the Spanish Ministry in despatching the Squadron without previously ascertaining what coaling facilities would be available for it *en route*. Some people suggest that there is no real intention of sending the ships eastward. That is scarcely credible. We are disposed to attribute the event either to strange improvidence and incapacity, or to the deliberate design of raising questions that might involve other Powers. We may add here that we attach no credence whatever to the statement that the military force accompanying Admiral Camara is 480 officers and 10,464 men. It is impossible that such a force should be carried by four transports.

The trial of the Portuguese Ozorio for the murder of F. X. da Jesus, at Hongkong on May 9th, concluded on the 24th ult., when the accused was sentenced to death.

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COUNT OKUMA ON THE PROBLEM OF THE DAY.

IN a lecture delivered by Count OKUMA to the Yokohama Technical School (*Koyu-kai*) a few days ago, His Excellency spoke very plainly about the problem of the day, namely, the increase of the Land Tax. Before reading this lecture, we imagined that although Count OKUMA believed the present time inopportune for any augmentation of the Land Tax, he was not radically opposed to that method of replenishing the coffers of the State. There can no longer be any doubt, however, as to his opinion. He has announced his thorough disapproval of any addition to the Land Tax, not merely now but also in the future. Briefly stated, Count OKUMA'S argument is that Japan must still be regarded as, in the main, an agricultural country, since seven-tenths of her products come from the farm. Hence to tax the farmer heavily is to impair the most prolific source of national wealth. It may be urged, indeed, that the farmer is better off than he was in feudal times, and even that his circumstances have greatly improved during recent years owing to the appreciation of the market price of rice. That estimate is partially true, but the fact remains that the farmer's toil is at once the most severe and the least liberally rewarded of all kinds of bodily labour. One bad harvest plunges him into difficulties and compels him to have recourse to money-lenders. If the interest paid by the agricultural class on account of their debts be added to their disbursements in the shape of national and local taxes, the aggregate is something like 130 or 140 million *yen* annually. Already contributing very largely to the public revenue, the farmers may justly plead that to call upon them for a larger contribution would be not only an injustice, but also a reversion to the mistaken economy of feudal times, when the tiller of the soil was regarded as the person chiefly liable to taxation. It is an economical axiom that the incidence of taxes should be regulated so as to present the least possible obstacle to productive enterprise. That axiom would be plainly violated if the State laid its hand heavily upon the farmer in Japan, for the farmer is the chief producer. It has further to be noted that in Japan the population has already begun to press upon the limits of sustenance. The country may soon be unable to feed itself, and if the leading nation in the world, the English, find that state of affairs seriously inconvenient, how much worse would it be for a poor country like Japan? Every effort should be made to encourage agricultural development instead of crippling it by increased taxation.

Such were Count OKUMA'S arguments in brief. He combatted also the strange fallacy that the prosperity of the farming classes is responsible for the present disturbance of the balance of trade, but we need not reproduce a self-evident demonstration.

There are several points in His Excellency's contention that seem open to query. It is certainly true that the tiller of the soil has a hard lot, physically speaking. To us, indeed, it seems that the fisherman is even less fortunate, but that comparison has not much value in this context, seeing that the fishing class are not taxed at all in Japan. Is it not misleading, however, to consider the tiller of the soil only? More than one half of the land in Japan belongs to men who do not themselves till it, and certainly if the farmer has to toil hard for a scanty reward, the landowner stands at the other extremity of the scale, for he obtains his income without any labour at all on his own part. To foreign observers it seems that all landowners in Japan are most favourably circumstanced so far as their treatment by the State is concerned. Their contribution to the public exchequer is usually called a tax, but is really a rent. In 1874, all the agricultural land in the empire, the property of the State, was handed over in perpetuity to its then holders, the only condition being that they should pay to the Treasury a rent equal to 3 per cent. of the assessed value of the land; and since the officially assessed value was one-half of the market value, the payment actually required did not exceed 1½ per cent. Apply the same principle to England's case. Suppose that a landlord has an estate lettable for £2 an acre and saleable for £30 an acre—15 years' purchase—, and suppose that he resigns his title in favour of a number of farmers who agree to pay him 9 shillings per acre annually. Would he not be counted an extraordinarily generous person, and would not the farmers be regarded as exceptionally fortunate? That is, in effect, what the Japanese Government did in 1874. The people that came into possession of the land received it without any liability except the duty of paying a so-called "tax," amounting to 1½ per cent. of its value. We do not think that the history of the world contains any instance of a more signal act of liberality. Doubtless much of the land has changed hands since that time. Many of the recipients of the State's gift have converted their titles into ready money, and the purchasers consider that they acquired estates carrying a fixed charge not liable to be raised. But the Government is under no obligation to take such incidents into account. Still less need it concern itself about the "tillers of the soil." To make the tenant farmer an object of prime consideration in levying the land tax appears to us about as rational as it would be to regard the condition of the merchant's clerk as a factor of paramount importance for the purposes of a business tax. The condition of the tenant farmer is determined by the terms upon which he obtains his holding from the landlord: he has little practical concern with the question whether the latter's liability to the State is 2 per cent., 3 per cent., or 4 per cent. If his lot be hard, the responsibility rests entirely with his landlord.

There is another aspect of this problem which seems to receive little attention. All logically assessed taxes are of necessity variable. A trades tax, for example, depends on the volume of a merchant's transactions or the amount of profit he realizes. The larger and more prosperous his business, the greater the sum that he contributes yearly to the Exchequer. An income tax—theoretically the most rational, though practically the most objectionable, of all imposts—varies similarly as the payer's wealth increases or decreases. Why, then, should a tax on land be invariable? On what basis of justice or logic can it be maintained that however violent the fluctuations in the value of a landed estate, its owner's contribution to the public funds should remain unaltered? Such a system is directly at variance with the principle of the "unearned increment"; a principle fully recognised in Japan's modern laws relating to land tenure. Many years must pass probably before the beautiful doctrine of the single tax receives full recognition, but even now very few thinking men will be found to assert that the whole benefits of appreciation resulting from conditions to which the public at large have contributed ought to be monopolized by the individual holder of a plot of land. Yet that is precisely the conclusion involved in denying that land taxes should be raised either now or hereafter. It is admitted that the market value of agricultural land in Japan has increased enormously since 1874—doubled, trebled, or even quadrupled. The appreciation is not due to toil on the part of the farmer or to improvements effected by the landlord. It is due to the building of railways, the construction of roads, the provision of facilities for marine transportation, the general improvement in the condition of the consuming classes. Why, then, should the people whose enterprise has caused this appreciation be excluded from all share in its benefits? We are unable to understand such reasoning, and apart from considerations of economical logic, we regret that any doctrine of the kind should find favour with statesmen in authority, for we do not think that Japan can afford to be sentimental in the matter of the Land Tax. Foreign opinion about the condition of her finances will not be improved by the knowledge that she has pledged herself to eschew one of the principal and most facile sources for obtaining her much-needed increment of revenue.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND CHINA.

WHEN Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that Great Britain single-handed could not seriously injure Russia by land in the Far East, he made an assertion which is almost a truism, and which certainly does not for one instant justify the extravagant comments that it has evoked. The plain fact is that England and Russia can not easily "come to grips" except at sea. In the event of War between the two Powers, it may be taken for granted—if the issue of the struggle is deducible from strength of armaments—that Russia would be defeated in Far-Eastern waters. Her squadron is this part of the globe does not approach the British squadron in number of ships or general fighting power, and the route for re-inforcing it would be closed to her while remaining open to England. But the question to be decided would be, not the command of the seas washing the continent of Eastern Asia, but the command of the continent itself. To that continent Russia will have free overland access when she completes her Siberian railway and carries it to the Liaotung Peninsula, and to that continent England, in order to meet her face to face, would have to transport troops over-sea from India and the United Kingdom, land them in hostile territory and maintain them there at an immense distance from their base of supplies. England enjoys the inestimable blessing of being able to dispense with conscription. Those that envy her that happiness are wont to ridicule the numerical weakness of her land forces, but the motive of their criticism is transparent. She has no use for huge cohorts, and to maintain them would be mischievous silliness. At the same time, since no happiness is unalloyed, the thorn in her non-conscription rose is that she can not check the continental expansion of a rival Power, or, at any rate, can check it within the scope of maritime operations only. She might possibly spare three *corps d'armée* for service in the Far East—two from the United Kingdom and one from India—, but to carry a force of a hundred thousand men to Manchuria and maintain them there would be the most stupendous operation of war ever attempted, and even supposing it feasible—which is open to grave doubts—it would be quite inadequate to accomplish anything signal against a Power whose territory is contiguous with the field of battle. It is well to remember, when we note these facts, that if England is not potential against Russia on land, Russia is quite powerless to injure England either on land or at sea. Nothing could be more misleading than to compare England —as the *Japan Gazette*, interpreting Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S speech, compares her— to "a schoolboy who grossly abuses his fellow, and then refuses to fight because the object of his vituperation is too big." That is simply rhetorical gas. The question is not whether England can fight Russia, but whether England can get at Russia in a particular position. Russia in Manchuria is beyond the effective range of any military weapons that England can bring to bear on her, but as to Russia's being too big for England to fight, the notion is comical. It comes to this, then, that if England is to oppose Russian territorial expansion in the Far East, she must obtain the cōoperation of some Power capable of supplying armies to fight in Manchuria and China proper. May we be permitted to say here that we discuss these contingencies with the greatest reluctance. We are not Russophobes, and we welcome most heartily the distinction now drawn by British statesmen between commercial expansion and territorial expansion. England will not raise a finger to oppose Russian commercial expansion. She demands nothing beyond similar freedom for her own commerce. Neither would she raise a finger against Russian territorial expansion if she had any trustworthy guarantee that its results would not be injurious to her trade. She has no such guarantee. Most unfortunately she can not have it. We do not desire to wound any susceptibilities, but we are compelled to say that after Great Britain's experience in connexion with Batoum, and after her experiences in connexion with Port Arthur, it is impossible for her to rely hereafter on anything except facts. For whatever catastrophes her distrust entails the responsibility rests with the Power that inspired it. Whence, then, can troops be obtained to preserve China against absorption by Russia, for that is what the problem really amounts to? There are two programmes. One is to educate China's capacities for self-defence—if she possesses such capacities—; the other is to form an alliance with Japan. England is endeavouring to adopt the former programme. Telegrams recently received show that Lord SALISBURY has been seeking to demonstrate to the Chinese the necessity of military and naval reorganization on a large scale, and has made certain offers of English technical assistance. Some success seems to have attended his efforts in the field of naval affairs, but he has failed thus far in military matters, and it is very doubtful whether the failure will not be permanent. A few English critics of the *Spectator* type denounce the notion of Great Britain's undertaking in the Far East a second task of the kind that has already cost her so much in the Near East—the task of bolstering up a moribund empire. These critics seem to be weary of strong efforts. Their advice is that England should fold her hands and resignedly accept bad results, lest resistance should render them worse. Now if England has any characteristic that makes for the permanency of her growth it is her implacable resolution in face of great problems. She has never confessed defeat to herself, and the consequence is that she has never been defeated. Should she unhappily lose that characteristic, the day of her decadence will have dawned. It has cost her much to maintain Turkey, but Turkey has been maintained. Will any one venture to assert that China's latent potentialities for self-defence are inferior to those of Turkey? The natural course is always the safest course. In this case the natural course is to set China on her feet and try to stiffen her back so that she will remain erect. That was the course mapped out by Count OKUMA when he assumed the direction of Japan's foreign affairs in 1897, and it is the course now adopted by Lord SALISBURY. It is interesting to note at how many points the policies of Japan and England touch. It is interesting to note, too, that the people who describe China as moribund, and declare the hopelessness of attempting to galvanise her into military competence, are the very people who point with awe to the potentialities of an army of Manchu Tartars led by Russian officers. Why not an army of Manchu Tartars led by English officers plus an army of Chinese similarly led? The development of China in Chinese hands being the policy of British statesmen, their logical and rational plan of procedure is exactly the procedure adopted by Lord SALISBURY. If that plan succeeds, there will no longer be any ground for the apprehensions suggested by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. Certainly England is bound to utilize to the utmost the opportunities naturally presenting themselves, and happily she has some years of leisure to mature her arrangements.

A STRANGE STORY.

A singular and incredible story comes from Korea to one of the Tokyo journals. The German Representative in Söul, we read, applied officially on behalf of one of his countrymen for permission to work a gold mine in one of the provinces. The application came into the hands of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but he returned it to its sender. Thereafter Mr. Krein invited the Minister to the Legation, and, after an altercation of a violent nature, fell upon him and gave him a good drubbing. The *Yomuri Shimbun's* Söul correspondent thought it worth while to send this tale across the wires at 5.10 p.m. on the 30th ultimo, and added that the commotion in the Legation developed large proportions. What grain of truth the canard contains it is difficult to conjecture. It seems to us to be made out of whole cloth.

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NOTES ON NEWS.

The Government has appropriated a sum of 25,000 *yen* for the purpose of setting up a Japanese tea-house in the French Exposition of 1900. We suspect that this will prove one of the most profitable of the exhibits. It is just thirty-one years since the first westward trip of Japanese tea-house maidens. They went in the train of a youthful representative of the Tokugawa family, whom the world, in its happy ignorance, used to call "Mr. Nimbu Tayu," a method of nomenclature which might be paralleled by calling Lord Salisbury "Mr. Foreign Secretary." The occasion in 1867 also was a French exposition, but how different was the Japan of that time from the Japan of to-day!

It appears that the Railway Department is engaged in building a new Imperial carriage. Vernacular newspapers say that a sum of sixty thousand *yen* was to have been spent on the work, but His Majesty considered such expenditure inappropriate in the present season of financial embarrassment, and desired that it should be reduced by one half. Still the design for the carriage must be tolerably fine, for we read of Kyoto brocade, *shibuichi* door-handles, and bronze railings chiselled by Suzuki Chokichi. There are very few sovereigns in the world, we imagine, who spend so little upon luxury or display at the Emperor of Japan.

FIRE AT KOBE.

The *Kobe Chronicle* thus describes the fire that destroyed Messrs. Hellyer & Co.'s tea-firing godown on Tuesday morning:—The first alarm was raised by a Japanese who happened to be passing the buildings, and smoke was then observed issuing from the roof of the machinery godown. The Fire Brigade was soon on the spot, although by the time they had arrived the flames had got a good hold of the building, and it was apparent that all efforts to save it would be useless. There was no wind at the time, and that fact, coupled with the united efforts of the firemen to protect the adjoining buildings, were the means of saving an immense amount of property round the burning structure. Indeed, at one time it was thought that the two houses owned by Mrs. Drummond would be attacked, but fortunately the volumes of water kept the flames under. On the other side of the street, however, where the offices of the firm are situated, the buildings were within an ace of attack, and had there been any breeze they too would have been doomed. Two godowns full of tea, situate on each side of the machinery godown, were saved, and Messrs. Hellyer & Co. state that no tea whatever has been destroyed. The fire raged for several hours, and it was well-nigh eight o'clock before it was got under. The origin of the outbreak is still a mystery, but there is no doubt, judging from the testimony of eye witnesses, that the first indications of smouldering came from the roof of the now gutted building. The loss is, we understand, fully covered by insurance, in two offices.

THE WAR.

REPORTED ANNIHILATION OF THE SPANISH FLEET.

An official telegram is stated to have arrived from Hongkong, dated July 5, to the effect that a fierce engagement took place between the Spanish and American forces in the Bay of Cuba on the 4th inst., the fighting lasting for 3 hours. The Spanish fleet was totally annihilated and about 1,300 officers and men were taken prisoner.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

The *Official Gazette* of the 30th June publishes Imperial Ordinance No 132, embodying alterations in the regulations for Japanese students abroad. The 1st clause of Article IV. of the existing regulations, which provides that funds granted to students abroad shall not exceed £180, is now altered to 1,800 *yen*, and the note to the 2nd clause, which entitles a student to receive extra allowances when he undertakes a tour for the purpose of study or investigation, has been revised and places the amount at 1,500 *yen* instead of £150 as heretofore. Article V. of the reformed regulations reads as follows:—"Any teacher or professor of a school under the direct control of the Education Department who has received orders to prosecute his study abroad, shall be placed on a list other than that of the prescribed number of teachers or professors of the schools concerned, from the date of his departure from Japan till his return, and no salary shall be paid to him. Under special circumstances, however, one-third of his salary may be granted to him." The revised rules came into operation from July 1st of the 31st year of *Meiji* (1898).

Another Imperial Ordinance published in the *Official Gazette* over the signature of the Minister of Communications refers to the certificates for measurement and registry of vessels. The following are the provisions embodied in it:—

Art. I.—The charters or licenses for registered vessels shall be regarded as certificates of measurement and registration of vessels, during the term prescribed by Art. XXIX. of the Regulations for the enforcement of the Commercial Code. Temporary charters for registered vessels shall be regarded as temporary certificates of the registry of vessels, using the term prescribed in the above article.

Art. II.—Certificates concerning the employment of mariners shall be regarded as the list of mariners during the period mentioned in the preceding clause.

Art. III.—The Marine authorities' affairs prescribed in Section I., Chapter IV., Book II., of the Commercial Code shall be conducted in the Shipping Inspection Office or Branches thereof. In places where no such offices are established, the conduct of the business devolves upon a Mayor, or Village Headman, or other public officials of a harbour. In foreign countries the task shall be undertaken in the Imperial consulate or Commercial Commissioner's Office.

Art. IV.—The task of inspecting ships shall be undertaken in Japan at the local government office, and in foreign countries by the Imperial Consulate or Commercial Commissioner's Office.

Art. V.—The above provisions are to be enforced from the date of the operation of the Commercial Code.

The regulations in regard to ships' registry, etc., promulgated by Imperial Ordinance No. 219 of the 23rd year of *Meiji* shall be abolished from the date of the operation of the above provisions.

Ordinance No. 3 of the Foreign Department embodies alterations in laws for the protection of emigrants, promulgated by Ordinance No. 3 of the same Department in the 29th year of *Meiji*. To Article VII. the following clause is added:—"In case of the abolition, establishment, or removal of a branch or sub-office in places other than *cho* (a district having an administrative office), *fu* (city), or *ken* (prefecture), where the principal office is established, the fact must be reported to the local Governor (in Tokyo, to the Superintendent-General of Police); Article IX. referring to Emigration Companies has been revised as follows, the italicized words showing the alterations:—"Whenever a member of the Company specially entrusted with the task, or its overseer or agent, is sent to stay in the place of immigration, *or is directed to return to Japan, or is released from service*, the name and address of such member or agent must be reported to the local Governor of the place where the principal office is maintained, and also to the Imperial Japanese officials abroad having jurisdiction over the place of his domicile." The following clauses have been added:—Whenever a contract between an immigrant and a person who takes charge of emigration business is annulled after official sanction for the contract has been obtained, the fact must be reported to the local Governor of the district (in Tokyo to the Superintendent-General of Police), where immigrants are registered as permanent residents. When a local Governor sanctions a contract for immigration, he must forward a report to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, together with a copy of the contract, stating the date of sanction, the name, age, personal grade, and occupation of the immigrant, and also the number of the contract. Similar notice must be given to the local Governor of the district where the principal office is established, (in Tokyo to the Superintendent-General of Police). The annulment of contract requires the same procedure to be observed. A new 11th article is introduced as below:—"If any persons engaging in business connected with emigration desire to raise emigrants according to written orders from their employers, the orders in question, together with a statement showing the estimated number of emigrants to be raised in different localities, must be presented to the local Governor of the district where the principal office is maintained, (in Tokyo, to the Superintendent General of Police). In case the local Governor shall have received such statements or reports, he shall notify the fact to other Governors concerned."

A notification has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in regard to the control of forests throughout the Empire. It simply defines the powers and duties of Inspectors and Overseers.

FORMOSA.

The recently promulgated revision of the Formosan Administration has resulted in extensive reductions of the official establishment. Over a thousand officials of various ranks have been placed on the Retired List, or otherwise dispensed with. These changes commenced on the 13th of May, when 179 junior officials of the Governor-General's Department received their congé, and the final reductions were gazetted on the 20th of June. It is difficult to understand the exact proportions of the dismissals in the various grades, but they seem to stand thus:—

High-class officials of the Governor-General's Department	11
High-class officials of the Local Offices ...	52
Middle-class officials of Taipeh Prefecture.	90
Middle-class officials of Taichiu Prefecture.	140
Middle-class officials of Tainan Prefecture.	149
Middle-class officials of Gilan Prefecture...	14
Middle-class officials of Taitung Prefecture.	35
Middle class officials of Pescadores	28
Judicial Secretaries	23
Junior officials of Local Offices	457
Post and Telegraph officials	170
Total...	1,169

WASTE SILK EXPORT.

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., kindly furnish the following report of last season's Waste Silk market:—

ARRIVALS, SALES AND SHIPMENTS SINCE 1ST JULY, 1897 TO 30TH JUNE, 1898.

		Noshito.	Kibiso.	Cocoons.	Sundries.	
Arrivals,	Pcls.	14,675	17,700	260	2,925	=35,560
Ventes,	"	13,975	15,840	240	2,800	=32,855
Stock,	"	700	1,860	20	125	= 2,705

SHIPPERS.

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.	12,633
Dell 'Oro & Co.	6,870
Bavier & Co.	4,360
C. Eymard	3,255
Siber Bennwald & Co...	2,874
Robison & Co.	2,190
Fraser Farley & Co. ...	423
Others	147
Piculs...	32,752

DESTINATION.

Marseille...	10,938
Bâle ...	6,205
Trieste ...	8,020
Geneva ...	4,400
London ...	2,871
America ...	318
Piculs...	32,752

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SPEECHES BY COUNTS OKUMA AND ITAGAKI.

A meeting of the Parliamentary representatives of the Constitutional Party has been held at the chief office of the Party in Tokyo, and speeches have been delivered by Count Itagaki and Count Okuma. The reports of these speeches, as published by vernacular journals, are not altogether uniform, but the difference is one of fullness only. Collating the reports, we obtain the following results :—

Count Itagaki said that they had at last to congratulate themselves on the inauguration of the system of party cabinets. That great result had been attained by their long and zealous exertions and by Marquis Ito's determined loyalty to the nation's best interests, but, of course, their gratitude was primarily due to the gracious condescension of the Sovereign. Party Cabinets meant that the administration of national affairs should be conducted in conformity with public opinion. But it must also be remembered that the statesmen holding the mandate of the country were expected to give effect to their own views, for the confidence reposed in them by the people was based not on the idea of their being mere mouthpieces, but on the principle that they were competent to initiate useful measures. Never should it be forgotten that their long-cherished hope had been realized owing to the union of the two parties, and never should anything be suffered to disturb that union. They ought to derive a most useful object lesson from the union, for if the apparently stupendous difficulties lying in the path to coalition had been successfully overcome, what other difficulty need be considered invincible? One word of exhortation must, however, be addressed to the Party. It had hitherto been their tendency to concentrate their attention on local affairs; to become absorbed in parochial interests and forget the concerns of the country at large. They must correct that mistake and adopt a wider point of view if they hoped to realize the advantages of party government.

Count Okuma prefaced his speech with a warm eulogy of Marquis Ito. The fact that he was able to congratulate them on the consummation of their hopes was attributable to the extraordinary resolution of Marquis Ito. What incidents had occurred pending the formation of that resolution, could not be precisely stated, but the result was certainly due to the Marquis' solicitude for his country and fidelity to his sovereign. It was impossible not to admire the supreme resolve shown by this statesman of a constitutional country (*waga kuni no rikken-koku no setjika*), this leader of civilization (*bummei no sendosha*) this founder of the Constitution (*Kempo no kisosha*). That the spirit of the time had worked in their cause could not be denied, but Marquis Ito had been its powerful agent. Two weeks ago, they were in the thick of the fight. The memory of the House's dissolution was still fresh. There was a widely bruited rumour that Marquis Ito contemplated the organization of a political party to oppose them. But suddenly the horizon cleared. Marquis Ito sent in his resignation and advised the Sovereign to sanction the formation of a party cabinet. On the 27th of June, he (Count Okuma) and Count Itagaki were summoned to the Emperor's presence and received the Imperial mandate to organise a Ministry. In 24 hours they completed the task. Before everything their gratitude was due to the Sovereign. The progress of Parliamentary institutions in other countries presented a remarkably uniform record. The people, by persistent and often sanguinary struggles, had wrested extensions of their privileges from reluctant rulers. Here everything had been quietly and peacefully obtained through the Sovereign's gratious and far-seeing condescension. Their imperative duty was to endeavour by faithful service to repay something of the debt thus incurred and to show themselves worthy of the trust reposed in them. With that object they must try to correct the abuses that had crept into the Administration during the past twenty years. A certain clique (*isshu no shuzoku*) had long held the high offices of the State. Their personnel had been altered from time to time, but such alterations had not been in any sense a change of the national policy. Not until now had any real political change taken place, the change to party cabinets. It was indeed a grand thing to have been instrumental in effecting such a change, but what they had to remember was that it must be regarded as merely a preparatory step. The inauguration of party cabinets meant simply that machinery was now provided for working out national civilization and administrative progress. Turning from general to special considerations, he felt justified in asserting that the people recognised the inevitable growth of administrative expenditures and were prepared to furnish revenue sufficient for the needs of the State. The last Cabinet had not mistaken the situation, but had failed to give due consideration to the choice of sources of increased revenue. They had fallen by their own errors. A great work now lay before the Party, and it was necessary that a large number of its members should be admitted to the ranks of the Government (*seifu bunai ni ōi ni dōshi no shu wo ageru no hōsufo ari*). Time, too, was needed. They must have five years to accomplish the task lying before them, and he trusted that their own mistakes or dissensions would not shorten the period.

TONIC SOL-FA CONCERT.

The years have rolled by very quickly, it seems to us, since the day when the Yokohama Tonic Sol-fa Choral Society first came into existence, and already the eighth annual concert has come and gone. The performance of Friday evening will rank easily with its predecessors. True, the once magnificent choir of fifty voices has dwindled very perceptibly, but the spirit that animated its early members still remains as brisk as ever, thanks to the untiring energy of its musical directress, Mrs. E. S. Patton, to whom the rising generation in Yokohama owe so much. The programme was very fully advertised and it would be a matter of supererogation to reproduce it. Miss Clara Schwabe repeated at the piano the triumphs of last year—she is, beyond question, a most gifted child; the powers of expression and execution that she possesses border on the marvellous, while her touch and attack are equally surprising in one so young. What wonder, then, that she was recalled. The vocal numbers were well received, but the smallness of the choir prevented full justice being done in all cases. "Sweet and Low," and the "Dance Moresque"—a tonic sol-fa chorus—were the best. The instrumental selections were of high average merit, but the second half, with its songs and choruses in character and several pretty dances, proved the most popular portion of the programme. Master Apcar, robed in fiery red, with yellow faced wings, covered himself with glory in an eccentric elfin dance and had to repeat it. Miss Clara Schwabe and Miss Adèle Favre-Brandt gave a beautiful skirt dance which was loudly encored, so dainty—and so serious-faced—were the wee *danseuses*. The vocal duet "Jeanie and Donald," by Miss Carol Merriman and Master Roger Loomis; and the trio "My Gal," by Masters O. & N. Averill and H. Bugbird, were very good and received hearty recognition. After the little lads had responded to the inevitable encore, they ran back to the stage laden with baskets of lovely flowers which they presented, with many odd bows, to Mrs. Patton and Miss Bloxham. The song, chorus, and dance from "Dorothy" was very pretty, *Dorothy*, Miss Merriman, looking and singing the part most charmingly. But the last item, perhaps, roused the greatest amount of applause, when Master J. P. Mollison, *ætat* 6, danced a hornpipe in a style that captured everyone. The manner in which the little chap put in the intricate steps of the sailor's dance was a marvel and demonstrated the extreme care that his instructress must have bestowed on his training, beside illustraing his own precocious aptness. He was recalled and concluded the dance this time with the British and American flags entwined. Just before the close of the concert, Mrs. Patton took occasion to make the following remarks, which were most cordially received.

LADIES and GENTLEMEN,—Even at the risk of appearing egotistical, I feel I must address a few words to you this evening. It is now nine years since I came to Yokohama quite unknown, bringing only one letter of introduction from the Consul for Japan in Melbourne to a family long since gone from here. During that time I have worked hard for the advancement of musical education amongst the young people of this place, though I cannot bring forward as evidence of the result of that nine years' teaching the performance of the young people whom you have heard to-night, because this community is so shifting that none remain here now of my original pupils. Still this performance will serve to show what may be done with a good system in a period varying from two to six years. I am well aware that the system by which I teach music has its detractors, from remarks that frequently reach my ears (although not intended for them). Besides hearing that tonic sol-fa is "trash," "rubbish," etc., etc., I was even told recently that some wiseacre said it would be utter ruin to a musical child, as if it were some incurable disease which, if contracted early in life, he would carry with him to the grave! In one sense this is true, for a child well grounded in music by tonic sol-fa will often be in a position in after life to lend a helping hand to many a staff-notationist hopelessly floundering amid the intricacies of his own musical notation! But as these dispraging remarks invariably emanate from people who know nothing about it, their opinions are no more worthy of serious attention than are the yelpings of a small dog, who neither knows what he is barking at, nor could explain it if he did, and therefore may be dismissed with silent contempt. I can at any time produce similar evidence to what you have heard to-night, in proof of the educational value of tonic sol-fa, all the musical part of this evening's programme having been taught by me and studied by the performers entirely by that system, and although its founder John Curwen, perhaps never anticipated its being put to such a use, I often find it of the greatest advantage in teaching dancing also. With regard to any personal opponents I may have made through my zealous advocacy of Tonic Solfa, they are far outnumbered by the host of friends and supporters, I see before me to-night, and even those who admire me and my teaching least, must but admit that as a teacher I have always been most earnest and indefatigable in my efforts for my pupils' progress. During my educational career in Yokohama, I have not only seen many schools formed and broken up, but no less than three adult musical societies have been organized, and after a brief period of existence have collapsed, spite in of the well-known amateur musical talent that exists here, while my little unassuming Choral Society has stood its ground notwithstanding the fact that all but two of the original members have either left Yokohama, or have out-grown their youthful qualifications for membership; and I trust that this community will continue to support it as long as I am able to teach tonic sol-fa here. To compare small things with great, I am sure all here remember reading last year of the death of Madame Clara Schumann, at the age of seventy-seven, and that it was stated in her obituary notice that almost up to the time of her death she was actively engaged in teaching. She was a wonderful instance of feminine vitality, for I should have to live and teach for another ten years in order to emulate her, which is hardly probable. Still every time that I see my friends at the annual childrens' concert I am encouraged to fresh exertions, and it gives me hopes that each one may not be the last. To the dear young pupils who have worked so well for me to-night—to the many friends who came here to witness their talented efforts—and to Miss Bloxham and Mr. Beart, whose valuable aid has contributed so much towards this evening's success, I return my most grateful thanks.

PICKPOCKETS ON THE RAILWAYS.

It is alleged that the number of pickpockets frequenting the trains on the Tokaido Railway has greatly increased of late. The police have deemed it expedient to tell off a number of special detectives for service on the road, and the railway authorities have agreed that these men shall be allowed to ride on any of the trains free of charge, a concession which there was hitherto some reluctance to grant. Each section of the line has been assigned to the supervision of the police in the nearest town, and it is hoped that by carefully organized scrutiny the nuisance will soon be mitigated.

NEW VICE-MINISTERS.

Mr. Shiba Shiro has been appointed Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Commerce, and Mr. Suzuki Jubi Vice-Minister for Home Affairs. These gentlemen were both members of the last House of Representatives, and are prominent party politicians.

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JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS.

In view of rumours recently circulated to the effect that the use of coal productive of sparks has frequently been a source of outbreaks of fire in dwellings along the railway lines, special arrangements are to be made to guard against such a calamity. To secure improvement in the means of transport, the railway-telegraph training institute in Kobe has been removed to Tokyo, in order that a number of operatives may be specially instructed; while commissioners from the Departments of War, the Navy, and Foreign Affairs have held a conference as a preliminary step to effecting a complete junction of railways with various ports in the country.

The Department of Communications lately introduced numerous improvements in Government and private railways. According to the *Yomiuri*, it now contemplates effecting other radical reforms. More facilities are to be provided for the examination of tickets according to classification, in stations where passengers are numerous; stations lamps are to be inscribed with the names of the stations; station names are to be posted up in the middle and at both ends of the platform; the station names are to be written in *kira kana* with equivalents in Roman characters under them; the lower half of passenger cars will be painted the same colour as the tickets, according to classification; notices of the times and destinations of trains are to be posted up at the booking-offices; and there will be notices in every passenger car, furnishing useful information to passengers.

With regard to the proposal for the formation of a new party at the time of Marquis Ito's resignation, the latter is reported by the *Yorozu* to have made the following public statement:—"The reason why I adhered so long to the policy of independent cabinets, is that no party existed which could command a majority in the Diet. Now that the Liberals and Progressists have amalgamated, there can be no doubt as to the possibility of their securing an overwhelming majority in the Diet. I therefore persuaded Counts Okuma and Itagaki, as my successors, to form a new Cabinet. I have every reason to suppose that, disregarding personal interests, they will devote their energies to the management of State affairs. To organise a hostile party against them is a step from which I ought to refrain; but should they prove themselves inclined hereafter to promote the sole interests of their clique, I will not hesitate to rise, and, organising a hostile party, enter upon a struggle with them. There is no need to resort to such procedure at present."

The misery in Iwate prefecture, says the *Nichi Nichi*, is beyond description. The year before last the territory was devastated by tidal waves, and last year it sustained serious injury from noxious insects. No crop was raised during the two years, and this year for about three months the inhabitants of Waka district were compelled to live without grain or rice. They barely sustained their lives by feeding on pine bark. Death upon death occurred from starvation. The village council recently resolved upon relieving the sufferers by the issue of loans to the amount of 2,000 *yen*, but these funds are hardly sufficient for half a month's sustenance, and as recourse to further loans is impracticable, application was made to the prefectural office for aid. The prefectural office, however, having refused to distribute various stocks of rice which it had previously determined to grant, serious excitement arose among the villagers, who, in companies of several hundreds, are reported to have attacked the *Kencho*. Thousands of inhabitants are now busily engaged in gathering roots and barks, and even these, the *Nichi Nichi* adds, are almost exhausted.

A critic, writing on the Tokyo native press, says the *Kokumin* and the *Jiji* are the only papers permeated with progressive views. The former bases its views upon glory, and the latter upon profit. The former aims at spiritual progress; the latter at material development. The *Kokumin* follows the English fashion, directing its attention chiefly to the preservation of character; the *Jiji* is American in its spirit, and in its opportunism shows the utmost irregularity in its views. The *Shogyo*, as the name implies, treats things from a financial point of view, fixing its eye not only on the finances of Japan, but also on those of various other nations. It is perfectly conscious of the responsibility of its statements. As for the *Nichi Nichi*, respect for officialdom is the basis of its arguments; it has recently displayed a slight change in its tone, but still preserves the spirit of officialdom. The *Asahi* yields to the influence of society instead of endeavouring to direct it. It can hardly claim to be a leader or a guide, its remarks being usually grounded upon popular prejudices. The *Nippon* is characterized by narrow-mindedness, and the negative views peculiar to the people of the north east. Its opinions are generally one-sided. Other papers, such as the *Yomiuri*, *Mainichi*, *Tokyo*, and *Chuo*, being organs of various political parties, cannot escape the imputation of being imbued with party spirit.

According to the *Shogyo*, the remainder of the Osaka Harbour Bonds—1,703,800 *yen*—has been subscribed by the 3rd National, the Yasuda, the Meiji, the Teikoku Commercial, and the Kitahama Banks, in equal proportion, at the rate of 91.50 *yen* per 100 *yen* face value. As for the Nagasaki Harbour Bonds, our contemporary reports that steps are being taken to raise the 3rd instalment, amounting to 600,000 *yen*, on the following terms:—The sale price to be at least 90 *yen* per 100 *yen* face value, with 6 per cent. interest per annum, and the period of subscription to be not later than August 31st this year.

The tea trade of Yokohama, according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, continues prosperous. Sales during the latter half of last month were brisk, various foreign firms taking large quantities. However, now that the second crop is at hand, quotations are gradually falling with the increase of arrivals from producing districts. The average price has already dropped a dollar, though cheap qualities are in great demand. Business transacted during the second half of last month is as follows:—Arrivals, 1,486,000 catties; sales, 1,808,500 catties; stock, 451,300. The comparative figures for the two years from the beginning of the season to June are:—

	1898. Catties.	1897. Catties.
Arrivals	12,671,900	13,880,800
Sales	12,220,600	13,308,700
Stock	451,300	572,100

Mr. Matsuda, Minister of Finance, has been interviewed by the *Jiji*, which represents the Minister as stating that no increased taxation of land will be resorted to. The imposition of a heavy tax on *saké* would be attended with serious difficulties, but the project commended itself, and the Government had almost resolved upon presenting a bill to that effect in the 13th session of the Diet. Should this prove insufficient to meet the financial crisis, then sugar would also be taxed. According to investigations compiled by the Municipal Council of Tokyo, sugar manufactured in Japan and sold at 25 *sen* per catty, did not realise a profit, whereas imported sugar is offered for sale at 12 or 13 *sen* only. Levying protective taxes on sugar may be a question which requires special treatment, but regarded as a mere source of revenue, it is most unexceptionable. It is not probable that the demand will suffer by a tax.

At 10 a.m. on the 5th inst. a meeting of local Governors was held at the Home Department, when the Premier and Minister for Home Affairs were present. The former, in addressing the Governors, said that the nature of the present Cabinet required the appointment of some officials holding the same views as the Premier and other Ministers, but, as executive officers differed in character and in responsibility from politicians, no needless changes would be made among [illegible] long as they remained faithful to the execution of orders from the central Government, they would be secure in their positions. It was quite natural that the growth of prefectural organization should require increased expenditure, but simultaneously with the expansion of local administration efforts must be made to dismiss useless officials, and so secure the services of well qualified persons. The development of administrative machinery could be only attained by the recission of all un-necessary forms of procedure. Count Itagaki said the meeting furnished an opportunity for giving instructions with regard to the general election. The last election was characterized by absence of violence, but was marked by extreme corruption. In the coming contest, however, the purest methods must be adhered to. A draft of regulations for this purpose was then submitted for discussion. The Count also urged the strict enforcement of precautionary measures against epidemics.

The marine products of Hokkaido were formerly chiefly exported to China, the output in 1886 amounting to 187,924 *koku*, valued at 479,207 *yen*. By 1893 the figures swelled to 275,427 and 1,002,298, respectively, showing an increase of over 50 per cent. in production and 20 per cent. in value. The war with China in 1894, however, greatly diminished commerce between the two countries, and the output of marine products for that year did not exceed 152,409 *koku*, valued at 268,048 *yen*,—a reduction of 40 per cent. in comparison with the figures for 1886. A further decrease is noticeable in 1895, the output and the value realized being only 130,606 *koku* and 316,244 *yen*, respectively. By 1897, the amount of produce rose to 200,000, but the fluctuations in the Chinese exchange rates consequent upon the adoption of gold monometallism in Japan caused the trade to fall into an unfavourable condition. Quotations have rapidly fallen, and, while the period of gathering the fresh sea weed is at hand, an enormous amount still remains unsold, accumulated in the godowns of Chinese merchants in Yokohama. Some ten years ago a Sea-weed Dealers' Union was organised, and was followed by another corporation designated the Japan Sea-weed Company, with a capital of a million *yen*. This Company undertook the monopoly of sea weed for export, with a view to prevent coarse manufacture and to prevent arbitrary dealing on the part of Chinese merchants. Unfortunately, however, the project failed, and there remain now only minor companies in different parts of the North, the commercial power being entirely in the hands of the Chinese. Even with the present appreciation of commodities, the value of sea weed is still below the rates attained as early as 1893. The delay in the adoption of remedial measures will surely, the *Shogyo* remarks, lead to a still more serious decline in this branch of trade.

A speech delivered on the 2nd instant at the Kawakamiza theatre, Tokyo, by Miss Ota Kuni, member of the Japanese Ladies' Moral Improvement Society, is reported by the *Jiji* as follows:—"The policy of female education adopted in the Orient from time immemorial has been beset with errors and abuses. Extreme humility was the principal aim of instruction, and this led to degradation; women were merely objects to be trifled with by the stronger sex. In this enlightened 19th century their position is almost as low as it was in feudal times. The causes for their degeneracy may be manifold, but the most prominent were want of education and consequent inability to exercise their own discretion in social affairs. Being brought up in seclusion, social intercourse was limited to their nearest relations. Home was to them the world. Obedience to their parents, and to mothers and fathers-in-law, as well as to their husbands, was the one inviolable law for them. Their stock of knowledge did not extend beyond the *Onna Daigaku* (Maxims of Women) and the *Shobai Orai* (Manual of Trade), accompanied by sewing lessons and instruction in music. Under these circumstances it is quite natural that they should be down-trodden by men. The dawn of civilization in the *Meiji* era has tended to

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break these fetters, but there is one point which is seriously to be deplored—the difference in education between men and women. Women are virtually excluded from all higher instruction. Although it is admitted that their physical limitations prevent their occupying the same sphere as men, it is unjust to deprive them of mental culture.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

The *Rikugō Zasshi* discusses the attitude of Japanese Christians as displayed in the secularisation of Christian schools. The tendency in all quarters, says this organ, seems to be to eliminate from Christian institutions whatever is calculated to give offence to unbelievers. This is the principle that lies at the root of the changes to which Christian schools have been subjected. It is quite plain that the losses attending the carrying out of such a policy will be far greater than the gains. The distinctiveness of mission schools constitutes their chief value. If this distinctiveness can be maintained without retaining the appellation "Christian" why wrangle about a name? say some. The answer to this is that there is no object in getting rid of the name if the quality which causes umbrage in the hearts of unbelievers, the distinctive Christian character of the school is retained, for it is foolish to suppose that the removal of the name, while the reality remains, will in any way pacify the minds of the opponents of Christian schools. The plan recommended by the writer we are quoting is that Christianity should present a bold front, and refuse to consent to compromise of any kind. Only by doing this can it establish its claim to supremacy over men's minds. To render Christianity Japanese in form and to make it financially independent of foreign aid are both very desirable objects, but to prune and trim it in order to make it pleasing to the eyes of outside cavillers is a sure way of robbing it of all influence in the country.

* * *

A lengthy article appears in the *Bukkyō* entitled *Nihon Shugi to Chokugo*, which discusses the subject of ethical standards on broad lines. We give a brief epitome of the argument:—The morality of a people cannot be manufactured at will. It must grow out of habits of thought and time-honoured customs. Materialism is undoubtedly liable to subvert morality, and hence the wave of materialistic thought that is now passing over Japan is to be regarded with apprehension. It has been customary to blame Mr. Fukuzawa and what is known as the Mita School of thought for the wide prevalence of the money-worshipping spirit. The Keiōgijuku is denounced in some quarters as the propagator of a pernicious form of materialism. But those who take this view fail to apprehend the true significance of the part Mr. Fukuzawa and his school have played in the education of Japan. In order to break down that contempt for money and for money-making occupations which characterised the leaders of thought in the Tokugawa era and which showed itself in a marked manner at the beginning of the *Meiji* era, Mr. Fukuzawa adopted various methods of demonstrating that the whole future of Japan, as a country committed to a policy of close intercourse with Western nations, depends on her adoption of Occidental ideas as to the importance of money-making and material progress of every kind. Thanks to the labours of Mr. Fukuzawa and many others, this principle is now fully recognised. Realising this, Mr. Fukuzawa finds it no longer necessary to be always preaching the doctrines he preached many years ago. He knows only too well that men are apt to run to extremes, that from ultra-idealism many Japanese have descended (for descent he takes it to be) to ultra-materialism. At the present moment the *Nippon Shugi* party are doing much more harm to the cause of moral education than the Mita School of writers has ever done. The narrow views advocated by this party have no redeeming features whatever. The writers who constitute the leaders of this movement have set themselves in opposition to Buddhism, Shintō and Christianity alike and have even ventured to accuse the adherents of these religions of acting in opposition to the Imperial Ordinance on education. These writers can only be regarded as perverters of truth and as flatterers of the nation. As self-constituted champions of the Imperial Ordinance, their assumptions will be repudiated by all right thinking men.

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The following list of articles appearing in Buddhist magazines conveys an idea of the topics of most interest in the Buddhist world at the present time.

"The Use of Art as an Aid to Religious Reform." (*Zenshū.*)

"The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." The argument of the writer of this article is that the Roman Empire was destroyed by Christianity—an anti-national religion—and that Japan will soon have to face the same danger. (*Idem*).

"The two thousand eight hundred and fiftieth Anniversary of Shaka's death and its significance." (*Shōhōrin.*)

"Buddhist Reform," by Dr. Inoue Yenryō Dr. Inoue advocates the abandonment of that policy of retirement from the busy world which has been followed by Buddhists for so many centuries and the adoption of a progressive and aggressive policy. (*Meikyō Shinshi.*)

"The Government, Education, and Religion.' The Government is recommended to make unsparing use of religious men as school-teachers. (*Dentō.*)

"The Limits of Religious Liberty," (四明餘霞 *Shimei-yoka.*)

"The Fashions and Religion of the Upper Classes." The contention of this article is that there is great degeneration in the moral state of the higher strata of society and that the influence which graduates of the chief educational establishments of the land ought to exercise over the higher classes is not felt. (*Hansei Zasshi.*)

"The True Way and Actual Profit," by Mr. Ouchi Seiran. (*Mikuni no Hikari.*)

* * *

On April 13th last a temple that dates from 1321, the Sōji-ji, of Noto, was burnt to the ground. This building was the *honsan* (本山), or Head Temple of the Sō-ō Sect. In addition to the destruction of the temple this sect lately lost a large sum of money deposited in the Kujime bank, prior to its bankruptcy.

* * *

On May 28th the *Shinri* celebrated the appearance of its hundredth number by the publication of a specially interesting issue, giving a full exposition of the principles of the mission, and by a meeting of the friends and adherents of the German Mission held at the Shingakkō, Shimo-Tobisaka-machi, Koishikawa, Tōkyō From the matter published in the *Shinri* (May number) the following details are taken:—Mr. T. Maruyama states that the *Shinri* has been in existence ten years and that its aim is to act as an exponent of Christian theology and philosophy. The Rev. C. Munzinger observes that the Christian faith, like the waters of the Rhine, became polluted when far removed from its source and that the restoration of the purity of the Christian religion which had been effected by the Lutherans was a work of great merit. As a church, the Lutherans in Japan had figured as the champions of Biblical Christianity as distinguished from the Christianity of ecclesiastical dogma. The dogmas of the orthodox party could never satisfy the longings of the Japanese people. There are truths of the everlasting gospel of Christ which Japanese can assimilate without outraging in any way their traditional notions and feelings. The ethical teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is capable of universal application. This opinion the *Shinri* has done its best to emphasise from month to month. Writing from Germany, the Rev. O. Schmiedel says that the most important of all subjects connected with Biblical study is the character of Christ. Around that character clusters all that is valuable in the Old and New Testaments. To separate the real Christ from the traditions and pious fancies that have grown up around his personality is a work second to none in importance. This can only be done by deciding on what were the chief acts of His life and what were His real utterances.

The Rev. G. Schiller gives an account of the principles of the Fukyū-fukuin-Kyōkwai, or the *Allgemeine-evangelische protestantisch Missions Verein*. Mr. Schiller refers to Mr. Takahashi Goiō's hostile criticism of the work of the Lutheran Church in the April number of the *Far East*. In the March and April numbers of the *Far East* Mr. Takahashi Goiō published two articles entitled "Christianity in Japan." On p. 284 of the April number he thus speaks of the German Mission*:—"But, let me freely speak, the German Evangelical Church here represents the extreme left of German Speculative Thelogy; and such a system it is needless to say, cannot but drive men from Christianity, rather than attract them to it, because it is founded on a multitude of speculative hypotheses, or, in plain terms, it rests on a *destructive* 'higher criticism' that is ever shifting its grounds. The general impression is that the retarding of the march of Christianity in this country has not a little to thank the counter-movement of that sect. German Missionaries are very learned *à l'Allemande*, and speak without any opposition, a fact greatly telling on the unbelieving populace, although their influence has gone down considerably of late. A close friend to this (*sic*) is the Unitarian Church, which has also entered into a defensive as well as aggressive alliance with Buddhism in general, her first and chief preacher now being a well-known (former?) Shinshū priest." Mr. Schiller contends that this is a gross misrepresentation of the principles and the practice of the Lutherans in Japan. The mission has joined no alliances of the kind referred to. We neither sympathise with the Orthodox party nor with the Unitarians, says Mr. Schiller. The former are trying to impose the yoke of Western Christian dogma on the Japanese. The latter argue in favour of religion of any and every type and are not distinctively Christian as we make a point of being. We are in a word preachers of the gospel of Christ, whose one aim it is to make Christ's yoke easy for those who come under it, and never to attempt to saddle Christian Churches here with a burden which they could not possibly bear. Christianity in this country must be allowed to develop on its own lines, as it has done elsewhere. There is a German and an English type of Christianity and there must be a Japanese one also. In reply to the assertion that we have no principles but those that rest on destructive criticism, I may refer to an enunciation of the principles of our Church drawn up in 1887. In preaching the Gospel of Christ in civilised countries, says this document, the following points are to be borne in mind:—(1) "That the Gospel is not founded on the wisdom of men, but on divine revelation. (2) That this revelation is perfect and thorough and not confined to one time or one form. (3) The Gospel we preach is not a new religion but rather a reformer of moral abuses which have sprung up. (4) We therefore do not consider it our province to found sects or parties, but simply to stand forth as witnesses of Christ, the one and only Saviour of the World. (5) We do not depend for success on any elaborate or high class system of doctrines, but on the spirit of God, the only effectual saving power. (6) Our Gospel is not one which lives only in the past, which is merely historical, it is experienced in the hearts and lives of believers day by day." And these are the principles that Mr. Takahashi Goiō describes as of a destructive tendency. Is the removal of the stones that lie across the path of would-be Christians to be denounced as wholesale destruction? If so, we are guilty as a mission. . . . . Notwithstanding all that is said in defence of orthodoxy,

* We quote Mr. Takahashi's *unrevised* English as it stands in the "Far East."—(Writer of the Summary).

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one thing is quite certain, and that is, that the Japanese churches of the future will not be orthodox.

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The subject of the Rev. R. Minami's article in the 100th number of the Magazine is:—"The liberal Christianity which we espouse occupies a special place in Japan." Mr. Minami states that the opinions expressed in his essay are not to be regarded as in every case those of the Mission to which he belongs. He alone is responsible for them. We give a short *resumé* of his article. Since there are not a few among the Orthodox who maintain that we are not Christians at all, it is incumbent on us to define the position we hold among religious parties with some care. We are not among those who consider that all religions except Christianity are inventions of the Devil, but we maintain that there is no religion that in point of sublimity is equal to Christianity. But by Christianity we do not mean the Christianity of the creeds as represented by the orthodox party. We have been made the object of attack because we contend that traditional and ecclesiastical Christianity is not the essence of the religion of Christ. Dr. Gordon denounced us in *The Missionary Herald* some months ago and was followed by Mr. Takahashi Goro. Dr. Gordon stated that one of the causes of the degeneration of Christians in Japan was the introduction of German Biblical criticism into this country. Thus we are represented as enemies to the Christian cause, as obstructors in the way of those who come here to preach the Gospel of Christ. This all arises from a misunderstanding of the views we hold and the position we have assumed. We Japanese have a problem to solve in connection with the adoption of Christianity that is of exceptional difficulty. It is well known that the apostle Paul was all things to all men. To the Jews he became a Jew, to the Greeks a Greek. Early Christianity as preached to the Jews and as preached to the Gentiles differed in many important particulars. And in the course of history Christianity has assumed different forms in order to suit the nations which have adopted it. Christianity is comparatively new in Japan. We Protestant Christians of to-day are bound by no traditional teaching having special reference to this country, and hence it is for us to determine what form Christianity shall take among us. In Christianity there are two distinct elements. One is a moving and changeable element; the other a fixed and unchangeable element. The teaching of Christ and the life of devotion he led, terminated by a cruel death, which death showed the sincerity and earnestness of his convictions—this constitutes the foundation of the Christian religion as believed in and practised in all times. This element may be described as the essentially religious element. It rests on undoubted historical fact; and is distinct from all the metaphysical and philosophic theories that are commonly considered to be inseparable from the warp and woof of the Christian religion. The changeable and progressive parts of Christianity have to do with a variety of speculative questions on which the knowledge of mankind in one age is very different from what it is in another. To the questions, what is morality? what is religion? How should the term God be defined? what is the true theory of the Universe? And what position does man occupy in the order of the Universe? various answers have been given in different ages. They are intellectual problems the solution of which is far as attainable depends largely on extensive and labourious investigation. The enlightened Christians of every age in their explanation of the various phenomena of the universe, whether in the region of mind or of matter, are bound to rely on clearly ascertained scientific facts. One of the duties of the divines of every age is to reconcile Christian teaching with scientific teaching. The old basis of the Christian religion, miracles and the inspiration of the Bible, has been shown to be unreliable. The study of other religions has demonstrated that the notion that the Christian religion alone is true and all other religions are false, and the notion that the Christian religion alone is founded on Divine revelation can no longer be entertained. Hence the doctrine of the divinity of Christ, the working of miracles and the inspiration of the Bible have had to be given up. It is because the German liberal Christians recognise this and act on the recognition in their endeavours to supply another basis for Christian teaching that they have excited the hostility of the orthodox party. The supernaturalism of Christianity can no longer be *authoritatively* taught as the one foundation of the faith. This foundation having been removed by the progress of science and historical study, an adequate substitute has to be found. The question as to what that substitute shall be is the one problem of all others that demands the attention of earnest Christians. For the solution of this problem it is necessary to study history closely; not merely the records of the rise and fall of nations, and the succession of events in the world, but the history of the workings of men's minds in that region of thought and speculation known as the metaphysical world. It is for the religious metaphysician to determine what is the modern Christian conception of the universe. There must be no antagonism between the intellectual side of Christianity and its moral and religious side. The system of doctrine to be preached must be a well-balanced and harmonious whole. If asked whether this new type of Christianity will possess sufficient strength to establish itself in the world, speaking candidly and without reserve, I should say this is doubtful. Mr. Minami's words are *Kaku shin keikō* (格新向) *wo yū suru Kiristukyō wa hatashite seiritsu suru nōryoku ari ya? Gojin* (吾人) *wo shite habakaru tokoro naku iwashimeba, kore gimon ni soku su.* But it is possible to think thus and still be a Christian. I at least so think and I am a follower of Christ. Whether on the basis which I have sketched it is possible to found a Church that will hold together for any length of time is a question still undetermined. We are trying an experiment here that has never been tried before. In Europe and America there has never been any such liberty of belief as we enjoy, and there never can be. Seeing that the Japanese Christians of the liberal school stand alone in the world, their responsibility is very great. One thing is certain, the Japanese are a rational people and in recent times have studied very keenly Western science and philosophy. No form of Christianity that is incapable of being reconciled with advanced science has any chance of being received by educated people in this country. To proclaim as truths theories which science has clearly shown to be untenable and to call these Christian theories, is worse than useless. Our Christianity must in every respect be up to date. We can only accept what appeals to our reason, and can only offer to others what we can show to be thoroughly rational."

* * *

One of the leading characteristics of modern Christianity as practised in Europe and America, says the *Kirisuto-Kyō Shimbun*, is its adaptation to social wants and circumstances. In the middle ages, Christianity was shut up in monasteries or retreats, or hidden in the hearts of a few devout souls, now it mingles with the affairs of the bustling world. It originates and superintends a number of institutions designed to render life happier and brighter. This element in Christianity, says the organ we quote, needs to be more fully developed in Japan.

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The *Fukuin Shimpō* criticises an article from the pen of Yamaji Yakichi entitled "A study of nature," in which, according to the *Fukuin Shimpō*, Mr. Yamaji appears as a pantheist and as a believer in the Pythagorean doctrine of metempsychosis. Not so very long ago, says the *Fukuin Shimpō*, Mr. Yamaji figured as a defender of orthodoxy and denounced the heresy of Mr. Yokoi Tokio and his party. This *volte face* is worth calling attention to, as it is getting to be very common among Japanese Christians. Mr. Yamaji, says the *Fukuin Shimpō*, writes of our connection with nature and of our inseparability from it as though it were something new, but this theory has been advocated by various philosophers ever since men began to study nature.

Mr. Yebina Danjō, says the periodical we are now quoting, in commenting on Mr. Gladstone's connection with Christianity and with the enunciation of the principle of liberty, links his name with that of Ward Beecher in America and Yokoi Shōnan in Japan. Mr. Yebina contends that even in religion, though Mr. Gladstone professed the orthodox faith to the day of his death, this eminent statesman argued in favour of allowing great liberty of belief. He saw good in Unitarianism, while pointing outs its defects. As regards the divinity of Christ, says the *Fukuin Shimpō*, it is not a doctrine which the world can receive without preparation. Hence it is preferable to begin by dwelling on the superiority of Christ's manhood. When it is proved that Christ was no ordinary man, the mind is somewhat prepared for accepting the belief that he was God as well as man.

Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi, President of the last Diet, is a Christian, and before leaving his official residence, says the *Fukuin Shimpō*, he held a religious service there. Some 40 Christians and sympathisers were present, including Viscount Yamanouchi. The service was conducted by Mr. Uemura Masahisa. This incident is somewhat remarkable, says the *Fukuin Shimpō*, as showing the spirit of the times.

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Writing in the *Yui-itsu* (No. 47), Mr. Shimotagi Tenrui gives a minute account of modern Shintō. He says that there is great ignorance about the real tenets of Shintoists, but a good deal of this is to be attributed to the fact that there are so many different schools of thought within the pale of the Shintō body. Even definitions of what Shintō actually is and of its principal functions differ considerably. According to some it is a system whose chief object is to encourage ancestral worship and loyalty to the living Emperor and his predecessors of royal lineage. According to others it is a great government engine. In Hirata Atsutane's definition of Shintō under five heads there is much that is obscure. There are at present 12 tolerably well-known Shintō sects as follows:—The *Shintō honkyoku-ha*; (2) The *Jingūkyō ha*; (3) The *Taisha* (大社) *Kyō ha*; (4) The *Kurosumi* (黒住) *Kyō ha*; (5) The *Shinshū* (神習) *Kyō-ha*; (6) The *Taisei* (大成) *Kyō ha*; (7) The *Fusō* (扶桑) *Kyō-ha*; (8) The *Jikkō* (實行) *Kyō-ha*; (9) The *Shūsei* (修成) *ha*; (10) The *Mitarai* (身禊) *ha*; (11) The *Shinri* (神理) *Kyō ha*; (12) *Ontake* (御嶽) *Kyō-ha*. All these sects represent differences of opinion, but most of the sects are agreed in assigning to the Shintō faith a position quite independent of State control. It is correct to affirm, they would say, that Shintō is the instructor of the State rather than that the State is the instructor of Shintō. The Jingūkyō ha alone asserts that Shintō occupies a higher rank and is far more sacred than any existing religion. The adherents of this sect object to the name religion being applied to Shintō. To them the term appears degrading. But this view is narrow and indefensible. With a large class of Shintoists there is liberality of feeling and a readiness to acknowledge the devotion and piety of the adherents of other creeds.

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Dr. Katō discourses in the *Shakai Zasshi* on that well-worn subject, the decline of morals in the *Meiji* age. He maintains that Shintō, Buddhism and the code of honour and upright conduct known as *Bushidō* have all alike lost their power over society; that in proportion to the intellectual gains of the country there have been moral losses; that something worse than concubinage is practiced by women, and that

* We have aimed at giving the gist of Mr. Minami's article rather than reproducing his exact words, this being the only course possible with the space at our disposal.—(*Writer of the Summary.*)

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under these circumstances it is the duty of all lovers of their country to discuss methods of improving the state of Society.

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In the *Rikugō Zasshi*, No. 209, Mr. Matsumura Kaiseki in an article on religion in general discusses the state of Christianity in Japan at the present time. He says that it is quite hopeless to expect to come to an understanding with foreign missionaries; that there are numbers of them that though knowing the Japanese language and Japanese customs, and after living in the country 20 years, are unable to attract an audience when they preach. They are not open to advice, and they are quite ignorant of the proper way to evangelise. In their schools of divinity they do nothing but teach Western theology without any regard to such systems of thought as Buddhism and Confucianism, which form the basis of the religious notions prevalent in the Far East. They preach to us, he continues, just as they would preach to Europeans or Americans; and hence without any effect. Their message can only be compared to music in the ears of the deaf. There is no feeling of responsibility on the part of their hearers, because there is no appeal to the real sentiments of the people. Japanese evangelists to a large extent follow suit. They praise foreigners and imitate foreign ways. They utterly ignore the fact that they are addressing audiences whose only ideas as to religion are derived from Buddhist, Shintō or Confucian sources. In order to conquer an enemy it is necessary to possess a minute knowledge of his peculialities and weaknesses. The opponents of Christianity oppose it for different reasons and from different standpoints. These reasons should be studied and met instead of being all denounced in a breath as the obstinacy of unbelief.

The *Shin Seiki* has an article by the editor Mr. Kosaki Hiromichi, on "Morality in Japan," in which reference is made to an address of Dr. Green's in Boston on "Great Questions in Japan." These were stated to be three—(1) Independence; (2) The Army and Navy; (3) Morality. Mr. Kosaki observes that the first two questions were discussed very fully by Dr. Green, but that the third, in Mr. Kosaki's opinion by far the most important, was not treated in a full and satisfactory manner. Dr. de Forest is next quoted by Mr. Kosaki as calling attention to the exemption from blame which even great statesmen enjoy when they amuse themselves with *geisha*. While this lasts it is plain that all the talk about loyalty to the emperor and faithfulness to superiors produces little practical effect, says Dr. de Forest. Mr. Kosaki says that there is no such censor in modern Japan as public sentiment in England to-day or in Japan during the Tokugawa age. The reason of the strong sentiment in favour of morality in Christian countries, which condemns in an unmistakable manner conduct like that of Parnell and of Sir Charles Dilke, is to be sought in the reality of religious belief. Morality in Japan needs to be strengthened by the addition of religious motives to those already existing.

The *Nippon Shugi* has an article propounding as exactly opposite view to the one advocated by Mr. Kosaki, saying that the thraldom of public opinion in countries like England, where so many are slaves to traditional sentiment and are opposed to giving freedom of belief and action to minorities, is a state from which Japan is happily far removed. The practice of dragging private morals into politics and rejecting the services of able statesmen on account of transgressions against the ever-changing laws of society is not to be commended, as has been pointed out by discerning men in Europe. The *Nippon Shugi* thinks that, though there is some good, yet there is also much harm, connected with the attempt of society to despotically control the actions of individuals and to expect all conduct to conform to a standard which by no means possesses unimpeachable authority.

FORMOSA & THE NEW TREATIES.

The recent address of Mr. Mizumo Jun, ex-Director of the Civil Administration Bureau of the *Taiwan-sotoku-fu*, on "Formosa and the Treaties," delivered before the members of the *Kokkagakkwai*, has been reported in the magazine of that Association. His opinions, based on actual observations in the Island, are very interesting. We translate them as follows:—

Whether the new Treaties will be put into operation in Formosa is a difficult question on which no settled opinion has yet been given by the public. When the formal transfer of Formosa to Japan took place on the second of June, 1895, the whole island was in insurrection, and the Governor took measures to restore peace by military force. He, however, gave, with regard to foreign intercourse, information to the various foreign consuls in northern Formosa that, despite the war then raging, trade and business might be carried on according to the regulations of the Chinese Government, at the open ports of Formosa pending further information from the Japanese Government. Commerce therefore continued peacefully. The only change noticed was that the Japanese flag was substituted at the Custom House for the yellow Dragon flag about the 8th of the same month. But on the 23rd of December of the same year, Tainan-fu falling into the hands of the Japanese army, and Liu Jung-fu running away into China, the whole Island was brought under the peaceful administration of the Japanese, and the fact was notified to the various nations by the Japanese Government. Then it became impossible to permit foreign trade to be still carried on according to the regulations of the Chinese government, and on the 22nd of February, 1896, the Japanese Government decided to carry out the existing treaties between Japan and foreign nations, in Formosa, and issued the following proclamation.

"A peaceful condition having been established throughout Formosa, the Imperial Japanese Government grants the following privileges and conveniences to the subjects and peoples residing in Formosa, of any nation with which a Treaty is concluded, as well as to the vessels of such a nation sailing to and from Formosa.

"I.—The subjects or people of any nation having a Treaty of commerce and navigation with Japan may enter and conduct trade in the ports of Tamsui, Anhui, Tainan, and Takao, and vessels of such a nation may enter, and import and export cargoes to and from the same port.

"II.—Though special circumstances exist in Formosa, the Treaties of Commerce and Navigation, Tariff regulations, and other arrangements, now existing between Japan and various nations having treaties with Japan, shall be applied, as far as possible, to the subjects of such nations who reside in or sail to and from Formosa.

"Those who enjoy the preceding privileges and conveniences must observe the laws and ordinances in operation in Formosa."

By the above proclamation the present Treaties went into operation in Formosa from the 23rd of February, 1896. Then occurred more or less difficult questions owing to the non-existence of boundary lines at the settlements in the open ports of Formosa. New boundary lines had to be established, and the lands under the ownership of foreigners inside and outside of the boundaries had to be disposed of. These difficulties were, however, harmoniously arranged, and the present condition of the open ports of the island is generally the same as that of Japanese ports. Such is the brief history of foreign intercourse since the occupation of Formosa up to the present day. The present treaties are now in operation in Formosa; but there exist at present various opinions relating to the putting into force of the revised Treaties. The chief point of difference is the suitability or non-suitability of mixed residence, and the disputants may be classified as follow:—

1st.—Those who hold that, as the revised Treaties will not be carried out in the colonies of Great Britain or France, owing to the difference of interests between the colonies and the mother country, Japan may, for similar reasons, postpone the putting into force of the Treaties in Formosa, and there appears no just reason for the refusal of foreign nations to agree to such an arrangement.

2.—Those who hold that, though the new Anglo-Japanese Treaty which was interchanged on the 16th of July, 1894, did not include Formosa in its application, yet there is no exceptional clause concerning Formosa in the other new Treaties which were concluded after its transfer to Japan, and consequently Japan must carry them out in the island.

The former seem to think that Formosa should not be placed outside of the new Treaties because in the island the executive and judicial organizations are not yet in perfect condition, and the same laws as those of Japan can not be put into operation. Stated briefly, their view is to stop the foreign trade of Formosa by closing the island. But Formosa has its own history. From its first opening to foreign trade in the year 1858, about 40 years ago, by Article 11 of the famous Treaty of Tientsin concluded between China and England, up to the present day, foreign merchants, especially English merchants, have resided and traded in the island. Thus the closing of the island can not possibly be enforced. On the other hand, if the Government wishes to leave Formosa as it stands, some special treaties must be concluded, or a proclamation must be issued that the present treaties shall be carried out in Formosa without reference to the new Treaties. In that case the present system of Consular Jurisdiction, and the present scale of Customs duties must be continued for the sake of avoiding trouble possibly incidental to mixed residence.

Mr. Mizuno himself proposes the putting into force of the new Treaties in Formosa, and gives his opinion about their suitability or non-suitability. Many difficulties may arise in putting the new Treaties into operation there, but with regard to mixed residence, the actual condition of the island does not afford ground for the great anxiety felt by some people. In Formosa, owing to the former loose administration of the Chinese Government, foreign merchants years ago employed their capital in industries in the interior, and actual mixed residence sprang up in localities where camphor is produced in central and southern Formosa. Besides, there are numbers of Chinese from Canton and Foochow, and among the natives here is much less anti-foreign sentiment than is shown by Chinese in China. Many foreign missionaries and merchants make tours in the interior of the Island, but no report of injuries to them has yet been received. When Mr. Mizuno travelled through Formosa from the southern part to the northern in the 7th year of *Meiji*, he himself was everywhere mistaken for a physician belonging to some missionary society, as he wore foreign clothes, and was surrounded everywhere by the natives, who came to receive medicine from him as they usually did from such physicians. A Parsee of British nationality was killed in July, 1896, when the rebels of Unchi were active, but his death was attributed to his having the appearance of a Japanese. Moreover, the probable centres of mixed residence in Formosa will be the places where foreigners have already employed their capital in the production of sugar and camphor. Thus there seems to be no cause for anxiety about questions connected with mixed residence. There is but one thing to which some difficulty may lie, the *Boshi* (native rebels). They are nothing but robbers, and may attack foreigners when they go on their plundering expeditions. It may be three or four years before they are brought into a state of subjection; but the places where they congregate should be publicly declared as dangerous for the residence of Japanese and foreigners. Even now it is common not to deliver to foreigners passports to these localities. The same measure may be enforced when the new Treaties come into operation.

Mr. Mizuno refers to the difference in the conditions of industrial competition as between Japanese and foreigners in Formosa and the conditions existing in the interior of Japan, stating that in Formosa foreigners were enjoying commercial interests prior to the Japanese occupation. With regard to the putting into force of the new Codes, he proceeds to say that the Japanese Government must, according to the new Treaties, enforce the Codes in Formosa one year before the Treaties go into operation. Law No. 63 March, 1896, entrusted the Governor of Formosa with the power of drawing up regulations suitable to natives for three years from April, 1896, to March, 1899. But the present condition of the Island shows how impossible it is to enforce the new Code among the natives in one year from now. At present the enactment and promulgation of the new Codes need have no connection with the natives of Formosa, and the operation of the Codes in the island may be restricted to Japanese and foreigners, the natives being excluded from consideration. Neither foreigners nor Formosan natives are likely to raise any objection to such a measure.

The eight new torpedo-boats to be added to the German Navy are to be of nickel steel, and their construction will mark the first time that this material has been used in German war-vessels. The boats have a displacement of 155 tons and a speed of 25 knots. The furnaces can be fired by coal or tar, and each boat carries 30 tons of coal and seven tons of tar.

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THE LEGISLATIVE WORK OF THE DIET IN ITS TWELFTH SESSION.

The Bills that passed both Houses of the Diet in its recent session were as follow :—

1. Abolition of the Law for Encouraging the Direct Export of Silk. (Promulgated May 25th, 1898).

2. Supplementary Budgets for 1898 9. (Promulgated May 31st, 1898).

3. Amendment of the Industrial Bank Law. (Promulgated 4th June, 1898.)

The object of this amendment is to extend the Bank's liberty with regard to the deposit of its unemployed funds. Hitherto it has been necessary to deposit such funds in the Bank of Japan only, but the amendment provides that any bank approved by the Minister of Finance may be chosen. A further provision of the amendment is the decrease of the face-value of the Bank's shares from 50 to 30 *yen*.

4. Bill relating to the Finances of State Railways in Hokkaido. (Promulgated 4th June, 1898).

This Bill provides that the finances of the State Railways shall be dealt with in a special account, and not according to the Railway Finance Law of 1890.

5. Bill for remitting the Land Tax in the case of sites for Epidemic Hospitals. (Promulgated 4th June, 1898.)

6. Bill for limiting the Period of Exchangeability of silver *yen* coins to July 31st, 1898. (Promulgated 10th June, 1898.)

7. Bill for limiting the circulation of Government Notes to December 31st, 1899. (Promulgated 10th June, 1898.)

The Notes referred to in this Bill are the old notes issued by the Government prior to the resumption of specie payments.

8. Bill empowering the Minister of State for Finance to indicate articles exportable from Special Ports, in addition to the staples already sanctioned by law, namely, rice, barley, wheat, flour, coal and sulphur; the power to be exerciseable from July 1st 1899. (Promulgated 10th June, 1898.)

9. Bills relating to Local Boundaries in Hiroshima, Kagawa and Okayama Prefectures. (Promulgated June 15th, 1898.)

10. Bill embodying amended portions of the Civil Code. (Promulgated 15th June, 1898.)

11. Bill for rescinding the Peace Preservation Regulations. (Promulgated 24th June, 1898.)

12. Bill for amending the Formosa Bank Law. (Promulgated 24th June, 1898.)

This Bill confers upon the Government the power of restricting the amount of accommodation granted by the Bank of Formosa, and controlling the method of granting it.

13. Bill for amending the Commercial and Technical Education Subsidy Law. (Promulgated 24th June, 1898.)

This Bill provides that the annual subsidy granted by the Treasury for commercial and technical education shall be increased from 150,000 *yen* to 250,000 *yen*, and that mercantile marine schools shall be eligible for the receipt of such aid.

14. Bill for abolishing the Special System of Municipal Government in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto. (Promulgated 27th June, 1898).

The main feature of the Special System is that the Mayor, instead of being elected by the people, is chosen and appointed by the Government, the Governor of the city being Mayor *ex officio*.

15. Bill embodying the Law of Procedure in Actions concerning the Personal Status. (Promulgated 15th June, 1898.)

The Bill comprises 83 articles.

16. Bill embodying the Law of Procedure in Non-contentious matters (Promulgated 15th June, 1895.)

17. Bill embodying the Law of Operation of the Civil Code. (Promulgated 15th June, 1895.)

This Bill comprises 94 articles.

18 Bill for amending Notification No 103 of the year 1873 (Not yet promulgated).

This Bill is connected with the proposed Law of Nationality which failed to pass the Houses.

19. Bill embodying the Law of Census Registration. (Promulgated 21st June, 1898).

This Law contains 223 articles.

20. Bill relating to Special Methods of Taxation in Districts devastated by Inundations. (Not yet promulgated.)

This Bill provides for the remission of taxes in the case of lands injured by the floods of July and October 1897.

21. Bill embodying the Law of Public Auctions. (Promulgated 15th June, 1898.)

This Bill contains 51 articles and is intended to bring the old law into conformity with the new Civil and Commercial Codes.

22. Various Supplementary Budgets for the fiscal year 1897-8.

KOREAN TOPICS.

The *Whang Sung Sinmun*, says the *Independent*, is responsible for the statement that a rich man of Pyengando went in Sŏul provided with $4,000 to buy a magistrate's position, and that through the good offices of an influential woman, the profitable bargain is soon to be brought to a successful conclusion. The Independent congratulates the rich man on his success but feels sorry for the people of the district over which the almighty dollar may place him as magistrate.

In future, Korean children under the age of seven are to be provided with wooden tablets bearing the names of their fathers or elder brothers, and the street in which they live. This provision of law has been made at the instance of the Police Department who are greatly bothered at times by an accumulation of lost and strayed youngsters of tender years.

The Department of Agriculture and Public Works in Korea has been authorized by the Council, under Imperial sanction, to construct a railroad between Sŏul and Mokpo, and to select ten scholars from the English and French Language Schools to be sent abroad to study the postal systems of Europe.

The *Mail il Sinmun* gives publicity to the rumour that Mr. Pak Yongho (Boku Eiko, as he is called in Japan) is now in Korea. The paper further states that of late the former residence of Mr. Pak has been closely watched by detectives and that this police surveillance keeps visitors from the house, which is in the charge of a Japanese friend.

The *Independent* translates the following story of youthful Korean impertinence from the *Mail il Sinmun* :—

During the recent examination of candidates for the Military school, a young man was rejected on account of the shortness of his stature. Upon which he said to the examiner, an ex-Minister of War, "Sir, I am not yet twenty years old. Who can say how tall I may have grown by the time I get to be thirty or forty? Moreover, *you* reject me on the ground that I am too short for soldier. Very well. In 1894, when the palace was in trouble all the tall generals took to their heels, deserting our sovereign and making themselves very scarce. I have never heard that a tall man is more loyal or patriotic than a short one." The examiner, who was one of the tall generals in question, ordered the youth out of the gate without delay.

The following correspondence appears in the *Independent* :—

On the 18th June, the Independent Club sent the following letter to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Sim Sanghoon :—

We have the honour to call Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the monetary system to a nation is what the arterial communications are to the body. Arteries obstructed, the body loses its vitality. The whole country offers weakness and depression when its medium of exchange is in disorder. In these days of international commercial relations the question of money is of great importance. After the "Reformation" our money is composed of five yang silver pieces and subsidiary coins, as Your Excellency well knows. It is reported that of late the mint is coining copper and nickel pieces only without manufacturing a single 5-yang silver money. If this be true it is to be feared that trade, both foreign and interior, will suffer all sort of inconvenience causing distress to people. Being very anxious in regard to this question, we have the honour to address Your Excellency begging that you will be good enough to enlighten us how the matter stands and what may be the ultimate consequences of the excessive coinage of subsidiary pieces alone.

Choi Jungsik,
Kim Nakchip,
Jung Kio,

The Committee of the Independent Club.

Below we give the answer of the Minister of Finance written on the 18th inst. :—

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication concerning our money. The mint, under the control of our Department, has coined copper and nickel pieces to the value of several tens of thousand dollars. But these are kept in the Department and will not be issued for circulation until a sufficient quantity of our standard silver dollars (5 yang pieces) are manufactured for use. Hope this may be a satisfactory answer to your inquiry.

Sim Sanghoon,
Minister of Finance.

On receipt of the foregoing reply, the Club instructed its committee to write, on the 20th inst. the following letter to the Minister of Finance :—

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's reply informing us that the subsidiary coins manufactured in the mint are to be "kept in the Finance Department until a sufficient quantity of our standard silver dollars (5 yang pieces) are manufactured for use." As the view of Your Excellency is consistent with the financial interest of the country we believe that the whole nation will be benefited by your policy. But we beg to remind you that there are found in circulation copper and nickel coins with the superscription of the '2nd year of Kwangmu' on them. Now we know they are new coins. This plainly contradicts Your Excellency's assertion and popular suspicion gathers strength from the fact that the coins which are said to be kept in the Finance Department are seen in the market. We, therefore, beg you to kindly inform us how the new coins in question are found abroad.

Choi Jungsik,
Kim Nakchip,
Yu Maing.

The Committee of the Independent Club.

YOKOHAMA'S TRADAL DEPRESSION.

Business has been very dull for a long time past in Yokohama, in consequence of the tightness prevailing in the money market, and godowns of foreign import merchants are filled to overflowing with contract goods that Japanese merchants have failed to take delivery of. The *Japan Times* says that the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce recently discussed the subject in all its bearings and as a result the Committee resolved to enforce the following stipulations in regard to transactions in muslins and yarns :—

(1). That goods which were imported to contract up to the end of April last in accordance with orders of Japanese merchants shall all be taken delivery of by the latter without delay.

(2). That goods left undelivered shall be subject to daily interest at the rate of 3 *sen* on their value, commencing from the 1st of this month.

(3). That in the event of this order being disregarded, future transactions will not be entered into with the defaulters.

The Japanese merchants on receiving this intimation held a conference and resolved "that the proposed raising of the daily interest against goods undelivered be enforced from the 1st of September next instead of from the 1st July, and that the rate of interest be amended to 2 *sen*." There the matter rests for the moment.

We understand, says the *China Mail*, that the Portuguese community of Hongkong are to petition the Governor in Council for a commutation of the death sentence pronounced upon Joan de Matta Ozorio for the murder of F. M. X. de Jesus on 9th May. There being no capital punishment under Portuguese law, the Portuguese are greatly concerned regarding the punishment meted out to their unfortunate countryman, and immediately after the pronouncement of the sentence telegraphic communication of the result was made to Lisbon and Macao.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Earth from the Garden of Gethsemane was strewn on Mr. Gladstone's coffin in the Westminster Abbey funeral. It was the gift of an admirer, whose name, by his own desire, has not been disclosed.

Colonel Lewis, R.E., has been selected for the appointment of Commanding Royal Engineers in Wei-hai-wei. Colonel James Frederick Lewis entered the Army in 1867, and was gazetted colonel in May last year. He has lately been employed on special service as Inspector-General of Fortifications.

The P. & O. steamer *Rohilla*, says the *Hiogo News*, on her way down from Yokohama, sighted a Japanese steamer ashore at Vries Island. Captain Lockyer stood by for four hours, but no assistance being required, the *Rohilla* proceeded to Kobe, reporting the matter at the lighthouse at Omaesaki.

Says the *Hiogo News* of Friday:—From this date the *Hiogo News* will be brought out under the management and editorship of Mr. B. A. Hale. As most of our readers will know, Mr. Hale has for the last three years been connected with the *Chronicle*. That connection was amicably severed yesterday."

Messrs. Carlowitz and Co., agents in Hongkong for the Hamburg-America Line, have received a letter from the Directors of the H.A.L. saying that the steamers the company bought of the Kingsin Line will be rechristened as follows:—

Wally ... to ...	*Silesia*	*Gerda* ... to ...	*Sarnia*
Ceres..... to ...	*Suevia*	*Erato* ... to ...	*Serbia*
Hertha ... to ...	*Sibiria*	*Kriemhild* to ...	*Savoia*

Vice-Admiral Von Diederichs, of the German Navy, it is alleged, asked General Aguinaldo to turn over to him the wife and five children of the Governor General, but the Insurgent leader has refused the request point-blank. He said that he wanted them for his own protection. Governor-General Augustin had put a price—$25,000—on his head and until he withdrew it he should hold the Governor's wife and children.

The life of a popular rebel chief is not a bed of roses. Aguinaldo, the head of the Filipinos, has had his life attempted three times within that number of weeks. The first was by poisoning. The last were attempts at stabbing, and one by an Italian adventurer. We have no mention of the fate of these would-be assassins. At present Aguinaldo's Headquarters are in the Palace at Cavite, but when the American troops arrive the general's headquarters will be established in Cavite and Aguinaldo will remove to Imus.

The *Times of India* reports that the Marine Court of Inquiry which investigated the circumstances attending the loss of the P. & O. steamer *China* on Azalea Point, Perim, found that Captain de Horne, as Commander, was responsible for the disaster to the vessel, and in consequence his certificate is suspended for six months; the supernumerary second officer is severely censured by the Court, and deprived of his certificate altogether. All the other officers are acquitted, as being in no way to blame for the occurrence."

Her Majesty the Queen sent the following telegram to Mrs. Gladstone on the day when Mr. Gladstone's funeral in Westminster Abbey took place:—"My thoughts are much with you during the trying and painful ceremony of to-day, but nevertheless it must be gratifying to you to see the nation's respect and regret for the memory of one whose character and intellectual abilities marked him as one of the most distinguished statesmen of my reign. I shall ever gratefully remember his devotion and zeal in all that concerned my personal welfare and that of my family."

Humorous in the extreme was the telegram published in Tuesday's *Japan Mail* as to the proceedings of the American squadron in the Carolines and Ladrones. On entering the harbour of Guam the *Charleston* fired seven shots at the forts. Apparently the aim was bad, and no damage was done. The Governor of Guam had perhaps never heard anything of war being in progress, or possibly he did not know the American flag when he saw it. At any rate, the impression on his mind was that the firing was intended as a salute, and, not to be outdone in courtesy, he sent a polite message on board to the effect that, having no powder, he was extremely sorry he was unable to return the compliment! The incident is a pleasant little piece of comedy in the midst of the dismal tragedy enacting in both of Spain's afflicted colonies.

It seems that at Manila the electric lamps on the sea-front were extinguished early in the month of June, to prevent the Americans from seeing too much. Following that, the Americans sent a vessel near shore nightly to sweep the sea-front with an electric search light. This, at first, annoyed the Spaniards a good deal; but, rising to the situation, crowds began to gather nightly to enjoy the show. Then the Americans thought they were, perhaps, putting themselves to needless trouble; and the search light exhibitions were stopped.

The wave of stifling and unseasonable heat that visited us during the past week was accompanied by an appearance which some observers describe as a comet and others call a meteor. The phenomenon is reported to have been observed at Osaka and at Wakayama, and the accounts from both places agree in fixing the time at 12 minutes past 2 o'clock on the morning of the 30th ultimo. The sky on the south-eastern horizon became suddenly suffused with brilliant light through an area of about thirty degrees, and something flashed across the firmament, but in what direction it travelled we can not clearly ascertain from the descriptions contained in vernacular journals. Five minutes after the appearance of the light, a crash like the discharge of a colossal piece of artillery became audible. There was no seismic disturbance, and if the blaze was meteoric, no report has been received as to the place where the meteor fell.

An interesting discovery is reported to have been made in the ground behind the Yokohama English Language School in No. 73, Sanchome, Hinode. Some appearances suggesting a tumulus having been detected, excavations were undertaken, which resulted in exposing a grave containing bones and several objects of daily use. Professor Tsuboi, of the Imperial University, to whom the objects were submitted for examination, pronounces them to be about fifteen hundred years old. There was a sword blade, so deeply corroded that the metal was almost in a crumbling condition; there were the usual vessels of unglazed pottery made familiar from previous excavations in various parts of Japan, and there was a bead which had evidently been employed for ornamental purposes. The contents of the tumulus do not contribute anything to the knowledge already garnered by Messrs. Gowland, Hitchcock, Kanda, and other antiquarians.

That Mr. Gladstone had a rare sense of order, and a capacity for business management, is well-known. The following story is a striking instance of his characteristic energy and prudence:—"After Sir John Gladstone's death," says a correspondent of the *Telegraph*, "the involved condition of Sir Stephen Glynne's affairs, consequent upon the mismanagement of the Hawarden estate by an over-sanguine agent, was disclosed for the first time. With characteristic energy and prudence Mr. Gladstone came to his brother-in-law's rescue, and enabled him to remain permanently in the beautiful Welsh home to which both were so passionately attached. The sum then advanced by Mr. Gladstone to save the Hawarden estate amounted, it is said, to £50,000, and two of the farms became Mr. Gladstone's property. At no time during his long residence at Hawarden did Mr. Gladstone's unofficial income exceed £5,000 a year. Such, however, was the thrift and sagacity with which the Hawarden estate was managed, that the eldest son of Mr. William Henry Gladstone, born in 1885, will, it is believed, succeed to £10,000 a year on attaining his majority."

Considerable interest has been caused by the discovery of some curious caves in Hollingbourne, near Maidstone. The origin of the labyrinths is obscure, and some people consider they are mere sandholes. The passages extend in all directions, with most bewildering irregularity. Here and there is a great vault on which a number of passages converge, and huge, ill-shaped pillars of sandstone support the roof. In places, half-way up the walls, a large cavity is cut, which suggests a sleeping chamber. How far the channels extend has not been determined, but one may walk miles in and out and round about the innumerable corridors. It is suggested that the caves may turn out to be "dene holes" in which the ancient Britons lived.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ROMAJI REFORM.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail"

Sir,—I read with great interest some days ago your remarks upon the practicability of using *Romaji* generally in printing and writing the Japanese language. Your answer to the objection that the Chinese characters are needed in the case of words of like sound to fix the sense seems to me conclusive. The fact that the *Romaji* can be understood by the ear when read from behind a screen shows that is only a notion, a *superstition*, that is to be overcome—the idea of the *necessity* of the Chinese characters. I have frequently replied that if the language can be understood when spoken, it can also be understood when written. This seemed to me only common sense; but my own knowledge of Japanese was not sufficient to enable me to speak on the matter with the confidence I shall now feel after you, of so great experience in the language, have expressed the same opinion.

I think you are entirely right in saying the Government should take up this reform, *Romaji* should be taught, both reading and writing, from the primary schools upward, and after a certain date all public business should be transacted through it.

But there is a way in which much may be done to popularize this important reform. Let the newspapers which favour it take it up. Let them keep as "*standing matter*" at the head of a certain column in each issue the *iroha* in *Romaji* print and script of the most approved form. Thus all the people who read will soon become familiar with it. Then, under this "standing matter," let them print short reading exercises; in a short time a whole column in *Romaji*, then two columns, and after a while, *the whole paper*. This does not necessarily require any concerted action, though no doubt concert of action would greatly hasten the reform. Let the great Tokyo dailies begin the work, and recommend it to their contemporaries in the provinces.

Hepburn's system of transliteration seems the best and most generally accepted thus far devised. It would seem that a few minor improvements might yet be made, or at least an ideal standard of pronunciation be decided upon to which the *Romaji* spelling should conform, e.g., it ought to be decided in some way whether the sign of the objective case should be written and pronounced (ideally) *wo*, or *o*, whether it should be *yen* or *en*, whether it should be *waga* or *wanga*, *maye* or *mae*. A few small items like these determined, nothing more would remain but to proceed. May we not hope that the public-spirited newspapers will take it up?

As to the objection that all Japanese literature hitherto produced will thus become useless, the books already in existence will be read by this generation, and all that is of sufficient value, or for which there is a demand, will be transliterated. The remainder will afford material for the employment of learned antiquarians, who must have something to do.

I will not dwell upon the manifest advantages which this reform will bring to the Japanese people themselves at home and in international intercourse, as well as to foreigners, because others have already ably pointed them out.

Yours sincerely, EDGAR LEAVITT.

July 1st, 1898.

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THE FOURTH.

The Fourth of July was celebrated in Yokohama with more than usual spirit on Monday, the war with Spain and the talk of an Anglo-Saxon alliance uniting to infuse greater enthusiasm than ever into the American residents, who are, in the dullest of times, never apathetic over their national holiday. All the principal business places in the Settlement, and most of the American houses on the Bluff showed the American flag and there were scores of people going about with star spangled and red striped ties, while several young ladies dressed in bodices of stars and skirts of stripes. "Alliance badges," with the two flags entwined, were also popular decorations. The P. & O. *Shanghai* was the only big vessel in harbour that "dressed ship," the M.M. *Oceanien* contenting itself with one American flag at the fore. Fortunately the weather was fine, and the whole day was a most enjoyable one.

BASEBALL.

A Fourth of July programme would not be complete were baseball omitted, and though this year no American warships are in harbour a sufficient number of members of the Y.C. & A.C. are baseball players to permit of a match being arranged. The teams originally selected would have provided a capital battery on either side, but, unfortunately, on Saturday, Blake hurt his foot and McChesney injured a finger badly, thus knocking out two good men. A message was sent to Tokyo, however, and Messrs. Yamamoto and Katayanagi, of the University, telegraphed that they would be happy to fill the vacancies. They arrived about 11 o'clock, but meanwhile the game had started with substitutes. A large company assembled, despite the strong southerly gale that was blowing, and the game was followed with interest right to the end. Mr. Ellis captained one side and Mr. Smith the other, and the former team won by three points, the score being, Ellis' side, 16 runs; Smith's side 13. Katayanagi, we should explain, took Abel's place when the latter retired, going in as catcher in place of Reed, who moved to first base, Morse going on at 3rd, where Abel had been placed. Yamamoto took Dehrius' position in the 6th innings, relieving Burnett as pitcher. The score was :—

Ellis' Side.	Runs.	Smith's Side.	Runs.
Burnett, p.	1	Smith, s.s.	2
Ellis, c.	1	Bain, p.	1
Gowey, 1st	2	Reed, c.	2
Joline, 2nd	1	Merriman, 2nd	1
Stone, r.f.	1	Morse, 3rd	1
Kilby, mjr. s.s.	2	Curtis, b.f.	1
Dehrius, 3rd	0	Woolsey, r.f.	0
Watt, c.f.	4	Howard, c.	2
Kilby, min., l.f.	2	Abel	2
Yamamoto, p.	2	Katanayagi, c.	1
	16		13

BICYCLE RACES.

A short programme of bicycle races was gone through during the afternoon at the Cricket Ground. The weather, though breezy, held fine, and there was a large attendance, including many ladies. The results were as follows :—

SEVEN LAP HANDICAP.

H. Irwine, 100 yards	1
K. Tsuruta, scratch	2
E. H. Irwine, scratch	3
J. M. Collaco, scratch	4
A. L. J. Dewette, 60 yards	0

Time, 5.15½.

When the competitors had settled down H. Irwine was leading, and Tsuruta next, with Collaco third. In this order most of the distance was covered, but finally E. H. Irwine displaced Collaco. H. Irwine was never troubled for first place, and won by 20 yards.

CHINESE RACE.

Ah Fore	1
Ah Foog	2
Ah Hong	3
Ah Gun	0

Won by 15 yards. The Celestials made a much better show than on the last occasion, the pace being really very fair.

BOYS' RACE.

Irwine, minimus	1
Tasaki	0
Graham	0

Irwine won easily.

POINT RACE.

	Points.
H. Irwine, 25 yards	25
Tsuruta, 20 yards	20
Collaco, 25 yards	10
Dewette	0
E. H. Irwine	0

Collaco led from the start, followed by H. Irwine and Tsuruta. In the fourth lap Irwine overhauled Collaco, and Dewette dropped out. In the fifth Tsuruta came to the front with a rush, and took the lead of H. Irwine by about two lengths, and E. H. Irwine dropped out. In the sixth lap Tsuruta still led, but in the eighth Irwine, who had been biding his time, forced the pace, and got ahead. In the ninth lap he had increased his lead to 40 yards, and finally won by half a lap.

YACHT RACES.

On Saturday there was a 9 mile race for 39 Raters, the course being twice round a markboat off Tsurumi and the Lightship. The wind was about S.S.W. and blowing in hard squalls before and during the first part of the race, the yachts starting with topmasts down and single reefed mainsails—the reefs afterwards had to be shaken out as the wind eased. The race was started at 1.51 p.m., *Golden Hind* and *Kingfisher* going over the line together and *Mary* about half a minute after them. During the run to Tsurumi, *Mary* passed the other two yachts and on rounding the mark led by nearly a minute, with *Golden Hind* second. During the beat to the lightship *Mary* continued to gain on the others, and *Kingfisher* took second place. In running from the lightship back to Tsurumi *Golden Hind* did the distance in 13½ minutes, passing *Kingfisher* again and pulling up ½ a minute on *Mary*. The last-named was, however, a long way ahead when the yachts rounded the lightship this time, and had the race well in hand. At the harbour entrance *Mary* led by about 7 minutes, while *Golden Hind* was about 4½ minutes ahead of *Kingfisher*. In beating up the harbour *Golden Hind* had the best of the wind, which shifted a little westerly about that time, but still *Mary* won the race by six minutes. The following are the times at the finish :—

		Fin.		Corrected.
		h.m.s.		h.m.s.
Mary	39	3.35.15	allows.	3.34.15
Golden Hind	36½	3.41.20	2.56	3.38.24
Kingfisher	36	3.46.27	3.20	3.43.07

WINNERS.

Mary, 1st prize presented by Mr. Elliott and 2 record points.

Golden Hind, 2nd prize and 1 point.

There was also a race for 12 raters which was started at 2.40 p.m. and in which three boats competed. The wind by this time had moderated, but there was still a fresh breeze for the little boats, which sailed under reefed canvas. The race resulted as follows :—

	First round.	Finish.
	h.m.s.	h.m.s.
Botchan	2.53.55	3.13.25
Chocho	53.45	10.25
Waratah	53.15	10.03

WINNERS.

Waratah, 1st prize and 2 record points.

Chocho, 2nd prize and 1 record points.

Yesterday being the Fourth of July the Yacht Club intended to celebrate the day as usual by sailing a series of races for several handsome prizes, the chief of which was the "Fourth of July Cup" presented by His Excellency the United States Minister. Unfortunately the weather turned out so unfavourable, as it was blowing half a gale of wind, and only the 39-rating class were able to start. The course for this class was round a markboat off Tsurumi to the Kitashakane buoy off Natsushima and back, passing each way outside the Lightship and Widow buoy, distance 22 miles.

The wind was about S.S.W. and coming off the land in hard squalls when the yachts were started at 11.7 a.m. The competitors were *Mary*, *Golden Hind*, *Kingfisher* and *Svanhild*. The three cutters were double reefed with topmasts housed and the yawl had single reefs in main and mizzen. A good start was made, the four yachts going away down wind at a great pace. *Mary* hauled out her spinnaker and succeeded in being first to round the Tsurumi markboat, where their times were :—

	h.m.s.		h.m.s.
Mary	11.19 15	*Golden Hind*	11.20 58
Kingfisher	11.19 40	*Svanhild*	11.21.55

Mary made a short tack in which appeared to be unnecessary, the wind having hauled to S.W. so that the yachts could make the Lightship without tacking and soon the three big boats were ploughing along together on starboard tack with all the wind they wanted. *Svanhild* found it rather too much for her and worked her way back to harbour. After passing outside the Lightship the yachts tacked and stood in towards the Bluff, *Golden Hind* leading the race. Soon after tacking out again *Mary's* jib blew to pieces and had to be shifted for a smaller one. Off Honmoku *Kingfisher's* jib also gave way, and, not having another, she had to give up the race. The other two, after rounding the Widow buoy, stood into Missisippi bay for some distance and then fetched down on starboard back to Nakane, getting a severe dusting by the way, as it was then blowing very hard. *Golden Hind* led by about 9 minutes at Nakane and gained nearly three minutes more during the run back to the Lightship, which, with a strong flood tide under and a gale of wind behind them, was made in quick time. As there was some uncertainty about the Tsurumi Markboat, *Golden Hind* held on for Tsurumi until it could be seen that the markboat was no longer in position when she hauled her wind for the harbour entrance, which she entered 13¾ minutes ahead of the *Mary*. The wind fell light about this time, and *Mary*, having shaken out her reefs, gained a little, but when they reached the finishing line was still 9¾ minutes astern of *Golden Hind*. The times of the finish were :—

	Finish.	Handicap.	Corrected.
	h.m.s.	m.s.	h.m.s.
Mary 39	3.00.12	allows	3.00 12
Golden Hind 36½	2.50.34	8.000	2.42.34

WINNERS.

Golden Hind—1st. Prize, the "Fourth of July Cup," presented His Excellency the United States Minister, and Record points. She also becomes the holder of the "Weston Challenge Shield."

Mary—2nd Prize and 1 Record point.

THE FIREWORK DISPLAY.

The firework display at night was a worthy finale to a most successful fête-day. The Bund was simply thronged with Japanese and Chinese, while the terraces of the Grand and the Oriental Hotels, which occupied the best positions for witnessing the display, were crowded with European ladies and gentlemen. The facade of the Grand Hotel was splendidly ornamented with Chinese lanterns, flags, &c., all expressive of amity between England, America, and Japan. Over the front entrance was a great Eagle, soaring heaven-high in the ordinary Bird 'o Freedom fashion, and under it were entwined the flags of Japan and the Great Republic. The palisadings were set off with lanterns of various colours, showing the Union Jack, the Stars and Stripes and the red sun of Japan. The Oriental Hotel front was also a blaze of variegated light, a somewhat similar style of decoration inspired with the same feelings of international friendship, being followed here.

The fireworks were exceedingly good, and the smooth expanse of sea, with the glare of red and blue lights and the glint of the innumerable sampan lanterns on it made an extremely pretty picture. Of the set pieces those which caught the popular imagination most were an excellent fire picture of the *Olympia* in action and an equally good representation of the American Eagle and flag. For the rest, there was a huge variety of shooting stars, rockets, Prince of Wales' feathers, &c., excellent enough to excite the envy of Brock and instil black jealousy into the soul of Paine. The music of two excellent bands added to the enjoyment of the evening.

GLORIOUS FOURTH IN KOBE.

Preparations had been made in Kobe to celebrate the Fourth of July with enthusiasm by means of a sort of outdoor fête. The elements, however, proved unpropitious. It rained almost the whole of Sunday and Sunday night, and yesterday was marked by very heavy showers. Indeed, as an inveterate punster remarked, it was a very "Dewey" day. Not to be prevented from celebrating the day, however, a dance was given in the afternoon in the Gymnasium, which had been hastily decorated for the occasion with flags, and, considering the weather, quite a surprising number of people came down to participate in the fun. Mr. Rizetti's band was present and provided the music. In the intervals between the dances some Japanese jugglers and acrobats gave exhibition of their prowess, and, whenever the rain would permit, a few day fireworks were let off, to the great satisfaction of all concerned, who seemed to feel a not unnatural pleasure in the idea of thoroughly enjoying themselves under most adverse conditions. The ladies of the American community provided tea, which was done ample justice to by the adults as well as by the large number of children present, and altogether the proceedings passed off most pleasantly and satisfactorily. The bulk of the firework display and the sports were postponed to Saturday next, and will afford an opportunity for a second celebration.—*Chronicle.*

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THE "MELPOMENE"—"PATROCLUS" CASE.

In H.B.M.'s Court for Japan on Wednesday, before His Honour Judge Wilkinson, the hearing of the case of the Owners and Captain of the Austrian Lloyd steamer *Melpomene* against the Owners of the British steamer *Patroclus* was resumed. The case was before the court some months ago, and was then referred to the Registrar. When the latter presented his award, however, both parties objected. The terms of the award will be best understood when tabulated. They were as follows:—

	Claimed yen.	Allowed. yen.
Cost of repairs of S.S. *Melpomene*	5 575	1,546
Fees paid to Marine Surveyor	207	207
Costs of shifting Anchor of S.S. *Melpomene*	20	20
Cost of Telegram to owners of S.S. *Melpomene*	86.14	86.14
Second Telegram	46 56	46 56
Four days' detention *Melpomene* at 400 *yen* a day... ...	1,600	1,600
	7,534 70	3,507.70
Less one half	3.734 70	1,753 85

The objections of the plaintiffs, who have been represented by Mr. J. F. Lowder, are contained in the following paragraphs from their petition:

The plaintiffs submit that the said report is erroneous, and ought not to be confirmed for the following amongst other reasons:

(a.) Because the reduction of the plaintiff's claim for cost of repairs to the steamship *Melpomene* from *yen* 5 575 to *yen* 1,548 is excessive, and is not justified by the evidence adduced before the Registrar and is against the weight of said evidence.

(b) Because the said report condemns or recommends that the plaintiffs ought to be condemned in the costs of reference, although the said report finds that the plaintiffs are entitled upon their claim to recover a substantial sum against the defendants.

The petition of the defendants, who were represented by Mr. A. B. Walford, was as follows:

(1) That the allowance of *yen* 1,600 by the Registrar for the detention of the *Melpomene* is not justified by the evidence, there being no evidence to show that the expenses or damages occasioned by the detention of the *Melpomene* were "damages occasioned by the collision" or were damages for which the defendants ought to be held in any way or to any extent responsible, or the evidence as to these matters being wholly insufficient.

(2) That evidence as to the *Melpomene* being detained for the purpose of loading outward cargo, and as to the delay in commencing the repairs and as to the time when the repairs were finished was improperly rejected, the Registrar refusing to allow the defendants to make use of the evidence of Antonio August Martinolich, which was before the Court at the trial of the action.

(3) That the repairs to the *Melpomene* were not completed within a reasonable time after the collision and that if the said repairs had been effected with proper despatch the plaintiffs would have sustained no damage by reason of any detention for repairs. The defendants do not admit that the plaintiffs have in fact sustained damage by any such cause.

The defendants therefore pray this Honourable Court that the Registrar's report may be amended by striking out the said item of 1,600 *yen* allowed for the detention of the *Melpomene*, or by making such amendment in relation thereto as to the Court may seem fit.

And they further pray this Honourable Court to order that the costs of the reference and of this petition in objection to the Report therein be paid by the plaintiffs.

The Judge, at the opening of the proceedings on Wednesday, remarked that at the last hearing Mr. Walford had argued in favour of the admission of a statement by Captain Martinolich, and he (the Judge) had decided to admit this evidence. It appeared that this statement was a deposition, and therefore no question of the Judge's notes came in.

Mr. Walford said he had an extract from the Judge's notes to show that the statement was read at the hearing.

Proceeding, Mr. Walford also pointed out what he thought was a small mistake or clerical error in the Registrar's reports by which he claimed that *yen* 120 had been allowed in excess of the proper amount on the repairs account.

Mr. Lowder said he could not admit this.

The Judge suggested that the amount was so small that Mr. Walford might perhaps not find it necessary to press it.

Mr. Walford, however, said he could not leave the point, in justice to his client, without consulting; and the Judge said he would make a note of the matter.

Mr. Walford then read the portions of Captain Martinolich's deposition which he thought material, the statement referring to the repairs effected to the vessel.

Mr. Lowder then read the petition of the plaintiff's and extracts from the depositions and affidavits of Mr. Petersen (the engineer who effected the repairs to the *Melpomene*), Mr. Kirkland Wilson (agent for the plaintiffs) Mr. Tresize (of the Engine Works, who gave his opinion that the charge for the repairs was altogether excessive, in fact three times as much as he himself could have executed the work for), and Mr. Glahn (another expert). On these Mr. Lowder argued at considerable length. He submitted that the charges made by Petersen were not excessive, and that the opinion of Mr. Tresize on the matter must be taken to a certain extent *cum grano salis*, as that of a competitor in the same business. He contended that at the time the order for the repairs was given plaintiffs did not know whether they themselves might not have to pay for them. True, they had entered an action, but however strong their confidence, they could not be sure how judgment would go. It was the duty of the master of the *Melpomene* to regard the interests of his employers in this matter, and in the absence of any evidence to the contrary he should ask his Honour to believe that he acted to the best of his abilities according to his lights in protecting the interests of those upon whom these charges would ultimately fall. He submitted that the evidence of Captain Efford as to the general reasonableness of the charge was, in spite of his Honour's remarks at the last hearing, of some weight. Captain Efford was in the service of the Government as an officer of Marine Survey and was also Lloyd's surveyor.

The Judge said he thought in neither capacity Captain Efford could have proper expert knowledge of the cost of these repairs; he could be a very good Government Surveyor and a very good Lloyd's surveyor, and yet not possess the detailed knowledge necessary to estimate the cost of these repairs.

After further argument on the same subject the Court adjourned for luncheon.

On resuming Mr. Lowder addressed himself to the question of costs. He admitted that there were cases in which, because the amount of claim was reduced by more than a third, the costs of the plaintiff were reduced, but in all ordinary cases it was usual for the Court to award a successful plaintiff costs, and it must be for his friend to point out that there were very special circumstances in this case to justify the Court in acting as his petition suggested.

The Judge said it was recognised that there was no hard and fast rule on the point. When a large amount was struck off that was a reason for the Judge exercising his discretion with regard to the person who had made the claim which had been reduced. It was a question of discretion.

Mr. Lowder—I have never seen that applied so far as now suggested—to make the plaintiff pay the costs.

The Judge—There have been cases in the Admiralty in which the claimants have had to pay the costs.

Mr. Lowder proceeded to argue that it had always been open to defendants to avoid litigation by making a reasonable offer to the plaintiffs. Such an offer had never been made.

Mr. Walford—Do you seriously say that no tender of that kind has been made?

Mr. Lowder—Nothing is before the Court.

The Judge—I don't think you should assume that because there is nothing before the Court no offer of the kind has been made when counsel says he has made it.

Mr. Lowder—It depends on the definition of the word tender, and I say no tender has been made. It was a most improper remark for my friend to make.

The Judge—I think perhaps on the question of costs things can be said to a Judge that could not be said to a Jury.

Mr. Lowder—Of course that may lead us a long way.

Mr. Walford, addressing the Court for the defence, argued that the question of whether a tender had or had not been made was of no importance at all. He quoted a recent authority to the effect that when the Registrar disallowed more than a quarter of the amount claimed it was a ground for depriving the plaintiffs of costs.

The Judge said he declined to follow any hard and fast rule. What counsel had to show him was whether it was a reasonable thing. The fact that there was a large sum struck off the claim was an element for consideration, but he declined to follow rules of thirds and quarters.

Mr. Walford—It is a rule for Registrars.

The Judge—Then if they go on that rule they are wrong. I will exercise my discretion upon the whole facts of the case. The fact of the Registrar having given his recommendation that costs should be given in that way is an element for my consideration. That is all.

Mr. Walford pointed out that is was to stay claims of that kind which they (the defendants) considered exorbitant that costs were given to defendants if a large sum was knocked off.

Mr. Walford was proceeding to argue on the question of repairs, when the Judge stated that in the interval for luncheon he had referred to the Registrar, who had taken into consideration the matter of *yen* 120 referred to by Mr. Walford, and had admitted that it was an oversight on his part. He (the Judge) would suggest that the sum should be taken out.

Mr. Lowder said that he thought it would not be just under the circumstances of the case to claim this sum.

The Judge: Thank you.

Mr. Walford proceeded to argue that the sum claimed was unreasonable; that Petersen, who undertook the repairs, could produce no detailed figures to show how he arrived at his charges; that Captain Martinolich at one time in his evidence stated that Petersen undertook the repairs for a contract sum, and at another stated in contradiction that Petersen had to render him a detailed and conscientious account of them; and that Mr. Tresize's evidence showed that the repairs could be effected at a third the cost.

Mr. Lowder not wishing to reply on this part of the case, Mr. Walford proceeded to argue on the question of demurrage. He contended that during a part of the time for which demurrage had been allowed at 400 *yen* per day the ship was engaged in loading and unloading. Some small repairs might have been done during this time, but he submitted that it was not fair to tax the defendants with a cost of 400 *yen* a day for repairs that might be done at sea.

In summing up, his Honour recited the principal facts of the case. He said he concurred in the opinion expressed by Mr. Tresize that the repairs done to the *Melpomene* might have been effected at much less cost. At the same time he had no doubt of the contract having been made *bonâ fide* and the account paid *bonâ fide*, and no doubt Mr. Wilson, in paying the account, considered it just and reasonable. But his opinion was against the opinion of an expert. As to the evidence of Captain Efford his opinion, being a general opinion, could not be maintained against that of an expert who furnished details. Proceeding the Judge said:—The amount struck off is a large one, but I cannot see that the Registrar could have done on the evidence before him anything different from what was done. In that respect I confirm the Registrar's report. No particulars in justification of the claim were put in, and, it being shown that the work might have been done for a sum which is between a quarter and a third of that which is claimed, the claim cannot certainly be allowed to stand, and I know of no other principle upon which the case could be met except that followed by the Registrar. I shall therefore confirm the Registrar's report with regard to that. His Honour then turned to the claim for demurrage, which he said he had carefully considered. He disagreed with the Registrar as to Capt. Martinolich's evidence, which he thought should properly be taken into consideration, and from that evidence it was clear that during some part of the time for which demurrage was charged loading and discharging was taking place. He thought the time occupied in taking in and taking out cargo ought to be considered as time during which the owners had the use of their vessel, and in respect of which no demurrage ought to be allowed. Defendants were entitled to insist that evidence should be given that the ship was detained for repairs and repairs only during the time for which a claim was made. He was of opinion that one day at least must be deducted, and he referred that part of the case back to the Registrar to decide the actual time during which the ship was occupied in loading. As to the question of costs he thought, with reference to the appeal from the Registrar, that Mr. Walford was wrong in not giving notice of his intention to ask for the evidence of Captain Martinolich, but on the other hand the evidence, when obtained, was found to be admissible, and he (the learned Judge) therefore thought neither party should have costs of that stage of the proceedings. With regard to the present hearing he thought there was nothing to show that plaintiffs wished to be exhorbitant in their claim, but at the same time it was a fact that the claim had been largely and he

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thought properly reduced. He thought justice would met by each side bearing its own costs here also.

In answer to Mr. Lowder, his Honour said the case was referred again to the Registrar, who would present his report in due course to the Court as to the one point still in question. He, (the learned Judge) if counsel were then agreed would make a final order.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS.
TAKING THE CAROLINES AND LADRONES.
THE COURTEOUS GOVERNOR OF GUAM.
MANILA EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN ON THE FOURTH.

Shanghai, July 4, 6.10 p.m.

The American troops arrived at Manila on Thursday.

The U.S.S. *Charleston* has hoisted the American flag over the Carolines and the Ladrones. When entering Guam, the *Charleston* fired seven shots at the forts; the Governor, supposing these were a salute, sent off a message to the Commander of the cruiser saying that as he had no powder he was unable to return the courtesy.

It is expected that the American flag will be hoisted over Manila to-day, the Fourth of July.

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.
GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S FAMILY RELEASED.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Shanghai, July 7.

The insurgents have released the wife and family of General Augustin, Governor-General of the Philippines.

(From the "Japan Times.")

THE WAR.
IMPENDING BATTLE AT SANTIAGO.

London, July 1.

General Shafter telegraphs that 8,000 Spaniards, with a quantity of supplies, are advancing on Santiago. He has decided to meet and attack them before they arrive, without awaiting his own reinforcements. The departure of Commodore Watson's Squadron for Spain is likely to be delayed, as the ships are unprepared for the voyage.

OVER TEN THOUSAND SPANIARDS FOR MANILA.

London, July 2.

Admiral Camara commenced coaling at Port Said from colliers of the Egyptian Government. On being requested to desist and leave immediately, Camara declared that the vessels required repair. He thereupon began to discharge coal and material for that purpose. The Spanish force on the way to Manila numbers altogether 480 officers and 10,464 men.

Notwithstanding the German official assurances, suspicion and irritation in the United States against German designs on the Philippines are increasing.

THE BATTLE OF SANTIAGO.

London, July 4.

A general assault on Santiago by land and sea began on Friday morning. The American army was about 17,000 strong. The battle raged furiously the whole day. American losses are estimated at 800 to 1,000, the Spanish at 4,000 to 6,000. General Shafter's despatch dated the 3rd says the defences are so strong that he finds it impossible to storm the place with the present force. He has been ordered to await reinforcements. General Miles describes the battle as drawn, and adds that the Spaniards fought magnificently.

THE SANTIAGO FLEET.
RUMOURED COMPLETE DESTRUCTION.

London, July 5.

It is officially announced at Washington that Admiral Sampson entered the harbour of Santiago on Sunday and destroyed Admiral Cerveras' Fleet. General Shafter in a despatch to his Government says that the Spanish Fleet left Santiago harbour on Sunday and is reported as being practically destroyed. Another despatch says that the Spaniards ran their ships close in shore and then set them on fire.

DECISIVE BATTLE AT SANTIAGO.
SPANIARDS BURN THEIR SHIPS.
ADMIRAL CERVERA TAKEN PRISONER.
HUNDREDS OF CAPTIVES.
GEMERAL SHAFTER TO ENTER SANTIAGO.

London, July 6.

Admiral Cervera on Sunday morning dashed out of the harbour and tried to escape westward, but Admiral Sampson's fleet gave him instant chase. The Spaniards fought bravely, but a torrent of shell drove all their ships ashore, where their crews set fire to them. 350 of Cervera's men were either killed, or drowned, 160 wounded, and 1,600 captured, including Cervera, while the Americans lost only three men. Shafter demanded the surrender of Santiago, threatening otherwise the bombardment of the city. Sampson is now free to enter the harbour.

SPANISH SQUADRON IN SUEZ CANAL.
SPAIN TO FIGHT TO THE BITTER END.

London, July 7.

Admiral Camara has entered the Suez Canal with the big ships of his squadron, while the torpedo boats are returning to Spain. The Spanish Cabinet has decided to continue the war at all costs, so long as a Spanish soldier remains in Cuba. Telegrams from Madrid state that a disorderly spirit prevails among the military. The crowds in the city are becoming riotous, and the population is arming.

NEW ITALIAN CABINET.

London, July 1.

Telegrams from Rome state the General Pelloux has formed a new Cabinet. Admiral Canevaro takes the Foreign portfolio and General San Marzano that of War.

P. & O. STEAMER DESTROYED.
STEWARDESS BURNT TO DEATH.

London, July 1.

The P. & O. steamer *Ganges*, lying in Bombay harbour, took fire yesterday and was completely destroyed. The Stewardess was burnt to death in her cabin.

TERRIBLE DISASTER AT SEA.
FRENCH LINER IN COLLISION.
NEARLY SEVEN HUNDRED PASSENGERS DROWNED.

The French Transatlantic Liner *Labourgogne*, from New York for Havre, with eight hundred passengers on board, collided with the ship *Cromartyshire* on July 4, during a dense fog south off Sable Island. The *Labourgogne* sank immediately, only 170 to 180 passengers and 30 of the crew being saved.

(Received by the *Fiji*)

LU-HAN RAILWAY TREATY SIGNED.

Peking, July 1.

The treaty for the Lu-Han Railway, the construction of which is to be undertaken by the Belgian Syndicate, was signed to-day. According to its terms the railway is to be managed by foreigners and the right of sole management to be placed in the hands of the Representative of the country by whose subjects the largest proportion of capital shall have been invested in the work.

The signature of the present treaty is due in a large measure to efforts of Russia and France.

England will not be silent on this movement.

Germany is very desirous of laying down a railway between Tientsin and Chankiang.

ARRIVAL OF THE "MATSUSHIMA."

Hongkong, July 1.

The *Matsushima* arrived here from Manila to-day, but she had no special news to report.

NEWS FROM MANILA.

Hongkong, July 5.

According to information brought by an American vessel, the first batch of American troops conveyed by the *Australia*, the *City of Peking*, and the *City of Sydney*, convoyed by the warship *Charleston*, arrived at Manila bay via Guam and landed at Cavite on the 30th ult.

The Japanese warship *Matsushima* and U.S. dispatch boat *Zafiro* left this harbour yesterday.

(From the "North China Daily News.")

LATEST NEWS FROM MANILA.

Hongkong, June 27.

General Monet, with 1,200 Spaniards, being besieged by the insurgents at San Fernando, tried to break through their lines. The General was killed and 1,000 of his men surrendered.

Captain-General Augustin has offered a reward of $2,500 for the head of General Aguinaldo.

The insurgents have now 7,000 men armed with modern weapons, and hope to have 10 000 in a few days.

Hongkong, July 1.

The American troops had not arrived at Manila on the 28th ultimo.

The rebels have captured a ship at Tayabas, with several hundred Spanish troops.

The insurgents possess three small steamers and several good launches. Skirmishing continues.

General Aguinaldo, in reference to the establishment of a Republic, has stated that he trusts the Americans and believes they will support him, and that the Philippines will obtain and hold their full rights.

(From Japan Papers.)

CHARGE AGAINST A LOCAL OFFICIAL.

Awomori, July 7.

A man named Shimoyama, a member of the Local Assembly of Kita-Tsugaru-gori, has been arrested on a charge of forgery and fraud.

CHOLERA.

Yamagata, July 7.

Several cases of cholera have appeared in this locality.

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

Bakwan, July 7.

The *Itsukushima* and *Hashidate* have left for the west.

Kobe, July 7.

The *Chiyoda* arrived to-day from Kure to take the place of the *Yoshino*.

DYSENTERY

Mito, July 7.

In this locality dysentery is prevailing to a serious extent. On the 8th a disinfectant station will be opened.

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

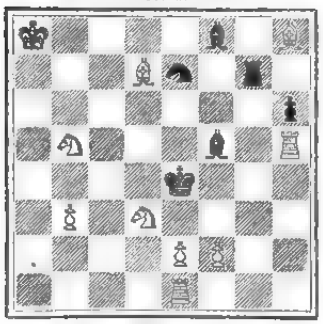
Solution of Problem No. 374.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Kt to K B 7	1—R any move
2—Kt, B, or P takes R, accordingly	2—P to K 6
3—B to B 3 mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Marco, and D.D.

J.H.L. (Tokyo).—Your solution is quite wrong, but judging from your remarks, it seems to be your first attempt.

Problem No. 378.
By H. D'O. Bernard.



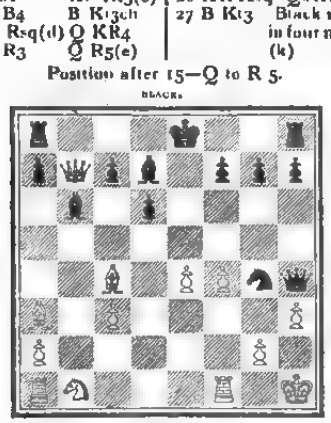
White mates in two moves.

Game No. 405.

The following interesting Evans Gambit game was played at St. Petersburg. It furnishes us with a good example of Alapin's defence :—

White—N. M.		Black—S. Alapin.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	16 Q×Rch	K K2
2 KKt B3	QKt B3	17 Q Q5	Q K 6
3 B B4	B B4	18 Q R15ch	
4 P QKt4	B×KtP	(f)	P B3(g)
5 P B3	B R4	19 Q×Kt Pch	K Q q
6 P Q4	P Q3	20 Q×Rch	B K-q
7 Castles	B Q2(a)	21 Q×Pch(h)	Kt×Q
8 Q Kt3	Q K2	22 R B3	Q K8ch
9 B R3(b)	Kt R3	23 R B-q	Q×KP
10 P×P	Kt×P	24 Kt Q2	Q K6
11 Kt×Kt	Q×Kt	25 Kt B3(i)	Kt R4
12 Q×P	Kt Kt5(c)	26 KR K-q	Q×KBP
13 P B4	B Kt3ch	27 B Kt3	Black mates in four moves (k)
14 K Rsq(d)	Q KR4		
15 P R3	Q R5(e)		

Position after 15—Q to R 5.



Notes by I. Gunsberg.

(a) M. Alapin considers this a better move than ■ to Kt 3, played in the correspondence game Vienna v. St Petersburg.

(b) We prefer P takes P at once ; for then if P takes P, White gains time by following up with ■ to R 3.

(c) A seemingly premature attack. With castling Black would have a good game, if it were not for White's possible reply of Q to Q 5, compelling exchange of queens.

(d) Black has played very artfully. If 14—Q takes B, Q to K R 4, winning the queen by threatening mate.

(e) Black is carried away by the exuberance of his imagination. His intention, of course, is to threaten mate by Q to Kt 6. If he had castled he would have been in a much safer position to prosecute the attack.

(f) 18—Q takes B P ch would not do, for Black would gain the necessary breathing time by K to Q sq.

(g) One cannot help but admire Black's desperate efforts. He could not play K to K sq, for then White would put an end to all mating possibilities by 19—P takes Kt.

(h) The only move to prevent mate. Black may be proud of his partial success.

(i) 25—Q R to Q sq could have been played perhaps with better chances than in the text move.

(k) Kt to Kt 6 ch ; 28—K to R 2, Kt to B 8 dis. ch ; 29—K to R sq Q to R 7 ch ; 30—Kt takes Q, Kt to Kt 6, mate.

Game No. 406.

The following interesting encounter took place at Nuremberg in 1883. The Bird form of game is eminently qualified to exercise and test the skill of the player not well posted in the books :—

BIRD'S OPENING.

White—Bird.		Black—Riemann.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK
1 P KB4	P Q4	13 R QB q	B Q3
2 P K3	P QB4	14 Q KK-3	R KKt-q
3 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	15 Kt×P	P×Kt
4 B QKt5	Q QKt3	16 B×Kt	R QR-q
5 P QB4	P×P	17 KB×KtP	K B q
6 B×P	P K3	18 B K5	R×P
7 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	19 R×P	P B3
8 Castles	P QR3	20 B×Kt	P×B
9 P QKt3	Q QB2	21 P×P	B×R
10 B QKt2	P QKt4	22 Kt Q4 ch	K K2
11 B K2	B QKt2	23 Q Kt5 mate.	
12 Q Ksq	R Q-q		

Game No. 407.

DOUBLE MUZIO.

The following spirited game is taken from the *China Mail* :—

White—Sig. Salvioli.		Black—Amateurs in Consultation.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	9 K R-q	Kt K2
2 P KB4	P×P	10 P K5	Q Kt2
3 Kt KB3	P KKt4	11 P Q4	B Kt5
4 B B4	P Kt5	12 B×P	K K-q
5 Castles	P×Kt	13 Kt K4	R B-q
6 B×Pch(a)	K×B	14 Q R5ch	Q Kt3
7 Q×P	Q B3	15 B R6 !	
8 Kt B3	B B4ch		

15	R×Rch	22 Q R5ch	K K3
16 R×R	Kt Kt-q	23 P Q5ch	K K4
17 Kt Q6ch	B×Kt !	24 B B4ch	K Q5
18 P×B	P×QP	25 Q K-q4ch	K×P
19 R B8ch	K K2	26 Q Kt3ch	K Q5
20 Q R4ch	K K3	27 P B3ch	Resigns(b)
21 Q K-q6ch	K Q4		

NOTES.

(a) It is now the fashion to call this the "Double Muzio." Showalter has expressed himself in favour of the soundness of the second sacrifice, but his opinion is not supported by other masters. No doubt the defence is difficult and the chances favour White. But the logic of the situation is against him.

(b) It is worth while to proceed to the end, those of course excepted who can see the calamity that now impends. Signor Salvioli has played in a manner quite worthy his illustrious name.

Coming Events.

The Vienna Tournament we learn from the *St. James Budget* of 27th May, will after all prove a contest of the first magnitude, as contrary to expectations, all the strong players with the exception of Lasker will compete. There will be Pillsbury, Steinitz, Showalter, Tarrash, Charousek, Tschigorine, Walbrodt, Janowski, Maroczy, Burn, possibly also Mason, in fact every player who has gained renown in previous international contests. Play will begin next week, and will proceed at the rate of five games weekly, until two complete rounds have been played, Such a very long contest constitutes a trial of physical strength in which the fittest will survive, and will well deserve the success. An announcement has been made that an international tournament on a much smaller scale will immediately follow the Vienna meeting. The second event will take place at Cologne.

After the return of Showalter to America, there is a probability of his playing a match with Max Judd, the famous chess amateur, who under Mr. Cleveland's administration, held the post of United States Consul-General at Vienna.

A match is in contemplation between Messrs. Lee and Teichmann in London.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Melbourne 2	Th. July 14
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric 2	Th. July 14
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Tacoma	Th. July 14
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. July 18
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. July 25
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 3	Tu. July 26
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. July 28
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Aug. 3

1 Left Shanghai on the 9th inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 5th inst
3 Left San Francisco on the 7th July.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Sa. July 9
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. July 13
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. July 13
Tacoma, Wash. ...	N. P. Co.	Tacoma	F. July 15
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa. July 16
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Melbourne	W. July 20
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. July 25
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. July 29
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Aug 5

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Hogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, H. Walter, 2nd July,—Kobe, 1st July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 2nd July,—Kobe, 1st July General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, F. W. Horton, 2nd July,—Kobe, 1st July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Haugchow, British steamer, 999, J. Peace, 4th July,—Takow, Formosa, 28th June, Sugar.—Butterfield and Swire.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3 003, Geo. A. Lee, 4th July,—Vancouver, B.C., 20th June, Mails and General —C. P. R. Co.

Hohenzollern, German steamer, 2,376, H. Bierker, 4th July,—Hongkong, 29th June, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Kendal Castle, British steamer, 1,813, P. Watson, 5th July,—Antwerp via ports, Hongkong, 27th June,—Sale & Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 5th July,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 3rd July, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Amagi Kan (11), Japanese Wooden-sloop, 926, Commander T. Tarrgaki, 5th July,—Yokosuka, 5th July.

Asturia, German steamer, 3 405, Hahn, 5th July, —Hamburg via ports, Shanghai 30th June, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Hertha, German steamer, 2,199, Hildebrandt, 5th July,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Sikh, British steamer, 1,736, J. Rowley, 6th July, —London via ports, Kobe, 5th July, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 6th July,—Yokkaichi, 5th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yayeyama Kan (11), Japanese Despatch-Vessel, 1,509, Capt. T. Sakai, 6th July,—Yokosuka, 6th July.

On Sang, British steamer, 1,300, Young, 6th July, —Iloilo, 26th July, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Aztec, Hawaiian steamer, 2,303, G. Trask, 7th July,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 5th July, Mails and General —P. M. S.S. Co.

Rossia (28), Russia Cruiser, 12,130, Capt. Domnjikoff, 7th July,—Vladivostock via Hakodate, 4th July.

Tateyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,347, S. Kakimi, 7th July,—Kobe, 6th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Pak Ling, British steamer, 2,875, H. L. Allen, 7th July,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 6th July, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, James Jones, 7th July,—Australia via ports, Kobe, 6th July, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 8th July,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 7th July, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, J. H. Rinder, 8th July,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 18th June, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 8th July,—Shanghai via ports, 2nd July, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,709, C. Bainbridge, 8th July,—Hongkong, Rice.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Caleb Curtis, American schooner, 39, Whistler, 9th July,—Hongkong, Stores.—Captain.

DEPARTURES.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higo, 2nd July,—Otaru via ports, 1st July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Tinebridge, 3rd July,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Moyune, British steamer, 3,016, R. Couraki, 3rd July,—London via Foochow and way ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Benmohr, British steamer, 1,935, Le Bontillier, 3rd July,—New York via ports and Suez Canal, General.—Cornes & Co.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 4th July,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 861, H. Walter, 4th July,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 4th July,—Hongkong viâ ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hector, British steamer, 3,005, John Barr, 4th July,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Grafton (12), British Cruiser, 7,300, Capt. E. P. Jones, 4th July,—Yokosuka.

Mount Tabor, British steamer, 1,494, J. Jonsson, 5th July,—Iloilo, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Oceanien, French steamer, 2,080, R. Schmitz, 6th July,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. H. Conner, 6th July,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, Tibballs, 6th July,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Aggi, Norwegian steamer 2,126, H. Hatteberg, 6th July,—Moji, Ballast.—China and Japan Trading Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, K. Yamanouchi, 7th July,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Falladon Hall, British steamer, 2,206, Jeffells, 7th July,—Java, Ballast.—Frazar & Co.

Astec, Hawaiian steamer, 2,303, G. Trask, 8th July,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Hohenzollern, German steamer, 2,376, H. Bleeker, 8th July,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 8th July—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Saëura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, N. Mumezono, 8th July,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shanghai, British steamer, 2,163, Peters, 8th July,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Asturia, German steamer, 3,405, Hahn, 8th July,—London, Hamburg and Antwerp via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. Asabuki, Mr. A. E. Blake, Mr. C. H. Burr, Bishop Earl Cranston, Mrs. Earl Cranston, Miss Ethel and Miss Lama Cranston, Mr. L. M. F. Dumont, Mr. and Mrs. Denby, Miss N. M. Daniels, Mr. Hardie and four children, Mr. Hirota, Mr. N. H. Illingworth, Mr. D. H. Illington, Mr. Kitamura, Dr. and Mrs. Malcom, Mr. Morimura, Miss S. Matsui, Rev. Geo. C. Needham, Mrs. Geo. C. Needham, Miss McKenzie, Mr. A. V. Payne, Mr. Van Glahn, Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Waltz, Mr. Weil, and Mr. and Mrs. George Wurts, in cabin; 18 second class; 92 intermediate.

Per German steamer *Hohenzollern*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Th. W. Vogelgesang, in cabin; Mr. W. Hunter, Mr. James Barrington, Mr. J. Bibeiro, and Mr. A. Bocha, in second class; Mrs. Blad's amah, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Miss Murphy, Mr. G. A. Almond, Mr. T. McKay and native servant, Mr. A. Barr, Mr. Lamb, Miss Meadon, Lieut. Loring, Lieut. E. W. Browne, Mr. R. H. Powers, Lieut. W. A. Cross, Mr. Dearden, Mr. G. W. Bramhall and son, Mr. E. A. Mackay, and Mr. G. Hodges, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong via ports:—Dr. and Mrs. Lyall, Lt. Deverell, Mr. and Mrs. Planebrook, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Graham, Mrs. Twentymen's infant, Miss E. Cameron, Mr. E. de Bavier, Mrs. Groundwater, Mrs. B. Robertson and child, Mrs. E. P. Wickham and child, Mrs. and Miss Dudgeon, Mrs. and Miss Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Cartwright, Rev. and Mrs. Heywood and child, Mrs. Dudgeon's maid, Rev. Fulkerson, Miss Melton, Miss Young, Miss E. Russell, Rev. M. S. Vail, Mr. T. Walsh, Mrs. Forrest and child, Mr. L. D. Abraham, Miss G. Morgan, Mrs. Brown, Mr. R. R. Morriss, Miss Miller, Mr. Groundwater, Rev. J. N. Wodey, Mr. J. Belucend, Mr. A. G. Rowond, Mrs. Probst and child, Mr. J. David, Miss Ellis, Mr. F. S. Dugdale, Mrs. Coney and two children, Miss Parsons, Dr. N. Horsey, Miss A. Wright, Rev. J. C. Davidson, Rev. Brooks, Miss Lawsing, Miss Ghear, Miss Kidwell, Mr. J. Temulji, Mr. N. Bretchneider, Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn, Mr. J. Stiven, Mr. A. Lassus, Mr. L. Escombe, Mrs. Langhorne and 2 children, Mrs. Fitton and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kyles, Mr. R. Stephenson, Mrs. Rumsey, Mr. N. C. Sparrow, Mrs. Ewing and child, and Mr. and Mrs G. Ede, in cabin; 8 intermediate; 320 in steerage. For Vancouver:—Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and child, Mr. M. Connady, Miss Bosworth, Miss L. M. Stanley, Mr. Gunnell, Rev. and Mrs. Vicking and child, Mr. E. A. Moring, Mr. C. E. D. Black, Rev. and Mrs. Prier and child, Rev. and Mrs. J. Parker and child, Mr. W. W. J. Oudendijk, Mr. F. D. Alcand, Miss Stanton, Miss Shih Paw-Li, Miss Tau I Lien, Mr. Moring and valet, Rev. and Mrs. Walne and 2 children, Mr. Buquet, Mr. and Mrs. Davis and child Mr. J. G. Kearseig, Rev. and Mrs. B. F Buxton and 4 children, Dr. J. Mosignan, Mr. E. Foming, Mr. H. Evans, Capt. D. Hodgson, Mr. J. Stern, Mr. R. R. Nynd, Mr. Wade Gardner, Mr. R. C. Renny, Mr. P. S. Unwin, Mrs. J. L. Scott, Miss K. Morgan, Mr. P. Hall, Mr. W. Theodon, Mr. C. Luzzatti, Mr. W. H. Shockley, Miss M. Sen, Miss Wilkinson, Miss E. Strong, Mr. W. C. Briggs, Mr. McC. Osborne, and Miss Modeley in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Dr. Elizabeth D. Dixon, Mrs. M. E. Vanderpool, Mr. J. S. Lee, Miss Florence Manson, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Dosel, Mr. Thomas C. Jenkins, Mr. J. Witkowski, Mr. Robert Levy, Mr. J. M. Laure, Mrs. J. M. Hood, Miss Alice Watkins Hood, Miss Mabel Douglas Hood, Mr. J. M. Hood, Jr., Mrs. H. B. McCoy, Mr. M. Morioka and Mr. Y. Tsumura in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. A. Dolgoff. For Shanghai:—Mr. John Gilmore, Rev. and Mrs. W. O. Etterich and 3 childs, Miss Bertha Lamont and Mr. P. T. Evans in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Melville McLaughlin, Mrs. Abba Bass, Mr. Earle Stuyvesant, Mr. William W. Miller, Mr. John W. Lusher, and Mr. W. B. Ritchie, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Loxley, Misses Loxley (3), Mr. F. W. Mills, Consul and Mrs. C. M. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Meier and 2 children, Mr. Ellis Kelly, Mr. O. J. Ellis, Rev. and Mrs. Hardy and 2 children, Miss McKenzie, Mr. E. W. Maitland, Dr. Keylock, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Bell Irving and maid, Rev. and Miss Albrecht, Mr. and Mrs. H. Heckert, Mr. J. Stiven, Mr. I. Komor, Mr. E. Stadlin, Mr. P. Anitchkine, Mr. H. Ehrie, and Mr. John Farquhar, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Oceanien*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. J. H. Addinsell, Mr. J. H. Hermanovitz, Mr. G. Levy, Mr. Emile Levy, Mr. Lognand, Mr. R. F. Fornaris, Mr. H. Boisard and boy, Mr. Chas. Denby, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Stewart, Miss W. Blanchard, Miss Gladwell, Commandt. Le Coispillier, Mrs. B. Roth and child, Mr. J. Richard, Mr. E. Domballe, Mr. Hata, Mr. C. Mertens, Mr. G. W. Middleton, Mr. G. Debouliet, Mr. B. Roth, Mr. T. Lagrange, Mr. A. J. N. Gomes, Mr. C. Abdoola, Mr. Jock Adams, Mr. Louis Johnston, Mr. H. Nehlsen, and Miss Legrand, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Krasilnikoff, Mrs. Thomas, Lieut.-Colonel H. Shimmiya (I.J.A.), Mr. Jan Pütz, Mr. C. Thwaites, Mr. R. Mizutani, Mr. and Mrs. Bagel, Master V. Gryzzbowski, Master L. Kronglik, and Master Geo. Arthur, in cabin; Mr. T. Ono, Mr. S. Suyehiro, Mr. J. Takeda, Mr. G. Tanaka, and Mr. K. Nihara, in second class; 60 Japanese, 4 Chinese, and 1 European, in steerage.

Per German steamer *Hohenzollern*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. C. Schmeisser, Mr. K. Ito, Mr. and Mrs. Brockmann and 2 children, Mr. Th. W. Vogelgesang, Dr. H. den Kate, and Miss Brownlow, in cabin; 2 Chinese on deck.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

In yarns and grey shirtings and fancy woollens and cottons absolutely nothing is doing. Prices are nominally as under.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7½, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 14 inches	2.75 to 2.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0 25 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per piece.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.28 to 0.41
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 32 inches	0.15 to 0 17
Cloths—Pilots, 51 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb., per lb.	0 50 to 0 60
	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7 75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 12-3 inches,	0.60 to 1 00
TurkeyReds—2.0 to 3.0lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.25 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 2 60, Plain	61 00 to 63.00
Nos. 2 80, Plain	75 00 to 76.50
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	69 50 to 76.50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	124.00 to 184.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$19.50 to —
Indian Broach	19 25 —
Chinese	21.00 to 21.50

METALS.

There is no new business to report. Prices nominally at last week's figures.

	per piece.
Round and square ¼ inch, and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4 00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4 90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5 90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.70 to 5.90
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1¼ inch)	3.00 to 3.25

KEROSENE.

Market still of quite a retail character.

American	$2 05 —
Russian	1.93 to 2.05
Langkat	— 1.86

SUGAR.

In Browns prices rule 10 to 20 *sen* lower. Formosas show a decline of 40 *sen*, and are still weak. In White refined there is no change.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$5.50 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.10 to 6.20
Brown Daitong	3.90 to 4.30
Brown Canton	4.25 to 5.90
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.85
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A good demand from Europe makes prices firm, and they close with an upward tendency. Settlements from the 1st to the 5th July were 239 piculs, of which 63 were old and 176 new filatures. The stock on hand in Yokohama is about 1,905 piculs.

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QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.....	Nominal
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.....	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$875 to 885
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/13 deniers.....	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	885
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers.....	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, 11/18 deniers.....	855
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers.....	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1½	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2½	Nominal

WASTE SILK.

Business still nominal; prices rather weak. The stock is estimated at 2,800 piculs—750 Noshi, 1,900 Kibiso, 25 pierced cocoons, 125 sundries.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best.....	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 103
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to [illegible]
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best.....	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good.....	100 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium.....	90 to [illegible]
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	85 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 22½

TEA.

The demand has continued steady and prices have ruled very firm, especially for lower grades. The quality of the second crop is good, and compares very favourably with last year's. So far the shipments this year have been 124,621 piculs against 138,504 last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$33 & upwards
Choice	$30 to 31
Finest	28 to 29
Fine	26 to 27
Good Medium	[illegible] to 25
Medium	22 to 23
Good Common	20 to 21
Common	18 to 19

EXCHANGE.

Silver again ½ lower from London without affecting rates; no change in sterling quotations from China.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0½
— — Bills on demand ...	2/0 7/8
— — 4 months' sight	2/0½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅝
— — 6 months' sight	2/0⅝
On Paris—Bank sight	2.55
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight ...	2.58½
On America—Bank Bills on demand..	49½
— Private 4 months' sight...	50½
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06½
— Private 4 months' sight...	2.10½
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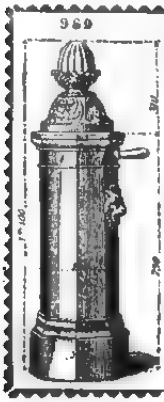

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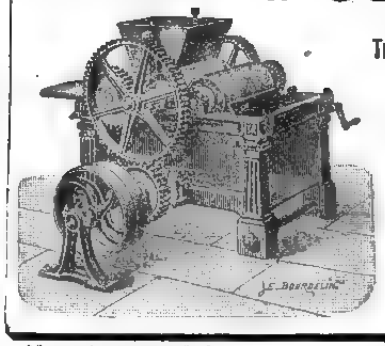

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JULY 16TH, 1898.

BIRTH.

On July 10th, at 16, Tatenaka-cho, Hongo, Tokyo, the wife of the Rev. H. H. COATES, of a daughter.

On the 15th July, at 10 a.m., the wife of DR. RITTER, Swiss Consul-General, of a son.

On the 13th inst., prematurely, the wife of RALPH GEORGE ELLIOTT FORSTER, Esq., H.B.M.'s Acting Consul-General at Yokohama, of a son.

DEATHS.

On July 11, at 4 p.m. at the General Hospital, HENRY TENNANT, Editor of the *Japan Gazette*.

On July 13th, Jane Marion (Jeannie), the beloved wife of J. H. BOAG, aged 46 years and 8 months.

On Tuesday, the 12th instant, at 12 p.m., at his residence, Komme, Tokyo, Marquis ATSUYOSHI TOKUGAWA.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

ADMIRAL CAMARA'S squadron is returning to Spain.

ON the 7th instant, Mr. Ohigashi, Minister of Justice, accompanied by Mr. Yamada, the Vice-Minister, and some officials, was presented at Court.

THE Germans are fraternising with the Spaniards at Manila.

THE water supply of Manila has been cut off by the insurgents.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA has surrendered to the Americans.

Hawaii has been formally annexed by the United States of North America.

THE Cabinet crisis at Madrid continues. The formation of a Ministry hangs fire.

THE war is proceeding warmly at Santiago de Cuba, which still refuses to surrender.

THE Government has appointed a committee to investigate the question of administrative reform.

DYSENTERY has broken out among the American troops at Manila, 150 cases being reported by July 12th.

IT has been decided that Japanese silver *yen* shall be negotiable both in public and private transactions in Korea.

IN Kanagawa prefecture, 62 cases of dysentery occurred during the week ending the 10th inst. Six of the patients died.

THE formation of a British Ocean penny postage between the mother country and her Colonies is announced from London.

THE warship *Kongo*, which has been in Australian waters since April, left Melbourne on the 7th inst. for home.

THE Coke Manufacturing Company of Osaka, which has had heavy losses for some years, has been adjudged bankrupt.

SEVEN cases of dysentery have appeared at a school in Hamamatsu. All the students have been forbidden to leave the premises.

IT is said that torrential rains are preventing the Americans from mounting siege guns at Santiago. Yellow fever has appeared in Cuban ports.

PRINCE CYRIL, accompanied by the Captain and officers of the Russian cruiser *Rossia*, was present at the French Ball in Yokohama on Thursday.

MARQUIS TOKUGAWA, representative of the Mito family and nephew of the last of the Tokugawa Shoguns, died on the 12th instant after a very brief illness.

THE French National Holiday passed off with much *éclat* on Thursday, the festivities including a ball at the Oriental Hotel that was largely attended.

THERE is another political crisis in Korea, the abdication of the Emperor, in favour of the Crown Prince, being suggested by the Independent Association.

THE warship *Fuso*, which was recently floated, will be brought to Kure port. The water has been pumped out of her, and no great damage appears to have been done.

AN official named Hirabayashi, of the Engineering Bureau of Yamaguchi Kencho, has been arrested on a charge of receiving bribes, amounting to over *yen* 400, from contractors.

A YOUNG man named Ogiwari Saji, 17 years of age, lodging at No. 1, Sarugakucho, Kanda, Tokyo, committed suicide by drinking a quantity of sulphuric acid, on the night of the 11th.

IN consequence of a speech by the Minister of War in the French Chamber, in which he declared that Dreyfus was undeniably guilty, the whole controversy has been re-opened. Major Esterhazy has been arrested.

MR. HENRY TENNANT, Editor of the *Japan Gazette*, committed suicide by shooting himself with a revolver on Monday, while suffering from a fit of melancholia induced by chronic meningitis.

A FISHERMAN named Tanaka Gosuke and two others were drowned in Honmoku Bay, Yokohama, on the 2nd inst. They were fishing off Sugita when a sudden squall overturned their junk.

LIEUT. Hobson and others of the Volunteer crew who took part in the sinking of the *Merrimac* and were taken prisoners by Admiral Cervera, have been exchanged for Spanish prisoners and released.

THE Directors of the Yokohama Silk Traders' Bank met on the 11th instant, and decided to hold the general meeting of shareholders on the 24th inst. in the City Hall. The dividend will be at the rate of 11% per annum.

A FOREIGN firm in the Settlement, Yokohama, has received a telegram from New York that so far there have been no transactions in tea imported after the imposition of the new duty. For tea imported before the new duty, the price has risen 8 cents.

THE promoters of the Shinagawa Electric tramway company have decided to commence the construction of the line between Omori and Rokugo bridge, Kawasaki, and to form a junction with the electric tramway at Daishi, Kawasaki.

THE warship *Naniwa*, which left the Pescadores on the 10th inst., has arrived at Hongkong *en route* to Manila. The warship *Tsukuba* cast anchor at Fusan, Korea, on the 12th inst. The *Yamato* arrived at the Pescadores on the 12th inst. from Keelung.

A WOMAN named KŌ, the wife of Shimidzu Yasujiro, living in No. 19, Muramatsu-cho, Nihonbashi, Tokyo, committed suicide on the 6th inst., at 1 p.m., by hanging herself. The motive is said to be distress arising from extreme poverty occasioned by the appreciation of commodities.

THE number of lives lost by the *La Bourgogne* collision is estimated at 526. Frightful confusion and fighting ensued in the effort to get into the boats. No attempt was made to save the women and children. The saved include 108 of the crew, who seized the boats and repulsed the passengers.

STAGNATION continues to characterise the import trade in Yokohama, but for fancy woollens and cottons some improvement may be hoped for next month. With regard to metals, the iron market suffers from over-supply, accentuated by the recent arrival of sailing ships. The only feature is a little enquiry for galvanised corrugated sheets at low prices. The sugar market remains steady, browns being generally 10 to 20 *sen* lower, while Formosas have declined 15 *sen*. White refined is at the same level. As regards exports, the European demand for silk is brisk, and prices show a tendency to advance; American buyers, however, are quite inactive. Nothing is doing in waste silk. In tea a large business has been transacted, common to good medium qualities being chiefly in demand. Prices have ruled firm at an advance of 1 to 2 *yen* per picul.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

It is a curious fact that the present Cabinet, though it rode into power on the crest of a wave of popular approval, is conspicuously without newspaper supporters. We can not recall any instance of a Ministry so lacking in defenders. The inferences seem to be, in the first place, that a feeling of uncertainty exists as whether the long-looked-for consummation has really been achieved—whether, in short, this is a genuine party Cabinet, or whether the clan statesmen have set it up merely for the purpose of knocking it down more decisively than ever—; and, in the second, that the would-be champions of the Ministry, not being at all sure what complexion it will ultimately assume for purposes of constructive statecraft, hesitate to formulate any defence which might afterwards be found to embody inconvenient opinions. One of the great questions of the hour continues to be the spoils system. Several journals take it for granted that the Cabinet can not possibly withstand the pressure brought to bear on it by the party politicians, and that it will be driven, despite its better instincts, to set about the creation of official vacancies in order that its friends may step into them. In that case, of course, the new Ministers will bring upon their own heads, with redoubled force, all the censures that they used to heap upon the clan statesmen.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* points out that during the past thirteen years, in fact ever since the organization of the administration by Marquis Ito in 1885, appointment by examination and promotion by seniority have been the rule in the Civil Service. Some exceptions have to be noted, it is true. Count Goto, for example, when he presided over the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, made a record for favoritism, and the last Matsukata Cabinet showed a marked inclination to make the high offices in the Administration prizes for party politicians. But Marquis Ito's control of State affairs was never marked by any such abuses. The only exceptions to his system of appointment by examination were graduates of the Imperial University, and during his second premiership even that exception was abolished.

* * *

We need not elaborate this phase of criticism to any length. It finds wide expression in the columns of several journals, and even the organs of the Constitutional Party—the *Mainichi Shimbun* alone excepted—seem indisposed to advocate any sweeping official changes. The *Mainichi*, as we explained in a previous issue, takes a very extensive view of the posts that may be considered to fall within the category of political prizes. If the section of the Party represented by that journal entertain the views advocated by it, the leaders of the Cabinet will certainly be found at variance with them.

* * *

It is certain, the same journal continues, that if men picked up on the way side (*michibata no hito*) are put into office over the heads of those that have gained their entry into officialdom by proved qualifications and have risen by assiduity and capacity, the latter will not consent to remain, and the public service will be more or less paralysed. The true principle is that from Vice-Ministers of State downwards all officials should be regarded as administrative, not political. So far from selecting party politicians to occupy posts like those of Vice Minister or Bureau-chief, any occupant of such positions who meddles with party politics should be dismissed incontinently. The Constitution is not silent upon this point. It declares that Ministers of State are entitled to attend in either House of the Diet and to speak at any time. The provision indicates clearly that Heads of Departments alone are regarded as political officials by the Constitution. Mr. Den, Chief of the Bureau of Posts and Telegraphs in the Department of Communications, was a man eminently fitted for that position. He had held it for years, knew every detail of its work, and had travelled abroad at the public expense the better to qualify for discharging its duties. Yet, though he actually joined the Constitutionalists when they came into power, he was superseded in favour of Mr. Minoura, a party politician, who can not be spoken of in the same breath so far as fitness for the post is concerned. That kind of thing shows that the so-called "clan favouritism," which in reality had ceased to have the dimensions of an abuse, is now to be replaced by a very substantial abuse in the shape of party favouritism. The *Nichi Nichi*, as our readers probably know, is opposed to the present Cabinet.

* * *

Another much discussed subject is the Cabinet's apparent hesitation about announcing its administrative and financial programmes. Of course the gravamen of that charge is to be found in the implication that it is quite impossible for the various sections of such a heterogeneous party as the Constitutionalists to agree upon any constructive programme. It is pointed out, for example, with wearisome iteration, that Count Itagaki is emphatically in favour of the State purchase of private railways, whereas Count Okuma is opposed to it; that the Liberals advocate the transfer of prison expenditures to the charges of the State, whereas the Progressists oppose it; that the Progressists want to reduce the Army, whereas the Liberals would maintain it on the footing projected by the *post-bellum* scheme, and so forth and so on through a catalogue of contradictions which appear irreconcilable in the eyes of observers who would prefer, on the whole, that they should not be reconciled. We shall not run the risk of tiring our readers by pursuing this branch of the subject.

* * *

The *Kokumin's* view of the difficulties outlined in the last paragraph is decidedly practical. On the ground that there never can be a genuine political party without distinct and intelligible principles, it urges the leaders of the Constitutionalists to take their courage in both hands and formulate a policy which shall be clear beyond all risk of misunderstanding. Let them not seek any longer to draw a cordon of vague generalities round a mob of incongruous partizans, but let them stand out boldly and squarely as the exponents of the views they consider most conducive to the interests of the State. If any of their followers object to the programme thus enunciated, let the objectors secede. It is better to be without the support of men that stand in line merely because they do not know precisely what is before them, but never can be got to move in unison.

* * *

The *Jiji*, to which we look for opinions untinged with prejudice, concludes that very little is to be expected from the present Ministry. Members of the Cabinet had better make up their minds at once that their rôle must be very small. They stand in awe of the Army and Navy; the Peers are against them; unanimity on the part of their own following can scarcely be secured for constructive purposes. There is only one reform within the compass of their capacities. But it is a valuable reform. Let them apply themselves to abolishing all the airs and graces of officialdom. Let them seek to obtain practical recognition of the principle that the paid servants of the public should endeavour to serve the public with all the promptitude and consideration that mark the conduct of clerks in a bank or *employés* in a merchant's store. The country does not want displays of the foppery of brief authority: it wants its business transacted with promptitude and conscientiousness. The new Ministry might set before itself that ideal without any risk of endangering the cohesion of its followers.

* * *

It is held by the *Hochi Shimbun* that the spirit of manliness in Japan has greatly deteriorated. In 1881, when Count Okuma left the Government, more than a hundred of his fellow-thinkers resigned their official positions and went into retirement with him—retirement that lasted for several years and still continues in the case of many of them. Marquis (then Count) Ito, who was at the head of the Cabinet, gave himself no concern about that wholesale exodus. He came to the wise conclusion that it was better to be without men whose zealous cooperation could not be relied on. But when Marquis Ito resigned the Premiership on the 26th of last month, and opened the door for party cabinets, his political friends did not go with him, and Count Okuma has even urged them to remain. The hearts of men have obviously degenerated, says the *Hochi*.

EXPORT OF JINRIKISHA.

The export of *jinrikisha* is now quite an important branch of Japanese trade. Singapore and Penang are the chief centres of demand. Last year, Singapore took 4,000 vehicles and Penang 3,000. The class of *jinrikisha* affected by the inhabitants of these places is an affair highly ornamented with designs of birds, horses, *shishi* and so forth, costing from 40 to 50 *yen* and adapted for two people. Five or six hundred single-rider vehicles, at about 20 *yen* each, were also sent to the same places. It is said that Singapore has only 4,000 drawers, so that no increase of demand from that place can be expected. Some 50 *yen jinrikisha* are in demand for Shanghai, and Hongkong takes a few at 60 *yen* each, evidently private vehicles. The principal exporting firm in Tokyo has the picturesque name of the "Autumn leaf company" (*Akiha Kaisha*). It is about to try a shipment to Siam, on the recommendation of the Japanese Representative in Bangkok. The figures, which we take from the *Fiji Shimpo*, are supplemented by a statement that the number of *jinrikisha* plying for hire in Tokyo at the end of last month was 42,282, as against 39,677 at the corresponding period of last year.

SUICIDE AT NEGISHI.

On the 14th inst., about 9 p.m., a clerk named Hamada, 40 years of age, in the employ of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce, shot himself at Negishi village near the race-course. Dr. Ozuda, who was just passing by, examined the unfortunate man, and he was sent to Kondo hospital, where his wounds were found to be fatal. It is reported that he had been drinking at the Chitose restaurant with a friend from Tokyo, and they were returning to deceased's house at Negishi. The friend went ahead in a *jinrikisha*, and it was then that Hamada committed the fatal act. It is stated that he owed money to his friend and was unable to pay it.

IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY.

The Graduation Ceremony of the Imperial University was held on the 10th instant. Three hundred and fifty-three students graduated in the following sections:—

Law	107
Medicine	30
Engineering	110
Literature	66
Natural Philosophy	26
Agriculture	14

THE TAKING OF GUAM.

The *N.C. Daily News* telegram with regard to the taking of Guam is a little more detailed than the one which our correspondent wired from Shanghai. Our contemporary's wire says:—

Entering the harbour of Guam, in the Ladrones, the *Charleston* fired seven shots at the forts. The Governor thought it was a salute, and sent word that he could not reply, as he had no powder. He was informed that he was a prisoner of war, and protested, alleging that he was not aware that there had been any declaration of war. An American resident was appointed temporary Governor.

The Spanish gunboat *Leyte* was captured on the 29th ult. with 183 Spanish troops on board, driven out of Pampangas River by the rebels.

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THE LATE MR. TENNANT.

The medical evidence given at the inquest on the body of Mr. Henry Tennant showed that there was chronic meningitis of some standing. Meningitis often occurs as a result of overwork, and probably this was the primary cause in the present case. There is not much rest for any bread-earner now-a-days, but we venture to think that the toil of the newspaper editor in Yokohama is exceptionally severe. Mr. Tennant certainly did not spare himself. He wrought for the *Japan Gazette* with a degree of earnestness and assiduity that must have been fully appreciated by a business community like that of Yokohama. His predecessors were not idlers by any means, but, without desiring to disparage them, we may be allowed to say that not one of them attained success comparable with that of Mr. Tennant. Only fellow-journalists can fully gauge the industry required to perform, day after day and week after week, a task such as that he set for himself, and only those that have essayed the task understand how intolerably irksome it can become at times, especially when the hot days and sleepless nights of mid-summer in Japan multiply the weight and the weariness a hundredfold. We can not doubt that Mr. Tennant over-taxed his strength, and that life suddenly assumed in his eyes the aspect of a tragedy to be ended with all possible haste. If in one sense these considerations deepen the sadness of the result, they bring with them also the comforting reflection that no reproach can possibly attach to an act the direct result of excessive loyalty to duty. Men are not endowed with means of measuring their physical capacity to attain an ideal, and if they sink in the struggle to reach beyond the limits of their strength, profound pity is the sentiment chiefly evoked by their fate. It will not be judged an impertinence, we trust, if we say that, in our opinion, Mr. Tennant's removal from the journalistic field is a great loss to Yokohama. There was a time, indeed, when his views about Japan and the Japanese seemed to us to be tinged with extravagance; but during the past year his verdicts were eminently moderate and fair, and the *Japan Gazette*, under his direction, was a newspaper that did credit to Yokohama. It is pitiable that a career already so useful, and with so much promise of increased usefulness, should have been cut short in such a manner.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

According to statistics compiled by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the number of joint-stock companies in Japan and the amount of their capitals on June 30th were as follow:—

	yen
Commercial Companies.....	1,122
Capital	142,366,040
Industrial Companies.....	1,068
Capital	171,272,926
Agricultural Companies.....	102
Capital	31,260,959
Total number of companies	2,292
Total capital.....	317,899,975

It would be very interesting to know how much of this capital is paid-up, but upon that point the returns seem to be silent.

VIOLATION OF TRADE MARKS.

The Trade Mark Law of Japan, issued in 1889, was intended to be effective in Japan only and with regard to Japanese subjects only. That is almost a truism. The second article of the Law enumerates the trade marks that can not be registered, and the category includes:—"Trade marks identical with, or similar to, trade marks already registered, or used by others before the application was made." It goes without saying that "registered" in this Article means registered by Japanese subjects in Japan—in fact, none but a Japanese subject could obtain registration—, and that "used by others" means used by Japanese subjects in Japan.

In 1892, Mr. Nakamura, a Japanese calico-weaver, registered a mark for the purposes of his trade. It was a mark already used on imported calico, as Mr. Nakamura was doubtless aware. The foreign firms engaged in the import of the foreign calico did not attempt to obtain any protection against Mr. Nakamura for five years. Recently, however, relying on the fact that the benefits of the Japanese Trade Mark Law had been nominally extended to foreigners by the German Revised Treaty, they brought an action in the Patents Bureau of Japan for the restraint of Mr. Nakamura, and they applied, at the same time, for the registration of their own mark. They were cast in the action and their application was rejected.

We do not see what else could have been expected. In fact, it surprises us that steps of such a nature should be advised by competent barristers and adopted by men of business. The Patent Bureau has been interpreting the Trade Mark Law in the one and same way ever since February 1st, 1890, when it took effect. As to the manner of interpretation, no choice has been possible: the protection of foreign trade marks was not contemplated by the drafters of the Law, and could not be considered by the tribunal administering it. The conclusion of a new treaty with Germany could not affect the interpretation of the Law. An international arrangement does not alter a national law. Special steps must be taken to bring the latter into accord with the former. The Japanese Patent Law and the Japanese Law of Trade Marks must be recast so that they may afford to foreigners the protection promised by the German Revised Treaty, and until they are thus recast, it is fatuous to suppose that the definitions "already registered," or "already used by others" can be read to mean "already registered by foreigners in a foreign country," or "already used by foreigners on goods of foreign make."

The particular hardship of this case is not so much that it legalizes Mr. Nakamura's dishonest use of a foreign trade mark, as that it denies to the foreign firms the privilege of registration on the ground that they were fraudulently forestalled by Mr. Nakamura. It is as though the police should reject a man's application for the recovery of his stolen coat because the thief had already been openly wearing the garment. We have no right, perhaps, to use the words "dishonest," "fraudulent" and so forth with reference Mr. Nakamura's act. He did not violate any written law and may fairly object to be described as a criminal. Let us explain, therefore, that we speak merely from the point of view of the aggrieved foreigner. He tells himself that to be denied his rights because an unscrupulous rival has already violated them, is certainly immoral, whether it be legal or not. And that brings us to the pith of the matter. Why are not these laws altered at once? The German revised treaty promises protection. The laws, for want of amendment, render the promise illusory. The result is most injurious to Japan's reputation, to say nothing of the hardship to foreigners. We are aware that things can not be put upon a thoroughly satisfactory footing until the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction and until Japan joins the International Union. But a partial remedy at least is possible—a remedy which will save the foreigner from being unlawfully robbed of his property by any Japanese who has been smart enough to perpetrate the theft in good time. It is to be hoped that the Diet will be invited to take some legislative action next session.

THE CABINET'S DIFFICULTY.

As the days go by, the Cabinet's difficulty in connexion with the "spoils system" attracts more and more attention. The rank and file of the Constitutional party want to be rewarded after their long struggle; the leaders shrink from taking a step that will fix upon them the discredit of having fought for the sake of power, not of principle; the enemies of the Ministry cry, hold or be disgraced; its supporters say, go on or sacrifice the Party's cohesion. It is indeed a dilemma. If the Gordian method of the *Nippon* could be adopted, the strain of the situation would be at once relieved. "Clear out all the clan elements," says the *Nippon*, "and thereafter establish distinctions between administrative and political officials." In other words, find a pretext for putting your friends into office and then decide that your enemies shall avail themselves of the same pretext for the same purpose. That is fine, wholesale advice, but there is an *aliquid amari* in the margin. The *Nippon* doesn't regard the present Cabinet as a party cabinet at all. If doesn't even regard the Constitutionalists as a political party. They are merely a clan destroying club (*hambatsu daha-dômei*). A party has principles and a platform The Constitutionalists have neither the one nor the other: they have only the instinct of battle. The had better recognise their real character, and pursue their only logical purpose, destruction. There is a lot of débris to be removed before the new building can be erected. Let the Cabinet do the work of demolition.

That is not the kind of advice that the Party will care to adopt. We suspect that its views are more accurately mapped out by the *Mainichi*, which, being an organ of the old Progressists, ought to have some idea of their intentions. Its contention is that the category of political officials should include Ministers of State, Vice-Ministers, the chief of the Legislative Bureau, the Chief Secretary of the cabinet, and the principal Heads of Bureau. In other words, it would have all the present occupants of those posts removed, and replaced by members of the Party. Then with regard to the whole body of *chokunin*

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officials and local Governors, they may be either party men or non-party men, but they must not be members of the Diet. The *Mainichi* urges the immediate carrying out of these principles.

The *Mainichi's* catalogue makes 86 political officials, certain, and includes the whole of the *chokunin* officials among the persons liable to change with every change of Cabinet. We do not know exactly how many *chokunin* officials there are, but their approximate number is 460, and their annual salaries total 1,384,922 *yen*. Even if only 86 officials—exclusive of the portfolio holders—were driven out of office at each change of cabinet, we should say that the administrative machine would be in a state of perpetual dislocation. It is to be sincerely hoped that the accession of the party politicians to power will not be the signal for introducing the "spoils system" in its worst form.

THE CABINET AND THE PEERS.

There has been much talk lately of the legislative impotence to which the new Cabinet is condemned owing to the estrangement of the House of Peers. The publicists chiefly concerned in discussing this phase of the situation have hitherto been those that desire the Cabinet to be impotent. By the organs of the Ministry silence has been preserved on the subject. But the *Yomiuri* has now broken the rule of reticence, and what it has to say does not tend to soften the situation. Its view is that the present Cabinet, being a party organization, should consist solely of party politicians. The House of Peers does not include any members answering to the latter description. To take one of its representatives into the Ministry would be merely to pursue the "smiling-all-round-policy" of former days. If the Peers choose to be offended, let them be offended. They are on the eve of being "reformed" into a better mood. The House of Representatives will amend the Law of Election next session, and the opportunity will be taken to extend the amendments to the Upper House: they can not be limited to one branch of the Legislature. The members now chosen by the various orders of peers as their representatives are all the neediest among the nobles. The Imperial nominees are old and effete. The representatives of the highest taxpayers are men without any talent. Such folks are not fit for the purposes of constitutional government. There must be a sweeping reform.

That is splendidly radical. It is, at the same time, more frothy than fierce. For unless the *Yomiuri* can give us some idea of the wholesale reforms held *in terrorem* over the House of Peers, the threat becomes empty rant. Aware of that fact, our contemporary endeavours to supply the required information, but immediately lapses into the vaguest of platitudes. How are the various Orders of Peers to be compelled by law to return wealthy representatives? How are the Emperor's nominees to the cured of their "effeteness?" How are the highest tax-payers to be induced to vote for men of talent only? The *Yomiuri's* talk seems to us wild and inconsequential. At all events it is not calculated to make narrower the breach between the Ministry and the Peers.

THE PLATFORM OF THE CONSTITUTIONALISTS.

The new Constitutional Party published it manifesto and a platform at the time of as organization. Both documents were epitomized in these columns. But people have naturally been very anxious to know know what line the new Party would take towards the problems of the day when its leaders had obtained the direction of state affairs. Curiosity has been partially satisfied. The standing committee of the Party met at the head office on the 9th instant, and formulated the following declaration:—

Our Party recognises the insufficiency of the state revenue. In order, therefore, to put the finances into order, the deficiency must be made good by means of the *sake* tax and other sources of taxation. As for the economical distress now prevailing, it should be relieved from the surplus in the Treasury. Commercial strength ought to be developed, the independence of Far Eastern countries preserved, and the balance of power maintained.

No one can quarrel with this document on the ground of over-explicitness. "Other sources of taxation" is vague enough for any fancy. Still, on the whole, we do not agree with our vernacular contemporaries, several of whom denounce the platform as scarcely intelligible. To us it reads tolerably distinctly:—No increase of the Land Tax, but a free hand to get additional revenue from other sources. The funds now in the possession of the Treasury and not immediately needed for State purposes, to be employed for relieving the tightness of the money market. Finally, Japan to interest herself on behalf of Chinese and Korean independence. As to the last provision, "the balance of power," it may mean a great deal and it may mean nothing at all. The "balance of power" was the outcry of the Progressists who wanted to have Germany driven out of Kiao-chou and Russia from Port Arthur. That wild scheme was long ago abandoned, we imagine, and the "balance of power" is probably now a mere platitude.

JAPANESE FISHING IN KOREAN WATERS.

The fishing operations carried on by Japanese in Korean waters must be of considerable importance. It is stated that there are 3,000 licensed boats engaged in the enterprise, and that from 2,000 to 3,000 take part secretly. The value of the annual catch by the licensed boats is put at three million *yen*, and the whole fleet probably captures five million *yen* worth every year. The *Nichi Nichi*, commenting on these figures, declares it to be of the utmost importance that a treaty should be concluded with Korea for the purpose of increasing the facilities enjoyed by fishermen. Japanese subjects should be allowed to reside along the coast, and make arrangements for landing fish when operations of curing or packing are required. At present the boats going to Korea are obliged to carry with them from Japan provisions and all other necessaries, which, of course, hampers them greatly. They are virtually prevented from fishing for whale, since, in the absence of any place to extract the oil and handle the remains, the only available part of the fish is the fins. Our contemporary thinks that the proposed treaty should be framed so as to throw open the whole coast of Korea to Japanese fishermen.

PRINCE CYRIL.

Tokyo's resources in the matter of police were strikingly illustrated in connexion with Prince Cyril's visit. Not merely the routes along which His Highness was to pass but also several alternative routes were lined with constables from end to end whenever any quarter of the city had to be visited. The idea of the police was to keep people in ignorance of the exact streets chosen for the Prince's goings and comings. A very suggestive precaution. Fanatics, however, are excrescences that society throws out with incalculable fitfulness. It is impossible to predict that a second Tsuda Sanzo will not make his murderous appearance at any moment. The citizens of Tokyo, as we have reason to know, did not feel at all easy about the Prince's visit. Among the lower orders a rumour circulated that the Japanese Government had pledged itself to cede to Russia twenty square miles of territory wherever the St. Petersburg authorities might indicate, should the Prince be attacked, and of course every one hearing the story added a mental rider that Tokyo itself would be the place selected. Did that notion emanate from the police, we wonder?

In answer to inquiries—very easily answered without reference to a newspaper—we may explain that Prince Cyril is the eldest son of the Grand Duke Vladimir, uncle of the reigning Emperor. The Prince is therefore first cousin of the Czar. He was born on October 12th, 1876.

On the 9th inst. at 10 a.m., His Majesty paid a visit to H.I.H. Prince Cyril at the Shibahama Detached Palace, and returned at 11.10. His Majesty presented the Prince with the decoration of the Grand Chrysanthemum.

On behalf of the Tokyo City Assembly the Governor of the City, on Saturday morning at the Shiba Detached Palace, presented Prince Cyril with a pair of cloisonné vases and a pair of silver eagles.

JUDGE TAKANO.

It is alleged, but we do not vouch for the truth of the rumour, that the Government has decided to re-instate in his post of chief judge in Formosa Mr. Takano, whose removal created so much commotion last year. Having had his honour vindicated by re-appointment, Mr. Takano will resign voluntarily, and be then nominated to some other judicial position. That is said to be the arrangement, and it is based on the hypothesis that Mr. Takano's removal was unconstitutional. We can only say that if Mr. Takano's removal was unconstitutional, then nearly all the Government's proceedings in Formosa are unconstitutional. Either the island falls within the operation of the Constitution, or it does not. If it does, then the judicial system ought to be organized on exactly the same lines as the judicial system in Japan proper: the Government can not have any constitutional right to arbitrarily apply a special judicial system in one part of the empire. But the Constitution is not operative in Formosa and the Governor-General has competence to deal with judicial officials just as he can deal with any other members of the civil service. Judge Takano's removal was not unconstitutional.

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MARQUIS ITO.

Marquis Ito's action in handing over the administration to the party politicians has, of course, been roundly censured by some people. They say that he betrayed his Sovereign and his friends, and that if he had not struck his colours the evil day might have been long postponed. Concerning that view, the *Jiji Shimpo* has some pertinent remarks to make. Party cabinets, it says, are not a sudden development; they were inevitable from the day of the Constitution's promulgation. The Constitution provided a path, but men's feet were not yet able to follow it. There was no resource except that the older statesmen should remain in office. They did so but not without reluctance. One might compare the situation to the interval that separates summer heat from spring; the interval when people can not wholly discard thick clothes and are obliged still to wear a double garment. Marquis Ito, the framer of the Constitution, would have welcomed the nation's readiness to carry it into full effect. But he had to wait. The interests of the country left him no choice. The moment that a really strong party was formed, he saw that the time had come and he effaced himself without hesitation. It was the act of a true statesman. To have clung to office and dissolved Cabinet after Cabinet would have been virtually equivalent to suspending the Constitution.

MERCHANTS & MANUFACTURERS.

It seems to us impossible to deny the truth of the criticism that the mercantile and manufacturing classes are not sufficiently represented in the political arena in Japan. The first politicians—we refer to politicians outside the ranks of officialdom—in the *Meiji* era were discontented *samurai*, as the *Kokumin Shimbun* justly remarks. These malcontents carried on their crusade entirely in the provincial districts, and obtained a following of agriculturists only. It thus came about—the Law of Election being also largely responsible—that nearly all the members sent up to the Lower House were returned in the farming interest, only 17 out of the 300 members being merchants and manufacturers. The new Law of Election, submitted by the Government to the Lower House last session, extended the representation of the cities so that they should return 103 members. But the House, consisting, as it does, almost entirely of agriculturists, radically altered the scheme and cut down the 103 city members to 39. In fact, the House effectually destroyed the amendment which the Government proposed for the sake of the equitable representation of all classes of the people. There can not be much doubt, too, that the composition of the House greatly affected its attitude towards the question of increasing the Land Tax. Just as the first House that met in 1890 had only one great object, to cut down the Land Tax, so its successor, eight years afterwards, could not possibly persuade itself to agree to an increase of the Tax. Japan's future seems to lie in manufacturing enterprise. It is certainly contrary to the fitness of things that her Legislature should be controlled by the farming class alone.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF SHARES IN JAPANESE COMPANIES.

There has been a great deal of more or less learned discussion lately about the legality of foreigners' holding shares in Japanese companies. The arguments appear to have resolved themselves into this—that where the high contracting parties do not negotiate on a footing of equality, international agreements are constructively restrictive; and where the footing is one of equality, the agreement must be considered constructively permissive. To put the matter into plainer English, every privilege not explicity granted by the former kind of treaty is supposed to be withheld, and every privilege not explicitly interdicted by the latter clan of treaty is supposed to be conceded. Applying this rule to Japan's case, we arrive at the result that since foreign ownership of shares is not textually sanctioned by the present treaties, it must be held to be forbidden; whereas, since it is not mentioned in the Revised Treaties, it must be held to be sanctioned from the time of their operation.

That is interesting enough in its way, no doubt, but truly we fail to appreciate its utility. Is not the question effectually disposed of by the new Civil Code now promulgated, to go into effect from the 16th instant? The second article of the Code provides that "foreigners enjoy private rights except as forbidden by law, regulation or treaty." With that law on record, its seems superfluous to raise any discussion about treaties on an equal or an unequal footing.

The *Taiyo* alleges, as an indisputable fact, that the Osaka Marine Insurance Company has sold a number of its shares to foreigners, and that the transaction has been approved by the Authorities. Better a grain of fact than a bushel of theory. We agree with the *Taiyo* that the readiest exit from the foreign-capital difficulty is to be found in the efforts of individual Japanese. The promoters of the Formosa Railway have virtually arranged their loan of 15 million *yen* from Messrs. Peacock and Company. The Yasuda Bank, which undertook the responsibility of finding 15 million *yen* for the first part of the Osaka harbour works, is said to have opened very promising negotiations with Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Company. The Mitsubishi and Mitsui firms, which have combined to raise money abroad for extending the Kiushiu, Sanyo and Nippon Railways, are said to be within sight of success. There is only one serious obstacle, and that is the inability of foreigners to own land. The sooner the Japanese abolish that old-fashioned and irrational restriction, the more rapidly will they emerge from their present slough of impecuniosity.

PROFESSOR TOYAMA.

Professor Toyama, whose brief tenure of the portfolio of Education came to an end with the accession of the Okuma Cabinet, to the great grief of the friends of educational progress in Japan, is an emphatic admirer of the system of party government. In a speech recently delivered by him at a banquet given in his honour by the professors and teachers of the Imperial University, he declared that the 26th of June had been a great day for Japan, since it witnessed the consummation of parliamentary institutions. Free speech and public opinion would henceforth possess the full force that properly belonged to them. If, for example, the doings of the officials in the Department of Education were unsatisfactory, they could always be called effectually to account. "Give me the material for a crusade," said the Professor, "and I will undertake to use it to advantage."

Elsewhere there was a note of apparent sarcasm in Professor Toyama's speech. He said that Marquis Ito had contributed to bring about the introduction of party cabinets, but he said it in a way that suggested reference to blunders on the part of the Marquis rather than to liberal statesmanship. Count Okuma tells a different story about Marquis Ito's share in this great political change, and we are disposed to agree with the Count rather than with the Professor.

RAILWAYS.

According to the latest statistics, there are now 38 railways companies with lines open to traffic in Japan, the total mileage of such lines being 2,909 miles. In addition to these, charters have been granted for the construction of 59 lines, having a total length of 3,487 miles, and involving a capital of 220,850,020 miles; and provisional charters for 61 roads, with a length of 1,948 miles and a capital of 92,150,946 miles. Finally, the Railway Council last month decided to sanction the building of 36 lines with a mileage of 481 miles and a capital of 26,662,940 *yen*, and the Council has still under consideration applications to build 37 roads, with a length of 1,327 miles and a capital of 66,149,883 miles. These figures aggregate 10,152 miles of railway, and 405,813,769 *yen* of capital, exclusive of the capital already sunk upon the 2,909 miles of roads in operation.

The depressed condition of the money market is painfully reflected in the quotations of railway shares, and in the difficulty that companies experience when the time comes for paying calls. A striking example is furnished by the Kibe Railway which runs through the coal districts of Chikuzen and Buzen. One part of the road is finished, and the general prospects are said to be excellent. Recently the time came for paying up an installment on the shares, but the owners of 6,201 shares were unable to find money for the purpose, and their shares, according to regulation, had to be sold by public auction. The amount actually paid up on each share is 17½ *yen*, but purchasers could not be found at a higher figure than 4.75 *yen*, the loss to the unfortunate owners being thus nearly eighty thousand *yen*. The Iga line, in Ise, is also said to be in great straits. Seven miles of the road are completed; 460,000 *yen* has been paid up and 180,000 *yen* has been borrowed. A further sum of from 120,000 to 140,000 *yen* is now needed, but the shareholders can not pay it, and the market declines to furnish it, so that there is danger of the whole affair's passing into the possession of the creditors who have lent 180,000 *yen*.

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ANNEXATION OF HAWAII.

Telegrams received in Tokyo announce that the United States Senate and House of Representatives, by a joint resolution, have decided upon the annexation of Hawaii. That result was virtually certain from the moment when Admiral Dewey's Squadron steamed into Manila Bay. Evidently this war is destined to produce immense changes in America. A new Power of almost unlimited strength is about to step into the international arena and play the part of a second England. We shall see the United States with a big fleet, a strong army, a colonial office, a regular diplomatic service, and—suaver diplomatic methods. Every point of the metamorphosis is more than welcome to the subjects of the Queen. It is not that we look for anything like an offensive and defensive alliance between Great Britain and America—not just yet, at any rate. What recent events show, we think, is simply that neither Power will suffer the other to be perilously harrassed; or, as it has been well expressed, that if either Power has to put its back to the wall, a blast upon the magic horn will at once summon a powerful champion to its aid. Certainly to have obtained that assurance is an incalculable gain. But the real basis of Englishmen's satisfaction is nothing more definite than the consciousness that the other branch of the Anglo-Saxon race has emerged from its isolation, and joined the council of the nations, where its voice will assuredly be raised in unison with England's on behalf of every kind of freedom. It is the sort of feeling that a man would have who, after working alone for a great many years, suddenly sees his stalwart kinsmen stepping forward to put their shoulders to the same task. We are aware that there is a sentimental ring in such language, but for all his hard-headed practicality the Anglo-Saxon has a deep well of sentiment in his heart, and long may it remain there.

Now that the annexation of Hawaii has been decided upon by the United States, it becomes interesting to know the opinions entertained by the vernacular press on the subject. When annexation was on the *tapis* last year, the trouble with Hawaii about her refusal to permit the landing of Japanese immigrants was at an acute stage, and the views of the Tokyo Cabinet as well as of the people at large, were more or less affected by the dispute. But time has produced its usual softening effect, and all talk about the immigration grievance had ceased to be audible until the recent news about annexation arrived. As yet the intelligence has not evoked much comment. Only the *Nippon* and the *Yomiuri* allude to it. But the *Nippon* being the organ of the Chauvinists, and the *Yomiuri* one of the organs of the former Progressists, as well as a journal that made itself conspicuous by its stalwart attitude in the matter of the immigrants, their views should be worth reference. The *Nippon*, however, is remarkably perfunctory. It simply says that if America annexes the Hawaiian islands, she must also annex their responsibilities: in other words, she must hold herself accountable for the compensation that Japan is entitled to claim in connexion with the arbitrary rejection of the immigrants. That, the *Nippon* thinks, may be taken for granted. Otherwise the only point to which Japan need direct her attention is the status of Hawaii under the new régime. Is it to be regarded as an American colony, or will it be at once included in the Union? That decision will have an important bearing upon Japan's future relations with the islands. The *Yomiuri* is more explicit. It thinks that there is no occasion for Japan to assume a protesting attitude. Her previous remonstrances were intended to secure that her own interests and claims should not be overlooked in the event of annexation, and on the 14th of last August her Representative in Washington received an explicit assurance from the United States Government in the desired sense. Now, therefore, she need not concern herself about anything except the compensation due to her people on account of the immigration incident. That would be a very intelligible and moderate view if it stopped there. But the *Yomiuri* goes on to say, in effect, that if the United States show any intention of converting Hawaii into a naval basis, Japan ought to object. There can be little doubt that, after this war, America will develop into a great maritime Power, and if she is going to have coal depôts and naval ports in Hawaii, the tranquillity of the Pacific will be threatened. It is Japan's business to oppose anything of that kind.

The comment obviously invited by the above remarks of the *Yomiuri* is that the time has come for Japan to exercise discrimination. It is not enough for a country to distinguish her probable enemies: she must also recognise her possible friends. The Pacific has lain beyond the limits of the active stage for a long time, but the scene-shifters are now beginning to be busy there, and the old state of quiescence can not be maintained. With America's emergence from the limits of her own continent, another wave of Anglo-Saxon influence will begin to roll eastward. Is Japan to promote or to oppose its progress? The balance of power is a very fine phrase, but if it is to be preserved in the interest of probable enemies and at the expense of possible friends, it loses even its picturesqueness and becomes a mere *banalité*.

There has appeared in the columns of the vernacular press a certain amount of irresponsible talk about the annexation of Hawaii by the United States and the attitude that Japan ought to assume towards that problem. Want of space prevents us from epitomizing these views to-day, but we may say that, according to intelligence received by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the United States Government has formally announced its resolve not to disturb any special privileges enjoyed by Japan in the island, and has further expressed its readiness to assume any responsibility devolving on Hawaii in connexion with question of the Japanese immigrants. Under these circumstances, our contemporary adds, Count Okuma has instructed the Japanese Representative in Washington to open negotiations with the United States Government.

THE FIGHT AT SANTIAGO.

It is difficult to form any clear conception of the extraordinary events just reported from Santiago. In the first place we have no exact knowledge of the force under Admiral Cervera's command. The sum of our knowledge is that the squadron comprised at least four belted cruisers, one unprotected cruiser, and some six torpedo boats and destroyers. The cruisers were these:—

	tons.	knots.	Built.
Viscaya	7,000	20	1891
Almirante Oquendo	7,000	20	1891
Infanta Maria Teresa	7,600	20	1890
Cristobal Colon	6,840	20	1896
Reina Mercedes	3,090	12	1887

The first three of these vessels had the same armour, namely, a 12″ belt, 10½″ at the gun position, and a 3″ deck. The *Colon* was not so heavily defended, her corresponding figures being 6," 6″ and 1½″ respectively. The *Reina Mercedes* was unprotected. The total armament of the first four vessels was six 11-inch, two 10-inch and twenty 5.5-inch slow-firers; and ten 6-inch, ten 5.5-inch, six 4.7-inch, two two 2.7-inch, thirty 2.2-inch and thirty 1.4-inch, quick-firers. It is possible that the *Lepanto*—a deck-protected cruiser of 5,000 tons—was also with the squadron.

The components of Admiral Sampson's squadron are even more uncertain. We know that the total force of the United States in the Atlantic is 4 battleships, 5 monitors, 3 armoured cruisers, 2 first-class cruisers, 4 second-class cruisers, and 6 third-class cruisers, besides gun-boats and torpedo craft. Now of this fleet, 3 ironclads and 4 cruisers—the latter doubtless the finest available (probably the *Brooklyn*, the *Texas*, the *Columbia*, and the *Minneapolis*)—were getting ready to proceed to Spain under the command of Commodore Watson. Hence 7 of the most powerful ships of the fleet have to be subtracted from Admiral Sampson's possible squadron. Then, again, we know that, at the end of June, the President ordered a blocade of the whole south coast of Cuba and of San Juan de Puertorico. A considerable force would be required for that purpose. Of course Admiral Sampson would naturally have made provision for concentrating as large a number of the blockading ships as possible at Santiago in case of necessity. But, however excellent a system of signals and communications may be, time is required to effect any concentration, and time was exactly what Sampson did not have at his disposal when the Spanish ships made their dash for liberty. It will be apparent, therefore, that the force he had under his command to fight Cervera's Squadron can not have been by any means overwhelming, and must have consisted, in great part, of ships very inferior to cruisers of the type of the *Viscaya*, *Oquendo*, *Teresa*, and *Colon*.

It was under these conditions, then, that the Spanish ships were totally destroyed, with a loss of 350 killed, 160 wounded and 1,600 captured, while the American casualties were only 3 men. What can have happened? If one 11-inch, 10-inch, or 5.5-inch shell had struck an American vessel fairly and squarely, not 3 men but 10 or 20 would probably have been put *hors de combat*. If one of the four powerful Spanish cruisers had headed boldly for the American squadron, she could not have failed to

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inflict terrible injury before receiving her death blow. Supposing Reuter's account to be approximately accurate, it is evident that the squadrons approached within quick-firers' range. Indeed we may fairly assume that such was the case, for, with the best possible gunnery, slow-firing guns could scarcely have accomplished what the Americans did. Now the Spaniards had twenty-six quick-firers, of calibres ranging from 6-inch to 4·7-inch, not to speak of their sixty-two smaller guns. Admiral Sampson's quick-firing armament can not have comprised more than seven 6-inch, twenty 5-inch, and twenty-four 4-inch guns, omitting smaller pieces. In number (fifty-one) he nearly doubled Cervera's force (twenty-six), but in calibre the advantage was with the Spaniards. At all events, the disparity was not so great as to place Cervera at Sampson's mercy. We can only ask again, what happened? Of course the Spaniards had to run a kind of gauntlet. They had to emerge from a narrow channel under the converging fire of a number of ships. Under such circumstances their wisest course, one would imagine, would have been to deploy as quickly as possible, and steer end on for the blockading squadron. Instead of doing so, they appear to have headed westward, and steamed directly across the line of fire. It is useless to conjecture about such an incident. Seen from this distance, it looks like the most extraordinary fiasco on record. We may conclude unhesitatingly, however, that the American gunnery was very fine. It is said to have been splendid at Manila, but the conditions there were exceptionally favourable: the Spanish ships offered a virtually fixed target, and the sea was absolutely calm. At Santiago the Spaniards were steaming at the highest pressure, and it is not likely that they chose a calm day, for everything that impeded straight shooting would have been to their advantage. Why Cervera waited to be trapped in Santiago is a mystery. But his method of attempting to escape is still more inscrutable.

THE OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA AND FOREIGN SHAREHOLDERS.

Telegraphic intelligence from Osaka, published by vernacular newspapers, says that the Osaka Merchant Shipping Company (*Shosen Kaisha*) will hold its annual meeting on the 15th instant, when a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum will be declared, and a sum of 300,000 *yen* will be placed to reserves. More interesting, however, is the news that the Directors have decided to propose two amendments of the rules: one to the effect that foreigners may not become shareholders; the other that all shares must be registered, even though their owners desire otherwise. Of course this second restriction is a necessary corollary of the first. Unless all shares are registered no supervision can be exercisedas to the nationality of their holders. Every body is supposed to know his own business, and we presume that the Directors of the Osaka Merchant Shipping Company know theirs. But we can not congratulate them on their mood, or upon the time they have chosen todisplay it.

COUNT ITAGAKI AND THE CONSTITUTIONALISTS.

Count Itagaki seems to be very tired. He is besieged by applicants for office. They will take no refusal, but simply sit down at his door, and decline to remove themselves unless they can carry away with them a promise of some kind. So the Count told a deputation of leading Constitutionalists who waited on him a couple of days ago. And if the worthless men were importunate, he added, the competent men were correspondingly self-effacing. For example, he had supposed that Mr. Ebara would be eminently suited to succeed Viscount Okabe as Governor of Tokyo; but Mr. Ebara, when approached on the subject, had resolutely declined to serve. If only all these place-hunting politicians could be induced to go back to the provinces and devote their energies to preparing for the coming elections! That was Count Itagaki's fervent wish.

It has to be recorded to the credit of the leading members of the Constitutional Party that they are stoutly opposing the office-seeking aspirations of the rank and file. Not only do they refuse, like Mr. Ebara, to seek posts on their own account, but they denounce the seekers and encourage the Cabinet Ministers not to yield to any importunity. All that is very praiseworthy.

We observe, too, that a new association—calling itself the Kwanto Doshi Club—has been organized by Dr. Hatoyama, Messrs. Nakajima, Shimada, Arai, and others. It includes forty ex-members of the House of Representatives, and its apparent purpose is to draw tighter the bonds of union between the two sections of the Constitutional Party and to oppose the epidemic of *ryōkwan netsu*—or place-hunting fever. There appears also to be a stalwart-foreign-policy plank in the club's platform, but that point is somewhat obscure. Some critics will doubtless draw from the formation of such a club inferences unfavourable to the state of the new Party, but we presume that Dr. Hatoyama and his colleagues regard themselves simply as a kind of caucus.

THE "UNKWA."

Last year, the young rice plants were attacked by an insect to which farmers gave the name of *unkwa*, and the injury done to the crops was officially estimated at six million *koku*, representing a money value of about 70 million *yen*. Anticipating a recurrence of the trouble, a notification was issued by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce on the 16th of last May, urging the people to adopt precautions, and explaining the steps to be taken. We read in the *Official Gazette* that reports have now been received from no fewer than 34 prefectures, indicating that symptoms of the trouble have made themselves apparent there. The great seriousness of the danger has induced the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to despatch a number of officials for the purpose of consulting with the farmers, and applying preventive measures. It will be a terrible misfortune if another bad rice crop is in store for Japan this season.

FURTHER TROUBLE IN CONNECTION WITH WAREHOUSING COMPANIES.

The Kyoto Warehousing Company is said to be in serious trouble. Last May, one of its warehouses was destroyed by fire. The contents had been insured for 150,000 *yen* by two companies, the Tokyo and the Imperial, but they declined to pay the loss, alleging that goods not permitted by the terms of the policy had been stored in the Warehouse. The owners of the goods that were destroyed are much perturbed about the affair, especially as the Warehousing Company not only pleads the action of the insurance firms as an excuse for not compensating the owners, but also calls upon the latter to pay interest on moneys advanced to them by the company on the security of the goods. It is said that the question will probably find its way into the law courts.

It is alleged by the *Fiji Shimpo* that three foreign firms have been hit by the Kobe warehouse swindle, Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company being the principal sufferers. Some Chinese merchants have also suffered losses. According to this account, a quantity of the rice in the warehouse had been imported by Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company to the order of Messrs. Yonezawa and Kusuri. The Japanese merchants, being unable, however, to take delivery, proposed that the rice should be stored with the Warehousing Company, the deposit receipts to be handed to Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company, who should hold them until Messrs. Yonezawa and Kusuri were in a position to implement their contract. But the Japanese merchants removed the rice surreptitiously, and it is stated that the loss to Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company is 400,000 *yen*; Messrs. Raspe & Co., losing 5,000 *yen*, and Messrs. Popp & Co. being also victimized to an amount not stated. If these figures be added to the previous figures, the total sum involved in the swindle becomes 1,100,000 *yen*. It is believed, however, that a great part of the money will be recovered.

Meanwhile the affairs of the Hyogo Warehousing Company seem to be going from bad to worse. It now appears that further fraudulent practices have been brought to light. The Company took out insurance policies on 185,600 bags of rice supposed to be stored in its warehouse No. 122. Three insurance companies were concerned, the Nippon, the Meiji, and the Tokyo. Some of the officers of these Companies were suddenly struck by the fact that, according to the dimensions of the warehouse, it could not possibly contain more than 126,300 bags. Steps were immediately taken to examine the storehouse, the result being that its contents turned out to be far below the declared amount. The investigation was then extended to other warehouses of the Company, and, similar discrepancies having been discovered in several cases, the insurance companies declared all their policies invalid, and conveyed a notice in that sense to the bank. We take these particulars from the *Mainichi Shimbun*.

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SOCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL COURTESIES.

There is quite a breeze of sentimental courtesy blowing in Tokyo at present. A few days ago, long accounts were published by vernacular newspapers about an entertainment organized in honour of Mr. Harris. Several leading men took part in the affair—for example, Messrs. Kataoka, Shimada, Taguchi, Tsuda, and Ando Taro—and the Riukwa-yen, or willow-flower garden, of Tsukiji, where the affair took place, witnessed an assemblage of some seventy persons. Subsequently, the Government conferred a decoration on Mr. Harris. We are not in a position to speak accurately of this gentleman's career, but the broad facts appear to be that, many years ago, he served as a missionary in Hakodate and won great respect and affection. It is not on account of his success as a missionary, however, that his friends and admirers in Japan are now showing their enthusiasm; it is rather because of the great assistance he was subsequently able to render to Japanese students during his residence in the United States. We find his name classed with those of Commodore Perry and Dr. Hepburn as Japan's benefactors, and the seventy enthusiasts who assembled at the Riukwa-yen on the 3rd instant, not content with a feast of welcome and several warm speeches, formed themselves into a "Harris Society," and have since taken other opportunities of evincing their gratitude.

Another gentleman on whose account a *kwanyei-kai* (meeting of welcome) seems likely to be organized, is Mr. T. S. Perry. Some time ago, we briefly described a garden party given by Mr. Fukuzawa at his suburban residence in Tokyo for the purpose of introducing to a wide circle of friends, official and private, Mr. Perry and some other gentlemen who had just joined the staff of the Keiogijuku. Mr. Perry has doubtless many titles to consideration on his own account, but the attention he attracts in Japan is due entirely to the fact that he is the grandson of Commodore Perry's brother. If the spirit of the stout old Commodore could re-visit these earthly scenes, he would be edified and, perhaps, surprised at the halo of reverence and gratitude that has come to environ his name in Japan since the days when he penned despatches abusing England's selfish aggressiveness and recommending his country to follow her example. He is now a luminary of civilization and the reflection of the halo having fallen upon his grand-nephew, there is talk of a social gathering in the latter's honour. The Welcome Society are taking the lead in this case. They held a meeting on the 6th instant in the Imperial Hotel and appointed a committee to make arrangements. We find these demonstrations very pleasant and satisfactory. Some critics will probably call them romantic, but a little romance is an excellent leaven at times. The rapprochement between the foreign and Japanese Chambers of Commerce in Kobe and Yokohama; the interchange of hospitalities between residents of Yokohama and leading officials in Tokyo; the organization of an international committee in Yokohama to smooth the path to Treaty Revision; the formation of an international journalists' association; the friendly *réunion* of foreigners and Japanese in Sendai, and the welcome parties to Mr. Harris and Mr. Perry—all these things are signs of a wholesome time.

THE REBELLION IN CHINA.

We are unable to identify accurately the place-names given in the telegram which we publish this morning with reference to the rebellion in Kwangsi and Kwangtung. Neither "Moning" nor "Tienpak" appear on any map in our possession. Wu-chuen lies on the south-eastern sea-coast of Kwangtung and a little to the north of it, also on the coast, is Tienpeh, which, so far as similarity of orthography goes, might be the place mentioned in the telegram as "Tienpak." On the other hand, it is not easy to see why the citizens of Wuchow should consider themselves threatened by rebels so distant. Canton ought to feel more disquieted. There is also a town called Wusiuen on the River Yuh, a short distance above Wuchow. If that be the place which has assumed the guise of "Wuchuen" in transit along the wires, then "Moning" may be a mistake for Nanning, and we arrive at the conclusion that the Kwangsi rebels are moving down the Yuh towards Wuchow, possibly with Canton for an objective point. We incline to the latter hypothesis. As for the origin of the rebellion, it appears to be connected with the additional *likin* dues levied by order of the Peking Government on account of China's new indebtedness. But that is a conjecture. We have no accurate information.

THE TREASURY'S SILVER.

It is stated that the Treasury is getting rid of its stock of silver on terms more advantageous than those originally anticipated. Our readers may remember that Mr. Takahashi Korekiyo, of the Bank of Japan, was recently sent to London to make arrangements for selling the white metal. The stock lying in the Treasury's vaults amounts to some 50 million *yen* worth, and Mr. Takahashi has succeeded in selling 10 millions for use in Hongkong and Shanghai. There is an impression that very large quantities have been coined into 50-*sen*, 20-*sen*, and 10-*sen* pieces at the Osaka Mint, and certainly there is a considerable stock of these coins in the hands of the money-changers, the railway folk, and the post and telegraph offices. But we doubt whether the coinage has been so very extensive. During June, for example, the Mint returns show that the quantity of 50-*sen* pieces struck was only 225,000 *yen* worth, and the quantity of 10-*sen* pieces, 316,000 *yen*.

We observe that the total quantity of gold coins struck at the Osaka Mint from the adoption of gold monometallism up to the end of June was:—

20 *yen* gold coins	37 294,600 *yen*
10-*yen* gold coins	41,905,000 *yen*
5-*yen* gold coins	560,000 *yen*

This makes a total of 6,167,230 coins in number.

JAPANESE SILVER COINS & CONVERTIBLE NOTES IN KOREA.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* publishes a telegram from Söul, dated 1.20 p.m. on the 12th instant, to the effect that the Korean Government has decided to declare Japanese silver *yen* coins—stamped or unstamped—as well as Japanese convertible notes, legal tender, receivable in payment of taxes; and that an official announcement in that sense was made to the Japanese Representative on the evening of the 11th instant. The *Shogyo Shimpo*, however, referring apparently to the same matter, says merely that the Korean Government has withdrawn its veto on the circulation of stamped silver *yen*. Whichever version be correct, it is evident that Japanese influence is growing in Korea. This question of the silver *yen* is probably of no great importance to Japan so far as disposing of her silver is concerned, for the stock taken by Korea can not be large, but the convenience of commercial transactions will certainly be promoted by the action now attributed to the Korean Government.

KOREA.

The Korean capital has been the scene of renewed political disturbances. Several arrests of prominent men are reported by telegram, in connexion with a plot which had for its avowed purpose the exclusion of the Emperor from any share in administrative business, and the delegation of his powers to the Prince Imperial. There is no indication that the latter was a party to the conspiracy, but of course that point is not clearly ascertained as yet. The intelligence is meagre. We gather that the plotters were not instigated by disloyalty to the Throne. Their motive was simply to introduce a wholesomer and more vigorous form of government. It is not difficult to sympathise with such a purpose. Nothing seems so supremely ridiculous as that a palpably incompetent person should be entitled, by the mere accident of birth, to play fast and loose with the fortunes and happiness of a whole nation.

It is stated that permission has at length been given by the Korean Government for the return of Mr. Boku Yeiko and his fellow-exiles to their native country. These men shared the disgrace into which the unfortunate Kim Ok-kyun fell many years ago (1884), and have ever since that time been residing as refugees in Japan. Sundry efforts have been made by Korea to get them into her clutches. When, in the sequel of the Tientsin Convention—the Li-Ito Convention—Mr. Mollendorff was appointed foreign adviser to the Korean Government, he took up the question of the extradition of Kim, Boku, and the rest, and urged it upon Japan with quite remarkable vehemence and every appearance of conviction. But, to the credit of the Japanese Government, it declined to depart from the principle of international law which excludes political intrigues from the list of extraditable offences. Then followed rumours of Korean executioners prowling about Japan to compass the deaths of the exiles, and finally Kim was inveigled to Shanghai and foully assassinated, his murderer being subsequently honoured and rewarded by the Söul Government, while Kim's corpse was subjected to the barbarities perpetrated under the Korean laws in the case of public malefactors. A simultaneous attempt to assassinate Boku Eiko ended happily in failure, and the Tonghak troubles in Korea, with their sequel, the Chinese war, effectually put a stop to any further attempts against Boku. After the war, efforts were made to induce the

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Korean Government to pardon the exiles and sanction their return to Korea, but it is alleged—with how much truth we can not tell—that Russian influence was thrown into the opposite scale. At all events, the desired leniency has now been exercised, and Boku, together with some twenty fellow-exiles, will start for their native country in a few days, if the statements contained in vernacular journals be correct. Whether they are wise in placing reliance upon the promises of their Government, we can not undertake to say. Pardon is still withheld from eight of the exiles; the eight men supposed to have been directly engaged in the assaulting and wounding of Bin on the memorable occasion of the post-office banquet. It is pitiable that Kim Ok-kyun is not alive to share this amnesty. None of us could sympathise with his methods, but he was certainly a man of most exceptional gifts. We have heard it said by an Englishman who had the best possible opportunities of judging, and whose opinion, were we at liberty to mention his name, would carry the greatest weight, that Kim was not merely the cleverest Korean, but one of the ablest men, of whatsoever nationality, he had ever met in the course of a long and varied experience.

It is very difficult to form any clear conception as to the real state of affairs in the Korean capital. A telegram received in Tokyo on the 13th instant says that the Emperor of Korea sent an official to offer the Imperial condolences to Bin Yeisho and Boku Teiyo. These men are under arrest on a charge, as the intelligence hitherto to hand indicates, of having formed a plot to dethrone the Emperor and place the sceptre in the hands of the Prince Imperial. Yet the Emperor is now reported to be offering them his condolences!

Another telegram says that, on the 12th instant, the Independence Club memorialized the Emperor, advising him to abdicate. We have no doubt that it would be a very good thing for Korea to be blessed with an able and progressive ruler instead of the gentle and somewhat ill-endowed personage now occupying the Throne. But who can guarantee that from the Emperor to the Prince Imperial would not be a leap from the frying pan into the fire?

OUTRAGE AT A CHURCH IN SHIBA.

Brief allusion has already been made in these columns to an apparently anti-Christian demonstration which took place on the evening of the 3rd instant at a church in the Shiba district of Tokyo. The details are now published. It appears that the demonstration took the form of breaking the church windows with stones while a missionary was in the act of preaching. Rumour said that the preacher had been wounded, but it turns out that he suffered no injury whatever. The police arrested some twenty persons who had engaged in the stone-throwing. They were mere lads, and had been instigated, as the investigation showed, by some grown people who resented certain strong expressions used by the preacher with regard to the religions of Japan. The instigators were fined 1 *yen* each, and their dupes escaped with a fine of 50 *sen*.

THE LATE MARQUIS TOKUGAWA.

The sudden death of Marquis Tokugawa has produced a most painful impression in Tokyo. The public had no suspicion whatever that his condition was precarious, and indeed his physicians seem to have been equally unsuspecting. Early in June, or, perhaps, at the end of May, he was attacked by influenza, but recovered without much suffering and appeared to be enjoying normal health. By and by, however, symptoms intervened which showed that he was making fat with unwholesome rapidity, and Dr. Hashimoto, diagnosing weakness of the nerves of the heart, prescribed change of air. The Marquis accordingly repaired to his villa in Nikko on the 9th instant. The following day, he took an unusual amount of exercise, and, on the 11th, experienced a feeling of lassitude with a slight sense of oppression on the chest. He remained in the house all day, but did not imagine that there was any danger, and amused himself playing *go*. During the forenoon of the 12th, however, he was suddenly seized with acute pain over the heart, and soon fell into a comatose condition from which he never rallied. According to the published accounts, he returned to Tokyo and died there at midnight on the 12th instant, but we have very little doubt that his decease took place at Nikko, and that the statement about Tokyo is merely *pro formâ*. The Marquis was immensely popular among foreigners and Japanese. A man of wide culture, most winning manners, and ample means, he loved to dispense hospitality worthy of the great family he represented, and his residence at Mukojima, finely designed and handsomely furnished in foreign style, was the scene of numerous banquets and *réunions* where guests of all nationalities found a charming host and hostess, and enjoyed the privilege of seeing some of the rarest and most beautiful works of Japanese art, which had been handed down from generation to generation of the Mito nobles. The Marquis spoke French fluently, having studied it in Japan and completed his knowledge during the five years of his residence in Rome as Japanese Representative. He was only in his forty-fourth year at the time of his decease, and his two sons are still in their boyhood. The Marquis was born at the celebrated Mito Yashiki, in the Koishikawa district of Tokyo, in the year 1855. He was the eldest son of Yoshiatsu, feudal chief of Mito, brother of Keiki, the last of the Tokugawa *Shoguns*. While still a lad he lost his father, and consequently did not immediately succeed to the headship of the Mito family, that important position being assigned to his uncle, Akitake, who held the official rank of *Mimbu Tayu*. In 1867, however, he was formally adopted by Akitake, and ultimately succeeded to the Mito title and estates. He graduated from the Military College in 1878, and proceeded to France in the following year to complete his studies, returning to Japan in November, 1882. He married, in 1880, Lady Fusa, daughter of Matsudaira, former feudal chief of Takamatsu (in Sanuki), and had by her two sons. In 1884, he received the title of Marquis, and in 1887 he proceeded to Italy as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, which office he held until December, 1892. In June, 1895, he was appointed Vice-Grand Master of Ceremonies in the Imperial Court, and was raised to the First Rank of the Third Official Grade. In 1896, he went to St. Petersburg with H.I.H. Prince Fushimi, to attend the Coronation of the Czar, and after his return in 1897 the Third Class Order of the Sacred Treasure was bestowed on him, in consideration of the fact that he and his family had contributed a sum of fifty thousand *yen* to the war chest during the struggle with China. On receiving news of his dangerous condition, the Emperor raised him to the Second Rank of the Second Official Grade, and bestowed on him the Second Class Order of the Sacred Mirror. It will be seen from the above account that the Marquis was a nephew of the last Tokugawa Shogun, Keiki, who is now residing in Tokyo. The Mito family was a branch of the Tokugawa, and stood first among the *Go-san-ke*, or Three Houses from which a successor to the Shogunate was appointed in the event of the failure of an heir in the direct line.

THE PHILIPPINES.

The telegraphic news which we publish this morning from the Philippines is somewhat ominous. The presence of the whole German Squadron at Manila has been viewed by Americans with a great deal of suspicion, as is not unnatural, considering the comparative insignificance of German interests in the Philippines. However unwilling we may be to attribute any sinister designs to Germany, there is no denying that she must be perfectly well aware of the impression produced on the public mind by the proceedings of her squadron. Hence, by deliberately ignoring that impression, she justifies many of the harsh things said about her, and if it be true, as our telegram alleges, that the *Irene* interfered to defend Fort Grande against the rebels, there will be much difficulty in reconciling Germany's conduct with the strict duties of a neutral. We are disposed to think, however, that the news should be received with great reserve. Nothing is easier than to mistake the intentions of a war-ship in repairing to a certain place. Unless the *Irene* made an emphatic demonstration against the rebels, it will not be safe to assume that she did no more than visit the bay to observe the course of events, and, if necessary, help to save life.

Manila Bay is enclosed by two promontories—Cavite on the east and Batan on the west. Steaming out of the Bay round Corregidor island, and turning northward along the coast of Batan, the entrance to Subig port is reached after a transit of five miles. It is a narrow inlet, running three miles into the shore, and Grande Island lies near the upper end. The possession of Batan promontory could not be of any special service to the rebels for the purposes of their attack upon Manila, but the fact that Admiral Dewey, having captured the little island, handed it over to Aguinaldo's men, seems to effectually dispose of the statement emanating from a Chinese source, that Aguinaldo has proclaimed a republic. The latter intelligence is dated, our readers will observe, "Hongkong, July 8th," whereas our special telegram, despatched from Shanghai on the evening of the 13th, must have been sent from Manila on the 12th, at latest. If Aguinaldo had taken the action attributed to him on the 8th instant, Admiral Dewey

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would not have lent him armed assistance four days later.

The news of an epidemic of dysentery among the American troops is most serious. A hundred and fifty patients at this early stage is a great number. The transports reached Cavite on June 30th, and the men were then reported to be in good health. Strenuous exertions had been made by Admiral Dewey to prepare for their reception, and it may be assumed that this outbreak of disease is not due to manifestly defective sanitary arrangements. We have had no intelligence of the landing of the troops at Cavite, but it is improbable that they would have been kept on the transports longer than necessary. At any rate, if a hundred and fifty men were attacked by dysentery within less than a fortnight from their arrival at the Philippines, the record must be called ominous. We venture to suggest that there is a splendid field here for the operations of the Japanese Red Cross Association. The physicians of this country have had exceptional experience in the treatment of dysentery as it occurs in the Far East, and five or six medical experts aided by a corps of trained nurses such as the Red Cross Hospital could supply, might do splendid service at Cavite, and would certainly win for Japan a place in the hearts of America and England.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN REVISED TREATY.

Sundry statements, more or less conjectural, are published with regard to the Austro-Hungarian Revised Treaty. Among other things it is alleged that the Government in Vienna has expressed its great unwillingness to block the path to the consummation of Treaty Revision not for the sake of any principle but merely because of a temporary dislocation of the Austro-Hungarian legislative machine. Under the circumstances it is proposed—we still quote from rumours published in vernacular newspapers—that the Revised Treaties shall go into operation, independently of Austria-Hungary's ratification, the Governments of Vienna and Buda-Pest agreeing to waive all extra-territorial privileges which would interfere with their subjects' inclusion in the system of the Revised Treaties. That arrangement would not extend to the Tariff, however, since in the matter of customs dues no alteration could be sanctioned without Parliamentary consent.

It is plain that one or other of the high contracting parties—Austria-Hungary, we suspect—desires to avoid publicity in this matter as long as possible. But we have no hesitation in saying that the arrangement mapped out above must be regarded as apocryphal. The only practical course appears be a stipulation on the part of Austria-Hungary that a certain time—say six months—shall be allowed after the issue of the year's notice by Japan; and that if, within that time, the ratifications of the Revised Treaty are not exchanged, the new Tariff, as negotiated by the other Powers, shall nevertheless go into force, its provisions becoming applicable to Austro-Hungarian subjects pending the completion of their own Tariff negotiations. What is certain is that Austria-Hungary's delay is not due to any want of good-will in the matter, but is solely the outcome of a train of accidental circumstances. There can be no doubt that any reasonable exit from the dilemma would be welcomed by her.

THE FRENCH NATIONAL FÊTE.

The 14th of July passed off at Yokohama with considerable *éclat*. Favoured with splendid weather, the promoters had the satisfaction of seeing both the day and the evening programmes carried out most successfully. The great majority of the business firms in the Settlement displayed flags, and everywhere the Tricolor was to be seen in company with the Union Jack, the Japanese and Russian flags, the Stars and Stripes, and the symbols of the other principal nationalities. During the forenoon M. Ratard, the French Consul-General and his charming wife were "at home" at the Consulate. In the evening the chief hotels on the Bund were illuminated, and the French Consulate was a perfect picture, the façade of the handsome building being hung with fairy lamps, which had a charming effect. The Oriental Hotel was very prettily illuminated with Japanese lanterns of bizarre shape and vivid colouring, this work being tastefully done by Messrs. Colomb and Company. A display of fireworks was watched by large crowds from the terraces of the different hotels. The designs used on the 4th July were largely followed, that of a battleship being almost exactly similar to the one on the American holiday, except that the Tricolour instead of the Stars and Stripes "floated" from the stern of the mimic vessel.

THE BALL.

The ball at the Imperial Hotel was a pleasant function, and was very largely attended, several hundreds accepting the Committee's invitation. It was, of course, a quite cosmopolitan gathering, and probably every nationality in Tokyo and Yokohama had its representative. Among the official and diplomatic circle were M. Harmand, the French Minister; the Viscount de La Boy, military attaché to the French Legation; M. Ratard, French Consul-General, Yokohama; Baron Rosen, Russian Minister; General Yanjoull, Russian military agent; Mr. Puklowski, First Secretary, and Mr. Andrew, Second Secretary of the Russian Legation; Lieut. Chaghin, Russian naval attaché; Prince Lobanoff, Russian Consul at Yokohama; Count Orfini, Italian Minister; Mr. Chalmers (British Consulate), His Honour Judge Wilkinson; Messrs. McLean and Miura, U.S. Consulate; Mr. Da Freitas, Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires; Mr. Bovilla, Spanish Consul; Mr. Plaza, Mexican Consul; Mr. Asada, Governor of Kanagawa Kencho; Mr. Inouye, Secretary of the Kencho; Councillor Sugiyama; Mr. Takehisa, Chief Superintendent of Police for Kanagawa Kencho; Mr. Ameda, Mayor of Yokohama; Mr. Watanabe, Chief Justice of the Yokohama Courts, Marquis Nembrini de Gonzaga, &c.

About ten o'clock considerable interest was lent to the proceedings by the appearance of Prince Cyril, who was attended by the Captain and officers of the *Rossia*. His Highness, whose advent was greeted with the playing of the Russian National Anthem, stayed for about an hour, passing most of the time in the ball room. After his departure dancing was renewed with vigour, and was continued until the early hours of the morning. The whole of the arrangements were excellent, and every one appeared delighted with the handsome rooms and many conveniences of the Hotel. Following was the dance programme:—

1.—Quadrille..... 2.—Valse.
3.—Polka..... 4.—Scottish.
5.—Mazurka..... 6.—Valse.
7.—Quadrille..... 8.—Pas de quatre.
9.—Valse.....10.—Pas de deux.
11.—Quadrille.....12.—Valse.
13.—Scottish.....14.—Valse.
15.—Quadrille.....16.—Pas de quatre.
17.—Valse.....18.—Polka.
19.—Valse.....20.—Quadrille.

It should be added that before dancing commenced Mdme. Ratard presented the prizes won in the races contested during the afternoon by members of the Yacht Club.

MURDER OF A GERMAN SEAMAN.

A German stoker named Rischke, belonging to the steamer *Asturia*, met with his death under shocking circumstances at Yokohama on Thursday evening. Rischke, with a companion, had been taking an evening's pleasure in Ishikawa, and about 10 30 a dispute arose between them and some Japanese coolies. It ended in Rischke being struck a heavy blow on the back of the head, the instrument used, a heavy piece of wood, fracturing the skull and causing almost immediate death. Some arrests were made by the police, and a preliminary inquiry by German and Japanese officials was opened the same night at Kotobuki-cho Police Station.

A Japanese account of the matter is that the two Germans took too much drink at the saloons in the Settlement, and in the evening wandered aimlessly into Japanese town. Near the bridge at Yoshiha-cho, Rischke commenced a dispute with a *jinrikisha* coolie, who cried loudly for assistance. A crowd of Japanese at once rushed up, and attacked Rischke, while the other German ran away. When he returned he found the dead body of his friend with the back of the head quite smashed in and the neck vertebræ dislocated. The police were then called and proceeded to investigate.

On Friday morning Mr. R. Kallen, the German Vice Consul, and a doctor from the Naval Hospital went to the Kotobuki-cho Police Station to hold a formal inquiry, and the body was afterwards sent to the Naval Hospital. About 20 Japanese have been arrested, among them two named Yokomizo Motojiro (45 years) a painter, and his apprentice named Kateumata Yeisaku (20 years), who are supposed to be the ringleaders.

EXTENSION OF HONGKONG.

It would seem, says the *China Mail*, that the formal annexation of the new Kowloon territory is not yet. The impression had got abroad that the acquisition was to take place as from the 1st of July, and that there would be some form of public demonstration on such an important occasion. From what we hear it is evident that the negotiations are not quite completed, however, or that, some dubiety existing as to the exact boundary line and the control of the adjacent waters, further reflection may be demanded by the British authorities. Whatever the true position of affairs, it is at least certain that the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., who is expected to arrive in the Colony by the C. P. R. steamer *Empress of China* about 2nd of August, has been delegated to carry out some investigations and report upon the new territory about to be acquired. In the recommendations of that gentleman, we hope he will stipulate for the complete control of the whole of Mirs Bay, and the inclusion of Sham Chun, the great central market town, between Deep Bay and Starling Inlet.

YOKOHAMA MERCHANTS AND JAPANESE BUYERS.

The *Japan Times* learns with reference to the action taken by foreign merchants in Yokohama against Japanese buyers in the matter of the failure by the latter to take delivery of goods which have arrived to their order, that mutual negotiations have finally effected the following result:—

1. That delivery of contract goods imported prior to the 20th of April last shall be carried out by the 15th of this month, and that in consideration of further postponement daily interest of 2 *sen* 5 *rin* per 100 *yen* shall be payable after the 15th inst.

2. That delivery of contract goods imported after the 15th of July shall be carried out within 100 days from the date of payment of Customs dues, and in the event of failure to do so daily interest of 2 *sen* 5 *rin* per 100 *yen* shall be chargeable.

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SENDAI NEWS.

Graduation ceremonies are the order of the day in Sendai as elsewhere. On the 28th ult. the Ella O. Patrick Home, connected with the Baptist Mission, held its Third Annual Commencement. The school is now under the sole charge of Miss Buzzell, Miss Mead, the former superintendent, having gone home on furlough. The proceedings were somewhat lengthy, occupying about two hours and including no fewer than 19 items. There were 5 graduates, each of whom read an essay in English or Japanese. The subjects treated were:—"The Christian Home," "The Duty of Christian Women;" "Women in the State;" "The Supreme Motive in Life," and "The Life of Faith." The essays were all characterised by earnestness of tone, the ideas expressed evidently representing the convictions of the writers. Though the whole proceedings reflected great credit on the hard-working lady in charge of the school, one performance is worthy of special mention, and that was the singing of an English song by a number of girls, each of whom took her part with excellent effect. It is very seldom that Japanese girls can be got to sing together in such a manner. Several of the voices were very sweet. The time kept and the expression given to the rendering of the parts left nothing to be desired. One reads a great deal in the newspapers about the denationalising tendency of Christian Female Schools. We must confess that we have never been able to discover this tendency in the schools we have inspected. Nothing could have been more pronouncedly Japanese that the proceedings at the Ella O Patrick Home, or the Shohei Gakko, as it is called in Japanese, and the Miyagi Jogakko ceremony which took place the next day. In each case the Imperial Rescript on Education was reverently read. In each case the sentiments expressed in the essays were characterised by unmistakable patriotism. The proceedings were nearly all in the hands of Japanese, and foreigners played a very insignificant part. The girls dress in Japanese fashion and their manners differ in no respect from those of other well-trained Japanese girls. It is easy to work up a hue and cry against the Missionary ladies in charge of Christian Schools, but in our opinion it would be very difficult to find many Japanese ladies fully qualified to take their places, were they removed. The discipline, cleanliness, and general management of these Schools seem to us to be only capable of being enforced by women of energy and will. The yielding nature of most Japanese ladies would render them unfit for the task. The decorations at the ceremony we are describing were in excellent taste; the crowning achievement among them being the use made of an ordinary Japanese *todana* situated at the back of the platform. The doors of this cupboard were removed and the recess was filled with wistaria and other creepers, so arranged as to give the alcove an appearance of endless depth and make it look like a romantic lovers' retreat of the type that novelists are so fond of describing.

On the 29th, the Miyazaki Jo-Gakko held its Sixth Annual Commencement. There are three ladies in charge of this establishment: Miss Zurfluh (Superintendent), Miss Hollowell, and Miss Rohrbaugh. There was only one graduate connected with this school, but she was evidently a girl of exceptional ability, as evinced by the two essays that she read, one in English and the other in Japanese. Her pronunciation of English was excellent, and her English Essay on "Meekness in Women", contained remarks that one does not often hear from the lips of a school graduate. Miss Hasegawa, for this was the lady's name, maintained that modern Japanese women were in no way inferior in feminine qualities to the women of former times, and added that in point of knowledge they were in a different world from the women of the Tokugawa era. Congratulatory addresses were read by a prefectural Counsellor (*Sanji-kan*), representing the Governor and by the new mayor of Sendai, Mr. Satomi. Various musical performances were given on the fine-toned piano belonging to the school, and Miss Zurfluh delivered an address in English. The attendance was large, every available seat being occupied.

More than a year ago a desire was expressed by certain Sendai citizens to take some steps towards preparing the way for mixed residence by periodically meeting with foreigners in a social manner. A few weeks ago this movement took definite shape. Dr. de Forest, as one of the oldest residents, was asked to form a foreign Committee. Messrs. Schneder and Dening were requested to act as members in conjunction with Dr. de Forest. Here it may be well to mention that the whole of the foreign Community of Sendai, with two exceptions, consists of missionaries or persons connected with missions. It seems that the Japanese originators of the movement, knowing that most of the Sendai foreigners were missionaries, asked a prominent Christian residing in the town what would be the conditions on which foreigners could be induced to join. This man being an ardent teetotaller and an anti-tobacco zealot, without waiting for any formal expression of opinion on the part of the foreign community as a body, laid down the law after his own fashion. The conditions are these, said this all-wise, self-constituted spokesman of the foreign residents: At your meetings there must be (1) no *geisha*, (2) no *saké* drunk, (3) no smoking, and (4) no conversation on politics or religion. This gentleman's action, however, was not endorsed by the missionary members of the Committee. On the contrary, Dr. de Forest said he was prepared to give the Japanese members of the Committee full liberty to make what arrangements they pleased as long as *geisha* were not employed. The Japanese were informed at one of the Committee meetings that ministers of religion were by no means invariably teetotallers, and that, as regards the missionary residents of Sendai, some of them took alcoholic drinks, and others, though teetotallers themselves, did not object to sit at the tables of residents who habitually drink wine or beer. But nevertheless the Japanese went away with the impression that nothing but a teetotal repast would be largely attended by missionaries, and in that generous fashion which is so familiar to those who have had dealings with the Japanese for any length of time, they gave up their *saké*, and even beer and wine and arranged for a foreign dinner minus the liquor. The dinner came off on the evening of the 29th ult. at the Matsu-no-Yen, and was attended by all the foreign gentlemen of Sendai and by some 40 invited leading citizens. The city band was in attendance and various speeches were made. Mr. Satomi, the Mayor of Sendai, said that he was highly gratified at the ready response given to the appeal that had been made. With few exceptions those who had been invited were present. This showed that there was a general feeling in favour of establishing a closer relationship between Japanese and foreigners. This being a first attempt, imperfections in the arrangements were unavoidable. Sendai at present was without a suitable building and the necessary requisites for such a purpose as had brought them together, but he hoped that in time this would be remedied. Dr. de Forest said that the whole credit of organising the new movement belonged to the Japanese and that the part that foreigners had played in it was quite insignificant. There were those who affirmed that the union of alien races was impossible, that England would make no alliance with Japan on account of differences of sentiment, customs, and religion, but he was not of that opinion. It had been predicted many years ago that Treaties granting equal rights to Japanese and foreigners could never be made. But those treaties actually existed and were soon to go into operation. The greatest of all difficulties connected with attempts of this kind was difference of language. Not a few of the *Konshin-Kai* that he had attended had proved to be *Konnan-kai*. But in the present instance not a few of the foreigners in attendance spoke Japanese and there were some Japanese who spoke English, and he therefore hoped that there would be no barrier to free intercourse. Mr. W. Dening said that the principles of the union they had met to cement must be perfect equality and mutual concession. In reference to the latter it would never do to have all the concessions on one side. If asked which was the happier, the person who conceded something or the person who accepted the concession, he would say, as far as the intercourse of gentlemen went, the person who conceded. In reference to the present movement, opinions differed as to how it should be conducted, and there were some who wished to utilise it as an opportunity for enforcing conformity to their special rules of life. Any one who thought it possible to hamper the action of an assembly like this by the imposition of restrictions such as the abolition of *saké* and tobacco was very ignorant of the first elements of social intercourse. The fact of there being no alcoholic drinks on the table had already called forth comments. He, Mr. Dening, was in favour of supplying these on future occasions for those who wished to partake of them. There must be no mutual recrimination among the members of the Association. Mutual concession must be the order of the day. There were, no doubt, difficulties ahead, but they had made a good start. The surest way to learn how best to conduct the movement was by putting their ideas into practice. In such matters there was nothing like practical experience, after all, as was well said in a verse with which they were no doubt familiar:—*Ai-mite no nochi no kokoro ni kuraburéba, mukashi wa mono wo omowazaru keri.*

Congratulatory speeches were made by several leading Japanese citizens, followed by a short speech by the Rev. E. H. Jones, in which he said that he objected to attend assemblies where *saké* was drunk, and that he was of opinion that there were other missionaries in Sendai who would absent themselves from such meetings as were contemplated were *saké* introduced. His own personal reason for assuming this attitude was that many years ago, when he and his wife were present at an entertainment given by Mr. Matsudaira, the Governor of Miyagi at the time, his wife was insulted by one of the guests who was the worse for liquor.

It was subsequently suggested that as there seemed to be a very wide difference of opinion on the *saké* question, it might be better to confine the meetings to what are known as *chawa kwai*, and have no more dinners of the kind held on the 29th.

On the occasion which we have described it is plain that all the concession was made by the Japanese and that the foreign community conceded nothing. The Japanese do not take kindly to water meals, but one of their leading characteristics as a nation is the power to conceal their feelings when occasion calls for it. This they did to perfection. We cannot say that the rôle played by the foreign community of Sendai on this occasion commends itself to us. Notwithstanding all that the Japanese had conceded to the teetotal party which indirectly seems to have brought influence to bear on them, not one of the leaders of that party publicly acknowledged the obligation they were under to the *saké* drinkers who had given up their liquor in order to please a large section of the foreign community. It was the case of some 40 Japanese giving in to a dozen foreigners, for the ardent teetotallers do not exceed, even if they reach, that number. How the gentlemen that object to take a friendly meal with Japanese who drink *saké* at their meals can reconcile this with the fact that they have been known to sit at foreign tables where alcohol is used without protest, is best known to themselves. Notwithstanding the cold water thrown on the movement by teetotal partisans, we think it has sufficient fire in it to make extinction impossible. One of the pleasing features of the meeting was the presence of the two Roman Catholic priests residing in Sendai, one of whom, M. Jacques, speak Japanese with remarkable fluency and correctness. Altogether the meeting was one of considerable interest when we bear in mind that it took place in a

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hitherto ultra-conservative provincial town. The proceedings throughout were conducted in Japanese with the exception of a short English speech made by a Japanese and the translation of an amusing Japanese story given by Dr. Yamamoto. The chief promoters, who also formed a committee of management, consisted of eight Japanese and three foreigners, and the invitations were issued by these gentlemen.

NEW FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION.

The ceremony of the inauguration of the new Fine Arts Association, recently organised under the auspices of Mr. Okakura, ex-President of the Fine Arts School in Uyeno, and many eminent artists in the capital, took place on the 7th instant at the Shiba Maple Club, Tokyo. Over one hundred guests, including three foreigners, were present. Messrs. Okakura, Tauzuki and Takada gave brief addresses. Mr. Tauzuki, in the course of his speech, remarked that the fine arts of Japan were considerably influenced in olden times by religion, in the middle ages by aristocracy, and at present by a majority of the people who could hardly claim to have any knowledge of art. In Japan, as in all other countries, genuine critics were few. The Japanese artists ought always to bear this fact in mind, and direct their energies to the attainment of artistic ends, disregarding their personal interests. The guests afterwards dined, and were entertained with music and dances. As for the regulations of the Association, the most prominent may be given as follows:—The Association is to be designated the Bijutsu-In (Fine Arts Institute), the object being to maintain and develop the characteristics of Japanese fine arts. The members are classified as ordinary, temporary, special, and honorary, the first of these classes consisting chiefly of experts in art, and the second of students. The affairs of the Association are conducted by seventeen officials:—A President, 11 Councillors, and 5 Managers—to be elected from among the ordinary members, the period of their service being fixed at six years. The duties to be undertaken by the Association are as follow:—(1) The study of fine arts and the production of objects of art. (2) The holding of a special exhibition at least once every year for the works of members of the Association, and also the organisation of a permanent gallery. (3) The execution of works of art at any time on demand. (4) Holding meetings for the discussion of questions bearing on fine arts. (5) Sending the Association's productions for exhibition in Japan and abroad. (6) Acting as agents for the production of artistic designs. The Head Office of the Association has been established in Yushima, Hongo, Tokyo, with four branches in different parts of the capital. The eminent artists connected with the Association number 75 in all, the various departments of art represented being painting, sculpture, designs and plans, lacquering, gold work, &c. Mr. Hashimoto Gaho was elected as acting President, and Mr. Okakura as Chief Councillor.

Our readers will desire to learn something about the circumstances under which the above association came into existence. Perhaps the simplest explanation is to say that it grew out of the trouble which occurred some time ago in the Fine Arts School. The proximate causes of that trouble we can not attempt to set forth, first, because the task would occupy too much space, and secondly, because we are by no means sure that our version would be just to all the parties concerned. But the primary cause seems to have been a tendency on the part of the Authorities to discontinue the system on which the pictorial art teaching of the School was based—the system of grafting Occidental elements on Japanese stem—, and to insist upon either pure Japanese style or pure Occidental. Against the prospect of such a change Mr. Okamura, the President of the School, rebelled, and was supported by a very large majority of the Professors and Teachers in the School as well as by the bulk of the students. Indeed, we understand that his resignation has virtually paralysed the School, and that its continued existence is problematical. Be that as it may, the immediate purpose of the new Fine Arts Association is to persevere with the work hitherto carried on in the Art School. As a private enterprise, the Institution will be in a position to serve the public much more unreservedly than the Art School does. That, indeed, is an important feature in its prospectus. The faculty intend to execute work to order. They have a fine field for operations. The interference of the middle-man between the customer and the artist-artisan means, under existing circumstances, that the cost of production of all art objects is increased to the extent of 50 or 60 per cent. The new Institution can cut down that exorbitant figure by one half and still realize a handsome profit. It ought to succeed, and we trust that it will, not merely for the sake of art in Japan, but also because the public will benefit materially by its existence.

JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS.

The *Official Gazette* of the 7th instant publishes the following Ordinance of the Home Department embodying regulations for the control of temples and shrines with regard to the receipt of fees:—

Art. I.—No temple, shrine, or Buddhist place of worship is allowed to take money from visitors or devotees except as a voluntary contribution.

Art. II.—If any Shinto or Buddhist Temple desires to collect fees from visitors who inspect buildings, gardens, courts, or treasures preserved by it, permission, must be obtained from the local Governor.

Art. III.—Any temple or shrine desiring to raise contributions outside the body of its congregation and devotees must obtain the sanction of the local Governor.

Art. IV.—Violation of any of the above provisions renders the responsible head liable to a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*. These regulations shall be enforced from August 1st of the 31st year of *Meiji*.

Commenting upon the desirability of an alliance between Japan and England, the *Yomiuri* says the balance of power in the Orient can not be preserved without some such scheme. It refers to the speech of Mr. Chamberlain as an indication of the current of English opinion in favour of an alliance. Mr. Chamberlain's remark that in order to counteract the Russian movements in the East it would be absolutely indispensable for England to secure a military ally, was a hint as to the wisdom of cöoperation with Japan. Moreover, at a great social gathering in London, with the Japanese Minister, Mr. Kato, in the chair, Lord Charles Beresford, a member of the House of Commons, after proposing the health of the Emperor of Japan, expressed a wish that the proposed alliance between the two countries might be consolidated. He remarked that an alliance of this nature alone could restore the balance of power and preserve peace and commerce in the East. The new Cabinet ought not, the *Yomiuri* adds, to lose this unique opportunity for cöoperation.

From the *Fiji* we gather the following:—The depression of trade throughout the country seems to have seriously affected railway traffic, which shows a marked reduction since May. Compared with the receipts for the corresponding period of last year, a decrease of over 20 per cent. is noticeable. Telegraph receipts, too, since May have suffered a reduction of 10 per cent. The insufficiency of funds allowed to the Communications Department has crippled the working of both means of communication, and complaints in regard to mails and telegraphs are heard on all sides. To remedy these evils an Imperial Ordinance was lately issued embodying slight alterations in the official organisation of the Department for Communications. The number of engineers connected with the Post and Telegraph Offices was increased from 19 to 23; the clerks engaged in the same task from 2,339 to 2,876; operatives from 257 to 322; and assistant clerks from 4,407 to 4,593. The *Fiji* thinks, however, that, distributed among the various offices in the country, the augmentation of the staff is very insignificant.

According to to the *Yorodzu*, Messrs Shibusawa Kisaku and Amenomiya Keijiro recently forwarded a memorial to the Premier and Home Minister with regard to financial reform. Their programme is as follows:—(1) A sum of 20 million *yen* out of the Indemnity to be brought home and appropriated for the purchase of public bonds. These bonds to be sold again in case of necessity, so as to supply funds for the annual expenditure of the Government. (2) Steps to be taken to allow foreigners the liberty to hold local bonds and company's debentures. (3) The question of the State ownership of railways to be determined by the Cabinet, and a promise to be exacted beforehand from the railway companies to the effect that they will present a Representation in the 13th session of the Diet urging the necessity of the Government purchase of railways. (4) The amount of bonds in the purchase of which the Government is at present engaged to be increased to at least 20 million *yen*. (5) The issue of convertible notes above the legal limit to be restricted to 50 million *yen*, and the rate of tax on the issue to be reduced from 7 to 5 per cent. (6) The rates of interest adopted by the Bank of Japan to be lowered and loans to be issued on a more liberal basis. The above schemes, however, remarks the *Yorozu*, would only have the effect of enhancing the value of shares of all descriptions and could hardly fail to dangerously disturb the money market.

Japan is yearly troubled, says the *Kokumin*, by the appearance of noxious insects in the rice fields. Last year Niigata prefecture suffered most, its loss from this source being estimated to have reached 1,324,723 *koku*, valued at 18,849,036 *yen*. Ishikawa, Toyama, Hiroshima, and Yamaguchi suffered almost as badly, and the total damage throughout the country exceeded 5,954,891 *koku*, valued at 75,014,785 *yen*, while the expenses incurred in the destruction of the insects aggregated 3,310,000 *yen*. This year reports are already to hand announcing the appearance of these destructive insects in various parts of the empire. Nagasaki, Niigata, Ishikawa, Toyama, Hiroshima, and Saga Prefectures are seriously infected; in Niigata, not only the local authorities but over 300 men from the Shibata barracks are engaged in destroying insects. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce has resolved to despatch ten engineers with a view to enforcing the best preventive measures.

The *Nichi Nichi* publishes an article from the pen of Mr. Ariga Nagabumi, Professor of Literature, the gist of which may be rendered as follows:—The industry of Japan has made marked progress of late. Investigations completed at the end of last year show that the number of companies engaged in mechanical industries alone reached 1816, while manufacturing corporations aggregated 1,207, making a total of 3,023. These figures might seem to indicate hopeful prospects for native industry. The imperfection, however, in the organisation of workshops, the slow progress of art, the insufficiency of labour for productive purposes,—these and many other defects render the native manufacturer unable to compete in the world's market. Mr. Brenan justly remarked that Japanese industry is yet in a state of immaturity. Dexterity is wanting both in the actual process of production and in the management of workshops. The industrial classes have in the past been inclined to suppose that by the cheapness of their goods they could occupy a superior position as compared with the manufacturers of all other nations. This supposition, however, has proved entirely fallacious. The cheapness of their products was simply the result of advantages peculiar to the circumstances of the time, the silver standard formerly adopted by the country, and the unrivalled cheapness of labour. These favourable circumstances, however, have now disappeared or are dwindling away. New industrial organisations are rapidly increasing, but none seem to direct their attention to the pressing needs of the hour.

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The inauguration at this juncture of overseers of industry is absolutely indispensable. They might be charged with the duty of inspecting and reporting upon the actual condition of industrial districts, and issuing precautionary instructions to persons engaged in industry. Something like an Industrial Examination Office might also be established with a view to furnishing a model for workshops throughout the empire. Without adopting some such measures the improvement of porcelain and lacquer wares can hardly be expected.

A report of the Japanese Consul at Tacoma, published in the *Tokyo Asahi*, is to the effect that Japanese labourers along the northern coast of the Pacific are rapidly increasing, their total number already reaching 1,400. Of these, 800 are engaged on the inland railway, 100 are employed by timber companies, 160 in agriculture and forestry works, and 350 in miscellaneous occupations. Those receiving fixed wages are labourers on railways and in timber industries, the rates allotted to them being $1.10 per day. Those that have attained proficiency by three or four years' service receive $1.45 per diem, the rate allowed to white workmen. Japanese labourers of this class, however, do not exceed 100 at present. Timber workmen in Port Blakely are generally paid at the rate of from $0.90 to $1.10. Miscellaneous labourers do not receive more than one dollar, and the lowest wage is 50 cents. These labourers are mostly from Okayama, Wakayama, Kumamoto, and Hiroshima. Labourers from Wakayama are on the increase. Of the Japanese who recently went to America, I find some students suffering great embarrassment. They were originally induced to go over with a view to learning English and at the same time pursuing a calling. But they have failed to attain their object, and, being neither pure students nor labourers, may be regarded as a very unsatisfactory class of men. On the whole, white labourers are paid 20 per cent. more than Japanese. While Japanese labour has thus found its way into land enterprises in America, it is seldom employed at sea. The Klondyke mining rushes brought about a scarcity of local mariners along the coast, and their pay was raised from $25 to $35. A union was recently formed by sailors between Tacoma and Seattle with a view to raising their wages to $40. If the Klondyke enterprise really offers any prospects of success, wages will surely rise to $45, and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha must expect to be seriously affected by this enhancement. A scheme is on foot to raise sailors at $40 for service in fishing vessels and in the ships now used for the transport of preserved salmon to Europe.

The *Keizai Zasshi* is very bitter against proposals to impose new taxes on commodities, which it says will increase the misery of the indigent classes. Arguing that taxes on articles of daily consumption, while injurious and vexatious, are not a fruitful source of income, it gives the following figures as to defaulters and leakages during the 28th year of *Meiji*:—

	Gross receipts. Yen.	Defaulters.	Losses. Yen.
Land tax	38,692,865	259	297
Income tax	1,497,095	35	75
Saké tax.....	17,749,090	8	23,770
Taxes on other commodities...	8,422,973	3,163	127,546
Total	66,362,026	3,465	151,688

Thus, while the gross amount of receipts from taxes on articles of consumption was a little over 8 million *yen*, the number of defaulters reached over 3,000, entailing a loss of 127,000 *yen*. The receipts from land tax totalled 38 million *yen*, yet the number of defaulters and the amount of loss were only 359 and 297 *yen* respectively. A new tax is spoken of as about to be levied on sugar and salt. Such taxes are of great injury to trade, and inflict much suffering on the poor.

The *Chuo* has apparently awakened to the fact that there is a new ministry, and that it ought to have a leader on the platform. It must be confessed that the *Chuo* does not [illegible] production add greatly to the store of knowledge or the triumphs of the human intellect. It goes over the wearisome history of the whole affair in a manner that suggests that this is the first the writer has heard of it (a failing of Japanese journalists generally); and ends by roundly abusing the leaders of the party, which it says has no proper head, the authority being divided between four leaders, each of whom acts more or less as seems right in his own eyes. From which the *Chuo* argues that no reliance can be placed on the promises of these politicians.

Taking as the text a meeting to be held at Osaka for the purpose of urging the Government to present a bill for the reassessment of the taxable value of land, the *Shogyo* argues that as the new Minister of Finance, Mr. Matsuda, has clearly declared his intention not to introduce for the present a bill for increasing the land tax, the question of reassessment need scarcely be brought upon the tapis yet. Reassessment threatens to diminish the value of land by 140 or 150 million *yen*, and entails a loss of 3 or 4 millions upon the Treasury. The new Cabinet, the *Shogyo* says, has early recognised the necessity of increased taxation, and yet shrinks from carrying out any resolute measure merely lest party interests should suffer. The adjustment of finances under these circumstances can hardly be expected.

NOTES ON NEWS.

Instructions have been issued for establishing extraordinary sanitary stations in nineteen prefectures and cities. This precaution is taken in connexion with dysentery. During the first six months of the year, the number of cases reported from Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Kanagawa and Aichi was 923, and in several other prefectures—as Toyama, Saitama, Gifu, Wakayama, Miyazaki, Kumamoto, and Kagoshima,—there were 100 cases each. These returns show an increase of 20 per cent. compared with the figures for the corresponding period last year. Hence the measures now resorted to by the Authorities.

The British Admiral, the Captains of H.M. ships recently in Yokohama, the Admiral's Secretary, the Flag Lieutenant and some other officers, were received in audience by the Emperor at 11 a.m. on the 8th instant, Sir E. Satow introducing them. Afterwards the whole party lunched at Marquis Saigo's Meguro villa, Viscount Ito, Baron Ito, Mr. Komura and other officials being among the guests.

The first-class cruiser *Tokiwa*, the building of which is in the hands of Lord Armstrong & Company, was launched on the 7th instant. She is a steel vessel of 9,855 tons displacement, 18,000 horse-power, and 21½ knots speed. Her length is 127.357 metres and her beam 20.445 metres. She is armed entirely with quick-firing guns; namely, fourteen 8-inch, fourteen 15-cent., twelve 12-pr., and seven 47-mill.

The total value of the War Bonds purchased by the Bank of Japan up to the 28th of June, under the arrangement made by the late Minister of Finance, Count Inouye, was 6½ million *yen* approximately. The 30th of June, however, being the settling day for the first half of the year, there were numerous applications from sellers, so that when the Bank closed its accounts for the half year, its purchases of Bonds aggregated 10 million *yen*. The price remains steady at 96. It is evident that, whatever may be the pressure in the money market, holders of War Bonds are very unwilling to realize at a loss of 4 per cent. We may mention that of the sum appropriated for these purchases, only 5 million *yen* now remain in the hands of the Bank.

The first ourang outang that ever came to Japan has been brought from Borneo by a stoker named Kawaguchi. The man had to penetrate into the interior of the island and expose himself to some risks before he procured the animal—which, by the way, the Japanese call *shojo*. He thought that it might be a good speculation, and he was right, for the authorities of the Zoological Garden at Uyeno have purchased the big monkey, as well as a large snake, obtained by the same stoker from Singapore.

A great deal of capital is made out of this question of redemption. The Opposition journals endeavour to convict Count Okuma of inconsistency, because, while he is understood to have denounced the unwisdom of redeeming debts with one hand and contracting them with the other, he is nevertheless allowing the Bank of Japan to continue its purchases. We fail to detect the contradiction ourselves. The operation in which the Bank of Japan is engaged is not primarily a redemption of debt. Its paramount, indeed we may say its sole, object is to provide monetary facilities for enterprise by enabling people to unlock some of the capital invested by them in public securities. The Treasury merely places so many millions at the temporary service of business, instead of keeping the money idle in its vaults.

JAPANESE PLUMS IN AMERICA

Several varieties of the Japanese plum are being successfully cultivated in some parts of the United States. The importation of these plums began about 20 years ago with one Luther Burbank, of California; and different varieties have proved perfectly adapted to different latitudes—some to one location and some to others—so that altogether the Japanese plum is considered a great success. The Japanese names have been dropped and English names have been given to the best, such as Burbank, Abundance, Williard, Babcock, etc. And yet a few Japanese names, such as Satsuma, Yosebe, and Red Nagate have been retained. Mr. Arthur M. Clement, orchardist, Boston, Mass., has 25,000 trees in three orchards in Massachusetts, and is very successful in the cultivation of these plums.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

We read in vernacular journals that the ships of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha engaged on foreign lines, are as follow:—

European line	10 ships.....	62,129 tons (two sailings per month).
American line	3 ships.....	11,918 tons (one and two sailings in alternate months).
Australian line	3 ships.....	7,159 tons (one and two sailings in alternate months).
Bombay line.....	3 ships.....	10,677 tons (two sailings per month).
Shanghai line	3 ships.....	7,688 tons (four sailings per month).
Total	22 ships.....	99,571 tons

It is further expected that during the course of the present year the steamers on the European line will be augmented by the *Sado Maru* and the *Hitachi Maru*. The former, a vessel of 6,000 tons, left Southampton on the 6th inst., and is expected to reach Japan in September. The Australian service, also, will soon be increased by the *Yahata Maru* and two others, all passenger steamers, one of which is expected to reach Kobe before the end of this month.

SPECIAL FIRST-CLASS CARRIAGES.

The Japan Railway Company has inaugurated a system of special first-class carriages (*tokuto-kisha*). They are not to carry more than 6 passengers at most, and must be ordered beforehand. The fares are to be, 5 *yen* for one person for any distance up to 100 miles; 10 *yen* for two; 13½ *yen* for three; 17 *yen* for four; 20 *yen* for five, and 22½ *yen* for six. After 100 miles there is an additional charge of 50 *sen* a head for every 10 miles, and the charges for two, three, four and five, follow the same rules as in the case of distances under 100 miles.

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A SDA TRAGEDY IN YOKOHAMA.

Suicide of Mr. H. Tennant.

A painful shock was caused in Yokohama on Monday morning by the report—which unhappily proved but too true—that Mr. H. Tennant, Editor of the *Japan Gazette*, had shot himself with a revolver at his residence on the Bluff. As late as Sunday night, he was seen by Mr. Robert Hay, also of the staff of the *Gazette*, and he then appeared in his usual health and spirits, with the exception of a slight tendency to thoughtfulness. On Monday morning, shortly before eleven, a shot was heard in Mr. Tennant's room, and the person who rushed in found him with a fearful wound in the head. The bullet—a very light one, discharged from a small revolver found in the room—had entered the back of the skull behind the ear, passed through the lower part of the brain, and flattened itself against the bone at the other side of the head. Mr. Tennant was still alive when Dr. Wheeler arrived, and he was conveyed as soon as possible to the General Hospital, where Drs. Wheeler and Monro attended him, and did everything possible under the circumstances. It was, however, apparent that the case was hopeless, and all that could be done was in the nature of alleviating the patient's sufferings. The bullet was found and extracted, but the doomed man gradually sank, passing beyond the veil about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Mr. Tennant, who was an unmarried man and a general favorite in Yokohama, had been connected with the *Japan Gazette* for about four years. He was previously at Kobe, where he edited the *Hiogo News*. Before he came to the Far East he had had a varied and comprehensive experience of English journalistic work. Born at Liskeard, in Cornwall, he was for some time on the staff of the *Western Morning News*, a large and influential Plymouth daily paper which he served with considerable credit. This was not his only connection with Western journalism, for he was also at one period attached to the *Devon and Exeter Gazette*. The smart seaside town of Eastbourne was the scene of some of Mr. Tennant's brightest work, for it was there that, adopting the cue of Mr. Frederick Greenwood, he wrote a series of articles for the *Eastbourne Gazette* on workhouse life and discipline, based on his own experiences as an "amateur casual." Mr. Tennant's connection with London journalism was limited, we believe, to an appointment in the office of the National Press Agency, a huge corporation known to every Pressman, which supplies news and comments on every conceivable subject to every conceivable kind of newspaper. The exacting nature of work of this kind probably made Mr. Tennant glad to leave the rush of Fleet-street for the comparative quiet of Press life in the Far East. It was, perhaps, an unfortunate choice, for probably had he remained longer at home his undoubted abilities would have secured him a creditable position in English journalism. In Japan, however, those abilities have been recognised and appreciated, and by none more than those whose fortune it has sometimes been to traverse his written opinions. The *Japan Gazette* loses by his untimely death an able and conscientious conductor, and his numerous acquaintances and well-wishers have to mourn the loss of an amiable, loyal, and true-hearted gentleman.

The Funeral.

Amid every sign of regret and respect the funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon at the Cemetery. The procession was formed at the Hospital, and a great number of Mr. Tennant's friends and acquaintances attended to pay the last tribute to his memory. The Consular services, the public bodies, the banks, business houses, sporting clubs, and the local Masons were all represented. The chief mourners were Mr. C. K. M. Martin, Mr. Robert Hay, and Mr. A. M. Gale, of the *Japan Gazette*; the pall bearers were Mr. E. Flint Kilby, Mr. J. H. Brooke (editor of the *Japan Herald*), Mr. Adam (editor of the *Japan Advertiser*), Mr. A. Bellamy Brown (manager of the *Japan Mail*), Mr. W. Gordon, and Mr. F. H. Bugbird; and among others present were:—Mr. R. G. E. Forster (Acting British Consul), Mr. F. Chalmers (of the Consular Staff), Mr. H. C. Litchfield, Dr. Tripler, Dr. Munro, Messrs. A. Woolley, S. Isaacs, W. Sutter, F. W. Thomas, K. Kingdon, F. J. Lias, Reid, E. V. Thorne, M. Russell, Jas. Stewart, &c. On arrival at the Cemetery the procession was met by the Rev. F. C. Billingham, who conducted the service in the absence of the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine. The solemn ceremony, the more solemn in contrast with the glory of the blazing summer sun and the deep blue sky, was peculiarly affecting, and when the last farewell was said there were few eyes that did not bear traces of emotion. The respect in which the deceased journalist was held wherever he was known in Japan was testified by the large number of beautiful wreaths sent, among them being the following:—

The *Japan Gazette* Company; the Japanese Staff of the *Japan Gazette*; the Editor and Foreign Staff of the *Japan Mail*; *Japan Daily Advertiser*; the members of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club; the members of the Yokohama Lodge of Freemasons, No. 1092 E.C.; the "Reliance Wheelmen;" Mr. and Mrs. R. Hay, Mr. and Mrs. E. Flint Kilby, Mr. and Mrs. James Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bellamy Brown, Mr. and Mrs. G. Blundell, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Bugbird, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Thorn, Captain and the Misses Ekstrand, Mr. and Mrs. B. Hyde-Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Unite, Mrs. C. J. Strome, Mr. Clarrence Martin, Mr. J. H. Brooke, Mr. A. M. Gale, Mr. S. Isaacs, Mr. F. L. Taverner, Mr. A. M. Watt, Mr. J. Marshall, Mr. E. V. Sloen, Mr. H. MacArthur, Mr. G. Allcock, Mr. C. I. Fraser, Mr. H. Rose, Mr. M. Russell, Mr. L. Ph. von Hemert, Mr. H. Bent, Mr. W. Sutter, Mr. E. B. S. Edwards, Mr. F. E. White, Mr. J. M. Maitland, Mr. C. M. Duff, Mr. K. T. Nicholas, Mr. O. Keil, Mr. H. C. Pigott, Mr. S. Warming, Mr. F. Schroeder, Mr. E. J. Lilleaud, Mr. P. C. Potts, Dr. N. G. Munro, M.B., C.M.; Mr. T. Tanaka, Messrs. W. B. Clayton, H. A. Stewart, and C. G. Price; Messrs. Hall, Hooper and Gibson. From Kobe: Mr. R. Young (*Chronicle*), Mr. A. W. Curtis (*Herald*), Mr. B. A. Hale (*Hiogo News*); Mr. W. Kerr, Mr. G. J. Penney, Mr. F. J. Bardens; Rising Sun Lodge, No. 1401, E.C.

Inquest.

The inquest into the circumstances attending the death of Mr. Henry Tennant, Editor of the *Japan Gazette*, was opened on Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock before Mr. R. G. E. Forster, Acting Consul, in his capacity as Coroner; and a Jury consisting of Mr. J. P. Mollison, Mr. G. Philip, and Mr. R. B. McKinnell.

The Jury having viewed the body, Dr. Wheeler identified it. He said:—At 10.30 yesterday morning, while I was driving on the Bluff, Mr. Tennant's boy ran up to me in a very excited manner, and told me in Japanese that something had happened to Mr. Tennant. I proceeded to his house at 133 Bluff, and found him lying on the bed in the back room. His right hand was lying between his thighs, and in it was a revolver (a small weapon with two cartridges still in the chambers). The pillow and the bed were covered with blood. On examining the deceased I found a pistol bullet wound on the right side of the head about three quarters of an inch above and in front of the right ear. He was unconscious and breathing stertorously. While I was there Mr. Hay came in, and we were proceeding together to go to the General Hospital to get an ambulance when we met Dr. Munro. He said he would get the ambulance, and take the deceased to the hospital. Yesterday afternoon Dr. Munro and myself held a post mortem examination on the body just before dusk. We found on opening the brain that there was chronic meningitis of some standing. Meningitis is inflamenation of the coverings of the brain. We found that the bullet had passed along the base of the brain under the right lateral ventricle, across the left lateral ventricle, and through the substance of the brain on the left side, where it was found just under the skull. We trepanned and extracted the bullet. The bullet wound was without doubt the cause of death.

Mr. Forster: Would this meningitis be sufficient to affect the mind?

Witness—No doubt it was a factor in producing the melancholia from which Mr. Tennant seems to have suffered lately. Witness had attended him occasionally, and he believed deceased had been for some time in that hospital.

In answer to Mr. Mollison, witness said deceased was fully dressed as if about to go out. The meningitis would be quite sufficient to cause, in certain cases, a temporary unhinging of the mind.

Dr. Munro said that when he saw deceased first the previous morning he was lying on his back on the right side of his bed fully dressed, insensible, breathing stertorously 62 to the minute, pulse 50. There was a stream of blood issuing from the wound described by Dr. Wheeler. Witness had him moved to the hospital, where he was also seen by Drs. Meere, Stoughton, and Hoskins. He described the operation for the extraction of the bullet, and said the wound was a large one, from which he inferred that the bullet, which was a small one, must have turned round after entering the skull, and passed through transversely, thus making a much larger wound than its size would suggest. The patient improved a little after the bullet was extracted, but did not rally long, and died about four o'clock. Witness would like to call attention to the meningitis, which was quite pronounced. From the wound itself it was quite impossible to say whether it was self-inflicted or not; it was consistent with suicide. Witness had attended deceased, who had been subject to occasional fits of depression. Deceased had been in the hospital with a slight attack of fever four or five months ago. Witness was quite intimate with deceased, and the fits of depression from which he suffered, in the absence of any obvious motive for the act, would indicate that his mind was not quite normal.

In answer to Mr. Mollison, Dr. Munro said the meningitis would be quite sufficient to induce a temporary aberration.

The inquiry was then adjourned till this morning at 10 30.

The inquest on the body of Mr. H. Tennant, late Editor of the *Japan Gazette*, was resumed on Wednesday morning before Mr. R. G. E. Forster at the British Consulate.

Deceased's amah, Yamazaki Yasu, stated through the interpretation of Mr. Chalmers, that deceased rose rather later than usual on Monday. After he had had breakfast, witness went into the room to take the things away, expecting he had gone down to the office, but found he was still in the room. After she had taken the breakfast things away, deceased went into the bed-room, and she heard a report. On going into the room she found Mr. Tennant lying down, bleeding and breathing very hard; she ran to fetch Mr. Hay. She had noticed that deceased seemed to be in trouble for a week past.

Robert Hay, assistant editor of the *Japan Gazette*, said he was with Mr. Tennant the night before the occurrence. He went to Mr. Tennant's house in reponse to a letter from him. It was shortly after nine o'clock, and witness remained with him till nearly eleven. Witness understood deceased's object in sending for him was because he felt out of sorts, and he gave witness the impression that he wanted to go into the country, but that he was reluctant to propose the matter because of the additional work it would entail upon witness. They discussed the matter, and witness understood when he left that deceased was going as soon as possible to Chuzenji. Witness understood that another reason for deceased's sending for him was that he had been in the house the whole day, that he was having another attack of malaria, and while in an irritable condition he had been disturbed by laughing and talking in a house near. Witness left him quite in his usual spirits. Next morning, shortly before eleven, a *jinrikisha* man delivered to him a message that Mr. Tennant was very ill. Witness reached the house in time to see Dr. Wheeler go into the bed-room. Witness remained in the dining room until he assisted to place the deceased in a stretcher to take him to the hospital. Witness on Monday afternoon received a letter from deceased through Mr. Gale, of the *Gazette* office.

The letter was produced and submitted to the Jury, but Mr. Forster did not consider it necessary that it should be read. The letter did not throw any light on the motive for suicide, but simply contained directions for the disposal of deceased's property. It read as follows:—

July 11, 1898.

Dear Hay,—The comedy was only an interlude, all comic as touches are in tragedies—something to relieve the horror.

Please send my mother any private letters that may come for me, also if possible the picture in the next room and any money that my goods may realise or the *Gazette* proprietors may deem to be my share. (I did my duty by the *Gazette*.)

Yours in Torment H. TENNANT.

Mr. Hay added that he found a manuscript under the blotting pad of deceased's desk, but Mr. Forster said this had nothing to do with the case, being apparently the manuscript of some tale or novel.

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In answer to Mr. Mollison, witness said the irritability of deceased did not strike him as exceptional—for deceased. He suffered from attacks of malaria.

The Jury expressed themselves satisfied with this evidence, and retired to consider their verdict.

On returning Mr. Mollison announced that the Jury had come to the following decision:—

"That the death of Henry Tennant was caused by a bullet from a revolver discharged by his own hand whilst in a state of temporary insanity due to the inflammation of the coverings of the brain, from which he had been suffering for some time."

Mr. Forster—I entirely concur in the verdict.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Agent of the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. has received advices that the steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro* has been chartered by the U.S. Government and there will be no departure from San Francisco on the 16th inst.

The dead bodies of a man and woman were found in the river near the Ryogoku bridge, Tokyo, on the 9th inst. The man was 30, and the woman probably 27. It is supposed that they committed suicide.

Hongkong was visited by a typhoon on the last day of June. But ample warning had been given by the Observatory and very little damage was done. Two little girls were drowned from one sampan.

It is notified at Singapore that the Ordinance authorising a Government note issue has not been disallowed. It is, therefore, to be presumed that the Government note issue will be made when the necessary arrangements are completed.

Two cases of cholera appeared in Tokyo on the 10th inst. One victim was a man named Matsumoto Katsunosuke, 22 years old, living at Sakumacho, Kanda, and the other a man named Fukazawa Jinzaemon, 67 years, a farmer living at Oshima village, Minami-Katsushika-gori.

The *China Mail* understands that the coal supply of the naval authorities at Hongkong is far in excess of any previous record, and, the whole of the naval authorities' coal storage having been completely filled, the overplus has been accommodated in private stores.

On Saturday, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Penney celebrated their silver wedding, which may be considered a matter of public interest in the port, inasmuch as for the greater part of the time Mr. and Mrs. Penney have resided in Kobe.

The Smithsonian Institution is contemplating a scientific invasion of the Philippines along with the military occupation. As contemplated, the invasion will be by a company of the scientific men of the institution under the leadership of a scientist of the highest attainments, to go along with the troops under their protection.

The Intercolonial Universities boat-race took place at Port Adelaide on the 8th June. The race resulted in an easy win for the Sydney crew by six lengths. A great struggle occurred between the Adelaide and Melbourne crews for second place, the former eventually defeating Melbourne by half a length.

The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has closed its financial year most successfully. The debt with which it commenced the year, amounting to $97,454, has been wiped out, and the total receipts have fully covered the expenditures. To meet the debt, appropriations for the past year unused and cancelled were applied, amounting to $17,715. Churches and individuals gave $36,741, women's boards and societies $20,417, and the missionaries on the field contributed $10,533. The remainder was made up from other sources.

It is learned that the importers of Chicago lost $40,000 in an exciting run against time and Uncle Sam's war taxes which had a finish at midnight on Monday, June 13th, on the Canadian border, near Portal, N.D., says the Vancouver *News-Advertiser*. A score of carloads of choice tea was being rushed into America from Canada in order to escape the new war duty, which fell due on June 13th, midnight. Only five car-loads arrived on United States soil in time. The other fifteen cars were on British territory a few hundred feet away as the clock struck twelve, and were brought to a standstill by the peremptory orders of United States International Revenue officials, on watch at the dividing line.

A return of the fleets of Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Italy, and Japan has been issued as a Parliamentary paper, on the motion of Sir Charles Dilke. The return shows that there are 52 British battleships in commission, 9 building, and 3 ordered—64 in all. The grand total of all vessels shows 377. The French fleet comprises battleships in commission, 27; building, 8. The grand total is 148. The Russian fleet consists of battleships in commission 12; building, 6; to be commenced this year 4. All vessels total 112. The German fleet consists of battleships, 15. The Italian fleet consists of battleships, 15. The Japanese fleet consists of battleships, 3; armoured cruiser, 1; protected cruisers, 10; unprotected cruisers, 8; coast defence vessels, 3; torpedo vessel, 1; torpedo-boats, 44—a total fleet of 70. Japan is also building battleships, 3; protected cruisers, 6; unprotected cruiser, 1; armoured cruisers, 6; torpedo-boat destroyers, 8; torpedo-boats, 12.

The *Tageblatt*, Berlin, says:—The first impression of a stranger in Spain is that his preconceived ideas of the country are erroneous. He finds the people more quiet, more sober, in short much better than he supposed. There is much poverty, but also much unexpected wealth. Madrid has colossal fortunes; Barcelona has wealthy middle classes. Seville, Malaga, Cadiz, have more money than German cities of their size. And Spain has great resources awaiting development, mineral as well as agricultural. The industries are extending, and the exports increase. The fault lies chiefly in unjust taxation. Real estate is taxed too much. Indirect taxation is too high. Capital goes almost scot-free. There is, for instance, no income tax. However rich a country may be, its resources must fail in a few generations in the face of such injustice. If all taxes were paid regularly, taxation distributed more evenly, and the resources of the country used properly, Spain could vie in wealth with any country in the world.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

A Peking telegram received in Shanghai on June 26th states "that H.I.M. the Empress Dowager has now openly taken over the direction of the affairs of the Empire in consequence of which the high Ministers of the Court and Government have lately applied for instructions in all important matters to her Majesty, the Emperor being relieved of all real power." Truly Her Majesty is a remarkable woman, knowing by instinct when to take opportunity by the hand. The death of Prince Kung must have been an important factor to her.

It is universally believed in Peking, writes "An Occasional Correspondent" of the *N.-C. Daily News*, that Li Hung-chang is virtually if not nominally to preside at the Tsung-li Yamên, and that the changes all bear closely to this fact. He is not to be first among peers in that anomalous Junta of foreign affairs, but to be *facile princeps*; to ensure this, the composition of the Yamên has been greatly altered. If this be so the outlook is indeed serious, The notion is common both to native and foreign circles that Li's Russophile bias is at present only equalled by his positive Anglophobia. Curious stories are circulating in native officialdom as to recent passages of arms between Li and Sir Claude MacDonald in which pretty plain speaking was indulged in on both sides; and in which the penultimate state of exacerbation was reached. A waggish debater in the House of Commons once publicly thanked God there was a stout fixed table between Gladstone and Disraeli. The occasion of this lively procedure is said to have been the Kowloon Extension.

It is definitely reported at Tientsin that the number of men lost in the melancholy wreck of the *Fuching* near Port Arthur was 146; only the first lieutenant and three seamen escaped. The vessel is said to have been Foochow built and was under-engined. The Captain ran in during a fog and anchored when soundings warned him he was close in shore. The coming gale lifted the fog and showed he was close to the reefs, but he thought he could ride out the "blow" at anchor and refused to put to sea. When the two cables parted, the ship was on the rocks in a few minutes. The Russians rendered help gallantly and promptly but either panic, or *kismet*, or ignorance rendered the crew unable to take it. The ship lies now close to Port Arthur with her back broken. Most of the crew were Southerners.

It is reported from Peking, says the *Supao*, that the Emperor recently presented Li Hung-chang and Chang Yin huan with the 1st class decoration of the Double Dragon, and the recipients having thanked his Majesty for the distinction proudly wore their decorations as they left the Palace. This is the first time in the history of China that a decoration meant specially to be presented to foreigners has been given to Chinese officials and is a sign of the change that is now going on in that country.

The *North China Daily News* prints Peking despatches stating that the Emperor will accompany the Empress Dowager in her visit to Tientsin and that the date set for the visit is early next autumn. The principal object of the visit is to review the disciplined forces of Chihli under General Nieh, the Provincial Commander-in-chief, at Lutai near Kaiping, and under Yuan Shih-kai, at Hsiaochan. The troops, however, are to be massed at Tientsin for their Majesties' convenience. The Tientsin Admiralty buildings are to be overhauled, extended, and repaired for the reception of the Imperial Court, while at the Eastern and Western Arsenals large pavilions are to be built in anticipation of their Majesties' inspection of those places when they come.

In order to encourage interest in shooting amongst the members of the Municipal Police force, the Shanghai Council have just presented a silver cup, value $50, to be shot for annually; the trophy will be called the Council's Prize and the competition for its possession is to commence this month.

The official announcement has been made of an increase in the pay of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs staff. The increase amounts to 100 per cent. for the indoor staff, about 66 per cent. for the outdoor staff, and about 50 per cent. for the Chinese staff down to and including the rank of writer.

It is perfectly true, says the Shanghai morning journal, that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation having settled a loan to the Imperial Chinese Railway for the construction of the intended line from Shanhaikuan to Newchwang, the Russian *Chargé d'Affaires* sent to the Tsung-li Yamên a formal written protest against it. Does Lord Salisbury propose to sit down quietly and allow the Russian *Chargé d'Affaires* to annul a contract between an English Bank and a Chinese Government Department? Subsequent telegrams indicate that despite Russia's protest, the loan was concluded.

A warrant has been forwarded from Shanghai to the British Consul in Chefoo for the arrest of the stranded steamer *Amarapoora*, which ran ashore on the S.E. Promontory in a fog early in May. It seems that the master and managing owner declined to leave the vessel, and, as no enquiry into the accident could be held in the

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absence of the master, this course has had to be adopted to force matters to a conclusion. A truthful history of the *Amarapoora's* doings in the Far East should prove interesting if a tithe of the stories that were circulating about her in Yokohama are correct.

The Shanghai new Municipal loan, amounting to Tls. 300,000, has been entirely applied for, the average price being slightly above par.

It is not impossible, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that Tsai Taotai will be appointed Chinese Minister to Washington in succession to H. E. Wu Ting-fang, or Ng Choy.

H. E. Chang Chih-Tung, the Hukuang Viceroy, has, it is said, sent 50 picked men from his bodyguard to Japan to the trained there. After three years the men are to come back, be appointed sergeants, and set to work to drill and discipline their less fortunate comrades.

The native correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* at Peking writes that the high officials of the Imperial Government, with only a couple of conspicuous exceptions, have had their eyes opened at last to the false friendship of Russia and that the gratitude of the country for the aid in getting back the Liaotung Peninsula has been entirely misplaced. They have also begun to perceive the disinterested help of Great Britain; but that China, while not thanking Japan for pricking the bubble and exposing the hollowness of the country, certainly owes meed of gratitude to that country for opening the eyes of the *literati* to the necessity of hurrying up and keeping pace with modern civilisation and requirements, a gratitude which will greatly deepen in the future if Japan continues to show her friendship, by helping China in giving instruction to her people whenever desired and siding with Great Britain in trying to preserve the integrity of China. It is further reported, and the correspondent believes it to be true, that it is the intention soon to dismiss from the military and naval services all foreign instructors with the exception of British, American, and Japanese officers. Under date of the 24th June the correspondent also states that Prince Ching had recovered from his recent illness and begun to attend to his multifarious duties at Court, etc.

An Imperial edict of the 26th June contains the following warning to Director-General Shêng:—"For the scheme of building a railway between Hankow and Lukou Bridge, Peking, we sanctioned the proposal to make it a mercantile enterprise open to all our subjects, and further specially appointed Shêng Hsüan-huai to be Director General of the project. Two years have now elapsed since then and by rights we ought to expect that the work of surveying the route, buying up of land for the road, and such like, should be completed by this time. Now the proposed railway route is one of very great importance to the Empire and we cannot permit any delay to be made with the progress of the work. Furthermore, we have now the requisite funds in hand for building this railway and therefore command the said Shêng Hsüan-huai to commence work immediately. He is also to report to us in advance the manner he intends to carry on the said construction. Now if there be any more delays and it be found that there has been an air of levity in the prosecution of an affair of such grave and national importance, the question is asked whether Shêng Hsüan-huai will be able to avoid heavy punishment for conduct for which he is doubtless responsible. With reference to the Hankow-Canton Railway and the Shanghai-Nanking Railway we hereby enjoin upon those who have been authorised to conduct their construction to hasten with their work and refrain from unnecessary delay in the matter." Apropos of the above, the *Daily Chinese Progress* publishes a report that Shêng signed a loan with the Belgian Syndicate for the building of the Lu-Han Railway on the same day that the above decree was issued.

HARBOUR REGULATIONS.

An Ordinance has been issued over the Imperial Sign Manual with counter-signatures of four Ministers of State, relating to the promulgation of Harbour Regulations. It reads as follows:—

Art. I.—The boundaries of the various ports opened to foreign commerce are established as follow:—The boundary of Yokohama extends from Mandarin Bluff as far as the Lightship, and then, turning direct to the north, passes along the eastern bank of the mouth of the river Tsurumi.

Kobe occupies an area bounded by a line extending southward from the former mouth of the river Ikuta, and running north-easterly from Wadamisaki promontory.

Niigata covers a circular area having a radius of 2½ nautical miles from the lighthouse as centre.

Port Ebisu occupies a territory between two lines, one extending from Shiidomari village to the outskirts of Ebisu for a distance of 50 miles, and the other running from Minatochi, on the eastern bank of the Lake Kamo, as far as Kamo village, on the northwestern bank of the same lake.

Osaka covers an area enclosed by two lines, one of which extends from the Free Point at the mouth of the River Buko towards the south and slightly to the west, where it meets the other, which extends from the mouth of the river Yamato to a point 6 nautical miles from the Tree Point and 5 nautical miles from the mouth of the Yamato.

Nagasaki occupies a long strip of land from Kauzaki to Megami.

Hakodate covers an area extending half a nautical mile towards the sea in a southerly direction from Anomasaki and as far as the eastern bank of the mouth of the River Arikawa in Kamiiso village.

Art. II.—Vessels entering the ports are required to hoist their national flag and to signal. Regular mail steamers alone are allowed to use their company's flags as signals. The national or company's flags and signals so displayed are not to be withdrawn until after the arrival of the vessel is reported to the Harbour Master. A report of arrival must be presented, except on Sundays and national Holidays, within 24 hours from the ship's anchorage. No vessel shall be entitled, before the presentation of such report, to enjoy facilities of customs examination.

Art. III.—All Captains are required, at the time of their arrival, to refrain from communication with other vessels at anchor, or with the land, until permission has been secured for free communication.

Art. IV.—The Harbour Master will ordinarily meet ships near the entrance of the port, and direct the place of anchorage. No vessel is allowed to leave the place so assigned without special permission, except in case of emergency. The Harbour Master, however, may, if he deems it necessary, direct a vessel to change its place of anchorage.

Art. V.—The Harbour Master is required to wear uniform during working hours. He is entitled to right of inspection at any time as to whether his directions with respect to the anchorage and movement of vessels have been duly executed.

Art. VI.—No vessel is allowed to lie at anchor in the fairway, or to obstruct the liberty of navigation.

Art. VII.—Vessels anchoring or sailing within the limits of a port are required to use the lights prescribed by the regulations for the prevention of marine collisions.

Art. VIII.—Whenever a storm is expected, or a signal for warning is given, each vessel shall at once prepare to cast one or more spare anchors, steamers being also required to get up steam.

Art. IX.—Vessels loaded with explosives or combustible substances in excess of the quantities for ordinary use are required to proceed beyond the limits of a port to await directions from the Harbour Master. These vessels, while awaiting instructions, must show the signal between sunrise and sunset, and hang a red lantern on the foremast from sunset to sunrise. No ship is entitled to load or unload the materials above mentioned except in places specified by the Harbour Master.

Art. X.—Vessels at anchor and not engaged in loading or unloading, or vessels under repairs, and all others, including yachts, warehousing and cargo boats, are required to lie in the places specially fixed by the Harbour Master.

Art. XI.—In case of outbreak of fire on board a vessel her bells shall be rung until the arrival of aid. Between sunrise and sunset signal flags "NM" shall be displayed, and from sunset to sunrise a red lantern shall be continuously raised and lowered. When police assistance is needed the signal "G" shall be shown between sunrise and sunset, and a blue or flashing light be burnt between sunset and sunrise. With these exceptions no gun is to be fired, nor fireworks displayed, except by permission of the Harbour Master.

Art. XII.—Vessels coming from districts notified by the Imperial Government as affected by epidemics or contagious diseases (as cholera, small pox, yellow or scarlet fever, pest, &c.), or vessels in which any of these diseases is found to have broken out in the course of the voyage, are required to moor beyond the limits of a port, flying a yellow flag between sunrise and sunset, and exhibiting two lanterns, red and white, the one above and the other below, on the top of the foremast, between sunset and sunrise. The sanitary officials shall have notice of the nature of the diseases, in order that suitable preventive measures may be adopted. Vessels having disease on board are not allowed to withdraw the yellow flag, or the lantern signals, until permission for free communication is obtained; nor are they allowed to land any persons on board, or communicate with other vessels, without the permission of the sanitary officials concerned. The above provisions are also applicable to any vessels at anchor within the limits of a port, in case an epidemic disease breaks out in them. They are required to change their place of anchorage on receipt of directions to that effect from the Harbour Master.

Vessels coming from districts affected by cattle or sheep plague, or vessels in which plague has broken out, are not allowed to land cattle or sheep, their carcases, hides, or bones, or to transfer the same to any other vessel for re-shipment.

Art. XIII.—It is strictly forbidden to cast overboard corpses, ballast, embers, dust, refuse, &c., within the limits of a port. In loading or unloading coal or ballast, or other materials of a similar nature, precautions must be taken to prevent the same from dropping into the water. Vessels known to have cast into the sea any of the above-mentioned substances, or to have allowed the same to drop through negligence, shall be required by the Harbour Master to remove them. In the event of their failing to do so steps may be taken by the Harbour Master to effect the removal at the expense of the vessel concerned.

Art. XIV.—Vessels desiring to clear out of port must notify the Harbour Office, and a departure flag must be hoisted. Steamers arriving and leaving at fixed hours or dates need present once only a notification of their arrival and departure.

Art. XV.—Any wrecks or obstructions likely to impede the routes of navigation within or near the port must be removed by the owner within the period specified by the Harbour Master. If the owner fails to comply with such directions, the Harbour Master may cause the removal or destruction of the obstruction to be undertaken at the owner's expense.

Art. XVI.—The Harbour Office shall provide suitable still buoys for steamers engaged on regular services, and collect a prescribed due for the use thereof.

Art. XVII.—No chain, cable, or rigging shall be attached to a lightship or to signal buoys or beacons. In case any vessel collides with and damages a lightship, buoy, beacon, or pier, or structure, she must defray the necessary expenses for repair or reconstruction.

Art. XVIII.—Violation of the above regulations shall render the offender liable to a fine of not less than 2 *yen* and not more than 200 *yen*.

Art. XIX.—The captain of a vessel shall be held responsible for the payment of fines, fees, and other charges imposed upon the vessel.

Art. XX.—Any vessel on which fines, fees, or other charges are imposed shall not be allowed to clear until she has discharged the full amount, or presents satisfactory security to the Harbour Master.

Art. XXI.—The term "Harbour Master" in these regulations must be understood to include his Assistant or the Mayor or Headman or his delegate in ports where no harbour master is appointed. The term "Captain" is to be defined as the person who controls or directs a vessel, whatever title he may have. The word "port" or "harbour" relates to any one of the ports enumerated in Article I. of these regulations.

Art. XXII.—A portion of each port shall be set apart for the anchorage of war vessels.

Art. XXIII.—Of the above provisions those which are applicable to war vessels are Articles IV., VI., XI., and XXI., and clauses 1 and 2 of Article XIII.

Art. XXIV.—The date of the operation of these regulations shall be notified by the Minister of Communications. Bye-laws for the enforcement of the regulations will be promulgated by the said Minister.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE U.S. SCHOOL POLICY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your weekly issue of April 16, you have inserted a letter from a correspondent who signs himself "X," and to this I ask leave to offer a correction. After describing the policy of Secular education adopted by the Japanese Government, which prescribes that no religious instruction is allowed in any school recognized as a Public School, he proceeds:—"The United States of America, the cradle of the Public School system, has that proviso as one of the fundamental laws of the educational system. Religious training is to be obtained in Theological Schools established at private cost. The better sense of the people has resolutely stayed the hands of the Christian Church from any control of the Public Schools; the Bible is excluded from them. The Churches, Schools, Christian associations—places where religious dogma is taught—being considered sufficient for all the needs of Christian training."

I infer that this was not written by an American, as every American knows that the United States of America has no school policy whatever, except that at long intervals the national government has made grants of land to the States for the advancement of education. The United States has no schools or colleges or universities, although it has a department of education, which collects statistics and disseminates information, and is useful in many other ways. There is a movement making to carry out a plan of Washington's and Jefferson's for the establishment of a national university at the seat of government, but thus far nothing definite has been achieved.

As for the States, each of which has its own educational policy, very few of them adopt the secular policy of excluding the Bible and other agencies for teaching religion from their Schools. New York does it by custom rather than by law. Wisconsin, which has sixty per cent. of immigrants in its population, does it by a decision of its Supreme Court; but the children of that State are largely educated in the parochial schools of the Lutherans, Catholics, and a few other denominations. I am under the impression that Missouri follows a secular policy. Illinois is abandoning it from a conviction that it does just what Prof. Huxley predicted for it, viz., that it was "just as likely to produce a crop of unusually astute scoundrels as anything else." There has been prepared a text-book of religious and moral instruction, drawn mostly from the Bible, for use in the schools of Chicago, and introduced with general consent. In nearly all the States the Bible is a school text book. I am at the head of the largest boys' school in Pennsylvania. I am required by the law of the State, to read the Bible every day to the pupils of the school. Any other book may be used or omitted, but this is always in use. And the common practice is to sing religious hymns at the opening exercises of the schools, although this is not required.

It is a very common mistake to assume that the American theory and practice of Government, in separating Church from State, also divorced the State from religion. The Supreme Court of the United States accepts the maxim that "a tolerant Christianity is a part of the common law of the land." Those of the majority of the States have made similar declarations again and again. The courts of New York recently refused a charter to an organization which specified Sunday as its day of business, although the incorporators were Hebrews. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has declared that anything antagonistic to Christianity is against public policy. When a citizen of this State left money for the publication of irreligious literature, the State set the bequest aside, and gave the money to his heirs. Several of the States, in amending their Constitutions, have inserted clauses expressing their recognition of Almighty God as the supreme ruler. The nation and the States unite in proclaiming annual days of Thanksgiving every November; and at great emergencies they have proclaimed days of fasting and humiliation in which to implore God's mercy. Both appoint chaplains for the religious instruction of their military and naval forces, and for that of prisoners in their jails and penitentiaries. Both declare invalid any document executed on the Christian day of rest, and punish those who fail to observe that day by cessation from needless labour. Both commonly swear witnesses on the Bible, and always with the invocation of the name of "Almighty God, the searcher of all hearts."

Nothing of this involves any union or confusion of Church and State. It is assumed that the State has its own relations with God, independently of the Church, and that his authority is behind that of the civil ruler. It is not thought necessary therefore to act through any specific religious body, or to bestow favours upon any.

I am sir, Yours most truly,

ROBERT ELLIS THOMPSON.

Philadelphia, May 19th, 1898.

GRAND DUKE CYRIL'S DONATIONS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Some papers having made mistakes when stating the amount of money given by H.I.H. the Grand Duke Cyril to the City of Tokyo, &c., we have decided to let you know the exact amount which H.I.H. has deigned to give. It is as follows:—

	Yen
To Charity Organization in the City of Tokyo	500
To the Municipal Hospital of Yokohama...	200
To Zojoji Temple in Shiba (H.I.H. visited the Temple)...	150
To Sengakuji Temple at Takanawa (H.I.H. visited the graves of the 47 Ronins) ...	50

We are, yours respectfully,

Committee for the Reception of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Cyril.

Shiba Palace, Tokyo, 13th July.

A SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

Amid the barren clash and jangle of creeds, the futile speculations of philosophies that lead us nowhere, and the cynical selfishness of the indifferent, it is refreshing to find—what happily may still be found everywhere—quiet, unobtrusive practical work conceived in the highest spirit of the religion most of us profess. Here, in Japan, we have happily labour of this practical type, and it has probably done more towards such progress as the Western religion has made than all the arguments of theologians and all the dicta of dogmatists. Among such effort a place—and a very high place—must be accorded to the work originated and, with the assistance of a few others, carried on for some years in Yokohama by Mrs. Draper. This excellent lady was some years ago struck with the miserable condition of the blind, of whom there are said to be some 150,000 in Japan. Anywhere blindness must be regarded as one of the greatest natural calamities human flesh is heir to, but in Japan the condition of these unfortunate people is exceptionally miserable. For them it is not merely physical but mental and moral night. Deprived of the opportunity of healthy exercise and destitute of mental resources and consolations, they have a more than ordinary tendency to yield to vicious influences; and it is said that the masters who employ them are often an impelling rather than a restraining force.

Influenced by a desire to do something for the good of this unfortunate class, Mrs. Draper in 1892 commenced a school for the blind at Ushizaka. In a short time the accommodation was found insufficient for the number of pupils, and a larger house at Umegayecho was taken. The curriculum is simple, but the instruction given must be very valuable to the pupils, not only in enabling them to earn a living but in lightening the mental darkness which would otherwise claim them for its own. They learn "acupuncture," massage, geography, history, Bible singing, and the *Koto*. The school, in fact, meets a want which the authorities have been regrettably tardy in supplying, and which even now, in spite of schools in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Gifu, is but very inadequately met. It is a charity which should appeal to the philanthropic of all shades of opinion, and, once its good work is sufficiently known, funds ought to be readily forth-coming to meet the demands already made for its expansion.

An interested audience, chiefly of ladies, gathered on Friday afternoon in Van Schaick's Hall to witness the performances of the scholars and hear an account of the progress of the school. The Rev. Dr. Meacham presided, and after devotions by the Rev. E. S. Booth, made a few appropriate remarks eulogistic of the object of the meeting. Then were given Japanese songs and recitations, an English song (which did not sound at all English), and a dialogue, all by pupils of the school. Then came the well-known sacred solo, "The holy city," by Miss Hayashi. Her rendering of it came as a perfect revelation to one who knew nothing of the musical powers of the Japanese further than those shown in the somewhat gruesome performances in the theatres and other places of amusement. Miss Hayashi has a singularly sweet and highly cultivated voice, and she sang with a purity of accent and a depth of feeling that indicated a marvellous command of the English language as well as of musical technique. Mrs. Payne and Mrs. Mollison also sang, and when it is said that they fully maintained the high reputation they have as vocalists in Yokohama it will be understood that the musical programme was an enjoyable one. Miss Dickinson obliged with a charmingly played violin solo and Mr. Ellis acted as accompanist.

During the afternoon an address was given by Bishop Cranston, who has newly arrived in Japan from Canada, and the report was read, stating that 162 persons had passed through the school, and 25 were at present being instructed. Twenty-seven of the pupils had been baptised.

The afternoon concluded with an exhibition in dictation by blind pupils, who by means of the Braillé system took down short passages from a Japanese book, and afterwards read them aloud for the edification of the company. It was a most interesting afternoon, and the most indifferent spectator could not help being impressed by the valuable nature of the work which is being carried on by this school.

JAPAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

[By C. W. Hurtt.]

Among the many influences that have contributed to make Japan different from what she was fifty years ago, Christianity holds a very important place. Twenty-five years ago, the M. E. Church of the United States feeling her responsibility in the Christianizing of Japan, began her work here. R. S. Maclay, then a missionary in China, was appointed to superintend the work, and he, with J. E. Davison, Julius Soper, M. E. Harris, and J. H. Correll, became the Nestor of Methodism in Japan. This week we are celebrating the twenty fifth anniversary of the founding of the Japanese M. E. Mission, and, thinking that a report of the proceedings may prove of interest to your readers, I send you an account of the three days' session. The services which will be followed by our annual conference session, began on Saturday, July 9th, in Yokohama First M. E. Church with a consecration meeting, led by Rev. Hawasumi, which was full of interest to the large number present. On Sunday a.m. we assembled at 9 a.m. in the new church now being erected in Honcho. This new building, which bids fair to be one of the best churches in Japan, is not yet completed, but was decorated, for this occasion, with flags and potted plants. This meeting, under the leadership of Rev. M. Yamaka, took the form of the class meeting so dear to Methodists, and prayer singing and testimonies were in order until 10.30 a.m., when the Rev. Julius Soper preached from Psalms 118 12, the anniversary sermon. Dr. Soper referred briefly to the many changes that have taken place in the twenty-five years in which he has been connected with the work, and preached a sermon vigorous in thought. It was listened to with the closest attention. In the afternoon Bishop Cranston gave a short address on "World Wide Methodism," which elicited many compliments. This was followed by a sermon by the Rev. M. E. Harris, who spoke in his usual masterly eloquent manner. In the evening the house was again crowded to hear Rev. Y. Honda on the "Religious situation of today," and Hon. Taro Ando in an address on The Outlook of Christianity in Japan." On the whole the day was an intensely interesting one, not only from its association with past events, but also from the hopeful pictures that were drawn by those who are interested in Japan's future. Monday a.m. the day's session began with a devotional service at 8.30 a.m. led by Rev. C. Nagano. "The Material Conditions in Japan 25 years ago," were fittingly portrayed by Mr. Sen Tsuda, and this was followed by "The Political Condition of Japan 25 years ago" by Rev. S. Matsumoto. Next came Rev. J. Davison with an interesting paper on "The Religious condition of Japan 25 years ago." Two papers from absent brethren, "Foundation Laying" by R. S. Maclay, D.D. and "Early Experiences" by J. H. Correll, D.D. were also of much interest to all present. Dr. Correll, in his paper, referred to Mr. Nagasawa Yaemon, who, 25 years ago, was in the employ of the Bible Society, and to the surprise of many and the pleasure of all, this brother, now eighty-one years old, was introduced and made a short speech. Rev. D. S. Spencer read an interesting paper embracing "A Historical Review of 25 years work," and the meeting closed with the Doxology. At 2 o'clock when the friends reassembled with Rev. T. Yamaka in the chair, Rev. M. S. Vail, connected

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with the Chensai Gakkau at Nagasaki, read a paper on beginnings, and Rev. J. O. Spencer, of the Eiwa Gakko at Aoyama, Tokyo, also read an interesting article on "Development." These were followed by papers by Miss R. Russell, of Nagasaki, and Miss R. J. Watson, of Aoyama, on "Female Education." The Girls' Schools at these two places are in a prosperous condition and all indications point to a decided advance in this department of the work. Prof. M. Takagi, Ph.D., followed these papers with a brief but telling speech on "Opportunities." It is certain that the ultimate results of all evangelistic and school work in Japan depend largely on our Japanese brethren themselves. That there are many and difficult problems to solve goes without saying, but we trust that with wise and careful oversight the difficulties arising from time to time will be overcome, and that the material and spiritual advancement of the people of Japan may come hand in hand. The great peril to the Japanese at this juncture of affairs is that many expect to secure the results of a Christian civilization without using the means. It needs no long drawn out argument to prove that that is impossible. On Tuesday evening, a reception to the fraternal delegates was held in the Church, at which the following named gentlemen made addresses: Rev. M. Mitani, until recently pastor of the Japanese M. E. Church in San Francisco, who will now enter the work here. Brother Mitani has made an excellent record in San Francisco and will be an able man for the work in Japan. Rev. J. H. Worley, Ph.D., of Foochow, extended greeting from the Foochow conference in a brief speech, and Dr. Harris followed with an address, which was a pleasure to all who heard it. It is a matter for congratulation that His Imperial Majesty the Emperor on Tuesday conferred upon Dr. Harris, the decoration of the 4th class of the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure in recognition of his services to Japanese on the Pacific Coast of the United States. While Dr. Harris is not the first missionary who has been decorated by the Emperor, he is the first one who, though never having been in the employ of the Japanese Government, has still enjoyed that honour. In the case of Dr. Harris, it is a recognition of a Christian life and Christian principles. We rejoice in this event, not only because of the honour that has come to one of our number, but also because it shows such a liberal progressive policy on the part of H.M. the Emperor and those associated with him in the government. Dr. Harris' address was followed by one in Chinese by the Rev. Huong Pau Seng, a presiding elder of the Foochow Conference. This was interpreted by a Japanese brother who read the Chinese characters. For those of us who understand Chinese not at all, and Japanese only imperfectly, this was decidedly agreeable. Several others spoke briefly, among them being Rev. Mr. Smith, of the Methodist Protestant Church, Rev. C. F. Kupper Ph.D., of the Central Chinese Mission, and others. These greetings were responded to in a few well-chosen words by Rev. J. C. Davison and Rev. E. Aibara. During the evening choice music was rendered by a quartet composed of Misses Cranston, Spencer and Allen, and Mrs. Alexander, and added greatly to the pleasure of the occasion. After the benediction by Bishop Cranston the meeting came to a close, and the friends dispersed, happy in the good results already attained and hoping for more of them in the future.

At 9 o'clock a.m. July 13th, the meeting was called to order by Bishop Cranston. After the congregation had sung a hymn Dr. Harris led in prayer. The Bishop then gave a brief address basing his remarks on Isaiah 32:2, after which the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered. The Bishop was assisted in administering the Sacrament by the Japan Conference Presiding Elders, Dr. Worley and Rev. Huong Pau Seng, members of the Foochow Conference. At the conclusion of this service the Conference was formally organized by the election of H. B. Johnson, and H. Kawasumi as English and Japanese secretaries respectively, E. R. Fulkerson and W. Ishikawa statistical secretaries, Julius Soper treasurer, S. Ogata, M. Takesugi, and T. Ukai interpreters. The following Presiding Elders reported their Districts: G. F. Draper, Hakodate District; Kurimura, Kagoshima District; J. C. Davison Nagasaki District. The following brethren were introduced: Dr. M. C. Harris, of the California Conference, Dr. C. F. Kuffer, of the Central China Mission, A. M. Brooks and C. W. Huett, late transfers from the Atlantic and Idaho conferences to the Japan Conference. The conference then adjourned until 2 p.m. At 2 p.m. the Conference reassembled and after prayer by Dr. T. Ukai Bishop Cranston took the chair. The roll of the appointments was read and the preachers handed in their statistical reports. At this point the Bishop introduced Dr. Worley and Hvong Pau Seng, of the Foochow Conference, and Rev. S. Shimidzu and Rev. A. Mito, of the Evangelical Association. The two latter made brief addresses, which were responded to by the Bishop. Nagoya District was called and D. S. Spencer, the Presiding Elder, read his report. Sapporo District was called, and Charles Bishop, the Presiding Elder, handed his report to the Japanese Secretary, who read it. Next the list of the Standing Committees was submitted by G. F. Draper for the Presiding Elders and approved by the conference. The Conference adjourned at 4 o'clock with the benediction by Bishop. At 8 p.m. the anniversary of the Home Missionary Society was observed. Rev. F. Ukai preached an eloquently earnest sermon, which was enjoyed very much by those present.

THE SITUATION AT MANILA.

(From the *Hongkong Daily Press*.)

Manila Bay, 26th June, 1891.

The advent of the *Bonaventure*, followed by the *Iphigenia*, has had an invigorating effect on the feelings of Americans as well as Britishers. Two of the German men-of-war have gone out to Morivales to coal and may go on to some other port, but I am not definitely informed. The French ship *Pascal* left on Friday, but the flagship of the station, the *Bayard*, arrived on Saturday. It is not true that the Archbishop escaped, as stated by Shanghai papers. He is still here, and very much here!

Admiral Dewey does not confine his labours to the *Olympia*. He goes to Cavite almost every day, or at least every few days. Nothing misses his eyes. While he is instructing Commander Wood, of the *Petrel*, who has charge of the work at the Navy Yard and Arsenal, or Lieut. Hodges, of the *Nanshan*, to do one thing, he is looking about for more work to be done and invariably has a new suggestion when he has finished the first. By his order and by the speed and excellence of its execution, the Navy Yard, Arsenal, forts, and barracks have been converted in a wonderfully short time from confusion and chaos to neatness and system. Everything is in readiness so that the troops can make it their headquarters if they wish and be most comfortable. Just outside of the Cavite entrance to the Navy Yard, or the gate called "Camp Dewey," is a large level open space of ground, nearly five acres in area, which will make an admirable drill or exercise ground. It would also be an admirable field for cricket, football, and lawn tennis, if it were evened off in a few spots here and there. From present indications, however there will be little occasion to use it for any such purpose during the next six weeks. On one side of this great campus are barracks used now by the insurgents as prisons and filled with fully 600 Spanish regulars. Recently Admiral Dewey and Consul Williams crossed it on their way to inspect the town. In some way the prisoners learned that the Admiral was passing and could be seen. It took but a minute for the word to be passed along. There was a grand rush and scramble to the windows. Men piled on top of men and pulled each other away in a mighty effort to get a glimpse of the Almirante Americano who had so completely defeated their Admiral, whom they deemed absolutely invincible.

At first this rough and tumble contest was thought by the guards to be a wild attempt to escape and the signal was given to call help, but in a moment the manner and comment of the prisoners proved that they were only satisfying their curiosity as to the "Unconquerable American," as one Spanish officer saluted Admiral Dewey. Strange to say, the remarks of Spanish officers and privates overheard by those who were near contained only kind or complimentary words, while the looks on their faces were those of wonderment and admiration rather than curiosity and hatred. Though Dewey was the cause of all their misfortunes in a way, they showed genuine respect for him, almost as a child would for a parent who punished him severely for wrong doing. It was the first time they had seen him, and they probably will not have another opportunity. For hours afterwards Spanish soldiers, from Brigadier General Garcia Pena down to privates, were talking over this extraordinary man who had no fear for Spanish hosts on land or sea.

The relations between Admiral Dewey and General Aguinaldo are perfectly agreeable—that is, there are no differences and misunderstandings as to policy and methods. There is no union of forces or action of the American Naval force in co-operation with the insurgent troops, but there is a friendly feeling between them which is in a sense equal to an unofficial alliance. Any stories of inability to agree or to support one other are unfounded. Consul Williams, whose tact is never wanting in dealing with the insurgents, conducts most of the exchanges of opinion or negotiations between Admiral Dewey and General Aguinaldo. He confirms my statement about pleasant relations.

If anyone in Hongkong doubts the strength of the rebel movement he should go within their lines nearly every day for a week as I do, and the facts of the case would soon be demonstrated beyond question or quibble. Aguinaldo has more able-bodied volunteers than he can need. They come from all over Luzon and from every section that is within a few days' journey by land or water from the insurgent headquarters. To-day I saw 500 men from Bataanga and yesterday 200 from Balucan that had come freely and wanted arms that they might go into the field. A rich man in Pampangas has sent in great quantities of rice. Another in Cavite supplies cattle and still another brings the actual cash. $5,000 arrived to-day from men living in Bataan. At first they would not accept any receipt, but Aguinaldo, who is apparently trying to do things in a business way, insisted on giving them one, saying that when the war was over the amount would be paid back. These are passing incidents that indicate earnestness on the part of the people.

I asked General Aguinaldo the other day what he expected—what he hoped - would happen when the war was over and did he anticipate the establishment of an independent Philippine republic. He hesitated in his usually reticent manner and then said:—"It would be very indiscreet for me to express my hopes about the future before the war is over and when matters are so unsettled as now, but I will say that we Philippines have the greatest confidence in the fairness of the United States. We trust the American people and we know that if they are at the back of us we will be able to obtain and hold our full rights and be respected by all the great Powers of Europe. The Americans have righted a wrong in Cuba and they will in the Philippines."

The General has fully 6,000 well armed men in the field whom he is massing as fast as possible around Manila, bringing them in from lesser places as they are captured. Had he the arms to equip them he could send a force into Manila that would seize the place like a swarm of bees covering a piece of honey.

The lot of Aguinaldo's followers who came down from Hongkong on the *Kwong Hoi* were mostly sent to the front without any delay and will experience a very different kind of life than they enjoyed in Hongkong. Most of them may be patriots and willing to stand any hardship required, but I met to-day one of them who looked and acted as if he wished he were back in Hongkong. Warfare was evidently too much of a reality for him. He came dressed like a dandy and expecting some soft billet in Aguinaldo's office. He received a commission to go at once to the rear of Manila and look after the supplies for the rebel troops, which meant also that he might even have to take a turn as cook! Two days were enough. He is back in Cavite alleging illness and fever and looks already as if he had been in the backwoods for six months. He is well known in Hongkong, but at the special request of one of the General's secretaries I refrain from giving his name. I understand that he has been assigned to a position as messenger between the outer and inner sanctums of the General's headquarters! But this is not typical. By far the majority of these men accept their orders without question and faithfully execute them. They at least seem quite a match for their Spanish foes.

Quite a severe engagement between the Spanish regulars and insurgents lent a little excitement to Thursday night. The Spaniards made their first notable attempt to drive back the rebels from their advanced position. Fully 1,500 of the former attacked the latter just south of Manila and tried to drive them from the trenches which the rebels captured a few days ago after a hard fight in which many were killed.

The insurgents numbered 700. At first it looked like victory for the insurgents, who met the advance of the Spaniards with an enfilading as well as direct fire. Then the Spaniards came up with reinforcements and seemed sure of carrying the rebel position and capturing the 700 as prisoners, but at the critical moment the rebels steadied and poured in such a strong fire that the Spaniards retreated and did not renew the attack. Had the Spaniards had a little more spirit and kept on they could surely have driven out the rebels, but in this as most other fights they show a lack of nerve when it is needed. Several lesser skirmishes have broken the monotony at other points, but they have not been decisive.

The insurgents won a double prize a few days ago. They captured a fine ship in Tayabas Bay and on her several hundred Spanish troops being conveyed from one point to another. Then Spanish

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soldiers made some resistance, in which a Lieutenant-Colonel was killed. The vessel's name is the *Bohol*. The insurgents are now collecting quite a fleet. They have three small steamers, several good launches, many cascos, and a few barges, but all of these are not at Manila, some being at Marivales and Subig.

Fires are seen almost every day at different points around Manila. They are started both by insurgents and Spaniards, and often get beyond their control. The rains that come down nearly every day do more to put out these fires than any body of men. The rains have been of advantage as they were badly needed. All cisterns and tanks are now filled which three weeks ago were empty.

Cavite presented a gay scene on Friday morning. The Philippinos in their zeal to show the spirit that is so strong these days did honour to the memory of Dr. Rizal, who was shot two years ago by the Spaniards, by appropriate exercises and display of troops together with religious ceremonies, including the opening of a school to be called Rizal College. Thousands of natives joined in the demonstration and mingled cheers for the cause of freedom from Spain with speeches eulogizing the dead patriot.

HONOURS FOR ADMIRAL DEWEY'S OFFICERS.

On the 2nd ult., the commanders of the vessels who fought with Admiral Dewey at Manila were substantially rewarded by the President. He sent their names to the Senate with the recommendation that they be advanced in their seniority numbers on the naval list. This means to each nearly one year nearer promotion to the next grade. Captain Frank Wildes, of the *Boston* by this change will jump over such excellent officers as Captain Crowninshield, who now rules over the Navigation Bureau, and steps into a position equal to that of "Fighting Bob" Evans, who is at present commanding the *Iowa*. Captain Coghlan of the *Raleigh*, will be advanced six numbers, which will place him just ahead of Captain Harrington, now Commander of the *Puritan*. Captain Gridley, who commanded the *Olympia*, ranked one number below Captain Coghlan, and he was also to be advanced six numbers. [On the 4th of June Captain Gridley died at Kobe.]

Captain Dyer, of the *Baltimore*, is to pass up seven steps on the naval list, a long jump, as he now stands No. 41 of forty-five captains in the service. He will jump over Captain Sigsbee, who commanded the *Maine* when it was blown up in Havana harbour on the night of February 15th.

Captain Lamberton, who, prior to his assignment to the Asiatic squadron, had been a commander, serving as Lighthouse Inspector, will under the complimentary advancement of seven numbers find a place in the list of captains about No. 41—the position vacated by Captain Dyer. Asa Walker, commanding the *Concord*, gets a jump of nine numbers, which will place him at No. 30 in the list of commanders. Edward P. Wood, commanding the *Petrel*, was No. 78 in the list of commanders. He was recommended to be advanced ten numbers.

ARRIVAL OF U.S. TRANSPORTS AT MANILA.

Hongkong, July 4.

The cruiser *Charleston*, convoying the transports *Australia*, *City of Peking*, and *City of Sydney*, arrived at Manila on the afternoon of June 30, the *Baltimore* having met the troopers at Cape Engaano and piloted them into Manila Bay. The new arrivals received an enthusiastic reception from the American ships, and immediately on arrival Admiral Dewey and Brigadier General Anderson had a conference. They were undecided whether to attack Manila at once or to await the arrival of the next brigade, expected to arrive at Manila in about a week. The troops were all in good health, and glad to be at the end of the long voyage.

The delay of the voyage was occasioned by finishing off another little job. At Honolulu, Captain Glass, of the *Charleston*, received sealed orders to proceed to the Island of Guam, in the Ladrones, and destroy the fortifications and any Spanish ships that might be there. On June 20, the ships arrived off the island of Guam, and entered the harbour of San Luis de Apra, the *Charleston* preceding the transports throwing 13 in. shells from her second battery at the old fort of Santa Cruz, at the head of the bay. The fort was evidently abandoned, as no reply was vouchsafed. A number of Spanish officers from Piti, the port of Agana, were made prisoners on boarding the cruiser, and sent ashore to notify the Governor of the Ladrone Islands to come on board the *Charleston*.

The authorities of the place were totally unaware of the existence of a state of war between Spain and the United States, and it is humorously suggested that the Governor on hearing the firing from the warship sent a boat off to apologise to the Captain for not returning the salute, as he had no powder. The authorities at any rate were taken entirely by surprise.

Later in the day, the Governor sent a letter by his secretary stating he would not board the foreign warship, and inviting Captain Glass to come ashore for a conference. Next morning a party of two hundred strong under command of a lieutenant landed at Piti, where they found the Governor-General Juan Marina with his staff. After a short parley the Governor surrendered Guam Island, with all the troops, stores, supplies munitions of war, and the whole group of the Ladrone Islands. The Governor was taken under protest on board, leaving orders for the troops at Agana to march down to Piti to be disarmed. In the afternoon a force of marines landed and took 54 Spanish soldiers prisoners, and a like number of native militia was disbanded. Fifty-four Mauser rifles and four Spanish flags were taken. The Spanish troops with the Governor and six officers were put on board the *City of Sydney*. The scene at Piti during the disarmament was affecting, many soldiers shedding tears when their arms were taken away. On the afternoon of 22nd June, Captain Glass landed and hoisted the U.S. flag over the fort at Santa Cruz, the *Charleston* saluting with twenty-one guns in token of American sovereignty over the Ladrone group. When nearing Manila, the German flagship steamed quite close to the transports, and came up the bay in their company close to the *Olympia* and saluted the flag of Admiral Dewey. The German ship then went over to the foreign men-of-war anchorage. There are still five German ships at Manila. On the voyage of the transports, Private Elias Hutchinson, M. Company, 2nd Oregon, died from appendicitis, on board the *City of Sydney*, and on June 24 was buried at sea.

THE KOBE INSURANCE CASE.

Mr. F. W. Playfair, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul, at Kobe, sitting with Messrs. A De Ath, F. W. Hill, W. H. Gill, and H. S. Teverson, gave judgement on Monday in the action brought by Mr. Remegio Perez against the Imperial Insurance Company for recovery of a sum of *yen* 4,402.09 alleged to be due under a policy of insurance.

His Honour read the following judgment:—

"In this case both parties agreed to submit their difference to a sole arbitrator whose award was not to be subject to review by any Court of Justice or of any nature or kind whatsoever.

"The award appears to be fair and honest, and within the terms of the submission; there has been no valid reason adduced for setting it aside, so the award must stand.

"And it is adjudged that the plaintiff recover against the defendants such amount as shall be found due by a special referee to be agreed on by parties, or in case of their non-agreement, appointed by the Court, for the loss and damage by fire suffered by the plaintiff on or about the 15th day of January last past, and costs to be taxed."—*Hiogo News*.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

REBELLION IN CHINA.
CAPTURE OF IMPORTANT CITIES.
LIKIN OFFICIALS MURDERED.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Shanghai, July 11.

The rebels in Kwangsi have captured Moning and Tienpak and are now surrounding Wuchuensien, in Kwangtung. Many *likin* officials have been killed. The situation at Wuchow is considered so critical that there is an exodus of wealthy Chinese citizens.

TRAGEDY ON A CHINESE RIVER STEAMER.

Captain Thulmann, of the steamer *Dosing*, shot his compradore dead at Wuchow. He was arrested, and, claiming American citizenship, was taken down river and will be tried at Canton to-day.

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.
THE ACTION OF GERMANY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Shanghai, July 13, 4.35 p.m.

The crew of the Spanish steamer *Filipinas*, hitherto hiding in Subic Bay, revolted and killed their officers. They then handed the vessel over to the insurgents.

The second detachment of American troops are expected on the seventeenth.

The Germans are fraternising with the Spaniards.

GERMANS INTERFERE WITH INSURGENTS.

CAPTURE OF GRANDE ISLAND.

Shanghai, July 13, 6.22 p.m.

The Manila insurgents attempted to bombard the fort on Grande Island, Subic Bay, when the German cruiser *Irene* intervened. Admiral Dewey at once sent the cruisers *Raleigh* and *Concord* and captured the island, which he then handed over to the rebels. Four hundred Spaniards were taken prisoner.

DYSENTERY AMONG U.S. TROOPS.

One hundred and fifty American soldiers are down with dysentery.

(FROM THE "JAPAN TIMES.")

THE WAR.

CERVERA'S LAST SHIP SUNK.

London, July 8.

The *Reina Mercedes*, the last remaining ship of Admiral Cervera's Squadron, attempted to leave Santiago at midnight on Monday. She was immediately sunk by the American fleet and lies partly submerged at the entrance to the harbour.

The Palace at Madrid is especially guarded.

It is expected that Marshal Martinez Campos will form a Cabinet and propose peace.

TRUCE AT SANTIAGO.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MADRID.

London, July 9.

Firing has not been resumed at Santiago, though the period of truce is supposed to have ended on Thursday. Peace negotiations are proceeding between Washington and Madrid.

LIEUTENANT HOBSON RELEASED.

Lt. Hobson and others of the volunteer crew who took part in the sinking of *Merrimac* and were taken prisoners by Admiral Cervera, were exchanged for Spanish prisoners and released.

PEACE RUMOURS DENIED.

CAMARA GOES HOME.

SANTIAGO ABOUT TO CAPITULATE.

London, July 11.

The peace rumours are denied in Madrid. Admiral Camara's squadron is returning to Spain. General Miles has sailed for Santiago. General Shafter telegraphs to Hon. Mr. Alger, American War Minister, indicating that negotiations for the capitulation of Santiago are proceeding.

FIGHTING RESUMED AT SANTIAGO.

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER REFUSED.

THE POPE ATTEMPTS TO MEDIATE.

London, July 12.

Hostilities were resumed at Santiago on Sunday, the Spaniards refusing to surrender unconditionally. The peace movement in Spain is becoming notably apparent, but the main difficulty in the way of peace is the military ardour of General Blanco's undefeated troops.

The Vatican is trying to induce Spain to agree to a ten days' armistice.

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SANTIAGO BOMBARDMENT RESUMED.
THE CITY STILL HOLDS OUT.

London, July 13.

General Miles and Staff have arrived at Santiago. The naval bombardment of Santiago was resumed on Monday, and lasted two hours, when Shafter signalled that the stock of shells was falling short. The last shot struck a church in the heart of the city, wherein was a large store of munitions, which exploded.

DISUNION IN MADRID: CABINET RESIGNS.

A telegram to the *Times* from Madrid states that the Cabinet, being hopelessly divided, resigned. The formation of a Cabinet with a strong military element capable of maintaining order at home and securing peace is expected.

RAIN AND "YELLOW JACK" STOP THE WAR.

London, July 14.

Torrential rains at Santiago are preventing the Americans from mounting siege guns. Yellow fever has appeared at Caimamera, Guantanamo, and elsewhere on the Cuban coast.

THE SPANISH CABINET CRISIS

The Cabinet crisis at Madrid continues. The formation of a Ministry hangs fire.

THE LA BOURGOGNE DISASTER.

DISGRACEFUL BEHAVIOUR OF THE CREW.

London, July 8th.

The number of lives lost by the *La Bourgogne* collision is estimated at 526. Frightful confusion and fighting ensued in the effort to get into the boats. No attempt was made to save the women and children. The saved include 108 of the crew, who seized the boats and repulsed the passengers.

HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

AMERICAN SENATE APPROVES.

The American Senate has passed a Resolution in favour of the annexation of Hawaii.

President McKinley has signed the resolution annexing Hawaii, and a warship has forthwith been despatched to hoist the American flag there.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

London, July 9th.

M. Michael De Giers has been appointed Russian Minister to China, replacing M. de Speyer, who is transferred to Rio.

BRITISH COLONIAL PENNY POSTAGE.

London, July 14.

The Duke of Norfolk, Postmaster-General, announces the establishment of penny postage between Britain, Canada, Newfoundland, the Cape, and Natal, also the Crown Colonies, should they be desirous of joining the Union.

THE DREYFUS AFFAIR.

ESTERHAZY ARRESTED: WHOLE CASE RE-OPENED.

In consequence of a speech by the Minister of War in the French Chamber, in which he declared that Dreyfus was undeniably guilty, the whole controversy has been re-opened. Major Esterhazy has been arrested.

(Received by the *Fiji*.)

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

Söul, July 9.

Mr. Kim Chai-pong, ex-Chief of Police, Mr. Kim Chai-yun, Commander of a regiment, and Mr. Ye Chung-ka were arrested yesterday on the charge of conspiring against the Government. Mr. An Keng-su and others who are under similar suspicion have fled.

FRENCH MISSION DESTROYED.

Peking, July 9.

In the course of a mutiny some soldiers at Pao-ting-fu set fire to a French Mission and destroyed it.

SETTLEMENT OF SHASHI AFFAIR.

Peking, July 10.

The negotiations over the Shashi affair have been concluded. China is to pay *yen* 15,000 as indemnity, besides *yen* 75,000, being a moiety of the expenditure of the Settlement Embankment Repair to Japan, which has also secured certain concessions in connection with the Foreign Settlements of Yo-chow, Fu-nyng, and Fu-chow.

RIOT IN KIANG-SI.

A riot has broken out here and the situation is very serious.

NEW POLICE CHIEF.

Söul, July 9.

Ye Chong-kung has been appointed Chief of Police. He will conduct with rigour the arrests of the suspected.

CABINET CHANGE.

Söul, July 10.

Min Yong-ki has been transferred to the Ministership of Finance, while Sin Sun-tak has been appointed Minister of War.

CONSPIRACY TO DETHRONE THE EMPEROR.

Rumour is being actively circulated that the cause of the present arrests is attributed to the design to dethrone the Emperor and to instal the Crown Prince in his stead.

POLICE DESPATCHED TO ARREST MIN YONG-CHU.

Last evening several policemen were dispatched to Min Yong-chu's villa at Hanku.

YE CHONG KUNG DISMISSED.

Ye Chong-kung has been dismissed and Yung Yong-yol (In Yu-retsu) has been appointed his successor as Chief of Police.

THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSPIRACY.

A large number of well-known Koreans are implicated in the present affair. A majority of the old pro-Chinese faction are among the suspected. The case is assuming a grave aspect.

ARREST OF MIN YONG CHU.

Seoul, July 11.

As previously announced, Min Yong-chu has been arrested at his villa in Honku.

FURTHER ARREST OF PROMINENT MEN.

Pak Ting-yong, the Home Minister, and a few other influential prersonages have also been arrested.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES IN KOREA.

Söul, July 12.

Ye Tai-men has been appointed Minister of the Imperial Household, while the War Minister Sim has been instructed to act also as provisional Home Minister.

JAPANESE SILVER "YEN."

Söul, July 13.

It has been decided that Japanese silver *yen* shall be negotiable both in public and private transactions.

CONSOLATION TO PRISONERS.

The Emperor has despatched messengers to Min Yong-chun, Pack Chong-yang, and others recently taken into custody, and conveyed to them words of consolation. These prisoners are receiving liberal treatment.

MEMORIAL OF THE INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION.

The Independent Association has addressed a memorial to the Emperor advising him to abdicate.

THE PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC.

(From a Chinese Source.)

Hongkong, July 8.

Aguinaldo has issued a proclamation announcing the birth of the "Philippine Republic,"—which act will greatly embarrass Admiral Dewey and the U S. programme generally.

(From the "Shanghai Mercury.")

MANILA NOT YET TAKEN.

Manila, July 4.

Manila is still in the hands of the Spaniards. We have had very heavy rains and the country is flooded and roads impassable, which has very much delayed operations.

WATER SUPPLY CUT OFF.

Manila, July 4.

The insurgents have cut off the water supply from Manila.

(From the "N.-C. Daily News.")

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SPANISH FLEET AT SANTIAGO

Hongkong, July 5.

Admiral Sampson has destroyed every vessel in Admiral Cervera's squadron in a running fight of sixty miles lasting three and a half hours. Admiral Cervera and 1,300 men have been made prisoners.

(From Japanese Papers.)

SMALL POX.

Aomori, July 13.

Small-pox is prevalent in this locality. There are 40 patients at present.

COAL MINE ON FIRE.

Sapporo, July 12.

The fire at a coal mine at Horonai is still raging. Mr. Inouye, manager of the Hokkaido Coal Mining and Railway Company left yesterday for the scene of the conflagration.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT.

Otsu, July 14.

A clerk named Hattori Toyotaro, of the local office at Shiga-gori, has been arrested charged with embezzling *yen* 1,420 contributed to the Red Cross Society.

PAK YONG HO AND KIN YU-GEN.

Nagasaki, July 14.

Mr. Kin Yu-gen, ex-Secretary of the Korean Cabinet, has arrived here, and had an interview with Mr. Pak Yong Ho. During their meeting three policemen waited at the door of the room. Pak left to-day for Tokyo.

FREIGHTS RAISED.

Nagasaki, July 14.

The Steamship Union has decided to raise freights from to-day.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 2	M. July 18
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	M. July 25
America	O. & O. Co	Coptic 2	Tu. July 26
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Glenfarg	Tu. July 26
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	——	W. July 27
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. July 28
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Victoria	F. July 29
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Aug. 3
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Th. Aug. 4

1 Left Hongkong on the 9th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 7th July.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Tacoma, Wash....	N. P. Co.	Tacoma	F. July 15
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa. July 16
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Melbourne	W. July 20
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru	W. July 20
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. July 25
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. July 27
Hongkong	P. & O. Co	Rohilla	W. July 27
America	P. M. Co.	Glenfarg	W. July 27
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. July 29
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Aug 5

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 375.

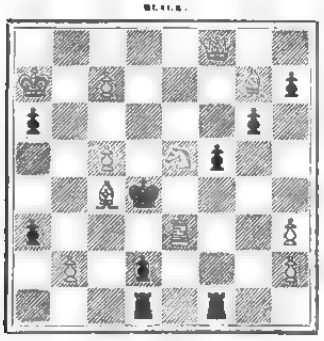
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to B 3	1—P to B 3
2—Q to R 8 ch	2—K to B 4
3—Q to Q 5 mate.	if 2—K to K 6
3—Kt to B sq mate	
	1—Kt to Kt 6
2—Q to R 7 ch	2—K to K 6
3—Q to Q 3 mate, etc.	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., D D., Marco and J.B. (Nikko).

PROBLEM No. 379.

By A. F. MACKENZIE, Jamaica

First Prize, *British Chess Magazine* Problem Tourney, 1898.



White mates in three moves.

THE VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

This great Tournament of Chess-Masters was opened in Vienna on June 1st. The first round was played in the following order :—

Marco *v.* Maroczy, Schlechter *v.* Halprin, Showalter *v.* Schwarz, Blackburne *v.* Lipke, Pillsbury *v.* Caro, Janowski *v.* Baird, Schiffers *v* Trenchard, Tarrasch *v.* Burn, Alapin *v.* Walbrodt, and Steinitz *v.* Tschigorin.

The result is :—Marco and Maroczy drew; Halprin beat Schlechter; Showalter beat Schwarz; Blackburne and Lipke drew; Pillsbury defeated Caro; Janowski got the best of Baird; Schiffers and Trenchard drew; Tarrasch and Burn drew; Alapin beat Walbrodt, and Steinitz scored from Tschigorin. It will be seen that three of the American players—Steinitz, Pillsbury, and Showalter—won their games.

At the time of going to press we have received the score of three rounds, showing the following results :—

	Won.	Lost.		Won.	Lost.
Alapin	2½	½	Pillsbury	3	0
Baird*	0	2	Schiffers*	1	1
Blackburne	1½	1½	Schlechter	1	2
Burn	1	2	Schwarz	½	2½
Caro	1	2	Showalter	3	0
Halprin	1½	1½	Steinitz	2½	½
Janowski	1½	1½	Tarrasch	2½	½
Lipke	1½	1½	Trenchard	½	2½
Marco	1½	1½	Tschigorin	1	2
Maroczy	1	2	Walbrodt	1	2

* Adjourned game in hand.

The Times, Philadelphia, publishes the following interesting data concerning the Masters who play in this event.

Simon Alapin, born 1866, a strong Russian player.

D. Graham Baird, born 1854, of the Manhattan team.

J. H. Blackburne, born 1842, the English champion.

Amos Burn, born 1848, the second English player.

H. Caro, a German Englishman, who played on the cable team.

R. Charousek, born 1873, the Hungarian champion and winner of Berlin Congress of 1897.

Adolph Halpfin, a strong Vienna player.

D. Janowski, born 1868, the French champion.

Paul Lipke, born 1870, the second prize winner at Leipsic Congress of 1894.

James Mason, born 1849, won third prize at Vienna in 1882.

George Marco, born 1865, winner of recent Vienna Tourney.

Geza Maroczy, born 1870, winner of second prize in Nuremberg, 1896.

H. N. Pillsbury, born 1872, winner of the Hastings Tourney 1895, and champion of America.

E. Schiffers, born 1850, a veteran Russian master.

Carl Schlechter, born 1874, strong Vienna player.

J. W. Showalter, born 1860, ex champion of America.

W. Steinitz, born 1836, champion of the world 1866 to 1894.

S. Tarrasch, born 1862, German champion.

M. I. Tschigorin, born 1850, Russian champion.

K. A. Walbrodt, born 1871, German master.

GAME No. 408.

Baird, believes P to K Kt 3 and B to K Kt 2 to be an effective and advantageous answer to the From gambit attack. If so, P to K 4 can hardly safely be played in answer to K B P 4, and the value of the new opening will become further enhanced. Appended is a lively and interesting game contested between Baird and Lasker :—

FROM GAMBIT.

White—Bird.		Black—Lasker.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P KB4	P K4	19 P QB4	B B3
2 PxP	P Q3	20 Q K2	P QKt4
3 PxP	BxP	21 P Kt3	PxP
4 P KKt3	P KB4	22 Kt PxP	B R5
5 P Q3	Kt KB3	23 R Kt-q	R QKt-q
6 P QB3	Kt B3	24 Kt Q2	BxPch
7 B Kt2	Kt K4	25 K K2	B R5
8 Kt Q2	Q K2	26 R R2	B QB7ch
9 Kt B-q	B Q2	27 RxR	RxR
10 B B4	Castles KR	28 P Q4	PxP
11 BxKt	BxB	29 PxP	R K q
12 Q B2	K R-q	30 Q KB q	R R8
13 B R3	QR QKt-sq	31 P B5	QxQP
14 Q Q2	KR K-q	32 QxR	BxQ
15 P KR3	Q Q3	33 Kt Kt3	BxKt
16 K B2	P QB4	34 PxB	QxBP
17 P K3	B K4	35 Resigns.	
18 QR Q-q	QR Q-q		

At move 10 White should not have disdained ■ takes Q Kt P, and at move 14 or 15 the natural move of Kt to K B 3 was the proper one, but White plays with a timidity quite unusual with him.—Baird.

THE EXPERT AND THE PROBLEMATIST.

A good story is told in *Der Schachfreund*, Berlin, of a Chess-expert who was in the habit of giving any player the odds of all the moves he could make in five minutes. One day a stranger undertook to play the Master with the five minutes' odds. The stranger made sixteen moves in less than the time given, and used up the rest of his time by moving his King back and forth. When the five minutes were up, the expert looked at the position, but did not attempt to play. "What do you want?" he said. "I am mated in two, whatever move I make." The stranger was a distinguished problematist, and the moves he made were as follows :—

1 P QR4	5 P Q4	9 QR R3	13 P KKt3
2 Kt QR3	6 Kt Q2	10 Kt K4	14 B R3
3 P R4	7 KR R3	11 Q Q2	15 Q B4
4 Kt B3	8 QKt B4	12 RR KB3	16 QR K3

GAME No. 409.

The latest of London champions is Mr. C. Schulz, who has won the championship of the large and thriving Spread Eagle Chess Club after a hard fight against some of the best players of the club. We append a game in which Mr. Schulz was one of the two consulting players.

GAME PLAYED IN A CONSULTATION MATCH.

White—C. Schulz, G. Frankland		Black—C. W. Bowles, S. Stewart.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	15 PxP	Q B4
2 KKt B3	QKt B3	16 B Q3	Q Q2
3 P Q4	PxP	17 Kt K4	P B3
4 KtxP	B B4	18 B KB4	Kt K4
5 B K3	Q B3	19 Q Kt4	Q Kt5
6 P QB3	KKt K2	20 B K13	KtxB
7 B QKt5	Castles(a)	21 RxKt	P B4
■ Castles	KtxKt (b)	22 BxP(f)	QxKt
9 PxKt	B Kt3	23 BxR	QxR
10 Kt B3	P Q3	24 Q K7	B Q5(g)
11 Q Q2	Kt Kt3(c)	25 Q K8	P KR3
12 QR Q-q	P B3	26 R K-q	B B3
13 B Kt5	Q K3	27 B K7ch	And White won (h)
14 P Q5(d)	PxP(e)		

NOTES.

(a) P to QR 3 may be played here; also B to Kt 3.

(b) This does not seem very satisfactory, though frequently adopted. If B takes Kt, 9—P takes B, P to Q 4 gives Black an open game, though he has to exercise care for a time.

(c) This curtails the powers of movement of the queen. Q to Kt 3 with a view to playing P to K B 4 looks reasonable.

(d) Good play. White obtains an advantage by blocking the QP.

(e) White's preparatory move of 12—Q R to Q sq shows that he had anticipated this line of play. If Q to K sq, or Q to Q 2, then 15—B to Q R 4 with 16—P takes P to follow.

(f) Again a pretty combination, in which White gives up a piece for the sake of position.

(g) Q to Q 5 would not have been an improvement on this move.

(h) If K to R 2 28—B takes B, to be followed by Q to K 7.

NOTES.

We regret to find that the projected cable match between the American Colleges and the English Universities is abandoned for this year owing to the difficulty at the end of the chess season of selecting teams and training them for the encounter. It is hoped, however, that next year this interesting match will take place.

The *American Chess Magazine* suggests to the Chess-players of the United States that arrangement be made to have a grand tournament during the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition which opened in Omaha on June 1st.

At Rio de Janeiro a Chess Club has been formed, under the auspices of Herr Sittenfeld (late of Paris). He recently played 20 games there simultaneously, winning 16, losing 2, and drawing 2.

On March 31st, a meeting of delegates from each of the principal Berlin clubs was held, with the object of drawing closer bonds between them, and of establishing a Berlin Chess Association.

In April, Dr. B. Lasker, the champion's brother, paid a visit to Venice, and was most hospitably welcomed by the chess players there. He is apparently out of practice, says the *British Chess Magazine*, but he gave evidence of his ability by winning games of several local players, though he lost to Signori Salvioli and Dalla Corte. He also won many hearts by his urbanity, and appears to have given some excellent advice to those of his opponents who needed it as to their style of play.

The Value of the First Move.—It is generally admitted that when players are evenly matched White has a great advantage. The *Deutsche Wochenschach* has compiled a table showing that since 1851, in 2,767 tournament games, White won 1,100, Black 901, and 676 were drawn.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Glenlochy, British steamer, 2,997, J. McGregor, 9th July,—London via ports, Kobe, 8th July, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Masagon, British steamer, 3,280, E. G. Andrews, 10th July,—Bombay, Singapore and Kobe, 9th July, Cotton.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Arthur Fitger, German ship, 1,696, H. Denker, 10th July,—Middlesborough, 9th March, Coke and Pig Iron.—To Order.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, C. H. Butler, 10th July,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 8th July, General.—Dodwell Carlill & Co.

Diomed, British steamer, 3,005, Thos. Bartlett, 11th July,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 10th July, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Radnorshire, British steamer, 1,589, Vyvyan, 11th July,—London via ports, Kobe, 10th July, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Kansu, British steamer, 1,158, A. Sommerville, 12th July,—Hongkong, 5th July, Rice and Sugar.—Butterfield & Swire.

Picciola, German steamer, 875, Hap, 12th July,—Hongkong, Petroleum.—M. Raspe & Co.

Craigearn, British steamer, 1,948, D. Kirkwood, 13th July,—Vladivostock, 5th July, via Mororan, 10th July, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 14th July,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 12th July, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Melbourne, French steamer, 2,033, D. Duchateau, 14th July,—Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 13th July. Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 14th July,—Hongkong via ports, 5th July, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Beniedi, British steamer, 1,481, R. Farquhar, 15th July,—London via port, Kobe, 14th July, General.—Comes & Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, N. Ohno, 15th July,—Shanghai via ports, 9th July, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hungarian, British ship, 2,290, Charles Lowe,

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16th July,—New York, 23rd Feb., Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Hogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, H. Walter, 15th July,—Yokkaichi, 14th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, F. W. Horton, 15th July,—Otaru via ports, 10th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Tennick, 15th July,—Moji, 13th July, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

DEPARTURES.

Morven, British steamer, 2,360, J. T. Nottie, 9th July,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, J. H. Rinder, 9th July,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Yayeyama Kan (11), Japanese Despatch-Vessel, 1,509, Capt. T. Saki, 10th July,—Yokosuka.

Hangchow, British steamer, 999, J. Pearce, 10th July,—Moji, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hertha, German steamer, 2,199, Hildebrandt, 11th July,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, C. H. Butler, 11th July,—Portland, Oregon, via Victoria, B.C., General.—Dodwell Carlill & Co.

Caleb Curtis, British schooner, 39, Whistler, 11th July,—Tacoma, Wash., Stores.—Captain.

Hart (6), British Torpedo Boat Destroyer, 260, Lt. Com. Shakespear, 12th July,—Kobe.

Barfleur (14), British Battleship, 10,500, Capt. R. N. Custance, 12th July,—Kobe.

Undaunted (12), British Cruiser, 5,600, Capt. C. Clark, 12th July,—Kobe.

Baring Brothers, American ship, 2,091, E. S. Smalley, 12th July—New York via Kobe, General.—Simon Evers & Co.

Wm. H. Macy, American ship, 2,092, J. A. Amesbury, 12th July,—Port Townsend, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Amagi Kan (11), Japanese Wooden-sloop, 926, Commander I. Taregaki, 13th July,—Yokosuka.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 12 h July,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. &O. S. N. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 13th July,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Celtic Monarch, British ship, 1,982, George Morrison, 13th July,—Kobe, Coke and Pig Iron.—Sale & Co.

Kendal Castle, British steamer, 1,813, P. Watson, 13th July,—Kobe, General.—Sale & Co.

Pak Ling, British steamer, 2,875, H. L. Allen, 13th July,—London via ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, James Jones, 14th July,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tantalus, British steamer, 2,299, Hannah, 15th July,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Sir Robert Fernie, British ship, 2,410, P. F. Cannon, 15th July,—Port Townsend, Ballast.—China and Japan Trading Co.

Glenlochy, British steamer, 2,997, J. McGregor, 15th July,—Moji via Kobe, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 15th July,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Radnorshire, British steamer, 1,889, Vyvyan, 15th July,—Saigon, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Tacoma*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. B. Cousin, Mr. and Mrs. Reid, and Mr. Christensen, in cabin; 118 in steerage.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Chaumarbin, Mr. Chodzko, one Japanese, Mr. and Mrs. Devaux and boy, Mr. G. Serrantes, Mr. T. Peyre, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Toche, 2 children and amah, Mrs. Mouinot and child, Mr. and Mrs. Gribble, Mrs. Lamont, Mr. Garneaux, Mr. and Mrs. Heritte and 2 children, Baron of Swein, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Burt, one Chinese, Miss Bell Shereitz, Dr. T. Wilkinson and wife, 4 children and boy, Mrs. McConnink, Miss Una E. Hall, Mr. Health, Mr. and Mrs. Heckert, Mr. T. H. Parry, Miss Mancini, Mr. Kawana, Mr. Chang Ting, Rev. H. B. Price, Miss Nettie Dubose, and Rev. R. E. McAlpine and child, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from Hongkong via ports:—Lieut.-Colonel J. Burns and wife, Miss M. M. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. C. Buermann, Dr. E. Paulun, Mr. I. R. Michael, Mr. J. W. Brown, Mr. E. Runge, Miss E. Runge, Mr. H. Grun, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. R. Hauff, Mr. A. T. White, Mr. J. E. Machado, Mrs. C. J. Holcombe, Mrs. Teichwan, Mr. K. T. Stoepel, Mr. S. Moosa, Mr. W. A. Behrends, Mr. A. A. Thomas, Mr. G. H. Quick, Mr. and Mrs. Roth and child, Miss Cassie Cook, Rev. G. E. Albrecht, Miss Albrecht, Mr. Middleton, Mr. R. C. Howard, Mr. R. J. Kirby, Mr. J. W. Copman, Mr. H. Frazer, Mr. O. Voigt, Miss G. Cozad and maid, and Miss F. Denton, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. J. Ambrose, Mr. J. Behrend, Mr. R. W. Mustard, Lieut. R. Cedie, Mr. A. McLeod, Mrs. A. McLeod, Mr. H. E. Edgar, Miss L. Mondford, Mr. H. T. Such, Mr. Ziemssen, Mr. Schweitzer, Mr. W. L. Doney, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. Sevey, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Likdell, family and amah, Mr. and Mrs. Jameson and child, Miss James, Miss A. E. Harwood, Miss E. Torrey, and Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Happer, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Shanghai*, for London via ports:—Mr. Andrew Patterson, Mr. Patt Gibson, Mr. George Coles, Mr. George Anger, Mr. Bertie Wager, Mr. John Postill, Mr. George Matthews, Mr. Walter Moolly, Mr. Robern Hein, Mr. Franz Hess, Mr. Wanely Lowe, Mr. Milk Byrne, and Countess B. Bavanda and amah, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. A. Waite, Master Alan Smith, Dr. J. Bell, Mr. E. S. Oakes, Mr. Gilbert Davis, Mr. Jug Jesselsen, Mr. A. H. Emanuel and native servant, Miss A. Akio and native servant, Mr. R. H. Powers, Mr. E. C. Dalton, Mr. J. W. Copmann, Mr. F. Abenheim, Mr. C. S. Burt, Mr. Stewart Clark, Mr. Leng, Mr. T. Murray, Mr. A. A. Lindenbough, Mr. E. C. Mathews, Mr. J. Roche, Mr. R. Witter, Mr. W. N. Karl, Mr. C. McCurdy, Mr. D. Heneghty, Mr. G. H. Quick, Mr. B. C. Howard, Mr. W. A. Behrens, Mr. T. B. Pocklington, and Mr. H. Bretschneider, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong via ports:—Miss Meadon, Mr. A. R. Thistlewaite, Mr. Walsh, Miss Walsh and native servant, Mr. Tung Tong Tye, Mr. Walsh, and Mr. Whiskel, in cabin; 6 Chinese, and 2 children, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Admiral H. Tsunoda, Governor S. Oimori, Mr. Charles Rogers, Rev. Wolff Joseph, Rev. Henrick Alsbouse, Mr. T. Tsunoda, Mr. J. de Rijke, Mr. R. Hara, Mr. C. C. C. Lee, Mr. R. Yamashita, Rev. Nicholas Walter, Rev. George Schneider, Mr. N. E. Mygind, Capt. T. H. Going, and Mr. G. Sierich, in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Hwan, Mrs. T. Ogata, Mr. K. Sayehiro, Mr. N. Miyahara, Mr. N. Tamioka, Mr. K. Uchida, Mr. T. Shimanokoji, Mr. R. Kujo, Mr. S. Kojima, Mr. C. Yamamoto, and Mr. S. Watanabe, in second class; 60 Japanese, and 2 Chinese, in steerage.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The stagnation continues and all prices are nominal. In fancy woollens and cottons the Japanese dealers anticipate some improvement next month.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2 00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.75 to 2 60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens' Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0 15 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.28 to 0.41
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Alpaccine de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.25 to 0.47
Cloths—Pilots, 54 & 56 inches	0 55 to 0.80
Cloths—Presidents, 54 & 56 inches	0.60 to 0.78
Cloths—Union, 54 & 56 inches	0.50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb. per lb.	0 50 to 0.60
	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 32-3 inches	0.60 to 1.00
TurkeyReds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.85 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.50 to 3.75

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 2 60, Plain	61 00 to 63.00
Nos. 2 80, Plain	75.00 to 76.50
Nos. 2 100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2 60, Gassed	69.50 to 76.50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2 100, Gassed	114.00 to 124.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$19.50 to —
Indian Broach	19.25 —
Chinese	21.00 to 21.50

METALS.

The iron market suffers from over-supply and the recent arrival of sailing ships does not tend to improve matters. The only feature is a little enquiry for galvanised corrugated sheets at low prices.

	per picul.
Round and square ¼ inch, and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4 00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4 90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5 90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5.95
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.08 to 2 10
Hoop Iron (1 to 14 inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The market shows no sign of change.

American	$2 05 —
Russian	1.95 to 2.00
Langkat	— 1.85

SUGAR.

In Browns prices are 10 to 20 *sen* lower except for Manila, which has advanced 10 to 20 *sen* per picul. Prices for Formosa have declined 15 *sen* per picul. White refined, in which little business has been done, retains its previous price. The arrivals from the 6th July have been 66,663 piculs of Manila and 2,174 piculs of China varieties.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$3.40 to 3.60
Brown Manila	5.20 to 6.30
Brown Daitong	3.80 to 4.20
Brown Canton	4.15 to 5.80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.25
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The European demand is brisk, and prices show a tendency to advance. American buyers, however, are quite inactive. The settlements from July 1st to date have amounted to 1,061 piculs, against 520 piculs at the same time last year, and the stock unsold in Yokohama is 2,469 piculs, against 3,040 piculs last year. The total visible supply this year is 3,530 piculs, compared with 2,560 in 1897.

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EYEBROWS, &c.

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QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.....	$930
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.....	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers.....	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers.....	850 to 860
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers.....	890
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	870
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	850
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	830
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers.....	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1½	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2½	Nominal

WASTE SILK.

Nothing is doing, the new produce not arriving till next month. The present stock is estimated at 2,775 piculs, Noshi 725, Kibiso 1885, pierced cocoons 15, and sundries 150. Prices nominally as under.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best.....	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 103
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good.....	100 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium.....	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	85 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 22½

TEA.

A large business has been transacted, common to good medium qualities being chiefly in demand. Prices have ruled firm at an advance of 1 to 2 *yen* per picul. There is a large stock, not of the best quality, on offer. The total settlements for the season so far amount to 138,189 piculs, against 145 804 at the corresponding date last year.

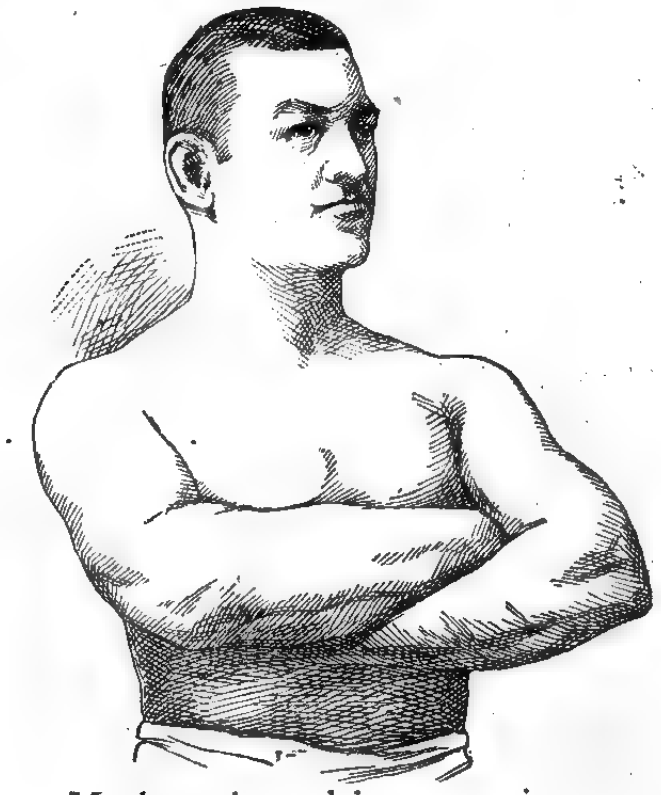
QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$35 & upwards
Choice	$33 to 34
Finest	31 to 32
Fine	29 to 30
Good Medium	23 to 24
Medium	25 to 26
Good Common	23 to 24
Common	21 to 22

EXCHANGE.

Silver unaltered but slightly firmer from London, no alteration in sterling from China and rates here all steady, closing for the mail per steamer *Doric* as under.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0½
— — Bills on demand ...	2/0 5/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅝
— — 6 months' sight	2/0⅞
On Paris—Bank sight	2 55
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight ...	2.58½
On America—Bank Bills on demand..	49½
— Private 4 months' sight...	50⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06½
— Private 4 months' sight...	2.10½
On Hongkong—Bank sight .....4104½% dis.	
— Private 10 days' sight...5 1/16 06% dis.	
On Shanghai—Bank sight	78⅜
— Private 10 days' sight ...80	
On India—Bank sight	153
— Private 30 days' sight ...	156
Bar Silver (London)	27⅞



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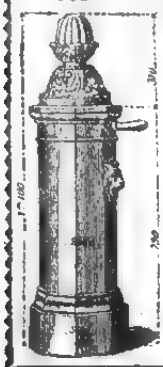

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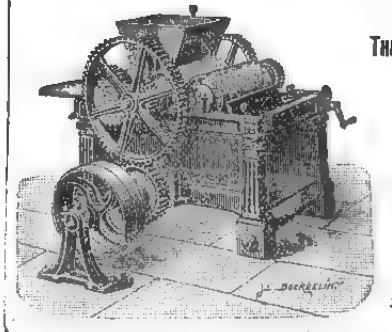

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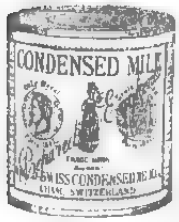

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JULY 23RD, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

EMILE ZOLA has left Paris for Lucerne.

DYSENTERY is very prevalent in Kanagawa Prefecture.

THE Constitution has been suspended throughout Spain.

IT is reported in official circles that Manila has fallen, but the news lacks confirmation.

THERE has been a serious riot in Shanghai in the course of which twenty Chinese were killed.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA has fallen, the Spanish garrison marching out with all the honours of war.

RELATIONS between Admiral Dewey and the German Admiral are said to be very strained at present.

IT is suggested that warlike operations in Cuba will be suspended until the end of September.

Marquis Ito, who is leaving for China shortly, had a farewell audience of His Majesty on the 15th inst.

CAPTAIN HIJIKATA, eldest son of Count Hijikata, committed suicide on the 15th instant by shooting himself.

BARON SONODA, Chief of the Metropolitan police, has been removed from office for breach of discipline, in that he spoke against the present Cabinet at a meeting of heads of police.

The Times says that Great Britain would feel no jealousy whatever if the United States took possession of the Philippines.

THE *Doyo*—or hot season in Japan—came in on Wednesday with blazing heat. Reports from the country are favourable.

IT is stated that two men have been arrested charged with secretly manufacturing quantities of dynamite at Yunokawa, near Hakodate.

THE Yokohama Dockyard Company will hold its general meeting on the 23rd inst., and will declare a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum.

THE Secretary of the Yokohama Japanese Chamber of Commerce shot himself on Wednesday while under the influence of liquor.

THE Prince of Wales fractured his knee this week by falling on a staircase at Waddesden Manor, the country house of Baron Rothschild.

AMERICAN papers to hand by the last mail contain serious charges of political jobbery in regard to the granting of commissions in the U.S. army.

THE rebellion in the south-east of China is spreading, the rebels being materially assisted by the "funk" into which the Mandarins have been thrown.

THE Japan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Mission has been in session this week in Yokohama under the leadership of Bishop Cranston.

THE Treaty Powers have been advised that the Commercial Code came into force on the 1st inst., and the remaining parts of the Civil Code on the 17th inst.

THE N.Y.K.'s steamer *Nagoya Maru*, which stranded off Hira-uchi, Iwate Prefecture, on the 25th ult., has been purchased by Mr. Nakahara Shozaburo, of Yokohama.

PRINCE CYRIL of Russia left Yokohama on Tuesday for Kobe and the South in the cruiser *Rossia*. He seems to have greatly enjoyed his visit to Yokohama.

DESPITE the heat two games of cricket have taken place in Yokohama this week. The first was an inter-Club match; in the other the Club beat a team from H.M.S. *Grafton*.

COUNT ITAGAK, the Minister for Home Affairs, on the 19th at 5 p.m. entertained at dinner at his official residence the high officials of the Department of Home Affairs.

GENERAL MILES has assumed command in Cuba. Popular sentiment in Spain is against any yielding, being encouraged by the outbreak of fever among the Americans.

IN the course of the trial at Versailles in connection with the Dreyfus case, Emile Zola and Perreux were each sentenced to a year's imprisonment and 3 000 francs fine.

ON Thursday seven prisoners in Taipeh Gaol, Formosa, escaped by demolishing a part of the building. Four of them were arrested, and three others were killed by the authorities.

COUNT OKUMA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has instructed Mr. Shimamura, Minister to Honolulu, to close the Legation and return at once. A Consulate will be established there.

AN importer in Yokohama recently attempted to smuggle great quantities of alcohol in tin cases having the appearance of kerosene oil cans. The cargo was found and confiscated by the customs authorities.

ON the 18th inst., at 11 a.m., the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Harima Maru* ran on a sunken rock near Nemuro, during a thick fog. There was no loss of life.

A ROBBER named Ishiwara and his followers murdered a policeman named Sotoyama, and mortally wounded another policeman named Uyematsu at Akagi, Gumma prefecture. They are still at large.

AN Italian squadron has left for Cartagena, Colombia, to enforce the settlement of President Cleveland's award in Italy's favour in the case of Cerrute, an Italian subject having a pecuniary grievance against the Republic of Colombia.

A WOMAN named Kane, 45 years old, the wife of a policeman named Sugiura, of the Kanda Police Station, Tokyo, committed suicide by jumping into a well on the 17th inst. She had been in bad health for two years.

THE Directors of the Koya Railway Company have decided to raise foreign capital to the extent of half a million *yen* to complete the line and to pay off debentures. The directors are opening up negotiations with a foreign resident in Kobe.

Princesses Fushimi-no-Miya and Yasu-no-Miya will proceed to Miyanoshita on the 24th inst., and will stay at the detached palace for the summer season. Princess Sada-no-Miya will leave for the Myogi mountains on the 22nd inst., and will stay there for some weeks.

THERE is a growing tension between the Americans and Cuban insurgents. The latter are indignant because Santiago has not been transferred to them. American officers and men do not conceal their contempt for the Cubans, and an early collision is predicted.

WITH the setting in of the Dog-Days the native merchant invariably "goes up country to sleep." But this year his retreat to the inland spas and mountain solfataras does not cause any violent disturbance in the commercial world of Yokohama. For sooth to say, his appearances in our midst these past few months have only been occasions for elaborating miserable excuses for not "settling his little account," or for begging further time ere he took delivery of contract goods already nine months' warehoused. Yet hope springs eternal in the foreign breast, and it is hinted at, though in scarcely buoyant tones, that trade may revive in the autumn. Meanwhile the burden of the yarn, piece-goods, metals, kerosene, and cotton markets' reports is always the same—nothing doing, prices nominally the same as last week. Sugar alone continues steady, but then the appetite for confectionary and sweetmeats generally always continues strong. In exports, a fair demand is reported for raw silk, and prices are rising. Waste silk transactions are dead for the moment. Tea continues active, large purchases being concluded during the week. There is a stock of over 1,000,000 lbs. on offer at present, but a lot of this is of inferior quality.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

There has been a good deal of writing recently in vernacular newspapers on the subject of the annexation of Hawaii by the United States and the probable fate of the Philippines. Speaking broadly, the opinions expressed may be divided into two sections; namely, views dictated chiefly by a desire to embarrass the Cabinet, without much regard to the real rights or wrongs of the question; and views dictated by genuine solicitude for the welfare of Japan. It is doubtless fresh in our readers' recollection that when the problem of the annexation of Hawaii came upon the tapis last year, Count Okuma, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, publicly protested against it, and adopted a remarkably firm line of policy. Some of his opponents now seek to discredit him by showing that he can not adhere to that policy under existing circumstances without great inconvenience, and that he can not abandon it without loss of face. Arguments of that nature have been effectually disposed of by the *Mainichi Shimbun*, which points out that they are quite inconsistent with the instructions given to Mr. Hoshi Toru when he returned to Japan last summer to discuss this very question. He was instructed to direct his exertions to obtaining from the American Government an engagement that Japan's treaty privileges in Hawaii should be respected, and, in the event of obtaining such an engagement, everything in the way of protest was to cease. The Ito Cabinet took the same line. In fact, there has been no kind of protest for the past year: it has been merely a matter of consultation. It is now stated that the Government will be perfectly content if America promises that Japan's treaty rights shall be respected, that the immigration problem shall be taken over by the United States, and that tradal facilities in Hawaii shall remain as they are at present.

* * *

As this subject is of much interest to our American readers, we shall briefly epitomise the views most recently expressed by the various journals, omitting those which plainly derive their inspiration from domestic politics, and premising that, during the past few days, some symptoms of vacillation originally observable have disappeared, while on the other hand some journals originally disposed to adopt a very stalwart line towards America, have greatly modified their tone.

* * *

The *Osaka Asahi* referring to the necessary proviso that Japan's treaty rights should not suffer by the annexation of Hawaii, asks what reasonable prospect offers of such a provision's being secured. A clause in the Annexation Treaty declares that all Hawaii's treaties and conventions with foreign Powers shall lose their binding force immediately on annexation. Will America make an exception in Japan's favour? Or will she sign a new treaty granting to Japan privileges not enjoyed by all alike? A protesting attitude commends itself to the Osaka journal's judgment.

* * *

With regard to the Philippines, the *Hōchi Shimbun* is persuaded that America does not intend to depart from her traditional policy of peaceful progress. She has drawn the sword solely because she could not stand by tamely and see the sufferings of the people of Cuba. Her occupation of the Philippines should not cause any uneasiness to Japan. It would be the best thing possible for the people of the islands and for the cause of tranquillity in general. Japan should not offer any kind of opposition.

* * *

The *Nippon* leads the opposition to America's occupation of the Philippines. Numerically, it is a very weak opposition, but our readers are acquainted with the vigour of the *Nippon's* methods, and will understand that to this discussion also it succeeds in imparting a certain amount of snap and clatter. Assuming as a certainty that America will take the Philippines—a part or the whole, it does not matter which—the question is, what shall Japan do? Japan bears no ill-will to America, her principal commercial friend. But if the United States obtains possession of Hawaii and the Philippines, she will hold the key of the Pacific. The balance of power will be completely upset. Japan considered it necessary to obtain from China a guarantee that no part of Fuhkien should be alienated. It is incomparably more important that she should secure the Philippines from falling into the possession of a great Power. There is only one safe and prudent course. It is to enter into an agreement with the United States and Great Britain for guaranteeing the independence of the Philippines. No other Power has a right to a voice in the question.

* * *

The *Kokumin Shimbun*, which leads the vernacular press in liberality of foreign policy, considers that the two great events of the era are England's abandonment of her attitude of isolation and America's change to a policy of expansion (*shinshu shugi*). Both events will make largely for the peace of the world and the progress of civilization. America, when she comes into possession of Hawaii and the Philippines, will be an ally of immense potentiality. If she joins hands with England and Japan, the combination will be invincible. Nothing is more regrettable than that Japan has lost so many opportunities of showing her goodwill to America. It was her duty, no doubt, to assume a neutral attitude in the war. But there is neutrality and neutrality. France, without violating the obligations of a neutral, has managed to exhibit so much sympathy with Spain that French influence is now paramount in Madrid. If the Japanese Government had behaved with similar tact, there never would have been an increase of the import duty on tea, and the two nations would now be fast friends. But, whatever the shortcomings of the Government have been, there has been no wavering in the sentiments of the Japanese people towards America, and now the time has come to give practical expression to those sentiments. If a great Power like Germany obtains the Philippines, or if they remain in the hands of Spain, a constant temptation to foreign aggression, Japan will have a live volcano at her doors. She must do what she can to secure their occupation by America; not, indeed, unconditionally, since she has her own interests to safeguard, but on such conditions only as shall not embarrass America. It is extraordinary that the organs of the Government keep silence at this crisis, or, if they speak, speak in faint tones. Is the Cabinet too much occupied with petty questions of party politics to appreciate the overwhelming importance of such a problem as the triple alliance of America, England, and Japan?

* * *

The *Yomiuri*, which is, of course, a supporter of the Cabinet, has not taken any strong line upon this subject. On the whole, however, it advocates conditional endorsement of America's wishes. If any strong Western State gets possession of the Philippines, the balance of power will be sensibly disturbed in the Far East, and Japan, although she does not radically object to the islands falling into American possession, should endeavour to safeguard her own interests as much as possible.

* * *

The *Mainichi Shimbun* has performed something very like a *volte face*. Its latest utterance, as quoted above, condemns the ignorance of people who insist that an attitude of protest must be maintained by Japan with regard to the annexation of Hawaii by America. But a few days ago, its own voice was raised in favour of protesting. However, we presume that its new attitude may be accepted as final.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, though it argues cleverly and speciously, does not appear to have any profounder purpose than to convict Count Okuma of unskilful policy. It avers that his original protest against the annexation of Hawaii was a clumsy proceeding, and that, recognising his error, and the fruitlessness of protesting, he lapsed into silence. When out of office, however, he did not hesitate to declare that protest after protest must be formulated, if necessary, to preserve Japan's interests. What does he now propose to do? Rumour says that he will be content if America assumes Hawaii's liabilities to Japan. How can he refuse with one breath to recognise the annexation, and demand, with the next, that the annexing Power shall accept the responsibilities of annexation?

* * *

The *Yorozu Choho* contends that whereas Count Okuma was originally very keen against annexation, he is now quite indifferent. It is impossible for him to efface himself completely, however. He must do something, and fortunately a good opportunity now offers; for with the Philippine problem awaiting solution America will be very careful not to alienate Japan's sympathies. The best plan, therefore, is to continue protesting against the annexation of Hawaii so long as the Philippine question is open. Japan values America's friendship highly, but she sets a still higher value on her own interests, and, as Count Okuma began by protesting, he has no choice but to stand his ground.

* * *

Such was the gist of the *Yorozu Choho's* writing a few days ago. It insisted that Count Okuma must not suffer the catastrophe known in Japan as "dying a dog's death" (*inujini*); in other words, must not allow himself to be fruitlessly effaced, but must maintain his attitude of protest. Like the *Mainichi*, however, the *Yorozu* now appears to have been "looking round the corner." It says that Count Okuma must withdraw his protest. He has no alternative. But he must make capital out of the withdrawal. The United States probably recognises that to take possession of the Philippines would be bad policy. On the other hand, she does not wish them to pass into the possession of any strong Power. Japan's interests point in the same direction. Hence the Tokyo Cabinet can safely turn the situation to account by giving a general support to America in the Far East, on condition that the whole Pacific Coast is thrown open to Japanese emigrants, and that the interests of this country in Hawaii are respected.

* * *

Turning from the subjects of Hawaii and the Philippines, we find that abuse of the new Cabinet continues to occupy a large space in vernacular columns. The *Tokyo Asahi* is clever and epigrammatic. It says that the Ito Cabinet was distinguished by its *yoriten shugi*, or policy of adroit drifting, and the present Cabinet is remarkable for its *konton shugi*, or chaotic policy. It is chaotic in that it fails to distinguish between administrative officials and political officials; chaotic in that the leading members of the Ministry have declared themselves diametrically at variance on several important subjects; chaotic in that when a Constitutionalist is asked about his policy, his answer is "learn it from our acts." The *Nippon* insists that the public are already weary of the new Cabinet. The first revolution of the *Meiji* era had the merit of interesting people, and its moving spirits were rich in ideas and bold in progressive reforms. But in the case of this second revolution, although it resembles the first in the fact that men who were mere denizens of lodging-houses have been raised to the posts of Ministers of State, the new administrators seem to be able to think of nothing but dividing the spoils. They have no clever policy. They have no better moral endowments than their predecessors. They do not appear to be freer from corruption. They do not enjoy a larger share of public confidence. They can not even be said to be more youthful and vigorous. No wonder that people are already getting weary of them.

* * *

That kind of writing abounds, the *Jiji Shimpo* being the only one of the independent journals that refrains from attacking the Cabinet. As for the friendly newspapers, they show remarkable discretion. Instead of adding fuel to the flame by vehement contradictions and strenuous recrimination, it is evidently their cue not to bandy words but to let the Cabinet be judged by its deeds. If they adhere to that resolution they will make a record.

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FIRST TROUBLE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY.

The difficulty of reconciling party principles and administrative responsibilities has just presented itself very forcibly to the Constitutionalists. The Party has a General Committee (*somu-kin*) of four, to which is entrusted the management of the whole business presenting itself from time to time. Of course the Committee wields great power, and its members are persons of considerable importance. Every one of the four committee-men obtained a portfolio when the present Cabinet was organized; the four being Messrs. Ozaki, Ohigashi, Hayashi, and Matsuda. The question then arose, should these four Ministers of State continue to discharge the functions of committee-men, or should they be replaced by persons not holding official appointments? The four Ministers themselves were of opinion that they should continue to act as committee-men, their contention being that in their dual capacity they would be best able to give effect to the theory of party cabinets. But other leading members of the Party—notably Messrs. Hatoyama, Kono, and Kataoka, and Baron Kusumoto—emphatically declined to subscribe to any such doctrine. Their notion was that the Party must retain the power of controlling the Cabinet, which certainly would not be the case if the Ministers of State, in their capacity of general committee-men, had the direction of all the Party's affairs. The discussion became somewhat acute, and a compromise was proposed, in the sense that two of the Ministers should remain on the Committee, and two should resign, their places being taken by ordinary members of the Party. An extraordinary meeting was held to consider that exit from the dilemma, but the great majority of those attending condemned it as unacceptable, and after a hot debate the meeting broke up *re infecta*, to come together again on the 18th instant. In the meanwhile, the four Ministers cut the Gordian Knot by resigning, and when the members assembled on the 18th instant, they had merely to decide upon a method of electing a new Committee. Their decision was that the four Ministers, together with Mr. Kudo Kokan, who had acted as chairman at the meeting, should nominate twenty members, and that the twenty-five should then proceed to elect the General Committee.

It does not occur to any one reading the above story that the Constitutionalists have very firm faith in the present holders of portfolios. We suspect, however, that the real objection to entrusting to Ministers of State the duties of Committee-men was not so much a sense of the necessity of keeping the power of control in the hands of the Party, as a conviction that portfolio-holders are much too busy to attend properly to party affairs. That seems to us a very reasonable view, but one can easily appreciate the desire of the Ministers of State to avert all danger of frivolous and vexatious interference from the side of the Party by retaining in their own hands the direction of its affairs.

The new Managing Committee of the Constitutional Party consists of Baron Kusumoto and Messrs. Inugai Ki, Ebara Soroku, and Kataoka Kenkichi. There are two interesting features about this Committee. The first is that care has been taken to secure equal representation for the two sections of the Constitutionalist Party: Baron Kusumoto and Mr. Inugai Ki belong to the former Progressists, and Mr. Ebara and Mr. Kataoka to the former Liberals. Such precise balancing does not suggest that the two sections have really amalgamated. They still retain enough of the spirit of separation to consider that they have independent claims. The second point is that Messrs. Ebara and Kataoka are earnest Christians. Evidently that point does not tell against them in the eyes of the Party. A grain of fact is worth a bushel of theory. We commend this grain to the critics who allege that the spirit of religious intolerance bars the path to preferment for all Christians in Japan. We are not so fatuous as to imagine that the spirit of intolerance has entirely died out, but neither can we be blind to the significance of this Committee incident.

BARON SONODA DISMISSED.

Quite a ferment was caused in official circles on the 16th instant by the action of Baron Sonoda, Chief of the Metropolitan Police. The Baron tendered his resignation when the present Cabinet came into power, but was induced to remain in office until the conclusion of Prince Cyril's visit to Tokyo, the Government being naturally anxious to avoid any change in the police organization on the eve of that event. On the evening of the 15th, the Baron convoked a meeting of all the Superintendents of Police in the capital, and having read them a letter from the Minister of Home Affairs praising their zealous and thorough discharge of their duties in connexion with Prince Cyril's visit, went on to explain that he now proposed to resign his office, since he considered that the present Ministry did not enjoy the full confidence of the Emperor, and since, further, he was persuaded that the system of party cabinets was contrary to the Constitution. The exact terms of the speech are not reported, but it seems to have stirred the audience considerably, for, after the meeting, the propriety of a strike on the part of the police was freely discussed, and the idea appeared to be on the point of being carried into execution. So serious did the situation seem that Counts Okuma and Itagaki repaired to the Palace to confer with His Majesty, and the result was that Baron Sonoda was removed from office as a disciplinary measure, four Superintendents of Police and one Chief Warden of a Jail being placed on the Retired List at the same time, and one Superintendent of Police allowed to resign by his own desire. The trouble was thus disposed of, not, however, without the services of Marquis Saigo as mediator between the Satsuma members of the force and the Government. Baron Sonoda's position has been given to Mr. Nishiyama Seicho, a Liberal representative in the Lower House.

This incident is evidently regarded as exceedingly grave, and indeed, we can not wonder at the fact, for if politics are to come between the police and the discharge of their duties a most objectionable state of affairs will be inaugurated. It has always seemed to us an unfortunate and unwise arrangement that the holder of the office of Chief of Police in Tokyo should be changed with every change of cabinet. The functions of the police ought to be pre-eminently beyond the range of politics, a result which can hardly be attained under the present system. In the days when the administration wielded exceptional and extraordinary power with regard to newspapers, public meetings, political associations, and so forth, it may have been expedient that the chief of the Metropolitan police, through whom those powers were exercised, should share the Ministry's political views, but no such necessity can exist any longer.

It is curious to note the view taken of this matter in some quarters. The organ of the former Liberal Party (*Tokyo Shimbun*), for example, writes in terms almost hysterical. It calls the change to party cabinets "the Second Revolution," the first having been the Restoration of 1867; it places Marquis Ito in the position occupied by Keiki, the last of the Tokugawa Shoguns, and it completes the parallel by saying, that although the Marquis has surrendered quietly, his followers are strongly disposed to show fight, so that the Ministry must be prepared for a new Fushimi and a new Toba—in other words, for a repetition of the battles fought at the fall of the Shogunate. Use the sword freely is the Liberal journal's advice. Restrain, with one hand, the men that are clamouring for office, and expel, with the other, every occupant of office that shows any sign of insubordination.

We have now before us the text of the speech delivered on the evening of the 13th instant by Baron Sonoda, Chief of the Metropolitan Police, to the police officers subordinate to him. It is a very remarkable speech; so remarkable, considering the circumstances under which it was made, that we should find difficulty in crediting the reported version were not all the Tokyo journals uniform in their account. What the Baron said was this:—"Marquis Ito used to say that without the cöoperation of political parties the administration could not be satisfactorily conducted, but the Constitution contains nothing that can be construed, either directly or indirectly, as sanctioning party cabinets. Marquis Ito's action in handing over the administration of state affairs to the party politicians was the great mistake of his whole career. There is no reason, indeed, why portfolios should not be held by Counts Okuma and Itagaki, who are among the Meiji statesmen, but the other members of the Cabinet are chosen from among the party politicians who do not possess the confidence of the Emperor in any degree. Before these men were elevated to the ranks of officialdom, they played the part of mere professional politicians (*seiji-ya*). They did not regulate their behaviour so as to qualify for high office, but were so crippled with debts that they knew not whither to turn. To appoint such men to Ministerial posts was to impair the Imperial Prerogative. No other description is applicable. That His August Majesty should be placed in a position which deprives him of liberty of choice is profoundly improper. I am, therefore, utterly and uncompromisingly opposed to the system of party cabinets. It devolves upon you, gentlemen, to bring together all that are of the same way of thinking, and to combine for the purpose of bringing about the establishment of a proper Constitutional Cabinet."

This speech is said to have made a deep

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impression on its hearers. Some deemed it extravagant and unbecoming, but others shared Baron Sonoda's views, and were prepared to support him resolutely. The latter were the Inspectors who received the *congé* on the 16th instant, as described in our last issue. The *Asahi* alleges that Baron Sonoda went considerably farther than merely speaking. He planned a strike on the part of the whole of the Metropolitan police, his idea being to deprive the capital altogether of police assistance, and thus bring about the fall of the Cabinet. Information of the scheme was secretly conveyed to the Government, who were thus enabled to frustrate it. We can not say how much or how little truth that version contains.

There is an extraordinay rumour, ventilated by the *Nippon* alone, that Baron Sonoda's intemperate and improper speech was not the sole cause of his removal from office. In language so mysterious as to defy clear interpretation, our contemporary alleges that a plot was on foot to destroy the cabinet by contriving some attack upon Prince Cyril during his visit to Tokyo, and hints plainly that Baron Sonoda was concerned in it. The Government fortunately got wind of the conspiracy, and adopted infinite precautions to defeat it, but no arrests were made, it being considered more judicious to hush up an affair so discreditable. This story seems to us altogether apocryphal. Had it been discovered that Baron Sonoda, the Chief of Police, the one man without whose cöoperation Prince Cyril could not be protected, was engaged in such a conspiracy, his removal from office without a moment's notice would have been unavoidable, whereas he was suffered to retain his position until three days after Prince Cyril's departure. His speech to his subordinates amply warranted his dismissal as a disciplinary measure. We need not go beyond it.

It appears to be a mistake to say that Marquis Saigo's good offices were required to settle the above complication. The Marquis was in Kobe at the time. A messenger was despatched to him to ascertain whether, as a member of the Cabinet, he assented to the decisive steps contemplated by his colleagues, and he replied in the affirmative. That appears to have been his sole share in the business.

What adds to public surprise at Baron Sonoda's speech is that he had long occupied a responsible position in the police, and had earned the reputation of being a strict disciplinarian and a self-contained man. In 1890, he was appointed Vice-Chief of the Metropolitan Police, Viscount Tanaka, the present Minister of the Imperial Household Department, being his immediate superior. In 1892, he himself became chief, and held the position until the retirement of the Ito Cabinet in 1896. Last January, when another Ito Cabinet came into office, he was re-appointed to his old post. No one expected a flagrant breach of discipline from such a man.

The talk about a conspiracy headed by Baron Sonoda, late chief of the Metropolitan Police, receives no manner of confirmation. It is evident that there was nothing in the incident except the delivery of a strong speech under improper circumstances. The speech itself was a perfectly legitimate expression of opinion, though some of the utterances were in decidedly bad taste. For example, the Baron denounced the personal character and pecuniary morality of some of the Ministers, alleging that one had left his hotel bill unpaid for eight months; that another was threatened with an action for fraud; that a third was accused of having set fire to an office in order to destroy inconvenient records, and that nearly all were crippled with debts and of impaired reputation. Such things might have been left unsaid with advantage. For the rest, the speech was merely an outspoken declaration of frank conservatism. The Baron does not believe in any wholesale importation of exotic systems. He is not an enemy of party Cabinets, if a country is prepared for such a system. It works excellently in England, and were the conditions in Japan similar to those in England, party cabinets would be most desirable here also. But it is impossible to pretend that party politicians in this country are fit to be entrusted with the responsibilities of administration. (It was here that Baron Sonoda's personal indictment came in, Counts Okuma and Itagaki, however, being carefully excluded from it.) The Japanese nation has its origin in the Imperial House, and if the Emperor has graciously been pleased to admit the people to a share in the Government, the people, on their side, are under a profound obligation not to encroach upon the prerogatives reserved by the Sovereign. The Emperor could not possibly have had any reason to trust the party politicians—Counts Okuma and Itagaki excepted—to whom portfolios have now been given. His Majesty knows nothing of them. But he had every reason to trust Marquis Ito, and he gave them a mandate on Marquis Ito's recommendation. Marquis Ito forgot the duties of a good and loyal subject (*chiuryō*) when he recommended these persons. There is no course for self-respecting men except to turn their backs on such a Ministry, and labour to promote the end that will certainly be achieved sooner or later, the resumption of administrative power by worthy representatives of the nation.

All that is fair enough in its way. We may differ from the Baron, but we can not deny his right to express his opinions, and there is a decidedly agreeable directness in his language. The time that he chose, however, was wholly improper. Not a single vernacular journal attempts to defend him. He himself claims that he did not speak as an official but simply as an individual addressing friends with whom he had served for years. But not so much as one journalist accepts his excuse, or questions the propriety of the Government's action in dismissing him with disgrace. That is very significant. Baron Sonoda is evidently a clever and courageous man, but he has made a grievous mistake and is justly punished.

SERIOUS AFFRAY AT TOKYO.

On the 18th inst. a carpenter named Zenichiro quarrelled with another carpenter named Yoshinosuke at a workshop in Tanaka-machi, Asakusa, Tokyo. A fight ensued, and Yoshinosuke had the fingers of his left hand cut off, and other wounds inflicted, to which he finally succumbed. Zenichiro also seriously wounded two carpenters named Miyakichi and Isaburo, who interfered in the dispute. He was not arrested at the time of writing.

MARQUIS ITO.

The public have been informed that Marquis Ito intends to retire from political life, but very few people believe, we should think, that there is much truth in the statement. The idea of retirement may seem very attractive to the Marquis himself after his many years of administrative labour, but the country will scarcely be content to dispense with his services, and unless we are much mistaken, there will be greater need of him than ever by and by. The manner of his retirement from the Premiership was so tactful and adroit that his reputation gained largely, and he may safely be said to be the most trusted statesman in Japan at this instant. The one weak point in his armour used to be the possibility of charging him with self-seeking, in that he seemed to support the Sat-Cho interests against those of the political parties. He completely dispelled that suspicion by surrendering the Administration to the party politicians the moment they were able to undertake it, and he has achieved the remarkable feat of converting his old opponents into warm panegyrists.

On the 13th instant, the Marquis returned to Tokyo. That evening Count Okuma visited him at the Imperial Hotel, and the two statesmen had a long consultation. The next day, at 3 p.m., Count Itagaki waited on him, and another protracted conversation took place. On the 15th, at 9.50 a.m., he repaired to the Palace, and was received by the Emperor in audience, remaining with His Majesty until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. It is understood that the reason of the Marquis' return to Tokyo was to make preparations for a trip to Korea and China, and to take leave of the Emperor before starting. He will set out on the 25th, and proceed by train to Shimonoseki, embarking there for Fusan. After visiting the newly opened Korean ports and Söul, he will take steamer at Chemulpo for Tientsin *en route* for Peking, and afterwards, according to circumstances, will continue his journey to Hongkong, Amoy, and Formosa. He is to be accompanied by Mr. Zumoto, formerly his Private Secretary, and by Mr. Mori Taijiro, a Chinese scholar of note, whose literary name is "Kwainan." At Peking the party will be joined by Mr. Narabara, Chinese Interpreter of the Japanese Legation. It is announced that this trip is purely unofficial, but of course a statesman of Marquis Ito's eminence can not travel in the two neighbouring empires under existing circumstances without attracting much attention.

Several vernacular newspapers refer to the affair in terms which probably express a close approximation to the truth. They say that in view of the seemingly inevitable collision between Russia and Great Britain in the Far East, when China and Japan, unable to preserve an attitude of strict neutrality, will certainly be drawn into the maelstrom of the struggle, Marquis Ito appreciates the prime importance of arousing the statesmen of Korea and China to a sense of the gravity of the outlook. He hopes especially to meet and consult with his old friend Li Hung-chang, and to urge him to fresh exertions with the object of rousing China from her lethargy. Count Okuma, when he held the portfolio of Foreign Affairs in the Matsukata Cabinet, had a most definite

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policy with regard to the advisability of employing Japanese influence and Japanese assistance to promote the growth of China's capacity for independence, and since it may be assumed that his views have not undergone any change, he doubtless welcomes this project of Marquis Ito's as a powerful aid to his own policy.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

The Government has again taken up the often mooted and often essayed problem of administrative reform. A temporary committee of administrative investigation (*rinji seimu chosa-i-in*) has been organized, consisting of Count Itagaki, as president, and all the Vice-Ministers of State—except those of the Army and Navy—together with the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, as members. It is announced that the Committee will direct its inquiries to the following questions :—

1. The abolition of superfluous procedure and useless formalities in the discharge of official business.
2. The correction of abuses in the management of railways, posts, and telegraphs.
3. The organization of a department of public works, and the unification of business connected with public works.
4. The public election of headmen of districts (now officially appointed).
5. The abolition and amalgamation of prefectures and law courts.
6. The separation and combination of bureaux in the various Departments of State.
7. The clear definition of the responsibilities of officials.
8. Measures to correct the apparent abuse that the decisions of Administrative Courts are nearly always favourable to the office concerned in the suit.
9. The abolition of the office of Chief of Metropolitan Police.

People that have followed the course of political discussions during the past few years will recognise in the above proposals many, if not all, of the reforms or changes advocated from time to time by either the Liberals or the Progressists. The programme is one that any Cabinet would doubtless be pleased to carry out.

Of course the vernacular newspapers have a great deal to say on the subject, but their comments are so plainly dictated by their prejudices that our readers would be little edified by perusing them in detail. On the whole, the sentiment appears to be that the results achieved by the Committee will be insignificant. One journal congratulates the Cabinet on the celerity it has shown on approaching this difficult work, but opines that its courage is greater than its capacities, and that, when the committee-men go to work, they will find themselves deficient in the experience requisite for such a task. Another sees nothing except the fact that the Departments of War and of the Navy are excluded from the proposed reforms. The proximate cause of the Committee's appointment is financial, and the root of all the financial trouble is armaments expansion, yet the military and naval services are left entirely beyond the range of all reform. It will inevitably be said that the Ministry are too much afraid of the Sat-cho statesmen to touch either the Army or the Navy. But unless Japan is to fall into the same financial slough as Italy, she must extend her administrative reforms to the Army and Navy. A third newspaper regards the appointment of the Committee as a mere device to secure Parliamentary consent to increased taxation. The cry of the Opposition in the last Diet was that they would never vote for increased taxation unless administrative reform went hand in hand with it. The Government is now taking means to prevent a renewal of that cry. There is no need for any investigation; no occasion for new rules and regulations; no want of a committee. If each Department chose to make reforms, it could do so on its own account.

Such is the general trend of the criticisms. They confirm the impression that we have gathered, and that our readers must also have gathered, from the writings of the vernacular press since the present Cabinet came into office, namely, that people have no great confidence in the Ministry's ability to accomplish anything worthy of note. It is a most satisfactory impression from the Cabinet's point of view, since, where nothing is expected, there will be all the more readiness to applaud anything that is achieved.

TEA-GROWERS.

Recently the principal tea-producers of Miye held a meeting to consider the situation resulting from America's action in imposing an import duty of ten cents per lb. upon tea. They decided, after some discussion, that the wisest course would be to put a stop to the production of tea, and a circular was accordingly issued to all the districts represented at the meeting, directing that no more leaves should be pulled after July 31st. Against that extraordinary resolution the Yokohama Association of Tea-dealers have now protested. A meeting of the officers of the Association was held on the 14th instant, and followed by a general meeting the following day. The leading members of the Association agreed unanimously in denouncing the Miye's folk action as petulant and unreasoning. If no market offered for tea, there would be valid reason to discontinue its production. But as a matter of fact, brisk sales were reported from the States, and that the producers at this side should sit down idly under the circumstances would be quite silly. A document was prepared embodying those views, and sent to the parties concerned.

THE AUTUMN MANŒUVRES.

It is the rule in Japan to organize military and naval manœuvres on an exceptionally large scale every fourth year. The year 1894 would have been the set time for applying the rule, but the War with China in that year gave the two services all the manœuvring they wanted. Next November the manœuvres will again fall due, and arrangements are in progress to hold them in the provinces of Kawachi, Settsu and Izumi, during the period of a week from Nov. 9th. It was originally intended that the Navy should take part in the affair, but investigations show that no suitable ports are available in the proposed districts. The operations will therefore be confined to the Army. It is stated that the troops engaged will be the Third, Fourth, Ninth, and Tenth Divisions, and that they will muster sixty thousand strong, a force nearly twice as large as any hitherto assembled for such a purpose. The Emperor will of course be present. Lieut.-General Viscount Kawakami is expected to proceed to the scene of the manœuvres for purposes of inspection at the end of this month.

BARON SUYEMATSU.

Baron Suyematsu is not one of those speakers that have the gift of calming an audience. His style of oratory is somewhat aggressive. But he has the immense merit of saying exactly what he wants to say in the clearest terms, and of leaving no manner of doubt in the minds of his hearers that he is absolutely in earnest. At the recent meeting of the Oriental Society in the Kanda Hall, he went in for some very plain speaking. His audience grew much excited, and interrupted him in a manner that would have silenced any orator not endowed with imperturbable calm. Baron Suyematsu, however, has all the courage of his opinions, and a hostile audience is absolutely powerless to perturb him. The chief point that he wished to make at the Kanda meeting was one with which all students of Japan's modern history must sympathise. It is the fashion now-a-days to claim for party politicians a monopoly of liberal principles, and to assert that the national progress had been arrested when the political parties stepped forward, and insisted on the consummation of constitutional principles. We have often contended in these columns against such an extravagant and unjust notion. By whom has the practical application of Liberal principles been made possible? Who are they that have worked resolutely and unflaggingly in the cause of progress during the past thirty years, and have obtained for Japan a really remarkable measure of national and international success? Baron Suyematsu did well to remind his audience of these things. He told them that he and his fellow-thinkers were just as desirous as the most radical of them could be to see party cabinets succeed, and he reminded them that if the so-called "Clan Statesmen" had desired to remain in office, they might easily have done so for four or five years longer. They stepped aside in the interests of the progressive movement which they had themselves planned and rendered possible.

But, while wishing success to the first party cabinet, Baron Suyematsu said that he and his friends could not ride in the same boat with it for several reasons. One was based on the general principle that there must be two parties if the system was to work properly. There was only one party at present. Another reason was that he did not consider the present Cabinet a purely party cabinet: it was a coalition ministry. A third reason was that the Party's attitude towards the "spoils system" had disgusted him. Concerning this last point he made a singular statement. Some of his former subordinates and official friends, he said, had asked his advice about retaining their positions. The new Cabinet wished them to remain, and the only question was, could they do so with propriety? He advised them in the affirmative, and all arrangements were made for their continuing in office. But the Cabinet, finding itself unable to resist the pressure of office-seekers among its political followers, had ultimately called on these men to resign. He considered such procedure a breach of faith, and a display of undignified weakness on the part of the Cabinet.

The "spoils system" is about as great an abuse as can disfigure the polity of any country, but it must be confessed that the present occasion in Japan has some

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very exceptional features. What has happened is not a mere transfer of the administration from one party to another. It is the accession to power of a body of men who had been struggling for twenty years to attain that end, and whose contention throughout the whole time had been that the prizes of officialdom fell to the share of the "clan statesmen's" favourities. Is it not natural that these men should now believe themselves entitled to oust the nominees of the Sat-Cho administrators? Nothing could be more unhappy than the establishment of such a precedent, and the Ministers are bound to fight against it with all the strength they possess. But if they are not gaining a complete victory, can we be altogether surprised?

FINANCE.

The Cabinet has been but three weeks in office, yet its opponents appear to think that it should already have formulated some definite financial policy; an unreasonable contention. In point of fact there is little, if any, doubt about the Cabinet's policy. It evidently intends to increase the *sake* tax as far as possible, and to make up any deficiency of revenue that may still present itself by taxes on salt and sugar. Mr. Hayashi, Minister of State for Communications, interviewed by a representative of the *Jiji Shimpo*, has expressed himself very explicitly. He regards the financial problem as comparatively simple, and thinks that 30 or 35 millions of extra revenue can easily be obtained without recourse to the Land Tax. By interdicting the private brewing of *sake* for domestic use, and enacting strict rules for the control of mixed *sake*, it is thought that the taxable quantity of *sake* will be increased to six million *koku*, and an additional 5 *yen* per *koku* of tax would give a return of 30 millions. Then there remain sugar and salt in reserve. Should these various sources prove insufficient, it will be time enough to fall back on the Land Tax. Mr. Hayashi then passed on to speak of the State purchase of private railways. For himself he had always been—, and still was, an advocate of that measure, but he was unable to say what would be the Cabinet's ultimate attitude towards it, for—and this remark seems to us specially worthy of note—the Constitutional Party was made up of two sections who had been called upon to take over the responsibilities of administration before they had thoroughly amalgamated or brought their views into full accord. Time would be needed to marshal them in accurate line for a general advance.

SUICIDE OF CAPTAIN HIJIKATA.

A sad and seemingly inexplicable event occurred in Tokyo on the 15th instant. Captain Hijikata Hisaakira, an officer of Artillery, son of Count Hijikata, formerly Minister of the Imperial Household, shot himself at 7 a.m., in his residence at Omote-machi, Akasaka. Captain Hijikata was only 36 years of age. He usually enjoyed robust health, but is said to have suffered lately from pains in his head. Not the slihgtest reason for alarm seemed to exist, however. On the 13th, the deceased officer attended to his duties at the office of H.I.H. Prince Fushimi, whose aide-de-camp he had been for more than a year. He passed the following day at home, his attendance not being required at the Prince's, and, up to the time of retiring to rest in the evening, neither his conversation nor his demeanour suggested anything unusual. At 7 o'clock the following morning, a shot was heard in his bed-room, and Mrs. Hijikata, hurrying in, found him in the agony of death. He had placed the muzzle of a six-chambered revolver to his gorge, and the bullet, severing the jugular, had passed out at the base of the skull. Captain Hijikata was an officer of much promise. He spent nearly ten years in Germany prosecuting his military studies, and he enjoyed a high reputation for zeal and intelligence. He was twice married. His first wife died during his absence in Germany, leaving a daughter who now lives with the Count and Countess. His second wife, who is little more than a bride, has a son who now becomes heir to the title. Very deep sympathy is felt with the bereaved widow and parents. It is understood that Captain Hijikata did not leave a will or any document throwing light on the sad occurrence. The funeral is to leave the residence of Count Hijikata in Hayashicho, Koishikawa, at 2 p.m. on the 18th instant.

A SINGULAR SWINDLE.

Probably some of our readers remember that twelve years ago there was much talk about the monetary affairs of the celebrated Kyoto temple, Chion-in. The temple, one of the grandest and most interesting in Japan, was said to be seriously embarrassed, and nobody could understand clearly how such a misfortune had overtaken it. Of course it is never surprising to hear that a Buddhist temple is in low water. The Restoration was an evil season for the folks to whom Japan owed nearly all her old-time civilization. They were deprived of revenues and estates, and reduced to a state of comparative, if not actual, poverty. But about such an institution as the Chion-in there was an atmosphere of grandeur that could not easily be reconciled with the idea of impecuniosity. Nevertheless, proofs were produced to show that the temple owed some eighty thousand *yen* to the Sixty-first National Bank in Kurume, and, after protracted investigations and discussions, the priests agreed to pay a sum of fifty thousand in ten yearly instalments, the parishioners promising to contribute the money. Last year the final instalment was paid, and everything seemed settled. But the incident is said to have now assumed a totally new phase. A book-keeper of the Bank has come forward and lodged information that the money was never really due by the temple, and that the whole affair was a plot concerted between Sugiyama Seiun, the chief steward of the Chion-in, and Sassa Osamu, the manager of the Bank. Several arrests—all the Bank's officers, it is said—have been made, and the preliminary investigation is going on. Much excitement is reported from Kyoto, and no wonder, for the deliberate robbing of temples has never been regarded with leniency in this country. It may turn out, of course, that the book-keeper is concocting a romance on his own account, but such a hypothesis is difficult to entertain.

THE LAND TAX.

We note with interest that Messrs. Taguchi and Shimada, speaking at the recent meeting of the Oriental Society in the Kanda Hall, used with respect to the Land Tax exactly the arguments advanced frequently in these columns. The opponents of an increased Land Tax speak with much eloquence and sympathy about the hardships of the farmer's life; how he goes to his work while the stars are still in the sky and leaves it after the moon has risen; how the sun scorches him and the frost numbs him, and so forth and so on, but in point of fact it is not the tiller of the soil that pays the tax but the landlord, and among all the classes of which a community is composed there is not one that works so little for its income as the land-owning class. Japanese landowners have been sitting with folded hands for twenty-four years, and all the time, owing to the effects of a general progress to which, in their capacity of landlords, they have contributed nothing, the value of their property has been steadily rising and the income they derive from it steadily increasing. Are they to enjoy the whole of that unearned increment, and is no share of it to go to the public who have created the conditions responsible for it? With regard to urban lands the case is quite monstrous. For purposes of taxation the land in Tokyo, for example, is registered at the prices ruling a quarter of a century ago, though its market value is often a hundred or even two hundred times as great as it was when the assessment was made. With respect to urban lands there is no question of that sentimental and misleading figure, the star-and-moon tiller of the soil. The tax-payer is the land-owner whose sole toil is the collection of his rents. This country is an inimitable object-lesson for the propagandists of that most enlightened of all systems, the single tax.

It was the land-owners, said Mr. Taguchi, that overthrew the Sat-cho Government. The Ministries of Yamagata and Matsukata fell because the land-owning interest in the Lower House clamoured for a reduction of the Land Tax. After the war, the Ito, the Matsukata, and again the Ito Cabinets fell because they wanted to increase the Land Tax. And now we have a Cabinet that shrinks from touching the Land Tax, and turns rather to taxes on articles of consumption, as *sake*, tobacco, salt and sugar. The consuming classes are to suffer in order that the landlords' interests may be consulted. Mr. Taguchi called the land-owners the "drones of society" (*shakai no yumin*), and to us the epithet seems excellently chosen. Apart, too, from the importance attaching to the subject itself, it is noteworthy that two such eminent members of the Constitutionalist Party as Messrs. Shimada Saburo and Taguchi Ukichi adopt towards this crucial question of finance an attitude opposed to that of the Party in general. They voted against an increase of the Tax last session. They did so, however, not because they objected on principle, but because they thought that the Diet should not be asked to sanction an increase of revenue until it had before it an exact statement of the estimated expenditures.

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GERMANY IN THE FAR EAST.

We have alluded more than once to the fact that Germany's procedure in the Far East has excited suspicion, and we now find a very out-spoken article on the subject in the *Jiji Shimpo*. Our contemporary's idea is that ever since she joined the Triple Alliance to deprive Japan of the Liaotung Peninsula, Germany has been steadily and astutely pursuing the policy of driving England out of the trade of the Far East and obtaining for herself the leading commercial place. With that object in view she made friendly advances to Russia, securing, at the same time, the additional advantage that an obstacle was thus opposed to the consummation of France's policy of revenge. In short, she made puppets of France and Russia and put restraining pressure on Japan, always keeping before her eyes an anti-English scheme, and always taking care to avoid anything that could excite England's suspicions. Meanwhile, John Bull watching these doings with dull eyes, did not detect the gradual paring away (*kogatana-saiku*), of his influence. Just as Germany was beginning to congratulate herself, however, the war between America and Spain came to upset her calculations. The prospect presented by the war is that another great Anglo-Saxon Power will make its début on the Far-Eastern stage. It is true that America has not yet appropriated the Philippines, and that she may, perhaps, sell them to England or cede them to Japan. But in any case the outlook is most unfavourable to Germany's plans, and she is therefore doing what she can to embarrass the United States at Manila. It is of prime importance to Japan—the *Jiji* continues—that America should take and hold the Philippines. Far from opposing such a consummation, this country should do everything possible to promote it, to the end that the rise of a dangerously ambitious Power in the Far East may be prevented. By thus acting Japan will be in full accord with England's ideas also, and will be preparing the day for that great result—the union of England, America, and Japan against Germany, Russia, and France.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* also writes on the subject of an alliance between America, Japan, and England, declaring that the time is eminently favourable for bringing the project into the field of practical politics, since the Philippines question will speedily present itself for settlement. China was opened by England; Japan by America. England has eight-tenths of China's foreign trade in her hands. America is Japan's best customer. All the three States are actuated by the same desire to promote civilization and assist the cause of humanity. Their interest and their sentiments are alike identical. They should certainly march hand in hand.

MR. PAK YONG-HO.

It appears that the reports recently circulated about a private messenger having been sent from the Emperor of Korea to convey his Majesty's pardon to Mr. Pak Yong-ho (known in Japan as Boku Yeiko) are incorrect. The only foundation for the story seems to be that Mr. Pak made a journey to Nagasaki a few days ago, but the account of his reason for making the journey, as now published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, imparts a new complexion to the affair. When Pak fled from Korea in 1884, he left behind him a young wife and a baby daughter only a few months old. His wife was put to death, but a nurse saved the child's life and placed it under the care of a Mr. and Mrs. Lascelles (?), American Missionaries then residing in Sōul. Pak did not know that his baby had escaped. He returned to Korea in 1894, under the auspices of the Japanese Government, without any idea of finding the child. After he had been appointed Minister of Home Affairs, however, the guardians of the little girl thought that her safety would not be imperilled by making known her parentage, and her father had the immense pleasure of finding a ten-year-old daughter instead of the sad memory of a slaughtered baby. He wisely entrusted the care and education of the little girl to Mr. and Mrs. Lascelles—wisely because, after a brief period of service in Korea, he was once again obliged to fly to Japan. Last year the Lascelles came to Nagasaki and took charge of the Kassui Jogakko (Female School of the Water of Life). They brought Mr. Pak's daughter with them, and it was to meet her after a parting of three years that her father recently repaired to Nagasaki. He denies that there was any question of a private messenger from the Emperor of Korea, or that there is any visible prospect of a pardon being extended to him.

THE AFFAIR OF THE GERMAN STOKER.

There appears to be a great deal of excitement in Yokohama about the probable consequence of the recent killing of a German sailor. Two men are under arrest, Mizoguchi Motojiro and Mizoguchi Tokujiro. They are said to be quiet, industrious people, and the contention is that the behaviour of the German towards a girl, who is described as Motojiro's daughter, was so brutal that forbearance could not be exercised by the most self-contained onlooker. Of course that may be a mere excuse. But it may also be true. We have no right to pronounce judgment one way or the other. At all events, a certain Mr. Ito Tomojiro organized a lecture meeting under the name of *Satsugai Jiken Ketsurui dai-ensetsu-kai* (tears-of-blood-for-the-killing-affair great lecture meeting), his intention being to arouse public sympathy on behalf of the suspected persons, and thus secure a mitigation of any sentence that that might be pronounced on them. The police, hearing of Mr. Ito's purpose, warned him that such a proceeding would be illegal while the case was *sub judice*. The law, indeed, is very clear on the subject. But Ito and his fellow-thinkers insisted that the affair was too pitiful to be left to take its ordinary course. They held their lecture meeting, and were all arrested by the police, some being committed for trial and others bound over to appear when required. It is an unhappy complication, not unlikely to arouse a good deal of feeling. Beyond all question, however, the promoters of the lecture meeting were to blame. There were many steps that they might have taken with perfect propriety, whereas the step they chose was utterly unlawful and intolerable. Justice could never be administered without fear or favour if the public were at liberty to organize indignation meetings while a suit is pending. Subscriptions to engage able counsel for the defence, the collecting and marshalling of trustworthy evidence on the prisoners' behalf, and finally the circulation and presentation of a petition—all these are legitimate measures, but a public lecture meeting is opposed to all reason.

AN AMERICAN ORCHESTRA.

Among the remarkable results of the rapid development of American musical taste within the past twenty years, not the least conspicuous is the creation of highly trained orchestras, the achievements of which have given them a European fame. The work accomplished by Theodore Thomas's superb body of musicians is as cordially appreciated in Berlin or Vienna as in New York; and the reputation of the late Anton Seidl and Damrosch, as organizers and conductors of the first class, is scarcely less extensive. It is perhaps needless to say that the majority of the performers of whom the orchestras in question are composed are of foreign birth. This is a circumstance to which, until recently, no particular consideration has been given. But we observe that a patriotic movement has now been initiated for the formation of an exclusively American instrumental force, every individual connected with which shall be required to produce testimony of his birth within the territory of the United States. Already a list of more than seventy members has been published, but even the most strenuous advocates of domestic art-interpretation must draw curious conclusions from the nomenclature displayed. Out of the whole seventy odd names, there is but one (Davis) which indicates American origin. The rest bear evidence of derivation from all the countries of Europe, England alone excepted, and do not even suggest the slightest attempt at naturalization. Sam Franko is the conductor,—a name merrily significant of the Italian fantoccini. One of the violins is more or less profanely designated Gotodamme, and cannot, naturally, be suspected of descent from a Puritan ancestry. The leading double-bass signs himself Kissantelle, a combination of sounds which no chivalrous son of the Republic would ever have selected for a surname. Among the trombones is one entitled Pfeiffenschneiderberg, a volley of syllables as raucous to the auricular nerves as the blast of the instrument with which the player thus styled rends the air. The second clarinet likewise bears an appellative burden of five syllables,—nothing less than Strelitzträmerlung. Every variety of nationality seems to be represented, save that which the new organization is intended to typify. One Davis can hardly make an American orchestra, in the strictest sense, any more than one swallow can make a summer. It is possible that all the individuals concerned were born under the Stars and Stripes, but who can doubt that their artistic qualifications are inherited from abroad? Every one knows the land where the names of Pfeiffenschneiderberg and Strelitzträmerlung are emblems of deeds that are done in their clime—done with musical, not lethal instruments,—and such names point unerringly to the nativity of their first possessors. You may break,

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you may shatter the line of citizenship for a generation or two if you will, but the trace of the fatherland hangs round them still. And they certainly carry better *prima facie* warrant of musical ability than any conceivable assortment of Browns, Smiths, and Joneses, or even Davises. Looked at impartially, and by the light of common reason, the idea of an orchestra made up of purely and unadulteratedly American players is absurd and impracticable. It could not be realized,—unless, perhaps, by laying a continuous prohibitory tariff on the foreign artist, and even then the home product would probably not be worth listening to.

MARQUIS TOKUGAWA'S FUNERAL.

The funeral of Marquis Tokugawa took place on the 17th instant, as announced. It was attended by an immense concourse of mourners. Indeed, the difficulty would be to say who was not there, rather than to enumerate those that were. The progress of the cortêge from Mukojima to Uyeno seems to have been somewhat quicker than had been anticipated, for whereas the service at the temple was notified to take place at 9 a.m., it was over fully fifteen minutes before that hour, and numbers of people arrived late. Immediately on the conclusion of the ceremony, which, being according to the Shinto ritual, was comparatively short, the coffin was taken to the terminus of the Mito Railway and despatched by train for the ancestral home of the deceased nobleman in Mito. Several carriages had been specially retained, and any person desiring to accompany the body to its last resting place found a seat awaiting him in the train.

MODERN ENAMELS.

The Japanese are certainly making wonderful progress in the art of enamels. Great interest was excited some ten years ago by the cloisonless work of Namikawa of Tokyo. It did not, however, elicit unmixed admiration, some critics being doubtful whether the attempt to produce purely pictorial effects by recourse to means so mechanical and with materials so obdurate could be reconciled with the principles of true art. Still, whatever objections might be raised on theoretical grounds, there could be no question about the beauty of the results produced. Quite a long time was needed to awaken public enthusiasm about these cloisonless enamels. People did not understand them and would not take the trouble to understand them. It is related of the first specimen—a snow scene—sent by Namikawa to London, that it was "skied" among the pictorial exhibits at the "Fisheries," and that the only attention it attracted was from people who wondered what on earth such a "drawing" had to do in such an *entourage*—among a number of sketches intended solely to illustrate piscatorial matters. However, as the plaque represented a man poling a boat along the base of a snow-clad mountain, spectators concluded that it bore some kind of relation to the business of fishing and its presence escaped censure but certainly evoked no admiration. The plaque returned to Tokyo in due course, somewhat "fly-blown," and the apocryphal sequel to the story is that an Englishman subsequently visiting Japan recognised the incongruous exhibit which he had seen at the Fisheries, and purchased it for a price dictated by languid curiosity. Namikawa seemed as far as ever from achieving success when an American dealer fell in love with one of his productions—a plaque with a design of barn-door fowl—and, *more Americano*, at once secured a monopoly of it. How many examples of that *niwatori* plaque thereafter passed into the hands of Western collectors at monopolist prices, we refrain from suggesting, the point being, not the story of a particular specimen, but the fact that the cloisonless enamels first obtained ingress to the market by the aid of a specimen which did not owe anything of its beauty to the absence of cloisons, and belonged rather to the class of work for which Kyoto had already become famous; work remarkable for the delicate manipulation of its wire outlines and the purity and richness of its colours. In a word, Namikawa captured the public by reverting to the technical traditions from which it was his speciality to have departed. All that he needed, however, was to attract attention. So soon as people began to look seriously at his productions, they recognised the great beauties of the work, and prosperity followed the long season of neglect and failure. Than came the manufacture of monochrome enamels. An English collector is said to have given the initial impulse to that very admirable departure. Observing the softness and grandeur of tone that distinguished the ground colours in some of Namikawa's pieces, he asked whether these accessory effects could not be raised to the rank of principal aims, and, by way of encouraging the effort, gave a *carte-blanche* order for a pair of monochromatic canary-yellow vases. Unqualified success was achieved. The vases —some twelve inches in height and of "eloquent form"—were duly despatched to London, at a price—well, for the collector's sake we suppress details. Nothing could exceed the loveliness of this canary-yellow. It had all the pearly tenderness, "maiden's-breath" softness and glowing delicacy of the choicest Chinese porcelain. In short, an ecstasy of adjectives might fairly be used in describing it. But Japan is the last country in the world where pioneer prices can be paid with any sense of security. The people's aptitude for imitation is so marked that they can confidently be trusted to follow successfully any route trodden by others. If the English collector had been gifted with a little Trans-Atlantic shrewdness, he would probably have stipulated that the canary-yellow process should be patented. But he missed that point, and the consequence was that, after a very brief interval, the Nagoya enamel-workers, keen rivals of both Tokyo and Kyoto, sent to the usual Spring Exhibition of the Fine Arts Society in the Uyeno galleries, a pair of canary-yellow vases, three times as large as Namikawa's originals, quite as satisfactory in the matter of colour, and just one-tenth of the price. There was a difference, it is true. At the rims of the Nagoya vases the metal base was exposed, whereas in Namikawa's specimens the yellow enamel was continued over the rim and carried to an invisible point within the vases. It does not sound like a crucial difference when thus described, but it amounts just to this, that in the one case the art is hidden, in the other it is bluntly revealed. Further, to carry the enamel over the rim so that there shall be no break of continuity is a technical feat which appears to be beyond the capacity of the Nagoya artizan. Everybody knows what a series of grand monochromes were produced after that first essay—liquid-dawn-red, pearl-grey, cerulean blue, aubergine-purple, grass-green, and many other admirable tints. Then followed transparent enamels run over a silver base. There is nothing novel in that idea. The use of translucent enamel laid on a metal ground on which various designs are sculptured so as to be seen through the enamel envelope, took its birth in Italy at the beginning of the fourteenth century, and several brilliant examples of the process are preserved in European collections. That is the method which the Japanese revived some four years ago. Whether they hit upon the process by their own genius or were instructed by foreign experts, we do not know, but the latter supposition is much the more likely of the two, for, speaking generally, the remarkable progress that their enamellers have made in recent years unquestionably owes much to foreign inspiration and foreign pigments and fluxes. As copyists or originators, however, they are eminently qualified for such work, their skill in graving and sculpting metals being almost unequalled, and their ability to produce translucent coloured enamels having reached a very high point. Yet another advance has now to be recorded. It is a combination of the translucent enamel processes of mediæval Italy and the enamel painting in which the artists of Limoges acquired such celebrity four hundred years ago. The beauty of the pieces thus produced is very great, but the technical difficulties are immense. The utmost care is required during firing, to prevent the several colours running together in a confused mass, and as yet this difficulty introduces such an element of uncertainty that fully fifty per cent. of the objects undertaken are spoiled before they have been subjected to the numerous firings required in the course of manufacture. That means, of course, high prices, but it must be confessed that these enamels are veritable things of beauty, probably the finest examples of the enameller's art ever produced in any country at any epoch. They should be commended to the attention of people who imagine that the artistic capacities of the Japanese have deteriorated since the country was opened to foreign intercourse.

JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS

The *Nippon* reports the inauguration of a new political organisation designated the Kwanto Doshi Club, which is composed of former members of the Diet attached to the Constitutional Party. They held their meeting on the 12th instant at the Shiba Maple Club, Tokyo, when over 40 members were present. Their principles are the steady protection and development of the Constitution, and they propose to direct their energies to securing to the club a leading power in Japanese politics.

The marine produce of Hokkaido, according to the *Nichi Nichi*, varies from 7 to 13 million *yen* in value, but this amount is insignificant compared with its agricultural potentialities. The reclamation of the North, when completed, will secure agricultural produce to the value of at least 200 millions. The speedy construction of railways and harbours is indispensable in view of these circumstances. As regards forests, it may be mentioned that an immense tract of land has been sold by the

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Government with the view of having trees planted on it, and several thousands of *tsubo* have been appropriated to this purpose for the first time this year. Many cases of fraud in respect to forest plantations are reported.

The Formosa Government Office is reported by the vernacular papers to have resolved upon retaining the silver *yen* for permanent circulation in the island. The approval of the council having been obtained, special regulations have been drafted and transmitted to the central Government for Imperial sanction. According to these regulations the silver pieces are to be circulated as legal tender from the 1st of August next, the value being determined by taking the average for four months. Stamped silver now in circulation is to be withdrawn by degrees.

The *Chuo* gives voice to the grievance of the *saké* brewers over the Government's taxation proposals. An augmentation of the tax to 20 *yen* would, it says, involve the utter ruin of the unfortunate brewers. If it be the intention of the Cabinet to destroy them, they had better give up their occupation at once, and cripple the Ministry by the withdrawal of 30 millions of *yen* which they have hitherto paid in the form of national taxes; and upon the subversion of the present Cabinet they could adopt measures to inaugurate a new and more equitable Ministry. A very practical scheme.

The authorities of the Army and the Navy, according to the *Yorozu*, are urging the necessity of putting aside a certain amount of money as an emergency fund. The project was submitted to Count Inouye for consideration during the last Ministry, and it was arranged that a bill for raising a foreign loan to the amount of 70 million *yen* should be presented to the Diet, but there was no practical result to the negotiations. The project, however, is under consideration by the present Cabinet, and the Premier is to be approached by the promoters of the scheme.

According to the vernacular papers, Count Itagaki, Minister for Home Affairs, convoked on the 13th instant a meeting of the Prison superintendents from Hokkaido, Nagasaki, and Miye, and addressed them on the necessity of improving the prison system in Japan. He said that while holding the portfolio for Home Affairs last year he had contemplated sweeping changes in the organisation of prisons, but his resignation rendered him unable to carry out the design. Now that he was again in office, however, he had determined to pursue this same policy. The most important step was the rigorous enforcement of sanitary precautions.

The *Nipton* states that marine transport business during the first half of this year has been extremely discouraging. During the first three months of the year no serious reduction was noticeable in cargo and passengers compared with the corresponding period of 1897. April and May witnessed, too, a slight increase, but in June the number of passengers considerably decreased, the reduction on the whole being no less than 20 per cent, and this too with freights higher by 20 or 30 per cent. than in previous years. Expenses of navigation have increased in consequence of the abnormal appreciation of coal and other commodities, and the result is to leave but a small margin of profit.

Makino Ioseki, of Kojimachi, Tokyo, recently lodged a complaint in a law court against the Minister of Communications for the recovery of 122,775 *yen*. It seems that, in in the 17th year of *Meiji*, one Kodama Shosuke obtained a charter for filling up a portion of the beach at Shinagawa. An enormous amount of money, however, being needed for the enterprise, Mr. Kodama transferred the privilege to Makino for 8,250 *yen*. Makino undertook the work with a capital of 220,000 *yen* and completed it. Subsequently a part of the land so filled in, covering 2,391 *tsu*, was purchased by the Government for the construction of the Shinagawa-Shinbashi railway, and, the value having not as yet been paid, the present claim has been made before the Tokyo District Court.

The Cabinet has not as yet adopted any definite course of action in regard to the position of Mr. Takano. Some of the Ministers, however, are reported to regard as unconstitutional the measure taken against the ex Chief Justice for his removal from office in Formosa. But if this step be declared invalid, then the appointment of Mr. Mizuo, the present Chief Justice, would also necessarily be illegal; and the judgments pronounced by Mr. Mizuo, it seems to follow, would be open to question. The *Yomiuri's* view is that the Minister responsible for Mr. Takano's removal, Count Matsukata, should be punished by being deprived of the special treatment to which an ex-Minister is entitled.

The *Nippon* criticises the present Ministry in its usual breezy style. The Government, it says, has installed and still endeavours to install in high posts persons whose talent is hardly equal to the duties they are called upon to perform. To retain its popularity, however, it must be firm in excluding from the sweets of office persons of the following classes:—Those who are notorious for their corruptibility and infidelity; those who are not respected by their constituents; those who are despised and nicknamed by newspaper writers; those who have incurred the imputation of want of learning. If nicknames ought to exclude men from official positions, Gladstone, Disraeli, and Salisbury would never have held Cabinet rank.

In order to exclude criminal or dishonest persons from the occupation of *keiwan* (conductors of servants' agencies) the granting of licences to them has been entrusted to the police authorities, and rules have been established for their control. Licences are not to be granted to the following:—(1) Those who have been, within three years, convicted of theft, gambling, fraudulent exaction of money, kidnapping, or the receipt of stolen goods. (2) Those who are considered to be of immoral character. (3) Inn keepers and inmates of inns. (4) Agents, clerks, office boys, and others connected with persons enumerated in (1), (2), and (3). The above rules were enforced from the 1st of this month. The licensed agents are prohibited from supplying as servants persons of the classes mentioned below:—(1) Those who, being under 20 years of age, have failed to obtain the consent of their relatives or guardians. (2) Wives without the approval of their husbands. (3) Persons whose social status is uncertain, and for whom there is no surety. (4) Those convicted of theft, frauds, or offences connected with stolen goods. (5) Pregnant women. No person is to be induced to become a servant against his own desire, or to be urged to leave his master during the fixed period of his service. No fees are to be received, under whatever pretext, beyond the lawful commission, and false statements must not be made either to employer or employed. No person seeking employment is to be lodged in the *keiwan's* house.

With regard to the claims of Japan on account of the late Shashi affair, several conferences have taken place between the Commissioners of the two Governments, and the following terms, according to the *Chuo*, have been agreed upon:—That the Chinese Government shall issue a notification warning the officials and people against similar occurrences. That the rioters and the officials who failed to adopt adequate measures at the recent disturbances shall be severely punished. That an indemnity of 10,000 taels shall be paid by the Chinese Government in addition to 50,000 taels as expenses for the construction of an embankment in the Shashi settlement. That the value of land for the Shashi settlement shall be reduced and the roads exempted from tax. That new buildings shall be erected as a Japanese consulate free of charge. That Santo island in Gakushiu shall be opened to commerce, with the condition that it may be conceded or transferred to Japan as soon as the system of exclusive settlement is established. That the Foochow settlement shall be determined by fresh conference with reference to the actual condition of the territory.

Count Okuma, the Premier, recently received a visit from Viscount Tani, Marquis Konoye, and Viscount Soga. The *Chuo* claims to have afterwards interviewed Viscount Tani, and states that the Viscount expressed his intention of supporting the Government in the event of its financial and foreign policy being satisfactory. The Viscount is opposed to a scheme for increasing the Land Tax, and speaks of the Premier as entertaining the same views. He is, however, utterly disgusted at the anxiety of the Constitutional party to secure the sweets of office. "Among the upstarts," he said, "many are so unworthy of the posts assigned to them that I cannot but look upon them with disdain. Even some of the Ministers themselves are hardly entitled to respect.

The stock of ice stored in the various vaults in Tokyo since the Spring amounted, according to the *Nippon*, to 8,500 tons, or 21,500,000 catties. One-fourth of this is estimated to have melted up to the end of last month, and the actual amount now available does not exceed 1,150,000 catties. The cause of this reduction is ascribed to the abundance of rain and the mildness of the weather during the cold season of last year, and to the general curtailment of stock determined on by dealers in view of the fact that improved machinery was to be imported by the Ice Manufacturing Company, capable of producing 110,000 catties of ice per diem. The ice dealers' forecasts, however, have proved fallacious. The machinery is not to arrive from England till September next; and as the stock of ice is falling short of the demand, prices are rising rapidly.

The *Official Gazette* of the 15th instant publishes an Imperial Ordinance inaugurating the establishment of a Commissioners' Office for adjustment of land questions, in Okinawa Prefecture. The Office is placed under the direct control of the Finance Minister, with a *personnel* of 90; the President and Vice-President being respectively of *chokunin* and *sonin* rank. The powers of the President, however, are to be vested in the Governor of Okinawa. Another Ordinance refers to the official organisation of the Central Observatory, to which the work of observing meteorological phenomena and those relating to magnetism, aerial electricity, earthquakes, &c., has been assigned in addition to the astronomical duties already undertaken. A third Notification refers to the official organisation of the Harbour Office, subject to the Minister of Communications, with a staff of 100 officials.

Now that the Administration Investigation Committee has been appointed, radical reforms are expected in the various official departments. The question of the establishment of a Public Works Department seems to have been already agreed upon by the majority of the Committee. No details have yet been ascertained, but the general programme appears to be that one or two Bureaux of the Agricultural Department are to be severed and placed under the control of the new Department. The funds required for the maintenance of the proposed Department, though they may seem to be an additional burden to the Treasury, will be amply provided for by a decrease in the expenditure of the Agricultural and Commercial Department. The problem of abolishing the Police Board is also on the *tapis*, and other sweeping changes are contempl ated in regard to the amalgamation or abolition of sections of various Departments.

The *Kokumin* deals with the old story of financial stringency and commercial embarrassment. It says no path is open for the introduction of foreign capital, and many important enterprises are fast sinking into decline through impecuniosity. The only remedy is to secure the aid of foreign capitalists, but their support can not be expected unless some radical

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measures are adopted. Municipal and prefectural loans should be put on the foreign markets, foreign funds should be obtained on the security of railways, and foreigners should be granted the privilege of owning landed property in the interior. The outlook, according to the *Kokumin*, is dreary. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha's coasting steamers are embarrassed through scarcity of cargo; the Nippon Railway Company's lines have suffered a reduction of 25 per cent. in goods traffic; the owners of houses in Osaka have had to reduce their rents by 20 per cent. As to the future, the rice crop in the autumn is, of course, the key to the solution of the question, but silk must also be taken into consideration. Quotations are rising beyond expectation; the close of the Hispano-American War is expected ere long; and the approach of the Paris Exposition can hardly fail to increase the volume of the silk trade. As for tea, the imposition of a tax in America has had no effect upon the trade. The extraordinary excess of imports during the past six months is simply to be ascribed to the precipitancy of merchants anxious to import on favourable terms prior to the operation of the new Tariff. A reaction will come next year.

An Imperial Ordinance was published in the *Official Gazette* of the 19th inst. declaring that the chief of the Administrative Courts shall hereafter be treated as a *shinnin* official. Another Ordinance issued over the signatures of the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce defines the number of officials to be engaged in the investigation of mining districts throughout the empire. The personnel consists of 3 engineers, 42 assistants, and 7 clerks. These are to be distributed among the various Mining Inspection Offices at the discretion of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

The Japanese salt industry, remarks the *Tokyo Asahi*, with its capacity of producing 10 million *koku* of salt, may fairly be considered as one of the most important of marine enterprises. The recent abnormal appreciation of fuel and labour, however, has led to the importation of Chinese salt manufactured by the heat of the sun, and German salt has also found its way into the field, to the no small anxiety of the native producers. In view of these facts an association has been formed to introduce reforms into the system of manufacture, but, whatever improvements may be introduced, the imposition of a tax upon imported salt seems to be of absolute necessity as a protective measure.

According to the *Kokumin*, the members of the Financial Investigation Society lately interviewed Counts Okuma and Itagaki, and Mr. Matsuda, Minister of Finance. Count Itagaki is reported to have stated that he still held the same views as formerly in regard to the state ownership of railways. Mr. Matsuda seems to have answered that he was awaiting an opportunity for carrying out measures of financial relief, and he is still engaged in making necessary investigations. The Premier announced his intention, meanwhile, to continue the purchase of public bonds through the Bank of Japan until October. As to applications to the Government asking for its guarantee for raising a foreign loan in connection with railways and harbour works, the Premier seems to have condemned the project as temporising. The committee of the Society reported the results of the interview to a meeting on the 17th instant, and a conference took place as to the best means of strengthening the combination and attaining the objects in view.

The *Yomiuri* writes at some length in condemnation of a scheme now under contemplation to increase the allowances of Parliamentary members from 800 *yen* to 1,800 *yen* or 2,000 *yen*, as to which a bill is to be presented in the 13th session of the Diet. The arguments in favour of the measure are that insufficiency of income on the part of members is likely to lead them to sell their consciences for money or remunerative employment, and to put a premium on bribery and corruption. The *Yomiuri*, however, thinks such members as are at present to be bought would not be likely to reform their morality on account of a slight increase of allowances. The project deserves serious condemnation if it is based, as rumour says, on the Government's desire to allay the discontent of disappointed members of the Constitutional Party. A Parliamentary career cannot be regarded as a definite profession, and no salary is paid to members in foreign countries, except in France and America, and even there the results of the system are not entirely satisfactory. Japan is mistaken in granting annual allowances to representatives in the Diet, and is still more mistaken in attempting to increase the amount.

The trade of Kobe, remarks a vernacular paper, has so developed during the past few years that it now threatens to surpass Yokohama. Comparing the commerce of the two places for the first half of this year, it is to be noted that the imports at Kobe largely exceed those of Yokohama, and this tendency is likely to increase in future. In view of these facts the Mitsubishi has taken steps to construct its warehouses at Wadamisaki, while the Mitsui firm has lost no time in following its example at Onohama. The following are the comparative figures for the two ports:—

	Exports. Yen.	Imports. Yen.
Yokohama	30,054,702	57,668,867
Kobe	28,174 813	82,634 956

Compared with the volume of trade throughout the Empire, the figures stand thus:—

	Imports Exports. Yen.	Percentage.
Gross total	224,465,705	100
Yokohama	87,723 569	39
Kobe.....	110,809,769	49

But the fact is not to be overlooked that, although the trade of Kobe may be, so far as figures go, superior to that of Yokohama, it cannot claim to rival the latter port in regard to the excellent quality of goods and the extensive demand for valuable articles.

The *Hochi* publishes a long speech delivered by Mr. Nishimura Shigeki on the subject of concubinage in Japan. He remarks that the custom has existed in the Orient from time immemorial, from Turkey and Persia on the one extremity to Japan on the other, and recalls the curious fact that the Book of Rites and Etiquette (Raiki) of China contains an express provision that an emperor shall keep 3 ladies as Empresses, 9 as Lady Chamberlains, 27 as proper Maids of Honour, and 81 as concubines. Japan resembles China on this point. The Shinritsu Korei (a code of laws promulgated immediately after the Restoration) ranks concubines with relatives of the 2nd class; they virtually held a position next in importance to legitimate wives. Until recently no argument has been advanced against concubinage except from the pen of Mr. Fukuzawa, who has written in condemnation of the practice now and then. His views are European in character, and being chiefly derived from Christian sources, recognise monogamy as the only virtuous course of life. Any comparison of the morality of East and West has its difficulties, arising from the difference in views between Orientals and Occidentals. To keep an unbroken family line is regarded by Oriental ethics as one of the greatest acts of piety and this doctrine carried to an extreme point, could scarcely fail to give rise to the abuse of concubinage. The reverse is the case in western countries; extinction of a family line, though regrettable, is not taken so tragically. The Oriental bias shows itself in Mr. Nishimura, when he expresses the opinion that it is justifiable to keep a concubine when a wife is childless. He regrets, however, the general prevalence of polygamy which, he is afraid, there is no prospect of extirpating for many years. He regards the custom as a great bar to progress.

We read in the *Tokyo Asahi* that zeal for the formation of political societies and combinations has become apparent among public men in Korea. Meetings are frequently held to discuss the topics of the day, and resolutions are submitted to the Government in the form of addresses to the Throne. The Independence Club, which figures most conspicuously among political organisations, has lately adopted, in addition to the course hitherto pursued in this respect, the practice of forwarding memorials to the chiefs of the Bureaux, and submitting questions to which replies are demanded. The Departmental heads are not a little perplexed by such procedure. A scheme is under contemplation to amalgamate the two sections of the Central Council in order to extend the authority of the body, but as this is the suggestion of the Independence Club, which is regarded with aversion by some of the Cabinet Ministers, it will probably be disregarded. Ministers lately suggested the necessity of organising a club under the name of the Imperial Party to counterbalance the operations of the Independence Club. The Prince Royal of Korea is said to have approved the idea and contributed 800 *yen* towards the organisation fund. Some of the Privy Councillors even counsel the Emperor to forcibly overthrow the Independence Club as dangerous to the imperial prerogatives. These proposals, have naturally, caused much resentment among the members, who are reported to have demanded on what possible grounds the subversion of the Club could be undertaken. They also remark on the delay in seeking redress for the insult to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the hands of the German Consul. With reference to this latter question, on the 3rd instant the members of the various political parties held a meeting at which it was decided that if the story of the insult proved true the German Consul ought to be removed immediately. The rumour as to the possible return of Pak Yong Ho seems to have struck the Emperor with terror, and he has given orders to his bodyguards to patrol the palace with increased vigilance.

OUR BOOK-SHELF.

The Standard Bearer: by S. R. Crockett. Methuen's Colonial Library; Yokohama—Kelly & Walsh, Limited.

We cannot agree with the reviewer in *Literature* when he describes "The Standard Bearer," "as Mr. Crockett at his best." Undoubtedly the tale is a pretty one to read and we find ourselves again in the good company of some of the brave folk who figure to such advantage in "The Men of the Moss Hags," to wit, Sir Alexander Gordon, more commonly known as Sandy Gordon, the Bull of Earlstoun, and his sanctimonious wife, the Lady Jean Hamilton, and also, though in a minor degree, we catch a glimpse of Col. William Gordon the narrator of the former story: but somehow or other there steals over one a feeling that the author has had to flog his pen and drive his brain to get the romance done and out of hand. It is perhaps the penalty that successful authors have to pay these days; the public clamours for books from their hands—and the demand must be satisfied. More's the pity. In "The Standard Bearer," Crockett takes us back again to his well-known Galloway hills and waters, but the date of the present story is a generation further from the time when the Bull of Earlstoun chivied the right honourable the Privy Council of Scotland from their seats and Council Hall when they casually suggested that he should be put to the torture. The storms of the "Great Killing" have almost passed away when the book opens, and men's minds, though still working like a yeasty sea in some parts of Scotland, have begun to turn towards more worldly things ere the story finishes. The book begins, in fact, in the year 1685, a year of ruth and death for so many a Cameronian Minister and Covenanting elder, and concludes shortly after Queen's Anne's Test Act had been accepted by the majority of the Kirk of Scotland. Quinton MacClellan, who tells the story, is the son of the "indweller" of the hill farm of Ardarioch, "which sits on the purple braeface above the loch of Knockmo." He sees the murder of one

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Edgar of Milnthird, a young saddler of Dumfries, a staunch Whig and Covenanter, who was shot down as he tried to escape from the King's soldiers along the flat table-land of Bennan; and later in the day safely conducts past these soldiers the Lady Mary Gordon, the three-year old daughter of the Bull of Earlstoun, to her aunt, then sheltering in the old tower of Lochinvar, while the girl's father makes good his escape. Years afterward, when peace has descended upon the Covenanters and men are once more allowed to abide safely in their own homes and worship God in the Kirk after their own fashion, the pair meet again. By this time Quintin has become the duly licensed and settled Minister of the parish of Balmaghie, which lies "in the very heart of Galloway, between the slow, placid, sylvan stretches of the Ken and the roaring, turbulent mill race of the Black Water of Dee." He makes love to Mary, but goes about it in so foolish a fashion that he receives an answer in the negative—as he richly deserves. This scene is about the best in the book. Troubles of another kind gather around our hero's head and finally he is excommunicated by the Presbytery for refusing to bow his head when the rest of the Kirk accepted Queen Anne's overlordship of the restored Kirk of Scotland. The parish stick by the brave young Minister in his sturdy fight for the Covenant, keeping the ecclesiastical, civil, and military powers at bay. But eventually "The Standard Bearer," as he feels justified in calling himself now, accepts the call of the Seven Thousand of the Hill-folk, in whose bosoms still burns bright and strong the spirit of the old Covenant, for they belong to those who "refused to enter the portals of any State church, but abode in the Way of Conscience and Righteousness." They can offer him no pay, no manse, no worldly emoluments whatever. But his spirit finds rest in their communion and that is all sufficient. He gives up his parish of Balmaghie and goes forth "a broken man." On the way to the West he calls in at Earlstoun and this time attains to his heart's desire, for the proud heart surrenders before the man who had lost all for conscience sake.

The story of "The Standard Bearer" is worth reading, even though the characters seem merely reflections from the pages of several others of Crockett's works. It is the inevitable result of this prolific writer's work that despite change of environment he cannot tear himself from the characters he first invented. Even his atmosphere remains the same. We wonder, too, why he sometimes fails to assimilate the spirit of the time which he strives to illustrate? Would a young Scots' farm lassie of the late seventeenth century really use such a phrase as this—"I will play the game fairly?" But our author can describe a fight very well, whether in the close wynds of Edinboro' or in the wilds of Galloway, and his descriptions of Scottish scenery and the delight of long, long days spent alone with nature are as fresh as the mornings he must often have seen breaking when he lived and worked in that very delectable land of the Covenant.

Hugh Wynne: by S. Weir Mitchell, M.D., LL.D., Edin., and Harvard; T. Fisher Unwin; Yokohama, Kelly & Walsh.

At such a time as this, all books dealing with the very beginning of the republic of the United States of North America, come freighted with absorbing interest, "Hugh Wynne," who tells the story, was sometime Brevet Lieutenant Colonel on the staff of His Excellency General Washington. He sprang from a Quaker stock—the well known "Society of Friends"—who were mostly of opinion that passive resistance was a duty. But others among them held that active resistance, even to bloodshed, was justifiable. These latter were disowned by the Friends and became known as Free Quakers. Many won distinction in Washington's army, others entered the civil service of the States, and in most cases they achieved high position. "Hugh Wynne" was one of their number, and his tale of the war of Secession—mingled with the woof and warp of a love story which at one time did not run at all smooth—makes one of the most interesting narratives we have had the pleasure of reading for some time. Here is the description of Washington which he puts into the mouth of his bosom companion, John Warder:—

"He (Washington) had changed greatly from the fresh, clear-skinned country gentleman I saw first in Philadelphia. His face was more grave, his very ruddy skin less clear and more bronzed. I observed that his eyes were deep set, light blue in colour and of unusual size; his nose was rather heavy and large; the mouth resolute and firm, with full lips. His general expression was sedate and tranquil. . . . There need be no silence as to this man, nor any concealment, and there has been much. I would have men see him as we saw him in his anger, when no language was too strong, in his hour of serene kindliness, when Hamilton, the aide-de-camp of twenty, was 'my boy;' in his starving camp by Valley Forge, with naked men shivering all night in their blankets by the fires, when 'he pitied those miseries he could neither relieve nor prevent. Am I displeased to think that although he rarely laughed he liked Colonel Scammel's strong stories, and would be amused by a song such as no woman should hear? This serene, inflexible, decisive man, biding his hour, could be the venturesome soldier, willing to put every fortune on a chance, risking himself with a courage that alarmed men for his life. Does any but a fool think that he could have been all these things and not have had in him the blood of passion? He had a love of fine clothes and show. He was, I fear, at times extravagant. As to some of his letters, they contained jests not gross, but not quite fit for grave seigniors not *virginibus puerisque*. There is one to Lafayette, I have been shown by the Marquis, but—oh, fie! Was he religious? I do not know. Men say so. He might have been, and yet have had his turns of ungoverned rage, or of other forms of human weakness. He was not given to speech concerning his creed. He had no tricks of the demagogue. He knew not to seek favour by going freely among the men. The democratic feeling in our Army was intense, and yet this reserved aristocrat had to the end the love and confidence of every soldier in the ranks."

We can thoroughly recommend "Hugh Wynne," for its historical as well as its human value.

DISASTER AT SEA.

A telegram received on the 19th instant at the Tokyo office of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and published by vernacular newspapers, reports that, on the 18th instant at 11 a.m., the Company's steamer *Harima Maru* ran on a sunken rock in the neighbourhood of Nemuro during a thick fog. There was no loss of life, but the ship made water very fast, and it is supposed that she has sustained serious injury. The *Kwanko Maru* from Nemuro and the *Suruga Maru* from Hakodate have proceeded to her aid. The *Harima Maru* is a small steamer of 721 tons gross. She runs between Aomori, Hakodate, and Nemuro.

Nemuro, July 19.

Yesterday at 10 a.m. the N.Y.K. steamer *Harima Maru* stranded off Goyonui during her voyage between Nemuro and Hakodate. A heavy fog prevailed at the time. The vessel is injured.

[On enquiry at the offices of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, we found that no details of the disaster or the damage done had been received. The steamer was one of 720 tons, and was under the command of Capt. Y. Ota. She had a general cargo for Yokohama and Kobe.]

Hakodate, July 19.

The N.Y.K.'s steamer *Harima Maru* last night stranded at Shanappu, off Nemuro. The passengers and crew were rescued, but it is feared it will not be possible to get the vessel off.

Nemuro, July 20.

The *Harima Maru* is damaged in three or four parts of the hull. The engine room and other parts of the interior are filled with water and the cargo is wet. Bad weather prevails, and it is impossible to get the vessel afloat.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT JAPANESE LITERATURE.

In the *Toyōtetsugaku*, Dr. Katō Hiroyuki has a long article on the teaching of leading Chinese philosophers on the question of the original goodness or badness of human nature. The essay is too technical for reproduction here. The conclusion which Dr. Katō reaches is that just as conduct generally is mixed, being partly good and partly bad, so the human heart is never entirely good nor entirely bad. As is well known, Mencius was the great champion of the doctrine that man is originally good, but is made to go astray by his surroundings, and 荀子 Sun-tsz was his great opponent. Dr. Katō thinks that the controversy would be more intelligible if for the terms good and evil the words egoism and altruism were substituted. The definitions of good and evil given by the leading Chinese philosophers show that actions are according to them to be judged by their effect on the person performing them and on others. Their system is essentially utilitarian, says Dr. Katō, and the recognition of this would render their writings on ethical subjects much more intelligible and interesting than they have hitherto proved.

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In No. 34 of the 名家談叢 *Meika dansō*, Yeuchō gives an account of the things to be borne in mind by would-be orators (*hanashika*.) These are written out and the student of oratory is required to affix his seal to them before being allowed to practice. They are as follows:—(1) Talk about what is not true (that is the imaginary). (2) Don't put on airs or presume on your elevation above your hearers.* (3) To be laughed at is good, but to be disliked is bad. (4) The speech must be suited to the occasion and the audience. (5) Never refer to a subject treated by a former speaker that has tickled the fancy of the audience. (6) Even though you may not be able to make a living, obey to the letter the laws of the Association you have joined (*Ago no kakegane wa hazusu tomo, renjū no torikime ni wa fundoshi wo shimete kakarubeshi.*

* * *

In No. 204 of the *Tōkei Shūshi* Mr. Tokutomi Iichirō in a very interesting article discusses the significance of statistics. Few Japanese, says Mr. Tokutomi, pay attention to statistics. Even to members of the Diet they seem to have little interest, and yet in a great variety of subjects they are the only sure guide. I often hear men say that the sight of lines of figures gives them a head-ache. There are some who allege that in a little country like Japan statistics are unimportant, but Japan is bigger than Italy and not much smaller than France, and as regards population ranks high among the six leading nations of Europe. Even the members of our Cabinets are frequently nonplussed for the want of reliable statistics. To give an example, last year the Cabinet found itself confronted with a deficit of 23 million *yen*. In order to meet this they proposed to increase the land and *sake* taxes. To the increase of the land tax it was objected that the time was inopportune, seeing that the farmers had recently suffered great losses. On this subject the Ministers had no statistics at hand, and they consequently had to telegraph off to the provinces to inquire into the extent of the losses, &c. Nothing but indifference as to the accuracy of published statistics can account for the discrepancies between the tables that are published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce and those issued by the Cabinet. In the report for the 26th year of *Meiji* is a table drawn up by the Statistics Bureau connected with the Cabinet, it is stated that the number of companies in Japan was 4,133, whereas in the Nōshōmushō report the figures given are 4,349. The capital of the companies is represented by the Cabinet report to be 209,860,400 *yen*, but by the Nōshōmushō report

* The reference is to the *Kōza*, high seat occupied by the orator.

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is said to reach 223,900,000 *yen*—a difference of over 14 million *yen*. The same discrepancy is found in other Government Departments and bureaux. Many of the reports of the Finance Department differ from those of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Even about the population of Tōkyō there is no agreement, a discrepancy of over 300,000 being found between the reports of the Police Office and that of the Tōkyō City Office. Thus we see that where less than 2 million persons are concerned there is no agreement. But there are still worse cases than this. We are told that in districts where there are only a few thousand inhabitants nothing like accuracy is aimed at. In the provinces rough estimates are made from year to year, and this is deemed sufficient. One hears a great deal about Japan's progress, but the materials for showing in a striking and detailed manner what has been the extent of that progress are not at hand. Take the subject of railways. How impossible it is to compare the relative cost of the different lines with their profits in the way that is so easy in Western countries. A little time ago this feat was attempted by a number of business men in Japan, but was given up in despair for want of the necessary statistics and on account of the difficulty of collecting them. The first step of progress in this matter must be the awakening of interest in statistics. If the majority of the nation realise the importance of reliable statistics they will soon be forthcoming. There are a hundred questions on which it would be an immense advantage to be in possession of accurate figures. Take the last election, for instance: Owing to the severity of the Government restrictions, the use of *sōshi* became impossible, and since *sōshi* have to be paid, one might argue that electioneering expenses were very much reduced by the Government interference. Such was not the case, however. In the place of money paid to *sōshi*, pecuniary inducements had to be provided for indifferent or sordid voters, and hence it was found that the abolition of the *sōshi* was a measure that cost the candidates large sums of money. In one case it is reported that the election expenses did not fall short of 70,000 *yen*. Now if statistics on this subject could be published public opinion would be immensely enlightened thereby as to the real state of the country. Take another example. In some prefectures in the North-Eastern part of Japan, the robbing of government forests is not only common, but so highly approved of by the majority of the residents near these forests, that when culprits are arrested and taken off to prison, their neighbours accompany them in a body to the gates of the prison, and when their time is up they make a demonstration that can only be compared to the reception given to the men who in the last war figured in the taking of Port Arthur. It is said that in the prefectures referred to quite seven-tenths of the criminals imprisoned are wood-stealers. It would be quite possible by a careful collection of statistics bearing on this subject from other parts to show that in the local regulations which are so triumphantly broken there is something unreasonable. It comes to this, that there is no instructor so reliable as carefully compiled tables of statistics, and in many cases there is no sure way of arriving at the truth but by wading through columns of figures.

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The *Teikoku Bungaku* asks what is the use of the Gakushi Kai-in? Though its members are undoubtedly men of learning and reputation, as an Institute this Association may be said to have effected little. Has anybody ever heard, asks the *Teikoku Bungaku*, of any reform that this Institute has brought about? Has it ever recommended to the Mombushō any measure having for its object the enlightenment of the nation? As we read of the many meritorious performances of similar bodies in Europe, we feel ashamed of our Gakushikai-in, which seems to us only to serve as a quiet retreat for the aged.

The *Teikoku Bungaku* has something to say on that much discussed subject the nude in Art. Over the acquittal of the editor and publisher of the *Shincho Gekkan*, on the ground that there was no proof that the naked figure published was an offence against public morals, this organ rejoices. But it maintains that since, apart from considerations of beauty, there can be no adequate reason for exhibiting pictures of nude women, it is desirable to determine at precisely what point beauty stops and indecency begins. Nude paintings that have no æsthetic merit whatever should be prescribed. As things are now, under the name of art, vulgar, suggestive representations of the human form are widely circulated. This should be put a stop to.

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The *Teikoku Bungaku* in a note on "The Publication by Subscription of Old Books," alleges that publishers are by no means always reliable and that there are numerous instances of long delay in the issue of works that have been paid for in advance. The cases cited by the *Teikoku Bungaku* are the *Gunjo-ruijū* and the *Kokushi-taikei*, advertised by the *Keisai Zasshi* Company, and the *Shiryōtaikan* announced by the Teisugaku-in. There have been cases where three years have elapsed before the publication of works announced to appear within 12 months, and still publishers do not return the money subscribed. This is a sure way of destroying confidence in the integrity of publishers. Then carelessness in proof-reading is almost universal. We were informed on one occasion that since proof-reading costs money, an important work would be published without revision. Another thing that has struck us, says the *Teikoku Bungaku*, is the great disproportion between the subscription prices and the subsequent advertised prices of books. The object of this no doubt is to tempt people to subscribe. But the early advertisement and the actual selling price of the work in many cases do not agree. For instance, a work whose actual price after the subscription list has closed is put at 3 *yen* per copy is often to be had in the bookshops at 2 *yen* per copy or even less. These and similar practices are very damaging to those whom they concern. They have frequently come beneath our notice, and hence it is that we call attention to them.

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We are often surprised by the number of pessimistic articles that appear in various literary organs. It is certainly one of the signs of the times that so many leading writers in Japan are engaged in denouncing the age and its practices. In the pages of the *Rikugō Zasshi*, under the title of "State Education and Ethics," Mr. Yokoi Tokio has some very trenchant things to say about his own countrymen. Under the plea of patriotism and loyalty to the Emperor, says Mr. Yokoi, many persons use language in reference to foreigners that can only be compared to the utterances of a New York workman. Such terms as *hekigando* (碧眼奴), *akahige*, and *kelōjin* are not such as one would expect to hear in the lectures of gentlemen, but they are most frequent, nevertheless. Many speakers can not refer to the Chinese without employing such an epithet as *chanchanbōsu*. This readiness to apply abusive terms to persons of other nationalities shows how little real morality there is in the minds of the masses. There is a deal of prating about *Jingi Chūshin*, benevolence and justice, loyalty and truth, as being virtues of which Japan is proud, but how few are the people that practise them. Lying is habitual among many classes. And as for the relation of the sexes, we are quite 200 years behind foreigners. Though chastity in women is expected and praised, licence in men is considered quite right and proper. The admiration for such heroes as the 47 *Ronin* does not imply any imitation of the nobility of their acts. The *Chūshingura* is regarded by many as the highest type of morality of which Japan is capable, yet it is but a tale of vengeance such as was very common in Europe 300 years ago, but would be universally condemned to-day. It is evident that ethically it can never rank high judged by the best standards. By foreigners it is rightly regarded as a pitiable story—so many lives and so much domestic happiness sacrificed in a cold-blooded manner to satisfy a code of honour that now no longer exists in most civilised countries.

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An article of great length from the pen of Mr. Tokutomi Iichirō appears in the *Wasedā-bungaku*, the subject being general literature. We have no space for more than a brief notice of its contents. Mr. Tokutomi expresses surprise at the way in which students of foreign literature neglect to study the Bible. To study foreign literature without reference to the Bible is like studying European Law without a knowledge of Roman Law . . . . . Good translations are desirable, but the labour they entail is considerable, and we are not sure whether the results of study may not be given in a shorter time by writers expressing themselves in their own way in original works. Instances where, as in Mr. Tsubouchi's case, there is special talent are quite exceptional. It is our hope that Mr. Tsubouchi will make the translation of Shakespeare the work of his life. . . . . In Fiction there is great dearth of political novels. At the present time the whole life of Japan centres in politics. Is it not surprising that this fact should not be recognised and made use of by novelists? As things now are, the political and literary worlds have little connection with each other. It is difficult to awaken a thorough interest in politics in the minds of most of our *littérateurs*. And as for the mass of active politicians, they are not of a literary turn and could not figure as writers even if they would. Thus we are confronted with the fact that we are passing through a time of great conflict of rival forces, through changes of an unprecedented character, and yet there is no class of fiction corresponding to the writings of leading English novelists marking the progress of thought, the passing away of the old and the inauguration of the new.

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No. 370 of the *Kokumin-no-Tomo* is full of interesting matter, but the articles which seem to us most worthy of mention are "The debasement of Japanese Taste," by the Editor; "Evolution in Social Ethics" by Mr. Ukita Kazutami; "Japan's Foreign Policy," by Mr. Asagawa Kanichi; and "A talk on Education" by Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō. In the first of these it is maintained that there is a general decay in manners, the higher classes having descended to the level of the lower ones, and that, corresponding to this, the middle and upper classes have lost the refinement of taste they formerly possessed. A foreigner is alleged to have observed that "in Japan the coolie is a gentleman and the tea-house girl a lady." It would be more correct to say that "the gentleman has become a coolie and the lady a tea house girl." In architecture, in the language in everyday use, and in the various customs of society the writer of the editorial we are noticing sees nothing but deterioration. To him the whole country seems permeated with vulgarity. Most Japanese newspapers are not superior to the sensational, gossippy sheets that circulate in America, and in the publication of indecent details and personalities they far surpass American journals. The writing in these journals is mostly of an extravagant type. Praise and blame are both carried to excess. A man is either represented to be a saint past all praise or a scoundrel beneath contempt. All proportion is lost in many of the diatribes penned to please a degenerate public.

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The *Sekai-no-Nippon* (No. 29) publishes the views of a foreign visitor who has been recently engaged in the inspection of schools and the examination of the state of education in Japan. The impression received was unfavourable. We have only space to record the general conclusions reached, as given in a lengthy article. The general physique of the mass of students in elementary schools is pronounced to be bad. Their respect for their teachers is not what is

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desirable. The blame of this is not to be imputed to the scholars only. The teachers act in a mercenary and perfunctory manner and show little real interest in the progress of their pupils. The elementary schools of the metropolis are inferior to those of the provinces in both size and cleanliness. The morals taught are rendered as unattractive and ineffective as possible. Instead of holding up the lives of men of virtue for imitation and endeavouring to explain what is implied in the terms duty, right, justice, &c., the instructors perpetually harp on the importance of loyalty to the Emperor and filial piety. No respect for the teaching of Shintō, Buddhism, or Christianity is enjoined. Though religion is not usually taught in Government schools in the West, yet the general teaching at such schools is not antagonistic to religion, but here ethics are of a distinctly materialistic type. The practice of reading an Imperial Rescript that is 9 years old from time to time can only be compared to the reading of prayers with which everybody is familiar by Buddhist priests and others. This can only be regarded as an empty ceremony. The Rescript undoubtedly lays stress on important moral principles, but the application and explanation that these principles receive at the hands of school-teachers is most inadequate. As a subject of study, Ethics may be said to awaken little interest in the minds of pupils. They listen to moral discourses in a sleepy, listless manner, and for this the method of discussing the subject is to a large extent responsible.

* * *

In an interview with Dr. Inouye Tetsujirō held by one of the staff of the *Kokumin-no-Tomo*, the professor is said to have given utterance to the following sentiments respecting education. Ethical teaching is too much in the hands of old men of the Chinese School. These teachers are slaves to the letter and exercise little influence over the minds of students. The dissociation of morals from the ideographs is most desirable from every point of view. Exactly what will be the nature of the change that our language will undergo it is difficult to forecast, says Dr. Inouye, but the disuse of Chinese as much as possible is highly desirable. There is no denying that the physical science and the Confucian ethics which are being taught are antagonistic influences. Turning to other features of the present educational system, the employment of very young teachers in the way that is common in the Middle Schools is a mistake. The students are apt to regard such teachers as on an equality with themselves. There are both teachers' and students' strikes. The former are usually connected with salaries. The latter are in the majority of cases caused by unreasonableness in the application of rules. One remedy for this friction between students and teachers to be recommended is the holding of periodical friendly gatherings of masters and pupils.

* * *

There exists an Antiquarian Association known as the 考古學會 *Kōko-gakkai*, the headquarters of which is at No. 3, Motomachi, Hongō, Tōkyō. The work of this society consists of the collection, classification, and comparison of relics of various kinds, and the recording of the changes which the articles collected have undergone in the course of ages. By degrees the members hope to collect sufficient information to form the basis of a scientific archæological system. At a recent meeting of the Society, noticed by the *Nihon Shugi*, Dr. Tsuboi Shōgorō read a paper on "The Weapons of the Stone Age," in which he expressed the opinion that there were traces of a race of men that neither resembled the ancient Japanese nor the Ainu, whom he considered to be a branch of the Northern Esquimaux. After this an elaborate paper was read by Mr. Miyake on "Ancient Weapons of War." These he divided into five kinds, which were subdivided into 14 sub-classes. Iron weapons predominated; copper weapons were rare. Mr. Matsubara followed with a paper on "The Armour of the Middle Ages." Suits of armour belonging to different ages were exhibited and put on by the lecturer.

* * *

Mr. Hara Kei, formerly Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, has published a work entitled *Shinjōyaku Jisshi-jumbi* ("Preparations for the carrying out of the New Treaties,") which deals with most of the questions likely to arise when the new arrangements come into force next year. Such subjects as foreign property in the Settlements, and the connection of foreigners with Japanese commerce and industry are fully discussed. The work was issued by the *Osaka Mainichi Shimbun* and sells at 20 *sen*.

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In both the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun* and the *Fukuin Shimpō*, Count Okuma's address to the Young Men's Society is reported. The subject was, "Changes in My Ideas during the past half century." We give a short summary of the speech:—I was born just after Napoleon had been overthrown and the Treaty of the Holy Alliance signed. It was a time when the Bakufu was beginning to feel the effect of a large amount of disaffection. In my yearly days I studied the writings of 朱子 Chu-hi. My father was Commander of the Fort at Nagasaki and in constant communication with the Dutch. From them he obtained a general notion of the state of foreign countries. When I was quite young an Ambassador from Russia who failed to make himself understood in this country was so overcome with chagrin that he committed suicide. This impressed me very much; I began to think that there were great men even in foreign countries. The arrival of Commodore Perry was the signal for a conflict between the anti-foreign and pro-foreign parties and the anti-Bakufu and pro-Bakufu sections. I urged educational reform in my native place, and for this was turned out of the school. I made use of this opportunity for studying Dutch. But at that time to study a foreign tongue was deemed a sign of disloyalty. This I felt keenly, and in order to nourish my patriotism took to the study of native literature. With the view of making myself a worthy successor to my father, I studied military books. In a Dutch work which fell into my hands the causes of the prosperity of European countries were discussed. I was impressed by what was said about the importance of learning and of a military spirit. For some time I was an ardent anti-foreign partisan and an enemy of Christianity, which I regarded as a danger to the State. I studied physical science so much that I became a zealous materialist. The Dutch books circulating in Japan at this time were nearly all materialistic. This accounts for the tendency of Mr. Fukuzawa's teaching. I studied the Bible under Dr. Verbeck for about a year and a half, but I failed to understand it. I laid myself open to suspicion by this action, but subsequently cleared myself by representing that my object in studying the Bible was hostility to foreigners and a desire to know their real tenets with a view of combating them. But in the meantime my mind was undergoing transformation. Study of foreign books gradually undermined my anti-foreign sentiments, and intercourse with foreigners revealed to me my own defects. I felt anxious to spread foreign learning, and in order to effect this determined to throw in my lot with those who were planning the overthrow of the Bakufu. I became what we now call a *shōshi* and for a time entirely abandoned study. In the meantime, thought was advancing, and at last it came about that he who once was an irresponsible inmate of one lodging-house after another with one leap reached the rank of a Minister of state. The fight between the Liberals and Conservatives was severe, and it is surprising that the nation did not run riot at this time. It is creditable to us that we kept our heads during that crisis. My policy was to make use of foreign pressure in order to insure internal progress and reform. Everything went ahead apace, but I found that as a nation we had drifted into materialism. What has impressed me most in recent years is the necessity of replacing those good old rules of life which were swept away by the flood of Western knowledge with something lasting and effectual. The materialism that I once believed in I now see to be one of our greatest foes.

* * *

In the *Tōyōtetsugaku* (No. 6) Mr. Mitsuishi continues to discuss the desirability of radical linguistic changes in Japan. The first step to be taken, according to Mr. Mitsuishi, is the choice of a style for the written language that shall answer all purposes. At present there are in everyday use at least six different styles. There is (1) The archaic native style; (2) the Chinese literal translation style, in which Chinese is rendered into Japanese without altering the order of the words in the sentence more than is necessary; (3) the style adopted by literal translators from European tongues; (4) the style of the novelist (5) the style of contemporary literature—the newspaper and magazine style; and (6) the polite epistolary style called *Sōrōbun-tai*. It is quite evident that as long as these different styles exist the amalgamation of the written and spoken languages can never be effected. Coming to colloquial, it is very desirable that a standard of speech should be decided on and rendered authoritative, says Mr. Mitsuishi, and, all things considered, the Tōkyō dialect, with objectionable terms expurgated, offers the most suitable medium of communication. The numerous forms which some words have acquired should be reduced to one or two. There are nine forms of the honorific auxiliary verb to be (1) *gozarimasu*, (2) *gozaimasu*, (3) *gozaesu*, (4) *gosansu*, (5) *goesu*, (6) *gowasu*, (7) *gonsu*, (8) *gansu*, (9) *gesu*. Mr. Mitsuishi does not pretend to have exhausted the forms. Two more occur to us at the moment. *Gozat* and *gozaru*. In this writer's opinion Tōkyō has established its claim to take the lead in the reform of Japanese colloquial speech.

* * *

Two other articles on the same subject appear in recently issued magazines. One in the *Kokumin-no-Tomo*, signed Yayoi; the other by Mr. Maruyama Mitsukazu, published in the *Rikugō Zasshi*. Yayoi is an advocate of the use of *kana* in preference to *Romaji* as a substitute for the ideographs. He says that the cost of placing *kana* by the side of ideographs is very great and that the proprietors of newspapers have to pay a special people for this work. He is of opinion that linguistic reform must come of itself in a natural manner and cannot be effected by the efforts of any special party, however strong.

Mr. Maruyama refers to the fruitless attempt to substitute the Roman letter for the old German forms in use in Germany, as illustrating the difficulty attending linguistic reform of any kind. His essay is very long. The following are the subjects treated:—(1) The suitability of the Japanese language for being written with *kana* only. (2) The imperfections of the *kana* as now used. (3) The use of *Romaji*. (4) The need of adding to the *kana* now in use. (5) The necessity of altering the method of using *kana*. (6) The use of old and new words co-ordinately. (7) The principles to be observed in the retention of words and in the observance of rules of grammar. As we remarked a few months ago, the necessity of bringing about some kind of change in the method of writing the language is very widely felt, this being evidenced by the number of articles published on the subject.

A TOKYO LADY'S SUICIDE.

A sad incident occurred on the steamer *Shinkyu Maru* on the night of the 15th inst. As the steamer was off Niiura, Watarai-gori, Ise Province, one of the passengers, a young lady named Yoshizawa Kume, 19 years old, residing at Yayoicho, Hongo, Tokyo, jumped into the sea. The Captain promptly stopped the ship, and lowered boats, but with no result. In the lady's cabin the Captain found a letter asking pardon for the trouble her conduct would cause.

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CONCERNING FOREIGNERS' DISABILITIES.

From a vernacular magazine named the *Naichi zakkyo Jumbi Kwai Zasshi*, or Magazine of the Society of Preparation for Mixed Residence, we gather the following opinions relating to the private rights of foreigners in Japan.

I. RIGHTS *in rem* OF IMMOVABLES.—According to the new Anglo-Japanese Treaty foreigners have a right to own buildings, leases land for residential or commercial purposes (Par. 2, Art. 3 of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty), and hold land, as superficiaries, (Par. 4, Art. 18 of the same Treaty). These are rights the enjoyment of which Japan is bound by Treaty to grant to foreigners. Other rights *in rem* of immovables not mentioned in the Treaty may also be enjoyed by foreigners according to the provisions of ordinary Japanese law, the only difference being that the enjoyment of the latter class of rights may be prohibited by Japan without any breach of the Treaty. Art. 9 of the new Law of Operation of the Civil Code provides that the present regulations, except Art. 11, shall be abolished on the coming into force of the new Civil Code. Article 11 thus excepted relates to mortgage and hypothecation of land, and prohibits the sale, mortgage, or hypothecation of land to a foreigner. But as Art. 2 of the new Civil Code (which comes into force on and after the 15th of July, 1898) provides that foreigners may enjoy all private rights except those prohibited by law or treaty, it must be concluded that foreigners may enjoy all rights *in rem* of immovables, inasmuch as there is no prohibition in Japanese law concerning such rights.

II. CAN A FOREIGNER OWN SHARES?—Upon this subject the magazine refers to the memorial (which we believe preceded the promulgation of the new Civil Code) presented to the Government by the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce as an expression of the wishes of the commercial public. The writer approves the principles set forth in the memorial, but at the same time states his opinion that it was unnecessary to ask for the Government's admission of them, as they were already self-apparent. The essentials of the memorial are these:—There are no provisions either in the present treaties or in the new Treaties to prohibit foreigners owning shares, and there are no regulations in Japan which clearly provide that all the rights not mentioned in the Laws or Treaties shall not be enjoyed by foreigners; it may, therefore, be inferred that a foreigner may own shares if such ownership is not prohibited by Japanese laws or regulations. By the present regulations, foreigners are prohibited from becoming shareholders of National Banks, the Bank of Japan, the Specie Bank, Mining Companies and Bourses; and the laws relating to the Encouragement of Navigation, and of Shipbuilding provide that subsidies shall not be granted to companies whose shareholders are foreigners. The existence of such special prohibitions proves conclusively that a foreigner may be a shareholder of any company which stands outside of the above regulations. He may become even a shareholder of a railway company (which stands outside of the regulations quoted), although such company own land, because the right of ownership of land is not extended to him when he becomes a shareholder of the company.

III. CAN A FORRIGNER BE PROHIBITED BY JAPANESE REGULATIONS FROM BECOMING A SHAREHOLDER OF A JAPANESE COMPANY?—Some people believe that the present regulations, which prohibit foreigners from becoming shareholders of mining companies, companies for gathering mineral dust, emigration companies, bourses, the Bank of Japan, and the Yokohama Specie Bank, must be abolished on the eve of the operation of the new Treaties to avoid a breach of the Treaties. Their assumption is grounded on (1) Par. 3, Art. 1 of the Franco-Japanese treaty, and (2) First clause of Par. 1, Art. 4 of the same treaty. They allege that the word *industrie* in the First Clause of Par. 1, Art. 4 of the Treaty includes occupations such as those of the companies above-mentioned. But the *Naichi Zakkyo* objects to such a wide interpretation of the word, and believes that the regulations are not in contravention of the treaty. It is very questionable whether the word should be held to include mining, but if it does include mining the present law which prohibits foreigners from becoming shareholders of Mining Companies or Companies for gathering mineral dust will be in contravention of the Treaty. A Bourse can not be included in the word *industrie* because it does not itself carry on trade. If, however, a foreigner were prohibited from becoming a shareholder of a company, the occupation of which is an *industrie*, or *kogyo*, a *métier* or *shukogyo*, or trade in a narrow sense, it would be a breach of Par. 1, Art. 4 of the Treaty, unless the prohibition was based on very important causes touching the public peace of the State. The other assumption, grounded on Par. 3, Art. 1 of the Franco-Japanese Treaty, turns upon the word *valeurs*. It is alleged that shares are included in that word, but the magazine under review objects to such an interpretation, and after giving its reasons at some length, proceeds to argue that even if it be presumed that shares are included in the term, it can not be understood that the existing prohibition is inconsistent with the treaty stipulation. To interpret reasonably the paragraph in question, which permits foreigners to "acquire, own, or transfer goods, *valeurs*, and movables," it must be admitted that the paragraph refers to goods, *valeurs*, and movables which are in their nature enjoyable by every person, and the ownership of the shares of certain companies like the Bank of Japan cannot be regarded as of that nature. Moreover, Par. 1, Art. 4 of the Treaty, which stipulates that foreigners shall not be prohibited from becoming shareholders of industrial companies in the narrower sense of *industrie* proves incidentally the fact that Par. 3, Art. 1 of the Treaty is not intended to give foreigners the right of holding all kinds of shares.

A propos of this we refer to the Regulation affecting Doctors' Licences (Notification No. 35 of the 16th year of Meiji), which in Art. 4 provides that "when a person who has graduated from a foreign medical university or school, or who has obtained a licence as a medical practitioner in a foreign country applies for a licence to practise in Japan, the Minister of Home Affairs shall inspect such foreign diploma or document, and may grant the licence to practice in Japan without any examination." We believe the article is now in force. It is no doubt intended to apply to Japanese subjects only, and shows how a graduate of a foreign medical school is appreciated in Japan, and also indicates the treatment likely to be accorded to foreign physicians when the new treaties come into force. But with regard to Japanese advocates (*bengoshi*), the provision is quite different. Even a Japanese who has obtained the highest foreign degrees relating to jurisprudence is not permitted to practise law in Japan unless he passes the specified Japanese examination.

JAPANESE TRADE IN 1898.

The excess of imports during June this year amounted, accordingly to the vernacular papers, to 16 million *yen*, while the excess of exports in bullion and coins aggregated 4½ millions. The figures for the 1st half of this year, compared with those for the corresponding period of last year, are as follow:—

	1st half of 1'8. Yen.	1st half of 1'7. Yen.
Exports	69 647,099	75,071,485
Imports	154,840,805	99,041,224
Total	224,487,904	174,112,709
Excess of imports	85,193,706	23,969,739

Comparing the aggregate amount of exports and imports each year since the 28th year of *Meiji* (the year before the war), the following figures are obtained:—

	Exports & Imports. Yen.	Excess of Imports. Yen.
1893	177,970,036	1,455,692
1894	230,728,041	4,235,896
1895	265,372,756	6,851,599
1896	289,517,234	53,831,713
1897	382,435,848	56,165,674
1898 (1st half)	224,487,904	85,193,706

The increase of population and the appreciation of commodities may naturally have had the effect of augmenting the volume of trade, but it is surprising to observe that the aggregate total for the 1st half of this year is larger than that for the whole year in 1893. The figures as to the excess of imports are still more striking, and it is no exaggeration to predict, under these circumstances, that the excess this year will probably be treble that of 1897. If the treaty between Japan and Austria were ratified the new Tariff could be enforced from October next, and the tendency to an excess of imports would be effectually checked; a gradual fall in prices of commodities might contribute to the same result; and a success in the rice crop this year would certainly lead to a marked reduction in imports. But these are not yet accomplished facts, and until they are, the foreign trade of Japan can not be expected to be other than adverse. The following table gives the figures of bullion imports and exports:—

	1st half of this year. Yen.	Corresponding period of last year. Yen.
Exports	61,275,764	4,148,534
Imports	4 677,353	69 920,678
Excess of exports	56 598,411	—
Excess of imports	—	65 772,144

The following table shows the value of imports and exports in the staples of Japanese commerce during the last two years:—

	1st half, 1898. Yen.	1st half, 1897, increase or decrease. Yen.
EXPORTS.		
Raw silk	13,005,414	—6 517,078
Noshi & waste silk	1,216,965	— 283,424
Habutae	4,784,650	59,648
Kai silk	284 559	235,129
Silk handkerchiefs	1,607,302	— 156,281
Cotton yarns	9,451,449	2,998,176
Cotton stuff	1,103,110	— 70,178
Ground matting	441,519	— 90,510
Matches	3,295,001	438,445
Straw matting	1,727,577	— 521 365
Porcelain	944,860	16,790
Lacquer wares	370,687	— 10,687
Straw braids	1,027,406	— 455,315
Umbrellas	491 901	57,266
Tea	3,930,118	— 377,363
Rice	2,170,009	—2,784,108
Sardines	417,116	— 131,802
Sea weeds	225,053	— 15,278
Fish oil	153 487	— 78,834
Mushrooms	250,572	— 36,163
Camphor	627,024	— 52,062
Crude and wrought copper	2,863 903	— 224,616
Coal	7,498,775	2,367,085
Vegetable wax	291,353	—6,914
Miscellaneous	11,469,219	225,053
Total	69,647,099	—5,424,386
IMPORTS.		
Raw cotton	27,699,159	4 148,014
Cotton yarns	5,404,250	1,368,172
Shirtings and muslin de laine	3,112,438	1,264,198
Cotton serins & velvets	1,221,779	— 481
Wool	691,152	320 584
Turkey reds	2,425,860	407,160
Italian cloths	325,121	467,850
Flannel	500,262	10,746
Cloths	731,222	— 29 689
Watches	1,328,173	419 201
Machinery	4,166,684	—3,324,757
Locomotives and cars	2,239,878	143 826
Iron, bar, road, and sheet	2,917,664	1,792,457
Rails	1,699,651	— 78,428
Iron nails	402,923	— 86,379
Other iron and steel	3,174,464	1,598,242
Sugars	10,686,184	2,506,224
Rice	39,524 404	30,283,790
Peas and beans	4.083,742	1,622,273
Kerosene oil	4.001,793	290,063
Oil cake	3.045,511	1,748,208
Indigo	1,128,678	325,738
Spirits	1,318,267	1,027,093
Cigarettes	601,245	152 929
Miscellaneous	32,439,801	10,258,288
Total	154,840,805	55,799,581

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NOTES ON NEWS.

The Bank of Japan continues buying bonds —consols and war-bonds. Its purchases are now said to aggregate 13 million *yen*, and the price of the bonds stands at 96. There appears to be some uncertainty about the extent to which this transaction is to be carried. Our own belief is that Count Inouye set aside a total sum of 20 million *yen* to relieve the pressure in the money market; 5 millions to be handed to the Industrial Bank for the purpose of accommodating manufacturers, and 15 millions to be employed by the Bank of Japan for the redemption of bonds. But the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* now alleges that 30 millions was the sum placed at the disposal of the Bank of Japan, and that the maximum price to be paid for the bonds was fixed at 96. We are disposed to question the correctness of the former figure. Certainly the accounts of the Finance Department when Count Inouye held the portfolio showed that the total surplus temporarily available from the Indemnity was only 20 millions.

A great deal of capital is made out of this question of redemption. The Opposition journals endeavour to convict Count Okuma of inconsistency, because, while he is understood to have denounced the unwisdom of redeeming debts with one hand and contracting them with the other, he is nevertheless allowing the Bank of Japan to continue its purchases. We fail to detect the contradiction ourselves. The operation in which the Bank of Japan is engaged is not primarily a redemption of debt. Its paramount, indeed we may say its sole, object is to provide monetary facilities for enterprise by enabling people to unlock some of the capital invested by them in public securities. The Treasury merely places as many millions at the temporary service of business, instead of keeping the money idle in its vaults.

The embarrassment of the cotton-spinning industrials seems to be increasing rather than diminishing. The Naniwa Company has had to suspend operations; the Hiroshima branch of the Asahi Mill has also been closed, and work at the Mill itself is said to be merely nominal. These, we presume, are companies which, not being in a position to comply with the conditions imposed by the late Minister of Finance, Count Inouye, with regard to reserves and general organization, were unable to obtain any accommodatiom from the Industrial Bank.

Prince Konoye denies that his rejection of the Cabinet's proposal to appoint him Director of the Legislative Bureau was dictated by any sense of the insufficiency of the post. He refused simply because his occupations are already too numerous to be supplemented by the duties of such a position. Nevertheless the general tone of the Prince's conversation with the interviewer who records these statements does not indicate any friendly disposition to the Cabinet. He said that, for his own part, he had no desire to be converted into a mere figure-head, and that, so far as concerned the section of the Peers—the Sanyo-kai—to which he belonged, they were by no means opposed to the principle of party cabinets, but they felt much uneasiness lest the epidemic of office-fever now raging should be the means of connecting the first party cabinet with a thoroughly bad precedent. They intended, therefore, to be guided by events in their attitude towards the Cabinet. It is to be noted, however, that since the delivery of the above opinions, relations of an apparently close character have been established between Count Okuma and Prince Konoye.

The Formosa Railway Company have obtained another postponement of the period fixed by their charter for commencing work. They are now allowed until October 10th. This is the fourth postponement they have obtained, and the *Hochi Shimbun*, in reporting it, recalls the proverb that even Buddha loses his temper if his face is three times buffetted.

It is stated that the Government intends to issue an Imperial Ordinance strictly prohibiting all bribery and corruption at the coming general elections. Our readers remember that the Ito Cabinet issued an Ordinance forbidding the use of weapons of every description by persons engaged in canvassing, but there are folks who say that corrupt practices were rife at the last elections, though acts of violence were happily prevented by the Cabinet's method. An Imperial Ordinance may not do much good, but its issue will be decidedly a step in the right direction.

There is a strong movement on the part of a number of private schools in Tokyo to obtain the special privileges enjoyed by public schools, namely, that their graduates should be eligible without examination for ordinary official appointments of *Hannin* grade, and that such of their graduates as have taken degrees at the Imperial University should be considered qualified for the post of teacher in a common school, or in an ordinary female high school, or in an ordinary normal school. (We do not understand this point about University Graduates, but set it down as it appears in the vernacular press.) More than 17 schools are concerned in the movement, and they have elected a committee of seven to promote their object, the principal committee-men being Messrs. Ebara Soroku, Takanashi and Sugiura, Dr. Hasegawa, etc.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

General le Gendre, whom many in Japan will remember, has been appointed Adviser to the Council of State in Korea.

A Japanese paper published in Korea announces that the Korean Government intend setting up a postage-stamp printing plant. The *Independent* thinks such a step would be a grievous mistake, as stamps can be bought cheaper in Japan.

The Pedler's Guild of Korea is said to have secured a subscription of $1,000 from the Crown Prince, and permission to use, as its headquarters, the hall of the Board of Honours. The *Independent*, from which we take this news, adds:—The association is proud of having among its members some of the highest officials in the Government. It is even rumoured that the Crown Prince is going to be the president of the Society. We can hardly believe this, though. Some think that this may be the beginning of distinct political parties in Korea; and that, as the Independents stand for popular rights and progress, the Pedlers may represent the "tory" sentiment in Korean politics.

The *Independent*, in its issue of the 2nd July, prints the following note with regard to the recent alleged assault made by the German Consul on the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs:—"Hearing that the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Yu Kuiwhan, was on the 29th June assaulted by the German Consul of this city, one of our reporters the day before yesterday had an interview with Mr. Yu. It seems that he went to the Consulate on some disputed business at an hour appointed for a meeting. The Consul met him at the door and, without any explanation, struck Mr. Yu on the arm with an official dispatch from the Foreign Office, which the Consul had certain reasons for not accepting. As if this was not enough, he struck the Minister on the breast with his fist and pushed him out of the door throwing the document on the ground." A disinterested eye witness of the scene in the German Consulate, however, informed the *Independent* that the Consul did not go so far as to strike the Acting Minister.

A recent memorial of the Independence Club to the Korean Emperor, runs as follows (according to a free translation made by the *Independent* newspaper:—

"Notwithstanding our ignorance and rudeness, we, your humble servants, have the good fortune of living under Your enlightened reign. Actuated by the sentiments of loyalty to our sovereign and love for our country, we have established the Independence Club with the desire of protecting the interest of the Imperial Family and maintaining the rights of the nation. Being thus minded for some time past, we were overpowered by the sense of gratitude when we respectfully read Your Majesty's decree of the 25th June. An ancient book says, 'How great the word of a prince! The state may be made prosperous by a single word.' Your Majesty's gracious words inaugurate a new era of prosperity in our history. Hence, after expressing our joy in loud cheers for Your Majesty, we came to the following conclusion:—

"Having laid the foundation of independence, and enjoying the rights of equality with the sovereign powers of the world, Your Majesty announced Your high purposes to Your ancestors in a solemn oath, and promulgated new laws and regulations among Your subjects. It can not be denied that the laws are good and the regulations are excellent. If they were carried out, what anxiety need there be for a poor administration? But, how is it that the pure and the good have disappeared while the government is 'overrun' by the 'impure dregs' (of mankind)? He who cares neither for the realization of Your Majesty's sacred desires nor for the advancement of wise and good men, retaining office through shameless avarice of the salary—can such a person be a right man for the position of premier? Justice is unknown, and corruption runs riot. Great as well as small things, big as well as little offices are regarded as purchasable articles of a broker. This being so is the Home Department in the hand of a proper man? Confusion reigns in the administration of the law while unjust decisions have transformed jails into pitfalls. Could this be so if the Department of Law had a good man? The commander does not know his soldiers while soldiers disobey their commander. Important martial posts are assigned to men whose only merit is their honourable caste while the absolute ignorance of military science is unable to enforce the rules of discipline. Is the portfolio of war held by a right man? In the sphere of diplomatic relations sincerity and honesty have been neglected while ignorance of the rules of etiquette marks the intercourse with foreign legations and consulates. To be scared by threats and subjected to contempt and insult—could this be so were the office of foreign relations occupied by a right person? Unequal taxes and ill regulated currency are multiplying swindles and diminishing the national finance. Can this show that the financial management is in good hands? In the name of teaching the youths of the land, salaries alone are wasted, and empty shows are kept up in the place of substantial education. Does this mean that the interests of education are looked after by a proper person? Agriculture has lost profit and commerce is discouraged. Industry makes no progress while words and facts do not coincide. Are the interests of agriculture, commerce and public works represented by a proper man? The laxity of police discipline and guard in the Palace is such that crafty persons have access to Your Majesty while the loyal and honest are not permitted. Can it be said that police duties are under a capable management? Though called a bureau of advice the Privy Council is nothing more than a gate through which men are either advanced to, or dismissed from, offices. Can this mean that the function of the Council are properly discharged?

"These facts troubled us a great deal. In the decree Your Majesty said, "Were there right men in authority need we fear that politics would go wrong?" It is, therefore, plain that Your Majesty has already known, without being told by us, that the Ministers of State are not proper men. If they are not right persons, why does Your Majesty allow them to continue in office, causing anxiety day and night, and provoking popular dissatisfaction? We pray that Your Majesty will speedily dismiss the unworthy persons, filling their vacancies with wise and good men, entrusting to them their respective duties. If this were done why should Your Majesty be worried for the maladministration of affairs?"

The lengthy memorial closes with a prayer that His Majesty, may, in imitation of the political institutions of the West, consult the desires of the people, giving the popular voice a share in the management of the small and great affairs of the nation.

Truly the Korean patriots are outspoken men when they can thus tell their Sovereign that the whole of his administration is corrupt and thoroughly abominable. No wonder the political sky is overclouded in that country; such memorials can but presage a violent storm.

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CHINESE AFFAIRS.

According to a Peking telegram that appears in the *N.-C. Daily News*, the appeal of the Shanghai community through the Diplomatic Body for the extension of the Settlement will probably be successful.

Two Japanese sailors lodging in a Shanghai boarding house, while "in their cups" the other day, quarrelled, and then one stabbed the other. He has been arrested and awaits the return of the Japanese Consul from Soochow.

The *Echo de Chine*, a paper with strong Russian proclivities, has a paragraph headed "Manchuria," from its correspondent, which, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, reads:—

"The Russians are beginning to occupy militarily the provinces of Kirin and Heilungchiang. Their Cossacks are posted at intervals of sixty *li* (twenty miles) on the principal roads, and the engineers are working all the time on the railway."

The Inspector-General of Customs, Sir Robert Hart, Bart., G.C.M.G., etc., etc., has been granted six weeks' leave, and is spending his holiday at Peitaiho, the northern watering-place. Peitaiho, by-the-way, was horribly upset a few weeks ago by seeing a male visitor clad in correct evening attire. So shocking was the sight that "a leader" on the subject appeared in the *P. and T. Times*; we hope the poor man has recovered from the terrible wigging there inflicted.

Captain C. Oswald Liddell, whose approaching departure for home necessitated his giving up command of the S. V. C. Light Horse, was recently made the recipient of a handsome testimonial from the members of that corps. It took the form, says a Shanghai contemporary, of a Cup, of elegant design and inscribed:—"Presented to Capt. C. Oswald Liddell by past and present Members of the Shanghai Light Horse on his retirement after eighteen years' Membership, Shanghai, 29th June, 1898."

A Tientsin dispatch to the *N.-C. Daily News* states that the Viceroy Jung Lu recently ordered the establishment of a Bureau of Foreign Affairs with the view of relieving the Customs, or Haikuan, Taotai of some of his multifarious duties, that official hitherto having had sole charge of any matters involving foreign and native affairs. The new Bureau is to have its quarters in the Admiralty buildings on the Tientsin Bund, and the Chief and Vice-Commissioners are to be two expectant Taotais, Chang and P'an respectively.

Despatches received in Shanghai from Nanking report that city to be in a state of alarm in consequence of the distribution, by secret society emissaries, of innumerable placards calling upon the people to rise and assert their rights against the mandarins. The placards have found their way not only into the city of Nanking itself but have been penetrated into the Viceroy's *yamén*. Viceroy Liu is trying his best to find out the persons who have been causing the trouble.

A band of 150 robbers captured the town of Ch'ao-yang-chên, Manchuria, on the 31st May, and after burning the *yamén* and several shops owned by officials, confiscated all the arms and ammunition they could find and then held the town for ransom. After receiving 90 shoes of silver (Tls. 4,815) they left the place escorted by a band of musicians. The commandant of the town, along with his troops, made himself "scarce in the woods" during these proceedings.

There is a possibility of China's enacting Copyright and Patent laws in the near future, if the promise held out in a recent Imperial decree is carried out. This document, as usual, is very verbose, but the gist may be found in the following extract:—

We therefore hereby command that from henceforth if there be any subject of ours who should hereafter write a useful book on new subjects, or who should have invented any new design in machinery, or any useful work of art and science which will be of benefit to the country at large, such persons shall be honoured and rewarded by us in order to serve as an encouragement and exhortation to other of similar genius and talents. Or, perhaps, if it be found that such geniuses have also real ability to become officials, we shall appoint them to substantive posts as a reward, or grant them decorations or fine raiment in order to show the masses the persons who have gained honour by their talents and genius; while they shall also be allowed to enjoy the fruits of their labours by being presented with papers empowering them to be the sole manufacturers and sellers within a certain limit of time.

The Hawaiian ship *Helen Brewer* (Captain Mahony) with a cargo of 62,000 cases of kerosene oil for the Standard Oil Co., left New York on the 2nd of April, crossed the Equator on the 25th of April, passed the meridian of the Cape of Good Hope on the 19th of May, anchored at Anjer on the 21st of June, and arrived at Woosung on the 13th of July after a record passage of 102 days. It is reported that Captain Mahony wins a pool of $500, contributed by five ships which left New York together.

Rumours were current recently at Canton, according to a dispatch from that city, to the effect that Yunghsien, in Wuchou prefecture, Luch'uanhsien in Yülinchou sub-prefecture, and Yülinchou city itself (Kwangsi province), have all been captured by insurgents of the immediate vicinity, working in conjunction with the *Sautien Hui* or "Three-dots" society of Lienchou prefecture, Kwangtung province, on the south-west boundaries of Yülinchou. The name "Three-dots" is from the radical for water on the left hand-side of the character Hung, which was the surname of the famous Hung Hsin-chuan, Emperor of the Taiping rebels. In other words, says a Shanghai paper, the Three-dots Society is claimed to be composed mainly of the descendants of old Taiping chiefs, and their aim seems to be the restoration of the two Kwang provinces to the sway of young Taipingdom. Lienchou prefecture, Kwangtung, is nearly in the insurgents' hands. The *Hongkong Daily Press* translates the following from a Canton paper:—The gunboats *Nganchin*, *Kuanglee*, *Taichi*, *Tsanto*, *Kungwou*, and *Tangkung* have been sent to the rebellious districts in Kwangsi together with one thousand soldiers from Canton and six hundred soldiers from Lufêng. The situation is very serious and all business is at a standstill. There are about six thousand rebels, who are forcing the natives to come to their side, threatening that otherwise their houses will be burnt and they will be killed, so that the forces of the rebels are being gradually increased.

The *N.-C. Daily News* apprehends that the anti-Government movement now going on in Kwangsi and Kwangtung is really serious. It comes from the seat whence the Taiping Rebellion originated, and it has the prestige of that Rebellion over it. The Government of the Hukuang Provinces at Canton is utterly disorganised; the Viceroy, Tan Chunglin, is completely incapable, and his subordinates care for nothing but feathering their own nests as warmly as they can before the crash comes. The Rebellion is coming eastward from Kwangsi in a steady wave, as the Taiping Rebellion did before it turned northward; and the mandarins in the adjacent provinces are even more corrupt and incompetent than those who vainly strove to oppose the Taiping Wang. Those who remember what the former Rebellion was and the horrors that accompanied it must shrink with dread from the accounts of the successes of the present insurgents; nor is there anywhere to be seen a Tsêng Kuo-fan to lead the forces of the Government and roll back the rebel tide. Not wishing to be alarmists, we have so far said little about the movement in Kwangsi; but it is becoming too serious to overlook; and it must not be forgotten that a new element is introduced on this occasion, which was absent fifty years ago, in the proximity of the French to the scene of the trouble. There is no likelihood whatever of the French assisting the rebels; but their presence on the frontier, and their claim to a sphere of influence in Kwangsi and Kwangtung must complicate matters.

GERMAN NOTES.

Captain Rosendahl has been appointed Governor of Kiao-chou. The title of "Governor," says *Das Echo*, was adopted in order to be in harmony with the universal custom in this respect.

The Berlin papers say that Herr Kisaku Tamai, a well-known Japanese writer in Berlin, is about to publish a monthly magazine in that city, devoted to politics, trade, and industry, under the title of *Ost-Asien*.

Zola's affair has had the effect of causing friction even among Frenchmen living in Berlin, and of breaking up the principal French club in that city, dividing the members into two factions, one called the Semite and the other anti-Semite.

The ancient rose-bush at Hildesheim, said to be one thousand years old, is afflicted by a disease which seriously threatens its life. The local government has ordered a scientific investigation, for it is determined to do all that science can suggest in order to save, if possible, the cherished *Rosenstock*.

Herr Dr. von Miquel, Vice-President of the Cabinet, and Minister of State for Finance, recently celebrated his seventieth birthday. The anniversary has recalled the fact that he began his political carrier in Hanover as a very determined radical. Later, he became the leader of the National Liberal party of Germany, and in due course, as is not infrequently the case, developed into a conservative.

Regarding Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's speech, in which he advocated an Anglo-American alliance, Prince Bismarck said:—The importance of Mr. Chamberlain's recent speech depends upon whether he gave utterance to his private opinions or whether he spoke those of the British Government. Closer Anglo-American relations are no doubt feasible, but an alliance would be improbable and unserviceable to both. Besides, it is a mistake to call the Americans Anglo-Saxons. Theirs is a mixed blood—British, Irish, German, French, and Scandinavian. The Anglo-Saxon does not even predominate to-day.

Prince Bismarck, in a recent interview, condemned the American-Hispano war outright. He says it is due to systematic provocation, adding:—"The whole course of the Washington administration seems insincere. My views of war are well understood. I have always maintained that war is only defensible after all other remedies have failed. The result of the war cannot be wholesome either to America or Europe. The United States will be forced to adopt an intermeddling foreign policy, leading to unavoidable friction. She abandons her traditional peace policy, and, in order to maintain her position, must become a military and naval power—an expensive luxury which her geographic position renders unnecessary. America's change of front means retrogression in the highest sense of civilization.

The Crown Princess of Greece, with her consort, after an absence extending over many years, recently arrived in Berlin and was most royally received by her brother, the Emperor. This is her second visit to her native home since her marriage to the Crown Prince of Greece, ten years ago. The eventful war between Greece and Turkey, last year, came dangerously near overthrowing the Royal House of Greece, and for a time the relations between Athens and Berlin were anything but amicable. During those trying times, the Crown-Princess Sophie did much to smooth over difficulties. Her visits to the battle-fields and personal attention and care for the sick and wounded, enlisted the sympathy and admiration of the Greek nation, as well as that of her brother the German Emperor. He has appointed her *chef* of the Third *Garde-Regament* of Berlin, formerly the Empress Elisabeth's regiment. The appointment is regarded as a very high distinction. The Emperor recently declared that Princess Sophie demonstrated by her deeds that she is a worthy daughter of the Hohenzollern.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

We understand that Mr. Josiah Conder's plans have been selected for the new Club house of the Y.U.C.

Miss Kitada Usurai, the famous lady novelist, was married to Mr. Kajita Hanko, the artist, on the 13th inst.

In Kanagawa Prefecture, dysentery is becoming more and more prevalent. No fewer than 54 new cases appeared on the 17th inst.

News has been received at Shanghai privately by wire that the Americans are sending five hundred troops to Guam, and five hundred to Sulu.

On Wednesday a woman named Fumi, 37 years old, living at Ashibikicho, and her infant, 2 years old, were found to be suffering from dysentery, and were sent to the hospital.

The Doyo, or hot season, which is the object of the greatest anxiety to Japanese rice farmers, commenced on Wednesday. According to telegrams from different localities, fair weather is anticipated.

On Tuesday morning, at 1.40, fire broke out at a house occupied by a man named Sono Dennosuke, No. 10, Zaimoku-cho, Shiba. The flames spread to the surrounding property, and 15 houses were destroyed, and six damaged.

Three cholera cases appeared on the 15th inst. in Tokyo. The victims were two infants of a man named Hashimoto, living at Daikucho, Nihonbashi, and a woman named Hana, 57 years, living at Shimura, Kita-toyoshima-gori. They were sent to the hospital.

It may interest Freemasons in Japan to know that at the recent centenary festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, over which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master, presided, £134,000 was subscribed towards the funds of the institution. Surely this must be a record.

A Japanese banto Tojo Kinnosuke, 32 years old, employed by Messrs. Raspe and Company, No. 299 Settlement, was arrested by the police authorities on Wednesday on a charge of embezzling *yen* 2,000 belonging to the firm. The case will come before the District Court.

A robber who escaped from Yokohama (Tobe) Prison on the 19th inst. was re-arrested at Yamada-yato, Ishikawa. It is said that after his escape he entered a house occupied by a man named Katsura Kinnosuke, No. 234, Tobe-machi, and stole some cloth and Japanese shoes.

Mr. Sumita Taro, the assistant-station master at Suma, on the Sanyo Railway, was run over and killed by a train on the night of the 15th inst., says the *Kobe Chronicle*. While handing over the train staff on the departure of an up-goods train shortly after 7 p.m., he accidentally slipped down on the rails, and the train passed completely over his body.

We learn that Commander Squire, formerly of the Royal Navy, has been appointed foreign adviser for administering the new harbour system in Yokohama. Commander Squire was formerly in the service of the Department of State for Communications, and afterwards held a post as Naval adviser to the Chinese Government. It is the intention, we believe, of the Japanese Authorities to appoint a captain in the Imperial Navy to the position of harbour-master at each of the treaty ports, and to attach to him a foreign assistant.

There are many in Hongkong and Singapore, says the *Singapore Free Press*, who will hear with deep regret, news of the death of Lieutenant and Commander Beauchamp St. J. Bellairs, who was recently in the *Centurion* in Capt. Login's commission. This fine young naval officer had obtained distinction for good service on the West African coast.

Papers from France bring news of the death of Mr. Adrien Pauly, who was massacred, with one of his companions, by natives of Liberia (Africa), while on an expedition of exploration in those regions. Mr. Pauly, a young man of great promise, was only 26, and a brother of Mr. Felix Pauly, until recently an official of the French Consulate at Yokohama. Mr. Pauly's countrymen, amongst whom he has numerous friends, will greatly sympathise with him in his cruel loss.

The German election results show that the new Reichstag will differ little from its predecessor. The Clericals are stronger than ever; the Socialists gain ten seats, but were severely defeated at Berlin and other strongholds.

The Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Yokohama received on Monday the following telegram from the Corporation's Head office:—

"Subject to audit, the Bank dividend for the half year will probably be £1.5/- per share; 10 lacs to reserve fund; carried forward to next half year 4 lacs, written off property account 2½ lacs."

"The reserve fund will then stand at 90 lacs of dollars."

Captain Primrose, of the *Taichiow*, Captain Nicol (a pilot from Shanghai), and a fellow passenger, narrowly escaped being drowned at Nagasaki on the evening of the 8th instant. A small sailing boat in which they were going on shore was capsized in a squall. Fortunately the accident was witnessed from H.I.R.M. gunboat *Otowa*, and a boat was immediately despatched to the assistance of the men, all of whom were rescued. One of the rescued men handed one of the Russian sailors a sovereign in recognition of his services. On returning to the gunboat, says the *Nagasaki Press*, the sailor immediately handed the money to the Captain, as Russian sailors are not allowed to receive any compensation for acts of duty. This was duly remitted to the captain of the *Taichiow*, with a request that the money be returned to the donor.

A representative of Reuter's Agency has had an interview with Mr. Chauncey Depew in London. After dwelling with great satisfaction on the remarkable growth of friendly feeling between England and America, Mr. Depew referred as follows to the question of American colonial policy:—"To retain the Philippines would mean a colonial policy which would be incomplete unless it took part in the grab for China. This would involve us at once in the complications of the Eastern question, and would compel us to put ourselves to navy and army in a position to defend what we acquired and to meet force with force in any disagreements which we might have in that hemisphere with the Great Powers of Europe. My opposition to a colonial policy is the belief that it is contrary to the spirit of our constitution and detrimental to the interests of our country. European nations enter upon colonies first to provide new territories for congested populations and to provide foreign markets. Our country is yet only partly developed. We could support 300 millions of people as easily as we do 70 millions. By establishing military governments and creating a vast colonial civil list we should impose burdens on the industry and labour of our country without an equivalent. We do not need the Philippines for protection, because with Spain driven from the western hemisphere we are too far off to fear the interference of Europe, and our neighbours are too weak to cause us the least apprehension. The only powerful neighbour we have left is Great Britain, and the events of the last few months have paved the way for such a treaty of arbitration and general understanding between the United States and Great Britain as to remove from the domain of possibility or probability any hostilities ever occurring between us. With Cuba freed—the purpose and sole object of the war—and Spain and her medievalism removed from our sphere of influence the mission of the United Sates is clear for marvellous development and unprecedented prosperity. A colonial empire would prove for us a costly and dangerous experiment."

CORRESPONDENCE.

A GOOD SONG MISUSED.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Listening, on the Fourth of July, to the distant sound of what passes for the national music of the United States, I was constrained to lament—not for the first nor the hundredth time—that my countrymen possess no worthy song of the people which they can fairly call their own. During the past century they have taken many melodies into partial and temporary favour, but among these there is not one of purely American origin that deserves to represent the true patriotic spirit of the Republic. With scarcely an exception, they are trivial and vulgar. "Hail Columbia," indeed, might be so modified as to acquire a certain breadth and dignity, but its character, such as it is, would be lost in the process, and it could no longer claim recognition from the multitude. In recent years, the popular fancy has been especially turned toward "The Star-Spangled Banner," the music of which, though not of the highest order, is very far from contemptible, and has the merits of boldness, declamatory force, and susceptibility to good harmonic treatment. But it is, unfortunately, a foreign production, and I do not think that the citizens of America can, or ought to, allow a jovial stave from an old English opera to stand permanently as the typical song of their nation.

We have, of course, all time before us, and when the right tune springs into existence it will be welcomed and cherished, no matter from what source it comes or how it may be conceived, as was the case with "God Save the King" in the older country. England waited long for that immortal inspiration. It was composed less than two hundred years ago, and its author had no expectation, so far as we know, that it would be adopted as the one supreme lyric of the land. Englishmen took it to their hearts because they could not help themselves. After all, there is perhaps no reason why Americans should be impatient. They are no worse off than the majority of their neighbours. At the most, only three European countries have genuine national songs,—and my own judgment would limit the number to two. By a genuine national song I mean a song of the people, for the people, and lovingly accepted by the people; not one written to the order of a monarch or stamped with a mere Government brevet of nationality. We have seen, in France, what becomes of an attempt to establish a patriotic air by imperial decree. America must bide her hour. I do not think she can ever hope to rival the British anthem. We cannot foresee what the future developments of music may be, but while the art remains in its present state, it can bring forth nothing to surpass the noble simplicity and majesty of "God Save the Queen." What England will do with her matchless hymn when she bids good-bye to royalty, is a question for sooth-sayers to speculate upon. She will never give up the tune, I am convinced, and a new arrangement of words will do it no harm. Some of the lines now on duty are quite too silly for utterance. With fresh and fitting verse it should live while the nation lasts, and if America outstays Britain on the face of the earth I trust we may have the luck to secure it as a heritage, unless we chance to get possession, by fair means, at an earlier date. When Mr. Chamberlain would again a-wooing go, he might do worse than tempt us by offering an equal share in the ownership of his country's song, with full condonation of the unauthorized seizure we have perpetrated, in order to force it into an illicit union with a set of stanzas entitled "America."

Our independent craving will not, however, be rightly satisfied until some Yankee minstrel is sufficiently endowed with the divine spark to sound the strain that shall hold us all captive. In the meantime, we must content ourselves with make-shifts, and the air borrowed for "The Star-Spangled Banner" may serve as well as another. It is good music, and will do us no discredit, provided we take care not to misuse it, and frankly acknowledge where it comes from. At present, we do misuse it; and the purpose of this letter is to protest against the ill-treatment to which it has been subjected for more than forty years. I have an impression that it was first distorted by the showy Frenchman Jullien, who introduced a false reading when he arranged it for the splendid orchestra he brought to the United States in 1853. Ever since his time it has been wrongly played and sung, and it may be that an error of such long standing, which has passed without remonstrance through two or three generations, is beyond hope of eradication. But at least attention

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can be called to it, and I shall be grateful for the opportunity of doing this in *The Mail*.

The defect which mars the true course of the melody, renders it inconsistent, at times, with the words to which it is joined, and destroys its finest climax, appears in the third bar and is repeated in the eleventh. It consists of an unnecessary and inappropriate transition from the natural key to what is technically termed the next sharp remove. Suppose that the air is given in the key of C;—ordinarily, and I believe invariably, the last note of the third bar, (and also of the eleventh) is sounded F sharp, and the strain modulates into the key of G, returning to C in the next bar. Modulations of any sort are unusual so near the beginning of a simple tune like this. They are always legitimate, undoubtedly, when employed for particular effects; and if the text or music of a song calls for marked emphasis at any point there can be no objection to a momentary change of key. But in this case, the words—

"By the dawn's early light"—

have no exceptional significance, and require no such strenuous accentuation as the transition imparts; and the same may be said of the line accompanying the eleventh bar. As the song proceeds, however, a phrase of great and gathering force is reached, the culminating words of which—

"Our *flag*—IS—STILL—*THERE!*"—

not only justify but demand a corresponding intensity of musical expression. This is supplied by using the note F sharp for the word "still," and shifting the key, for an instant, from C to G. A vigorous climax is thus produced; but if the identical device has been resorted to more than once before, without object or reason, its whole effect is sacrificed. It becomes, in fact, no climax at all, but a feeble and meaningless anti-climax. It may be likened to the miscarriage which an orator would bring upon himself if, after preparing to strengthen a vehement statement by various energetic artifices of attitude, gesture, and delivery, he should anticipate the proposed *coup* by prematurely discharging his rhetorical ammunition, twice over, and in the wrong place each time.

There should be no variation of key in "The Star-Spangled Banner" until the twenty-third bar, when it becomes essential. I am confident that musicians will accept this view, though it may be difficult to get the public out of the groove in which it has been running for nearly half a century. But every orchestra leader and band-master—not to speak of intelligent amateurs—can do something toward restoring the melody to its proper form, and I shall endeavour to secure coöperation at home, from those whose action will have the weight of authority. It ought to have been undertaken years ago; but this is one of the cases in which it can never be too late to mend.

I am, Sir, Yours obediently,

E. H. HOUSE.

Yokohama, July 13th, 1898.

MISSIONS IN JAPAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In the monthly summary of the religious press, in your issue of July 9th, I was much struck with the translated remarks of Mr. Matsumura Kaiseki, from the *Rikugō Zasshi* No. 209, for they exactly coincide with opinions formed by myself after careful consideration of the question for some years past.

While there are undoubtedly many missionaries of both sexes whose sympathies are warmly in touch with the Japanese, it is also equally patent to the dispassionate on-looker that there are others—here I allude more especially to female missionaries and wives of missionaries—whose very remarks upon and attitude towards the race they or their husbands have come here to convert, show most unmistakably that they could never favourably impress the Japanese with the religion they profess. Although in these statements I am only generalizing, I could, if I chose, give particular instances confirmatory of these statements.

I imagine that the Japanese writer alluded to does not over-state the case in saying—"there are numbers of missionaries who, although knowing the Japanese language and customs, and after living in the country for 20 years, are unable to attract an audience when they preach. They are not open to advice, and are quite ignorant of the proper way to evangelize."

"They preach to us"—he continues,—"just as they would preach to Europeans and Americans. There is no appeal to the real sentiments of the people. . . . . They utterly ighore the fact that they are addressing audiences whose only ideas of religion are derived from Buddhist, Shinto, or Confucian sources. . . . In order to conquer an enemy, it is necessary to possess a minute knowledge of his peculiarities and weaknesses, etc., etc."

These remarks certainly appeal to one's common sense.

It has often been a matter of surprise to me that the supporters of missions to the Japanese seem totally to ignore the fact that the nation is quite as capable of bringing Christianity to its shores as it has shown itself eager to import Western arts, sciences, manufactures, etc., etc. Therefore, if the liberal supporters of Japanese missions are really desirous of Christianizing these people, and if their zeal is wholly without any admixture of motives in providing fat livings and comfortable sinecures for their male and female friends and protégés, why not—since the system that has now been in operation for thirty years is, to the eyes of all impartial observers, confessedly a failure, or if it can, by a great stretch of imagination, be termed a success to have, in that space of time, converted forty thousand out of forty millions of people, still a success totally disproportionate to the length of time and amount of money expended on the machinery that has been employed in achieving it—why not, I ask, try the experiment upon exactly opposite lines, as follows? First recall all the missionaries from Japan, and then utilize the money hitherto expended in their support here, in keeping a like number of intelligent Japanese men and women in various Christian centres in Europe and America, where they could master the principles of Christian theology on its own ground, and thus qualify themselves to return and convert their own country-people, for who can hope to understand or influence the Japanese as well as themselves?

By this means, one decided advantage would accrue to the Japanese, in that they would acquire the language of whatever Christian country they were located, and that would be a gain to them all their lives long, whereas the Japanese language that the missionaries spend about two years in acquiring after their arrival here, before they can begin their work of conversion, although drawing their salaries all the time, is comparatively useless to them when they return to their own countries.

In throwing out the above suggestion I am aware that I shall be raising a storm of dissent about my ears, but as any anticipated protests can only come from parties pecuniarily interested in upholding the system as it stands, they cannot be considered fair opponents in the argument.

I am Sir, yours, &c.,

IMPARTIAL OBSERVER.

July 13th.

STARVATION IN JAPAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your journal of the 7th instant is a paragraph stating that the misery in Iwate prefecture is beyond description. "The year before last the territory was devastated by tidal waves, and last year it sustained serious injury from noxious insects. No crop was raised during the two years, and this year, for about three months, the inhabitants of Waka district were compelled to live without grain or rice. They barely sustained life by feeding on pine bark. Death upon death occurred from starvation. The village council relieved the sufferers by the issue of loans to the amount of $2,000, but these were hardly sufficient for half a month's sustenance; and no further loans are practicable, neither for some reason is prefectural aid to be obtained. Meanwhile, says the *Nichi Nichi*, thousands of inhabitants are now busily engaged in gathering roots and bark, and even these are almost exhausted."

And again in your issue of to-day comes the following intelligence from Wakamatsu:—"Famine is prevailing in this neighbourhood. Commodities are appreciating, and many thousands of poor people are eating grass and roots. Deaths from starvation have taken place."

As a striking contrast comes, between these two reports, a long article in your paper of July 11th detailing the account of a banquet given in Sendai by some wealthy Japanese to the missionaries and other foreigners resident there for the purpose of initiating a more intimate social intercourse between the two nationalities. This of course is a very praiseworthy object, but as the state of affairs in Iwate and Wakamatsu must at the time have been well-known at Sendai, it seems to outsiders as if the wealthy Japanese, who, in common with all the nation, have ever in their mouths the watchwords "Patriotism" and "Japan for the Japanese" and the missionaries (who call themselves disciples of one whose text was ever "Charity"—"The poor ye have always with you," etc., etc., and who replied to the rich young man who asked what he should do to be saved? "Sell all that thou hast, and give to the poor!") might have been better employed than in holding elaborate discussions as to whether Japanese saké and Kirin beer should adorn the dinner-tables, and whether or no reverend gentlemen would countenance the presence of those beverages at the banquet. With fellow-creatures starving at right and left of them, more becoming would it have been if both heathen Japanese and Christian Missionary had voted "no banquet until the human beings who are striving to keep life in in them by grass and pine-bark, have food fit for man provided for them."

What is the Japanese Government about that it does not immediately bestir itself for the relief of these people? Well did the *Japan Herald* remark the other evening on this subject, "Out of starvation comes revolution." Witness the French revolution of a little more than a hundred years ago. Let the Japanese Government bear this in mind!

In the meantime, are these poor country-people to be let starve because their own people are slow to come forward to help them in their extremity? Let the Christian foreign community take the matter in hand, and start subscriptions for their relief. When men, women, and little children are starving, it is no time for Christians to say—"their own country should support them." It becomes the duty of every human being to help another—and those whose tables are loaded three times every day with all the delicacies that the country can produce, could surely spare something for their starving fellow creatures.

If you will initiate a movement for this purpose, you can count on a subscription from

Yours, etc., A. SAMARITAN.

July 18th, 1898.

[It is a pitiful state of distress, and we shall of course be glad to receive and forward any subscriptions sent by charitable persons.—Ed. *J.M.*]

THE RE-UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The following paragraph, clipped from the *Standard*, of Chicago, sets forth one of the indirect and perhaps unexpected blessings of the present war between Spain and the United States:

It is well that we pause, in the midst of a foreign war, to seal with our affection the compact of brotherhood among all Americans. Domestic strife, please God, is forever past. Wheeler, the cavalry chief of the southern armies a generation ago, now wears the uniform of a major-general of the United States; and when a friend asked him how it seemed to be wearing the blue again, as he used to when a young man, he replied that it seemed as if he had been off on a long furlough, and was now back in the ranks. Back in the ranks! Yes, back, every one, under the one flag. The Sixth Massachusetts has been given an ovation with flags and flowers in Baltimore where a generation ago it was received with brickbats and clubs. It is reported that a home for Confederate soldiers in the South, which had flown the Maryland state flag ever since the war, hauled it down and sent up the Stars and Stripes when the old leaders accepted commissions in the volunteer army. This Memorial Day that we have just celebrated may become a historic one. It may mark the year when the old bitterness was finally and entirely buried, leaving only a true Anglo-Saxon reverence for the courage and devotion of those in whom tribute is still to be paid, so long as their name endures—the boys of 61.

It must, indeed, be a glorious sight, to see Federals and Confederates, Northerns and Southerns, marching and sailing together under the old flag, the Stars and Stripes of the re United States of America.

Yours, etc., ERNEST W. CLEMENT.

Tokyo, July 18th, 1898.

JAPAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The principal items of interest to one not directly affected by Conference proceedings, has been the reception of fraternal visitors and the practical division of the work into two parts. Among the visitors were Dr. Meecham of Union Church, K. Uchimura, editor of the *Independent Magazine*, Rev. H. Loomis of the Bible Society, Dr. Needham, an evangelist of note from America, Rev. M. Koibashi, of the Japan Methodist Church, and Revs. Alexander, Ishiwata, and Kumano of the Church of Christ, and Mr. Kita, prison evangelist. All addressed the Conference briefly and were responded to by Revs. Ukai, Soper, and Bishop Cranston respectively.

The division of Kiushiu from the rest of the work was next taken up, and, in spite of an adverse

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report by the Committee appointed to investigate the merits of the case, and an hour's warm discussion, the division was carried by 34 to 14. It now awaits only the approval of Bishop Cranston to complete the entire transaction. What conclusion the Bishop will arrive at after personal investigation is of course a matter of conjecture but I am safe in saying that the majority of the Conference expect he will approve. The work is separated by 400 miles of intervening territory now occupied, in part at least, by the M. E. Church South, so that on account of the expense incurred in attending Conference and the misunderstandings that naturally arise in administering work so widely divided, it is thought best to administer them as separate works.

The Conference convened on Saturday, July 16th, at 9 a.m. with Bishop Cranston in the chair. After the reading and approval of the previous day's minutes, Mr. T. Hongo, of the Kyosei Orphanage, was introduced to the Conference. The motion to publish a memorial volume commemorating the 25th anniversary of the commencement of the work was lost. We are sorry to have to note this action, as such a volume would be invaluable in years to come. The classes in Conference studies were called, and after their reports had been received and marks received in examinations read, six were elected to Deacons' Orders and four to Elders' Orders. The Bishop, in accordance with the customary usage, delivered an address to the class in which he emphasized the reasons for probation for both laity and ministry and declared the Christian ministry to be men called of God to the work and not hirelings. The Bishop dwelt upon the qualifications of the minister emphasizing necessity for conversion, the witness of the spirit, the need of being wholly devoted to God and His work, and the conditions under which success and devotion were possible. At this point resolutions commendatory of the presence and past work of Dr. M. C. Harris were introduced, and he addressed the conference briefly, after which "Blest be the Tie that Binds" was sung and the conference severally shook hands with Dr. Harris and wished him God-speed on his homeward journey. He sailed on the *Doric* at noon for San Francisco. The usual routine of Conference business occupied the time until 11 45, when Conference adjourned. In the afternoon a "Layman's Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prof. M. Ishizaka, at which Dr. Warley, of Foochow, China, delivered an interesting address on "Self-Support in China." In the evening a "Consecration meeting" was held. On Sunday K. Ishizaka led the "Love Feast" beginning at 9 a.m., and at 10 Bishop Cranston preached a masterly sermon from Acts 1:8. At three p.m. came the ordination service, which was very impressive. In the evening the "Temperance Anniversary" was fittingly observed with addresses by K. Miama, S. Nemoto and I. Ito.—*Com.*

(Woman's Conference.)

The Woman's Conference which closes its fifteenth annual session at 221 Bluff, Yokohama, this week, shows encouraging results of the work done in Japan. The W.F.M.S. of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States, which works entirely among women and girls, maintains at the present time in Japan eight boarding schools, three of which are industrial and five literary. In these eight schools are enrolled six hundred and forty-five girls between the ages of eight and eighteen. Many of these girls are supported wholly or in part by scholarship-teaching for a time in one of these schools after graduation. In the industrial schools the girls are taught foreign and Japanese sewing, cooking, geta making, clay modelling, wood carving, knitting, crochetting, drawn work, embroidery, drawing, crayoning, and oil painting. In the literary school, they are given a thorough academic and college education, music and English being taught in all the schools. It is scarcely necessary to state that all these schools are managed on Christian principles and that the Bible is taught in all. The ten day schools, mostly of primary grade, have a total enrollment of over two thousand. There are now twenty nine foreign lady missionaries representing this society in this country.

In evangelistic work this society is in the front ranks. Six ladies are engaged in evangelistic work only; the others; are doing evangelistic work in connection with school work. About twenty native Bible women are working under the supervision of the foreign missionary ladies, and very good work is being done. Among the interesting questions up for discussion before the conference were the Sunday Question, the Work of Native Pastors' Wives and the Need of More Evangelists at large. Interesting papers were read on the following subjects—"Work among the Japanese in San Francisco," "The Foochow Jubilee," and "Glimpses from other Fields." A pleasant feature of this year's meeting was a musicale given by Miss Dickenson, of 262-A Bluff, to the ladies of the conference. About forty ladies were present, each one of whom contributed something musical, either vocal or instrumental, toward the evening's entertainment. The affair was a success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.—*Com.*

THE PORTUGUESE PRISONER AT KAYI-BASHI.

We have received the following report with the compliments of the Secretary of the Yokohama General Chamber of Commerce :—

Referring to the report of the International Committee, of May 20th, on the House of Detention at Kajibashi, in which mention was made of a Portuguese prisoner that was seen confined in that prison, and whose statement led the members of the Committee to fear that his case was a very hard one, the Committee applied to the proper authorities for information on his case, and find that on the 12th April, 1897, he was arrested at the instance of the Yokohama Local Court, on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences; on the same day another charge, also of obtaining money by false pretences, was made against him by the Tokyo Local Court. As to the former offence, he was convicted and sentenced, on 12th June, 1897, to 8 months' major imprisonment with 6 months' police surveillance and *yen* fine. Against this judgment he appealed to the higher Court and consequently was conveyed, on the 21st June, from Yokohama prison to the Kajibashi House of Detention. On the 1st October, 1897, the appeal was dismissed, whereupon he appealed to the Supreme Court. This appeal having also been dismissed on the 4th Nov. the original judgment became final, and took effect from that day. He was on the 10th November transferred from the Kajibashi House of Detention to the prison in Sugamo, and on 8th February following, he was again removed to Yokohama prison, which belongs to the district where his original sentence was pronounced. As to the second offence, he was sentenced the Tokyo Local Court on 21st Oct. to 10 months' major imprisonment, 6 months' Police surveillance, and 8 *yen* fine. Against this judgment he also appealed to the higher Court, and consequently was again removed, and still is in the Kajibashi House of Detention, awaiting his trial before the higher Court in Tokyo. It is expected that the hearing of this appeal will take place between the 15th and 31st instant. It should be added here that, according to the criminal code, if a convicted person takes an appeal, and the decision on appeal proves favourable to him, the term of punishment is reckoned from the date of the original judgment, while if the decision of the Appelate Court is unfavourable to him, the term of imprisonment begins to run from the date of the latter judgment. On the other hand, in case the appeal is taken by the Public Procurator, the term counts from the date of the original judgment, irrespective of the decision being either favourable or unfavourable to the person convicted. Consequently ——'s term of imprisonment for the first offence would have expired on the 1st July, 1898. And if the appeal now pending before the higher Court should be dismissed, and there be no further appeal, thus making final the original judgment for the second offence, he will have to serve only two months, since according to the criminal code the two sentences would in such a case run concurrently.

THE WEST RIVER REBELLION.

A telegram that appears in the *China Mail* under date of July 12th, says that the disturbances in the Province of Szechuan are widespread, and the riots have a decidedly anti-foreign tendency. Several English, American, and French Missions in the districts have been attacked, and some of the native Christians have been killed. Pere Fremy has been carried into captivity by the notorious Ssu mangu brigand, headed by the *literati* and four thousand armed followers. The Mission are willing to pay Tls. 60,000 ransom.

The *Daily Press*, of July 12th, printed the following telegram :—

Wuchow, July 9th.

The rebellion is in full swing. Tungyuan and Paklan are reported to be sacked. Soldiers have arrived from Canton and Kweilin. The absolute incapacity of the officials to deal with this matter is only equalled by the senseless state of "funk" (no other word describes it) of the inhabitants of Wuchow, who are leaving the place in large numbers.

The situation was further complicated by the action of the captain of the steamer *Dashing*, a vessel really Chinese owned but flying the American flag and chartered to take Chinese soldiers up to Tungyuan. She left on the evening of the 7th, and some disturbance arising on board, the captain shot the compradore of the vessel dead, and Mr. Woods, the vessel's local agent, who attempted to interfere, received a bullet through his hand. The vessel returned to Wuchow and the captain goes under arrest to Canton to-day, 9th instant.

Shanghai, July 11th.

The Protestant and Roman Catholic Mission at Shuinching, in Szechuan, have been destroyed in a riot. Yunchang is disturbed by brigands, who have captured a French priest, for whom they demand a myriad taels ransom. Several natives have been killed. Much property has been destroyed. The situation is critical. Chunking is quiet. The foreign consuls are on the alert.

The *N. C. Daily News* has the following telegram :—

Hongkong, July 15th.

Peilin and Luchuan have been sacked by the rebels, and Hengyi is reported taken.

Fifteen hundred more troops have left Canton, Kweilin, and Hoyuen for the scene of the rebellion. Wuchon is considered safe.

[Pe lin Luchuan and Hengyi are in Kuangsi, south-west of Wuchou, and not very far from the Kuangtung border. Kweilin is the capital of Kuangsi, and Hoyuen is a town about half-way between Wuchou and Kweilin.—Ed. *N.-C. Daily News.*]

JAPANESE SETTLERS IN AUSTRALIA.

Mr. Parsons, the Honorary Japanese Consul for South Australia, says an Adelaide despatch, has been negotiating for the sale of land in the Northern Territory, on the Victoria River, to Japanese capitalists, and is now engaged in endeavouring to induce them to send a large body of Japanese settlers there. The matter has been considered in the Cabinet, the information being forwarded to the local Government direct from the Japanese authorities.

Replying to a question put by Mr. Griffiths, one of the members for the Territory, in the House of Assembly, on June 28th, the Colonial Treasurer said that the Government would do their utmost to discourage the scheme for the importation of the Japanese into the country.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

THE GERMANS AT MANILA.

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S PATIENCE GETTING EXHAUSTED.

BLOCKADE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

GERMAN ADMIRAL PROTESTS AND SEEKS ADVICE.

(From our Correspondent.)

Shanghai, July 19, 2.52 p.m.;
(Manila, July 15).

Everything is still quiet here. The German ships have been acting in such an irritating manner that they caused Admiral Dewey to enforce a strict blockade of Manila Bay.

Admiral Dewey informed the German Admiral and his captains, when they protested against the American naval officers boarding German ships, that his patience was getting exhausted.

The second batch of U.S. troops are daily expected. When they arrive, Manila will be attacked, and it is expected that the city will capitulate after a few shots.

Later.

The relations between the American and German Admirals are becoming very strained. When the German cruiser *Irene* passed Mariveles to-day, Admiral Dewey

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sent the *Hugh McCulloch* to stop her. A boat was then despatched to see what the *Irene* wanted to do. The German Admiral protested and demanded that German ships have the right to enter the harbour without search. Admiral Dewey replied that they had no right whatever.

It is reported that Admiral Diederich asked Captain Chichester, of H.M.S. *Immortalité*, how he would act if the Germans interfered at the bombardment of Manila. Captain Chichester replied that he thought that Admiral Dewey would know what to do to stop that.

FALL OF SANTIAGO.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Shanghai, July 15, 3.40 p.m.

News has reached here, through official sources, that Santiago de Cuba has surrendered to the Americans.

SERIOUS RIOT AT SHANGHAI.

TWENTY NATIVES KILLED.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Shanghai, July 19.

Serious riots have been taking place at Shanghai. The French authorities took vigorous action and some twenty natives were killed. Everything is now quiet, but during the prevalence of the disturbance business had to be suspended, shops were closed, and the foreign settlements were in a state of terrorism. The action of the French is highly commended.

(From the "Japan Times.")

THE WAR.

MILES IN COMMAND IN CUBA.

NO SURRENDER: FEELING IN SPAIN.

London, July 15.

General Miles has assumed command in Cuba. Popular sentiment in Spain is against any yielding, being encouraged by the outbreak of fever among the Americans.

FALL OF SANTIAGO.

AMERICAN TERMS MAGNANIMOUS.

London, July 16.

Santiago has surrendered, the Americans agreeing to the transport of all troops to Spain and the officers retaining their swords. The *New York Herald* states that the Government officials at Washington assert that President McKinley is not desirous of retaining the Philippines, but would be satisfied with Guam Island and some coaling stations, provided that Puerto Rico be ceded and Cuba declared independent, also that he will not demand a money indemnity.

SPANISH CONSTITUTION SUSPENDED.

IMPENDING ATTACK ON PORTO RICO.

SPANIARDS EVACUATE SANTIAGO WITH HONOUR.

London, July 18.

The Constitution has been suspended throughout Spain, the measure being regarded as the precursor of peace. The next move on the part of the Americans will be to attack Porto Rico and send a squadron to Spain. But it is understood at Washington that President McKinley favours imposing moderate conditions of peace. The Santiago garrison marches out with the honours of war. Piles of arms are being left which will probably be returned by the Americans when the Spanish troops shall have been transported to Spain.

EXPEDITION TO PUERTO RICO.

London, July 19.

The surrender of Santiago has been completed and the American flag hoisted there. Most of the warships are now at Guantanamo. Several expeditions are preparing for Puerto Rico. President McKinley has wired General Shafter the thanks of the American people.

THE FATE OF THE PHILLIPPINES.

The Times says that Great Britain would feel no jealousy whatever if the United States took possession of the Philippines.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS NOT OFFICIALLY ADMITTED.

COMMODORE WATSON'S SAILING ORDERS FOR SPAIN.

London, July 20.

The existence of peace negotiations is not admitted officially either at Madrid or Washington. American operations at Manila and Havana will probably be postponed until September, after the rains.

Commodore Watson sails at the end of the week for Spain.

AMERICANS AND CUBANS AT LOGGERHEADS.

London, July 21.

There is a growing tension between the Americans and Cuban insurgents. The latter are indignant because Santiago has not been transferred to them. American officers and men do not conceal their contempt for the Cubans, and an early collision is predicted.

THE DREYFUS AFFAIR.

COL. PICQUART ARRESTED.

London, July 15.

Colonel Picquart has been arrested for writing to M. Sorrien, offering to disprove the authenticity of the documents upon which Dreyfus was found guilty.

ZOLA SENT TO PRISON ONCE MORE.

London, July 20.

In the course of the trial at Versailles in connection with the Dreyfus case, Emile Zola and Perreux were each sentenced to a year's imprisonment and 3,000 francs fine.

EMILE ZOLA LEAVES PARIS.

Emile Zola has left Paris for Lucerne.

THE ECLIPSE STAKES.

London, July 16.

The racing for the Eclipse stakes has resulted as follows:—Velasquez 1, Batt 2, Goletta 3.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR IRELAND.

London, July 18.

The Irish Local Government Bill has passed through Committee in the House of Commons.

RISING ON THE RUSSO-CHINESE FRONTIER.

London, July 19.

Advices from St. Petersburg notify the outbreak of a rebellion in the Chinese province of Kansu close to the Russian frontier.

ACCIDENT TO THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales, while staying with Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild at Waddesden Manor, Bucks., slipped on a staircase, and fractured his kneecap.

ITALY AND COLOMBIA.

DESPATCH OF A SQUADRON.

London, July 21.

An Italian squadron has left for Cartagena, Colombia, to enforce the settlement of President Cleveland's award in Italy's favour in the case of Cerrute, an Italian subject having a pecuniary grievance against the Republic of Colombia.

(Received by the *Fiji*.)

REPORTED FALL OF MANILA.

A Hongkong despatch, dated the 14th inst., has reached the military authorities to the effect that "Manila has been captured." It does not state, however, by whom—insurgents or U.S. troops.

It is reported that the Spanish Minister in Tokyo has received a telegram from Madrid, dated 14th inst. to the effect that the Spanish Government has decided to exempt from customs duty provisions imported into Cuba from any foreign country. This decision has been intimated to the Powers.

(From Saigon Papers.)

THE SANTIAGO BATTLE.

Paris, July 5.

A New York telegram states that Admiral Sampson did not enter Santiago harbour, but that Admiral Cervera with six vessels having come out on Sunday morning, trying to escape, the Americans gave chase, hailing projectiles upon them.

The Spaniards fought heroically, refused to surrender, and ran their vessels ashore, where they burnt and blew up. 250 Spaniards were killed, 860 wounded, and 600 made prisoners, including Admiral Cervera, who who was wounded in the arm.—*Daily Press*.

(From Java and Sources.)

RAISING OF FREIGHTS.

Taipeh, July 21.

The Governor-General will sanction the application for the raising of coasting freights.

TORPEDO-BOAT ASHORE.

Hakodate, July 21.

Torpedo Boat No. 23 yesterday stranded off Fukuyama, and sustained injury in several parts of the hull. The crews and the torpedoes, however, were saved.

On the 16th inst., at 3 a.m., a fire broke out at a hotel in Otaru, Hokkaido, and destroyed 50 houses.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	M. July 25
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 2	Tu. July 26
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Glenfarg 2	Tu. July 26
Hongkong	M. M Co.	Ernest Simons 3	W. July 27
Hongkong	C. P. R Co	Em. of Japan 4	Th. July 28
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Victoria 5	F. July 29
Hongkong	P. & O Co.	Risetta	M. Aug. 1
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Aug. 3
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Th. Aug. 4

1 Left San Francisco on the 7th July.
2 Left Shanghai on the 21st inst
3 Left Shanghai on the 20th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 20th inst.
5 Left Hongkong on the 19th inst

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. July 25
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. July 27
Hongkong	P. & O. Co	Rohilla	W. July 27
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. July 27
America	P. M. Co.	Glenfarg	W. July 27
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. July 29
Tacoma, Wash....	N. P. Co.	Victoria	Sa. July 30
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons	W. Aug. 3
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Aug 5
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Sa. Aug. 6

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 376.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to Kt 3	1—P takes R
2—Kt to Kt 6 mate	
	1—K takes Kt
2—B to Q 6 mate	
	1—Kt (Kt 7) takes Kt
2—R to Kt 3 mate	
	1—Kt (R 6) takes Kt
2—R to Kt 5 mate	
	1—B to Q 6
2—Kt takes B mate	

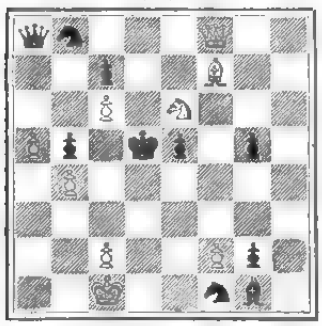
Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Miss S., Marco, Schach and Miss W.K.

PROBLEM No. 380.

By M. FRIGL, Wien, Austria

Second Prize, *British Chess Monthly* Problem Tourney.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in three moves.

GAME No. 410.

GAME PLAYED IN THE MATCH CAMBRIDGE v. GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

White—A. Fotheringham, Cambridge. Black—O. Hunt, Gloucester.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	18 Kt Q5	Kt xKt
2 Kt KB3	Kt KB3	19 PxKtdis. ch	Kt K4(e)
3 P Q4	PxP	20 Kt B4	Q K2(f)
4 QxP(a)	Kt B3	21 KtxKt	PxKt
5 Q K3	P Q3	22 Q Kt5ch	P B3
6 B Kt5	B Q2	23 PxP	K B2
7 Castles	KKt Kt5(b)	24 R K2	R Q3
8 Q K2	QKt K4	25 QxBP	R Qsq
9 BxBch	QxB	26 R K5q	R Q3
10 P KR3	Kt KB3	27 Q B8ch	
11 Kt B3	B K2	(g)	K K2
12 B K3	P KR3	28 QRxP(h)	R Q8ch
13 Kt Q2	P KK 4(c)	29 K B2	RxRch
14 P B4	Kt Kt3(d)	30 KxR	QxR
15 PxP	PxP	Resigns.	
16 BxKtP	Kt Ktsq		
17 BxB	Kt(Ktsq)xB		

NOTES.

(a) P to K 5 is preferable.

(b) A useless move.

(c) In the vain attempt to prevent P to B 4 Black has lost too much time.

(d) He should have taken the pawn, castled queen's side, and rushed a king's side attack afterwards.

(e) Kt to K 2 should have been played.

(f) If castles Q R, Black has still drawing chances.

(g) Q to B 5 would have won the game with safety and ease. The move is the result of a miscalculation which loses a rook.

(h) K R takes P would still have held good.

GAME No. 411.

The following pretty game was played in the recent championship tourney of the New Orleans Club. It was awarded the brilliancy prize:—

IRREGULAR OPENING.

White—M'Connell. Black—Buck.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P QR3	P Q4	14 Q Kt4	QKt B3
2 P Q4	B B4	15 B Kt5	P KR4
3 P K3	P K3	16 QxRP	QxQP
4 B Q3	Q Kt4	17 QR Qsq	QxKtP
5 Kt KB3	Q B3	18 R Q3	P KKt3
6 BxB	QxB	19 Q R2	Q K4
7 Q K2	PQR3	20 Q Q2	P Q4
8 Kt B3	B Q3	21 B R6	R Ksq
9 P K4	PxP	22 R K5q	Q B2
10 KtxP	Kt K2	23 Q Kt5	K R2
11 Castles	Castles	24 Q B6	KxB
12 KtxB	PxKt	25 Kt B5ch	Resigns
13 Kt R4	Q B3		

GAME No. 412.

AN INFANT PHENOMENON.

The following game was played some little time ago at the Pittsburgh Chess Club, the director of the movements of the white pieces being Mr. W. D. Brereton, and of the black his son, who is a lad of only seven years, and who, in all probability, is the youngest chess player living. The play of the father might have been improved. The boy, on the other hand, took full advantage of the chances that were offered to him.

STEINITZ GAMBIT.

White—Brereton, sen. Black—Brereton, jun.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	12 Kt Q5	P Kt5ch
2 Kt QB3	Kt QB3	13 B KB4	BxBch
3 P KB4	PxP	14 KtxB	PxP
4 P Q4	Q R5ch	15 PxP	R Ksq
5 K K2	P Q3(a)	16 P KR4	KKt K2
6 Kt B3	B KKt5	17 B R3ch	K Kt-q
7 BxP	Castles	18 ■ Kt2(b)	KR Ktsq
8 PK R3	BxKtch	19 Kt K2(c)	Kt B4ch
9 KxB	Q B3	20 K Q2	RxB
10 K K3	P KKt4	21 PxKt	KtxP
11 B Kt3	B R3	22 K Ksq	Q K4

And Mr. Brereton resigned (d).

(a) Not so strong as 5 ..... P to Q 4, followed by ..... B to K Kt 5 ch and ..... Castles.

(b) Better was 18—P to Q B 3, followed by Q to B 3.

(c) An oversight, the king's bishop being *en prise*.

(d) Because he had no defence against ..... R takes Kt ch, followed by ..... Q checks.

NOTES.

Speaking of the Vienna International Chess Congress, Gunsberg, says:—The tournament will form a very severe test, in which the strongest players will have a better chance to counteract by superior experience and steadiness the advantage which a young player might obtain through the daring enterprise and imagination of his play. In a short tournament such an advantage is usually decisive, but in a long race the better stayer will overhaul the sprinter. We are not at all sure that such a contest, so discouraging to the young and rising player, promotes the best interest of the game. Pillsbury seemed in very good physical confidence as to his prospects. The total amount of prize money is £1,000. Play will proceed daily until two complete rounds have been played, in thirty-eight days plus a few days for adjourned games. The first prize is just under £250. The winner will well deserve his reward.

Mr. Lasker adhered to his resolution not to play in the Vienna tournament as the organisers insisted upon two rounds, although he was willing to compete in a one round tournament. He has at length again resumed activity on the chessboard. Recently at Leipsic he contested twenty-two games simultaneously against a strong team, winning nineteen games, drawing one, and losing two games. Three days later, Mr. Lasker played twenty-eight games simultaneously at Dresden, and he won twenty-four and drew four games. Evidently the champion has forgotten little during his brief retirement.

The Birmingham Weekly chess column, recognised both by *La Stratégie* and the *Nuova Rivisita degli Scacchi* as one of the best English columns, has the following pretty anecdote:—

My friend Brown is an expert club player, and when recently ruralising amid the bumpkins was delighted to find a simple, innocent couple who realised his ideal of Darby and Joan, and who, "pour surcroit de bonheur," actually played chess. Brown submitted that the Royal game was a great resource in a quiet hamlet like Daisy Knoll, and Darby declared that neither he nor Joan could possibly live without it.

"And when we are tired of playing; or when one is indisposed to play, we have problem-solving to fall back on, said Joan.

"Ah!" said Brown, more and more interested, "I perceive that you cultivate both branches of the noble art."

"Yes, indeed," said Darby, "and what could be more interesting than the solution of a good first-prize three-mover?

"Nothing," assented Brown. "But don't you find prize three-movers rather tall—I mean steep—I mean—" (Brown's club life has infected him with slang, and classical words come rustily). "I mean stiff-er-a-a-difficult? Yes, that's the word I was looking for—don't you find prize three-ers rather difficult?"

"O, no!" cut in the amiable Joan, "O, no, not at all. In fact, we have had so large an experience that instead of taking three moves, we frequently contrive to solve them in two!!!"

Poor Brown. Not only was he once more disillusioned, but he had a pain in his chest for three days in consequence of the desperate efforts he had been compelled to make in order to smother an involuntary ebullition of mirth, which would have completely ruined his reputation as a person having a decent and civilised respect for his seniors.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, H. Sakimoto, 16th July,—Yokkaichi, 15th July, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shiganoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, S. Kakimi, 17th July—Kobe, 16th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 17th July,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 9th July, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Kweilin, British steamer, 1,088, J. Lamie, 18th July,—Taiwanfoo, 12th July, Sugar.—Butterfield & Swire.

Amagi Kan (11), Japanese Wooden-sloop, 926, Commander T. Taregaki, 18th July,—Yokosuka, 18th July.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 18th July,—Yokkaichi, 17th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,202, J. Nagao, 19th July,—Hakodate, 17th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Liv, Norwegian steamer, 2,003, Hansen, 19th July,—New York via ports, General.—Frazar & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, H. Walter, 19th July,—Yokkaichi, 18th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeijo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,534, C. A. Anderson, 19th July,—Hakodate, 17th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

No. 15 Kannon Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,805, Y. Furukawa, 19th July,—Otaru via ports, 15th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nestor, British steamer, 2,417, W. Asquith, 20th July,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 19th July, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, H. Sakimoto, 20th July,—Yokkaichi, 19th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, L. Muramatsu, 20th July,—Hakodate, 17th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Grafton (12), British Cruiser, 7,350, Capt. E. P. Jones, 20th July,—Yokosuka, 20th July.

Olympia, British steamer, 1,691, T. H. Dobson, 20th July,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 2nd July, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, J. Nitei, 20th July,—Bombay via ports, Kobe, 19th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ching Wo, British steamer, 2,517, H. C. Harris, 21st July,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 20th July, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 21st July,—Kobe, 19th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higo, 21st July,—Kobe, 20th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Olympia, British steamer, 1,691, T. H. Dobson, 21st July,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Banledi, British steamer, 1,481, R. Farquhar, 21st July,—London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Diomed, British steamer, 3,005, Thos. Bartlett, 21st July,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

DEPARTURES.

On Sang, British steamer, 1,789, Young, 16th July,—Moji, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 16th July,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S. S. Co.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, N. Mumezono, 16th July,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, H. Walter, 16th July,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higo, 16th July,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Masagon, British steamer, 3,280, E. G. Andrews, 16th July,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, F. W. Horton, 17th July,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, H. Sakimoto, 17th July,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Craigearn, British steamer, 1,948, D. Kirkwood, 17th July,—New York via ports, and Suez Canal, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 18th July,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, F. Brown, 18th July,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kansu, British steamer, 1,158, A. Sommerville, 19th July,—Moji, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 19th July,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rossia (28), Russia, Cruisers, 12,130, Capt. Domujiroff, 19th July,—Kobe.

Melbourne, French steamer, 2,033, D. Duchateau, 20th July,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, G. Shimazu, 20th July,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shiganoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, K. Kamiki, 20th July,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ficciola, German steamer, 875, Hop, 21st July,—Hongkong via Kobe and Moji, General.—M. Raspe & Co.

Yejio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,534, C. A. Anderson, 21st July,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, K. Yamanouchi, 21st July,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,202, J. Nagao, 21st July,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. L. Berindougue, Capt. J. J. C. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Thomson, Miss Thomson, Mr. G. D. Poli, Capt. Thompson, Mrs. T. B. Pulteney, Master A. Hutchison, Mr. G. C. Pakenham, Miss Pakenham, Mr. Mertens, Rev. and Mrs. Stamford, Mr. Bickel, Miss Chase, Mr. J. C. Wilkinson, Capt. F. Heiderish, and Mr. C. Rogers, in cabin; Sergt. Cronin, Mr. J. Malloy, and Mr. H. N. Pelerse, maid and infant, in second class; 4 Japanese, and 2 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Olympia*, from Tacoma, Wash., via Victoria, B.C.:—Dr. E. P. Kelley, and Mrs. Kuhn, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Doric* for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. J. Ambrose, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Azbill, Miss Azbill, Mr. A. Barr, Mr. I. Behrens, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. I. W. Brown, Mr. W. Doney, Mr. H. Edgar, Rev. R. C. Fillingham, Miss Halstead, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Happer, Miss Alice E. Harwood, Rev. Dr. M. C. Harris, Dr. B. Harada, I.J.N., Mr. S. Heryngtet, Mr. K. Hideshima, Mr. I. Ichii, Miss Irwin, Miss Irving, Mrs. S. Isaacs, child and amah, Master Irwin Isaacs, Miss James, Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson and child, Mr. Hideo Kisaki, I.J.N., Mr. Francis A. Lander, Mrs. Levison, Mr. L. O. Levison, Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Liddel and three children, Mr. and Mrs. A. McLeod, Mr. Hideo Maouzo, Mrs. O. Mondfort, Mr. James Murphy, Miss Hessie Murphy, Mr. R. W. Mustard, Mr. K. Nakahama, Mr. and Mrs. Jay H. Neff, Mr. M. Okada, Miss Picket, Col. A. Saisho, I.J.N., Mr. H. Santo, Mr. M. M. Saricheff, Mr. M. Savey, Major B. Shimakawa, I.J.N., Mr. H. J. Such, Mr. Y. Suzuki, I.J.N., Mr. A. A. Thomas, Miss Torrey, and Mr. T. Wooyeno, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kokura Maru*, for Kobe and ports:—Mr. S. Soga, Mr. A. Kubayama, Mr. J. F. Vernet, Mr. C. B. Harbey, Mr. W. E. Sabiabe, Mr. and Mrs. S. Kawamura, Mr. S. Kase, and Mr. Yoshida, in cabin; 100 Japanese, in steerage.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. G. W. Rogers, Mr. J. Clifford Wilkinson, Mr. A. Kleinwort, Mr. A. E. Blake, Mr. Sylvain Levy, Mr. S. Moosa, Mr. Alf. I. Hart, Mr. R. Hauff, Mr. M. H. Harlogh, Mr. A. R. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Buncombe, Mrs. Patrick Brady, Mr. Chung Tong, Mr. A. J. C. Rocha, Mr. J. A. C. V. Rebeiro, Mr. A. Pichon, Mr. Carrère, Mr. Vinson, Mr. Bordeneuve, Mr. Mallick, and Mr. S. Nagasaki, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Dr. S. Nagayo, Commander K. Muda, I.J.N., Mr. Mertens, Mr. B. Kuysama, Mr. J. Brigg, Mr. T. B. Glover, Mr. Wm. Barrie, Mr. H. Shoda, and Mr. M. Shoda, in cabin; Mrs. K. Abe, Mr. T. Fukaye, Mr. S. Jisoji, Mr. M. Nagayo, Mrs. Y. Muda, and Master S. Muda, in second class; 80 Japanese, 2 European, and 2 Chinese, in steerage.

The following are the shipments of Tea and Silk, per British steamer *Tacoma*, for Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL PACKAGES.
Hongkong	—	—	—	51	—	51
Amoy	—	—	1,751	—	—	1,751
Colombo	—	1,191	793	864	—	2,848
Kobe	620	—	480	2	—	1,102
Yokohama	1,924	4,443	1,131	109	—	7,607
Total	2,544	5,634	4,155	1,026	—	13,359

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL BALES.
Hongkong	160	—	160
Yokohama	—	—	—
Total	160	—	160

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, for Marseilles:—Raw Silk for Europe, 238 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 173 bales.

PATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The usual report of absolute stagnation still holds good. Nothing has been doing during the past week, and prices are only nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 14 inches	2.75 to 2.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0 15 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches last	0.28 to 0.41
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 32 inches	0.15 to 0.27
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.45 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 to 55 inches	0.50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per lb	0 50 to 0 60

	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.60 to 1.00
TurkeyReds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.25 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

LUSTRE YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 1/60, Plain	61 00 to 63.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	75.00 to 76.30
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	69 50 to 76.50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	114.00 to 124.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$19.50 to —
Indian Broach	19.25 —
Chinese	21.00 to 21.50

METALS.

Nothing doing, the market still suffering from a large over-supply. Quotations nominal.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square 4 inch. and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4.00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4.90 to 5.10
Galvanised Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5 90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5.95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.15

KEROSENE.

Nothing doing. Prices nominally at last week's rates.

American	$2 05 —
Russian	1.95 to 2.00
Langkat	— 1.85

SUGAR.

The market continues steady at prices, roughly speaking, at last week's level.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.40 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.20 to 6.30
Brown Daitong	3.80 to 4.20
Brown Canton	4.15 to 5.80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.25
White Refined	7.70 to 9.80

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A fair demand continues, and purchases, while not large, have been steady. There is now a stock of 6,481 boxes in Yokohama. Quotations are as under:—

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den	$930
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/12 deniers	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	850 to 860
Filatures—No. 2, 13/18 deniers	890
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	870
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	850
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	830
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14 18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 18/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1½	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2½	Nominal

WASTE SILK.

The market has been lifeless, purchases being *nil*, while there is a large stock, of nearly 3,000 piculs, on hand. Quotations nominally as under:—

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 103
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	85 to 90
Kibisa—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 22½

TEA.

The market continues active, large purchases having been made during the past week. The present stock exceeds a million pounds; some of it is of very inferior quality.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$35 & upwards
Choice	33 to 34
Finest	31 to 32
Fine	29 to 30
Good Medium	27 to 28
Medium	25 to 26
Good Common	23 to 24
Common	20 to 22

EXCHANGE.

Silver ⅛ higher from London and sterling quotations from China ⅛ higher have caused rates on China to weaken, but otherwise there is no change.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0½
— — Bills on demand	2/0 5/8
— — 4 months' sight	2 0½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅝
— — 6 months' sight	2/0⅝
On Paris—Bank sight	2 55
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.58½
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	50½
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06½
— Private 4 months' sight	2.10½
On Hongkong—Bank sight	4/16 dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	5/16 dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	78
— Private 10 days' sight	79 to ¼
On India—Bank sight	153
— Private 30 days' sight	156
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/16

LOCAL AND JAPANESE SHARE LIST.

[MESSRS. BISSET & URE'S LIST.]

Yokohama, July 21st.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works changed hands yesterday and to-day at *yen* 220, at which rate further shares can be had. This rate carries with it the dividend shortly to be paid by the Company. Sellers rule the market for Japan Breweries; old shares cum new ex application deposit paid can be had at *yen* 500, old shares at *yen* 275, and new shares cum deposit at *yen* 75. Oriental Hotels have ready sellers at *yen* 135. Nagasaki Hotels can be placed at *yen* 35; holders ask *yen* 50. North & Raes continue in strong demand at *yen* 200. Langfields are wanted at *yen* 230; *yen* 235 will procure shares. Hyogo Gas have sellers at *yen* 180. Kobe Club Debentures

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The Japan Brewery Co. have issued a circular letter to the effect that the resolutions regarding the increase of capital and the division of $100 shares into two $50 shares will not come into effect until after reformation of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works Ld., $50 ...	220 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld., $100..... x...	*
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100.....	650.50 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100 ..... x...	226 N.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100..... 3 ..	235 S.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Fdrs.), $100	450 S.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., yen 100	35 Sa. & B.
North and Rae, Ld., $100	200 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $50.....	20 N.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100.....	230 B.
Hiogo Gas Co., Ld., $100..... 4...	180 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100.....	110 N.
Kobe Club 6% Deb., $50	51 S.
Yokohama United Club 5½% Deb., $100	102 B.
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb , $100.....	100 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7½% Deb., $100	120 B.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $200	200 S.

* Old shares cum new yen 500 S., old shares ex new yen 275 S., new shares yen 10 paid yen ■ S.

Reserve Fund.—1, yen 110,000; 2, yen 50,000 Equalization of dividend; 3, yen 21,710.91; 4. yen 16,198.44.

N.E.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady, N.=Nominal, W.=Weak, E.=Enquiries.

(FROM THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE OFFICIAL LIST.)

Tokyo, July 21st.

Five per Cent. Capitalized Pension Bonds	99 80
Redemption Loan Bonds	96 00
War Loan Bonds	96 00
Old Public Loan Bonds	90.50
Naval Loan Bonds	94.80
Tokyo City Loan Bonds.....	96 30
Japan Railway Company—paid up yen 50	60.00
Sanyo Railway Company—paid up yen 50	45.30
Kansai Railway Company—paid up yen 50	49.00
Kobu Railway Company—paid up yen 45	92 50
Kyushu Railway Company—paid up yen 50	61.20
Kyushu Railway Company, new—paid up yen 25.	32.00
Hokkaido Coal Mining Company—paid up yen 50	79 00
Hokkaido Coal Mining Co., new—paid up yen 28	45.00
Sangu Railway Company—paid up yen 50	73.50
Kawagoye Railway Company—paid up yen 50 ...	48.00
Zuzo Railway Company—paid up yen 50.....	23.00
Hantan Railway Company—paid up yen 50.....	28.00
Boso Railway Company—paid up yen 50	25.00
Sobu Railway Company—paid up yen 50	73 80
Narita Railway Company—paid up yen 50	46.40
Nishinari Railway Company—paid up yen 46	29 80
Toyokawa Railway Company—paid up yen 50.....	20.00
Hokuyetsu Railway Company—paid up yen 50 ...	25.00
Ota Railway Company—paid up yen 37.50	27.00
Seiwa Railway Company—paid up yen 12.50	7.50
Chugoku Railway Company—paid up yen 25	5 70
Kyoto Railway Company—paid up yen 25	5.50
Kozuke Railway Company—paid up yen 50	21 00
Nanao Railway Company—paid up yen 50	31.00
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50.....	45.70
Tokyo Bay Steamship Company—paid up yen 25...	12.00
Domestic Transport Company—paid up yen 60 ...	30.50
Japan Transport Company—paid up yen 7.50	2 8.
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	369 00
First National Bank—paid up yen 50.....	50.80
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50	55 00
Specie Bank—paid up yen 200.....	167.50
Specie Bank, new—paid up yen 75	193.00
Imperial Merchant Bank—paid up yen 25	20.10
Tokyo Tramway Company—paid up yen 50	253 0.
Yokohama Electric Light Co.—paid up yen 42	29 00
Shinagawa Electric Light Co.—paid up yen 31	9 50
Tokyo Electric Light Company—paid up yen 10...	42.00
Tokyo Gas Company—paid up yen 50	61.00
Doshin Kaisha—paid up yen 50	9 80
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	126 00

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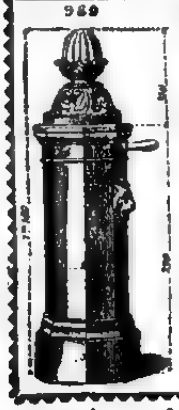

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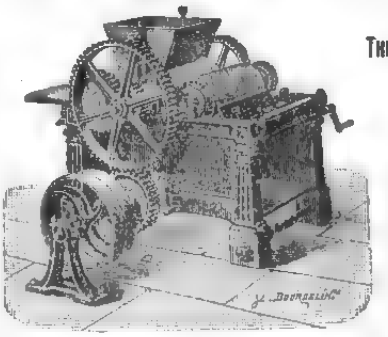

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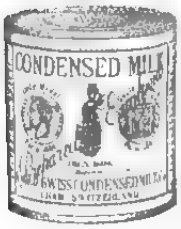

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JULY 30TH, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THEIR MAJESTIES have postponed their trip to Kyoto indefinitely.

EARL MINTO has been appointed Governor General of Canada.

CHINA is experiencing considerable difficulty in suppressing the Kwangsi rebellion.

THE principal ships of H.M. China squadron are expected in Yokohama next week.

DYSENTERY is epidemic in Kanagawa Prefecture, and to a slighter degree in Yokohama.

MANILA has not yet fallen, despite the arrival of the second batch of American troops at Cavite.

MR. PAK YONG-HO has decided, it is said, on the advice of his friends, not to return to Korea.

COUNT MATSUKATA on the 25th inst. proceeded to the Palace, and had audience with his Majesty.

A GOODS and passenger car belonging to the Nankai Railway Company came in collision at Sumiyoshi station. Three passengers were injured.

OWING to dysentery, several schools in Kanagawa Prefecture have been closed until further notice.

DISCUSSIONS, more or less heated, continue regarding the appointment of a new Foreign Minister.

THE Cubans have presented a petition demanding the immediate establishment of the Cuban Republic.

MARQUIS ITO leaves for China this week. His tour will extend from Peking to Hongkong, if not beyond.

THE torpedo-destroyer *Tatsuta* left Hakodate on the 22nd inst. for Fukuyama, where Torpedo-boat 23 was stranded.

ON the 22nd inst. the Italian Minister, Count Orfini, left Tokyo for his villa at Hayama, Kanagawa prefecture.

BAR-GOLD, valued at *yen* 3,000,000, which the Government have purchased in London, arrived at Kobe on the 21st inst.

PRINCE CYRIL has left Kobe for Vladivostock, *via* Nagasaki. The Czar has telegraphed his thanks to the Emperor.

ON the 22nd inst. a case of cholera appeared at Nishi-Shinmachi, Tokushima, and the victim died the same day.

ON the 19th inst. at Uyeno park, Tokyo, the dead body of a man was found hanging on a tree. It was clearly a case of suicide.

MR. YANO, the Japanese Minister to Peking, has left for Japan to report concerning the Shashi affair and the general condition of China.

HIS Majesty the Czar of Russia has conferred the decoration of Alexander Nevsky, in diamonds, on H.I.H. Prince Kan-in Kotohito.

SPAIN has formally sued for peace through the French Ambassador at Washington. President McKinley will consult the Cabinet before replying.

TWO American sailors named Chambers and Frandt, who deserted from a sailing vessel at Hakodate, were arrested in Yokohama on the 20th instant.

THE hot weather has at last driven cricketers from the field in Yokohama, at least during the day. Matches are now arranged from 4.30 p.m. to sundown.

THE United States will fortify Honolulu, making it one of the strongest military posts in the Pacific. Barracks are to be erected to accommodate a large force.

THE dead body of an infant was found on the 20th inst. in the river near Ichujima, Fukagawa, Tokyo. It is supposed the child had been thrown into the water.

THE Insurgents both in Cuba and in the Philippines are said to be greatly dissatisfied with the American conduct of the campaign. Trouble is feared in both quarters.

THERE are indications of a general disturbed state of feeling in Spain. Troubles have broken out in Granada, and armed bands have appeared in other districts.

THE Osaka Watch Manufacturing Company held a general meeting on the 26th inst. to discuss the question of reducing the capital, or winding up. The latter course will be adopted.

ON the 26th inst. a telegram was received from the Japanese Consul at Townsville, Australia, to the effect that Japanese emigrants numbering 59, carrying passports to the northern districts, have landed in Queensland. The Governor of Queensland decided that Japanese without passports shall not be permitted to land hereafter.

THERE is a rumour that the Department of Justice will shortly be closed, and its affairs transferred to the Department of Home Affairs. A Department for Industries will shortly be established.

IT is stated that the Kobu Railway Company is intending to raise a foreign loan. The company is in consultation with Messrs. Illies & Co., Yokohama. The amount is stated as *yen* 200,000.

THE riots at Shanghai have subsided, though for nearly a week trade was hampered seriously, all the Ningpo men stopping work by order of their Guild, who own the Joss-house that originated the trouble.

A CARPENTER named Tanaka Tomijiro, 29 years old, living at Katamachi, Yotsuya, Tokyo, attempted suicide by drinking about an ounce of sulphuric acid at a house of ill-fame at Shinjiku. He is in a critical condition.

A NEMURO despatch, dated 23rd inst., has reached the head office of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha in Tokyo to the effect that there is no hope of saving the steamer *Harima Maru*, which recently stranded at Kaigarase.

MESSRS. NAKAJIMA, Rakuin, and other Eastern Liberals (*Kwanto Jiyuha*) who are endeavouring to make Mr. Hoshi, the Minister to Washington, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, are arranging a reception on his return from the States.

ON the 23rd inst., at 8.10 p.m., as a train on the Kobu Railway was passing Sendagaya village, Toyotama-gori, Tokyo, a man suddenly ran out from a side way and laid himself down on the rails before the engine. His head was completely cut into pieces by the wheels.

A YOUTH, named Uyeda Sozaburo, 17 years of ago, in the employ of a rice merchant in Saiwai-cho, Hakodate, embezzled *yen* 3,300 from the 130th National Bank. He was arrested just as he was about to abscond. Some rice brokers have also been arrested as accomplices.

THE Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, in introducing the Supplementary Naval Programme in the House of Commons, announced the intended addition of four new battleships, four cruisers, and twelve torpedo-boat-destroyers at a cost of eight millions. This addition, he explained, was necessitated by the Russian programme, the Admiralty considering it necessary to maintain the principle that the British fleet should be equal to those of any two other Powers.

As far as the import trade is concerned, the past week has offered no feature beyond the dullness which has characterised it for many weeks past. There have been some enquiries for yarns, but only a very few transactions have been done, and those at the lowest prices. Grey shirtings are absolutely stagnant, and so are fancy cottons and woollens. The metal and kerosene markets are both lifeless; sugar shows prospects of an improving demand. There is a slight fall of a few *sen* per picul in the prices of Manila's and Formosa's. As to exports, there is still a steady demand for raw silk from Europe, but American buyers are apparently keeping aloof. The effect is to reduce prices slightly all round. Settlements up to date since July 1st have been 2,204 piculs. In waste silk there is absolutely no business. Purchases of tea have been extensive, the lower qualities being chiefly enquired for. Prices remain at last week's level.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

More than one of the Tokyo journals write strongly in support of the suggestion that the *Keishicho*, or Metropolitan Police Board, should cease to have an independent existence. The idea has not been suggested, as might be supposed, by the recent indiscretion of Baron Sonoda, the late Chief of Police. It is a project several years old, though, of course, the Sonoda incident has brought it into unprecedented prominence. The celebrated Mr. Kawaji may be said to have been the founder of the *Keishicho*. He was its chief in 1877 during the Satsuma rebellion, and he it was that organized the corps of constables who did such splendid service with the old Japanese weapon, the sword, against the insurgents. Thenceforth, the Board of Metropolitan Police assumed a kind of military character, and an unwritten law came to be observed that its chief should always be of Satsuma extraction. People regarded it as an instrument, not for the commonplace purpose of preserving law and order, but for protecting the Cabinet, or, to speak more plainly, for carrying out the mandates of the Sat-Cho clique. Its record has not contributed to its popularity. It has been closely connected with the enforcement of the Peace Preservation Regulations, the Premonition Regulations, the Press Law, and the Law of Public Meeting and Political Association. In short, it has been the agent for enforcing ordinances that greatly curtailed the liberty of the subject, and the evil odour of the functions it has had to perform clings to it even after the repeal of all those objectionable pieces of legislation. The part played by it in the past is now compared to the part that the police in Russia have to play towards the Nihilists and the police in Germany towards the Socialists. Baron Sonoda's action is declared to have been quite consistent with the history of the Board, and it is asked why such a system of police should be necessary in Tokyo when the other two chief cities of Japan, Kyoto, and Osaka, get on excellently without anything of the kind. The *Asahi Shimbun* has been principally conspicuous in urging that the present opportunity should be seized to abolish the Board, and place the city police under the control of the Governor.

* * *

Not a single journal has come out as an open advocate of the project said to be entertained by the Cabinet, namely, the raising of the emoluments of members of the Diet from 800 *yen* annually to 1,800 *yen*. Even the organs of the Constitutional Party oppose it. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, for example, declares that the scheme has no better object than to placate the discontented Peers, and thus remove a difficulty not unlikely to embarrass the Cabinet seriously, namely, the opposition of the Upper House to all Government measures. It is well-known that the various Orders of the Nobility, when electing members to represent them in parliament, are greatly influenced by a candidate's pecuniary circumstances, and deem it a point of propriety to return a man if it be certain that the stipend of 800 *yen* accruing to him as a member will materially assist him to make ends meet. Eight hundred *yen* is not a large sum, but it means 66 *yen* a month, and the possession or deprivation of 66 *yen* a month means to an ordinary Japanese the difference between a comfortable competence and penury. Hence it is that the Counts, Viscounts and Barons sitting in the Upper House are, in the main, the most impecunious representatives of their several Orders. That is not a desirable state of affairs. The nation wants able legislators in the Upper House, not needy pensioners, and it is held that to raise the salary from 800 to 1,800 *yen* would materially increase the dimensions of the abuse. As for the Lower House, the Tokyo journals think that the larger the salary given to a member the more numerous will be the men who regard a parliamentary career simply as a means of earning money by selling their votes. Probably the purity of the House would be best secured by abolishing the system of salaries altogether. It is noteworthy that among all the arguments penned upon this subject, not one embodies the contention so popular a few years ago, namely, that the salaries of all officials are too high, and that the members of the Diet ought to set a good example by cutting down their own emoluments. Neither is any allusion made to the fact that it rests with the Emperor solely to increase or decrease the salaries of the members, and that legislation by the Diet is not the Constitutional means of accomplishing that object.

* * *

The attacks on the Cabinet continue to be very vigorous though there are symptoms that the ammunition of the assailants is getting scarce. Some capital has been made out of the case of Mr. Okuzaki. It is alleged that he had been chosen for the post of Chief of the Local Government Bureau in the Department of Home Affairs, and that the Minister of the Department had actually conveyed to him an intimation in that sense, when the members of the Constitutional Party raised an objection and the Cabinet had to agree to another nominee. The *Kokumin*, taking that fact as its text, calls the Ministry a mere *mawari doro* (revolving lamp) in the hands of the Constitutionalists, and declares that the Emperor entrusted the duty of organizing a Cabinet and selecting officials to Counts Okuma and Itagaki, not to the Constitutionalists or any other political party.

* * *

The independence of the Army and Navy Departments continues to be a bitter pill to party politicians. Journal after journal denounces such a state of affairs as anomalous and unpractical. The opponents of the Cabinet never tire of casting in its teeth the fact that the alleged triumph of party principles is a mere show, since a ministry could not be organized without the aid of the so called "clan statesmen;" and the friends of the Government declare that administrative reforms cannot be more than idle talk if the two Departments standing most in need of reform are secured against all change. Then there is the question of reducing the Army. The *Mainichi Shimbun*—Mr. Shimada Saburo's organ—used to be the great advocate of that measure, but the *Yomiuri Shimbun* has now stepped into the breach. It points out, with much show of justice, that the finances can never be reduced to a state of order unless the prime cause of their disorder, the excessive dimensions of the Army, is corrected, and that since the Army is now placed entirely beyond Ministerial interference, the Cabinet need not entertain any vain hope of placing the monetary affairs of the State on a firm foundation. It is evidently appreciated that all the bloom is taken off the peach of party cabinets if their introduction is to be the means of putting the Army and Navy outside the Administrative sphere, and investing them with the character of an *imperium in imperio*.

* * *

One of the most singular articles recently published appears in the columns of the *Jiji Shimpo*. It is an exhortation to the Government to clear out the ranks of officialdom from top to bottom, and put in new men. Never mind whether they are clever or stupid; expert or clumsy. What is wanted is a fresh atmosphere in the official building. The administration has been in one groove for the past thirty years. It must be prised bodily out of the rut. If there are some officials now serving whose records show that they can not be conveniently dispensed with, let them be re-appointed after removal. But all should be temporarily removed. The nation wants to see a completely new face. Nearly all the high administrative posts are still held by Satsuma-Choshiu nominees, and their influence has permeated the banks, the commercial and industrial companies and almost every department of national life. A thorough purging of these elements is needed. The *Jiji Shimpo* is always courageous in its suggestions.

* * *

There are journals, too, which contend that the country has merely exchanged King Log for King Stork. Formerly clan nepotism (*hambatsu*) was the order of the day; now it seems likely to be replaced by party nepotism (*tobatsu*). The *Yorozu Choho* has a clever article on this subject. When a man's enemies and his friends concur in their verdict about him, says the *Yorozu*, it may be taken for granted that they are not altogether wrong. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Chuo Shimbun*, the Ministry's most implacable opponents, declare that it is not a party cabinet at all; the *Mainichi Shimbun* and the *Yomiuri Shimbun* declare with equal emphasis that it is not a party cabinet at all. They are both nearly right, for there is no such thing at present as a genuine party. The Constitutional Party consists of two sections cemeted together originally for the purpose of overthrowing the Sat-Cho Ministry. Having accomplished that object with unexpected ease, they would have fallen asunder incontinently had not a new cement been created by the prospect of dividing the spoils. But they have no cohesion for constructive purposes, and they can not have any until they formulate a programme of principles and become the champions of some definite cause. That is precisely what they shrink from doing lest the effort to agree should expose their disagreements. But they are making a fatal mistake. The nation can not respect and support them until it knows what they advocate and whither they are guiding it. Besides, they ought to know very well that nothing better could happen to them than the secession of some of their unwieldy numbers and the consequent formation of a strong opposition. The friction of opposition evolves the heat that welds a party together. Better to be a compact association with principles to rally to and an open enemy to fight, than a mob of heterogeneous elements hiding the seeds of disruption under a pretence of concord, and nourishing covert foes in the disguise of professed partizans.

* * *

Signs of uneasiness and apprehension are beginning to make themselves apparent in the ranks of the Constitutionalists. There are two sources of trouble. One is the pending general elections. It gradually becomes evident that although the Liberals and Progressists have amalgamated to form the Constitutionalists, their respective candidates are not unlikely to come into collision at the polls. That, however, is a danger with limited consequences. So long as the leaders of the two sections do not disagree, quarrels among a few of their followers, and even some disaffections, will not greatly matter. What is much more important seems to be a tendency on the side of the Party to dictate to the Ministry and to unduly control its freedom of action. Several journals discuss that danger. Their contention is that the General Committee of the Constitutionalists imposes its mandates on the Cabinet and plays the part of a veritable Jacobin Club. The organs of the Party write about the matter in a transparent but rather disingenuous fashion. They profess to think it impossible that such a false system should be inaugurated, but, at the same time, they take such pains to point out its disadvantages that their sense of the imminence of the danger is plainly betrayed. It is fresh in every one's memory that the conduct of the Progressists during their alliance with the Matsukata Ministry showed a singularly defective appreciation of the subordination which must be practised by a political party towards the men whom it has chosen as its representatives. If it has confidence in them, there is no reason to control them. If it has no confidence in them, there can be no such thing as cordial cōoperation.

* * *

Another piece of advice tendered by the same journal is that the method of choosing officials should be radically changed. In connexion with this subject our contemporary traces the history of the changes that the Governments' policy has undergone since the Restoration. At first, the ruling principle was that only men of learning should be drafted into the ranks of officialdom. Then learning

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came to be interpreted in the sense of a knowledge of foreign science and languages. But, by and by, the disciples of the "classics" asserted their influence, and in 1881 and 1882, "learning" acquired the significance of familiarity with the philosophies of Confucius and Mencius. That creed impressed itself upon the school teachers, and the old-fashioned Chinese scholars triumphed. Not for long, however. In 1887, Rules for the Examination of Officials were promulgated, and according to their provisions, only a graduate of the University could become an official of high grade. All these measures were intended to keep the common people from invading the precincts of officialdom. After a few years, another change of principle was made. In 1893, the restriction as to graduates of the University nominally ceased to be operative; a distinct reform, but one that did not accomplish much in practice, for high officials continued to be chosen from the upper classes alone, common folks remaining as ineligible as ever. It is time to completely abandon a system based on invidious exclusiveness. The rules ought to be completely remodelled. All schools, whether public or private, satisfying a certain standard, should be entitled to the same consideration for their graduates. Moral qualifications should become the real test of eligibility for office, without any reference to social position or connexions. Another reform urged by the *Jiji* is that no one should be appointed to the upper ranks of officialdom unless he has a knowledge of the English language. Indeed, the *Jiji* goes so far as to say that a knowledge of English ought to be considered a *sine quâ non* in the case of a candidate for the Diet also, but it confesses thus such a system might be difficult to introduce at once.

MUSICALE IN YOKOHAMA.

Mrs. Mollison's Musicale on the evening of the 23rd was most successful. The programme, which we reproduce, speaks for itself. Herr von Koeber's inability to attend owing to indisposition was a great disappointment, but Mr. Junker on the violin, Mr. Schmid on the cello, and Messrs. Ellis and Mason at the piano were at their best. Miss Fiske also played charmingly. Mrs. Mollison was in splendid voice. It is unnecessary to speak of her singing, for we can add nothing to the high estimate that Yokohama and Tokyo have already formed of it. Neither need we make special reference to the other performers, since this is not a criticism but merely a note of thanks on behalf of those who were ■ fortunate ■ to enjoy the treat. Among them were the Governor of Kanagawa, the Superintendent of Customs, Mr. and Mrs. Otani Kahei and a small contingent of Japanese and foreign friends from Tokyo.

PART. I.

1. Trio .....Gade.
   Messrs. Junker, Schmid and Ellis.
2. Songs..Love is for ever. Sapphic Ode..Brahms.
   Mrs. Payne.
3. Violin Solo ..... —
   a. Adagio from G. Minor Concerto ...Bruch.
   b. Le Cygne .....Saint Saëns.
   Mr. Junker.
4. Piano Solo...Aus Holberg's Zeit .....Grieg.
   Mr. Ellis.
5. Violin Duet .....Bach.
   Miss Fiske and Mr. Junker.
6. Zwei Lieder, Herbstlied, Frühlingslied } Oscar Weil.
   Mrs. Mollison.
   Violin accompaniment by Mr. Junker.

PART II.

1. Trio .....Schumann.
   Messrs. Junker, Schmid and Mason.
2. Song .....Il libro Santo.....Ciro Pinsuti.
   Mrs. Walter.
   Cello accompaniment by Mr. Schmid.
3. Sonata for Violin and Piano .....Rubinstein.
   Mr. Junker and Mr. Ellis.
4. Cello Solo.....A Kol Nidre .....Bruch.
   Mr. Schmid.
5. Song .....To Anthea .....Hatton.
   Mr. Middleton.
6. Violin Solo ..... —
   a. Andante.....Mendelssohn.
   b. Perpetuum Mobile.....Ries.
   Mr. Junker.

A NEW BOARDING-HOUSE IN SAPPORO.

It may interest the public, especially Missionaries in search of cool summer quarters, to know that a Boarding house has just been opened in Sapporo, with food, beds, and all accommodations in foreign style.

The house is a new one, two storeys high, standing in quiet shady grounds on the edge of the town in a very pleasant part of Sapporo. Foreigners who have visited it describe the rooms as not only clean and fresh, but also bright and attractive. The boarding house is kept by a refined Japanese woman, Miss Shimizu Naka, who has lived for thirteen years with foreigners, six of these years having been spent in America, where she attended courses at Mrs. Lincoln's Cooking School in Boston. She has the reputation of being an excellent cook. The terms are 12 *yen* a week or 45 *yen* a month. This includes both room and board, but guests are asked to bring their own blankets, pillows, bed-linen and napkins. We are informed that Miss Shimizu speaks English, and that all necessary particulars may be obtained by letter addressed to her at Kita Ichi-jo, Higashi 6 chome, No. 12, Sapporo.

Our readers will perceive that this account amounts, in effect, to an advertisement, and might properly be relegated to our advertisement colums. But we adopt the somewhat unusual course of making editorial reference to the new boarding house, because the enterprise presents itself to us in something more than a mere business light. Sapporo has a delightful climate, and the opening of a good foreign boarding house there at reasonable rates can not fail to interest many who would like to enjoy the coolness of the northern island, but are deterred by the prospect of either having to pay 3½ *yen* a day at the hotel, or to rent a house and transport furniture and bedding thither at heavy outlay and with results questionable as to comfort. Hokkaido, we believe, will be the sanitorium of Japan one of these days, and everything that conduces to bring its advantages within the reach of people of moderate means is to be welcomed.

FORMOSAN REGULATIONS.

An Ordinance of the Formosan Government Office published in the *Official Gazette* of the 23rd instant embodies regulations for a school for the training of police and prison officials. The students are to consist of holders and non-holders of office, the two classes together embracing not more than 200 persons. Police students will study Police and Executive Laws, Regulations of Law Courts, Code of Criminal Procedure, Penal Codes, Opium Regulations, also the Formosan language, in addition to lessons in military discipline, shooting, and fencing. The students of the prison section are required to study laws of accounts, book-keeping, and the use of weapons for arresting prisoners, together with some of the matters mentioned above.

Another Notification of the same Office relates to the establishment of regulations for the control of vessels using ports on the Formosa coast. Two other Ordinances deal with rules for the transport of gunpowder and the transport of valuable articles by railway. The freight for gunpowder is to be 2 *sen* per picul per mile, and delivery must be taken within six hours of its arrival at the station; on the expiration of which time a fee of two *yen* per hour will be collected on every 3,500 catties. The second notification defines the charges for the transport of gold and silver and jewels, and other articles of great value, inclusive of paper money, stamps, and bonds of all descriptions. The charges per catty for 25 miles are 5 *sen*, for 50 miles 7 *sen*, and above 50 miles an extra payment of 10 *sen* is required for every additional 50 miles. All valuable articles are to be transported by passenger train with a special caretaker. In case of the transmission of considerable quantities, a car may be exclusively engaged on payment of 2 *yen* per ton per mile.

THE EMPEROR OF CHINA ON "SQUEEZE IDJIN."

Can it be actually a fact that the advisers of the Emperor of China are waking up and realising the true inwardness of things? Of late several Edicts have been issued from Peking that bear the impress of revolutionary ideas—revolutionary from the old standpoint of Chinese opinion. And if these documents have any value beyond the paper they are printed on, then China's rulers are actually on the eve of a long-desired reformation. But after the weary years that have gone by since reform was first hinted at in the councils of the Emperor of China, one feels almost justified in thinking that these seemingly benevolent, far-seeing, and statesmanlike documents are but chaff flung out by the wily mandarins of the Tsung-li Yamên to tantalize the palates of would be reformers. For ever have the promises of that august body been finer than its performance. According to the *N.-C. Daily News*, in an Edict of the 14th instant, the Emperor remarks that he hears that of late trade in the provinces has not been as flourishing as it should be, nor are opportunities give for expansion. All this is really owing to the want of unison between the official and mercantile classes. Furthermore, whenever a company of merchants fails and closes its doors, creditors stand aloof and dare not push their claims in the Courts owing to the rapacity and avaricious demands of the scribes and underlings in the *yamêns*. If this state of affairs be permitted to continue, it is obvious that it will be impossible for trade to either flourish or expand. We, therefore, take this occasion, in view of the present movement to regulate the commercial activity of the empire, to declare that it is of the utmost necessity to eradicate entirely this condition of affairs amongst *yamên* underlings throughout the country, and to command that the eradication thereof be commenced in earnest by all Tartar Generals, Viceroys, and Governors of the provinces. "These shall give instructions to their subordinates, the local authorities, to obey our commands, and that in all cases the latter should endeavour to give consideration and encouragement to all merchants, traders, artisans, and the like under them. Full protection should be given to these classes of our subjects, and whenever the failure of a merchant hong is brought to the notice of the said local authorities, the latter must take up the matter at once, give assistance to the aggrieved parties, and try to recover for them their just rights. The said local authorities are also now commanded to sternly repress all attempts of their underlings to extort from and otherwise hinder such creditors. In this way only can craftiness and dishonesty be punished and the honest and law-abiding be able to get their rights respected." This is very fine talk: it will accomplish very little, we fear, for it seeks to do away with a Chinaman's most cherished principle—squeeze-pidjin.

ARREST OF A FOREIGNER.

On the 22nd inst., a foreigner named M. Edwards was arrested by the police authorities of the Settlement station and sent in the District Court on a charge of fraud. The foreigner on the 6th ultimo arrived here, and took a room at no 121 Settlement. On the 11th he went to the Settlement Police Station, and told the authorities that he came from America to investigate the condition of business in Japan. He spoke in an important way and put on what are popularly supposed to be the manners of wealthy and distinguished persons. It is alleged that he fraudulently obtained goods of no great value from a Chinese tailor, the different drinking saloons, Clausen's Hotel, Messrs. Brett and Company, and Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd. On arrest he was taken to the U.S. Consulate, and thence to the Consulates of Great Britain, France, Germany, &c., but his nationality could not be discovered, and he will therefore be dealt with by the Japanese authorities.

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THE FIGHT AT SANTIAGO.

The detailed accounts of the fight at Santiago partially help to dispel the wonder created by the telegraphic news originally received. They show that the squadron under Admiral Sampson's command was more powerful than we had imagined. Our supposition, at the time when the intelligence of the battle came over the wires, was that the *Brooklyn*, the *Texas*, the *Columbia*, and the *Minneapolis* had been detached from the squadron in order to get ready for the proposed expedition to Spain, but now it appears that the *Brooklyn* and *Texas* were both with the Santiago Squadron, which consisted of the following :—

	Tons.	Speed.	Date.
Iowa battle-ship	11,410	16.1	1896
Indiana do	10,288	15.5	1893
Massachussetts do	10,288	16.2	1893
Oregon do	10,288	16.7	1893
Texas protect-cruiser.....	6,315	17	1892
Brooklyn do	9,271	21.9	1895

The armament of these six ships is 76 armour piercing guns, ranging from 6-in to 13-in, and 18 Quick-firers, ranging from 4-in to 5-in. It is unnecessary to consider the Quick-firers of smaller calibres, for they were evidently not in action. The Spanish ships were these :—

	Tons.	Speed.	Date
Viscaya.....Protec-Cruiser *Almirante*	7,000	20	1891
Oquendo ..... do *Infanta Maria*	7,000	20	1890
Teresa ..... do	7,600	20	1890
Cristobal Colon do	6,840	20	1896

These ships are all credited with a speed of 20 kinds, and, if they could really steam at that rate, they ought to have had a good chance of escaping from everything on the American side except the *Brooklyn*. But it is evident that they did not possess such high speed. The *Cristobal Colon* is said to have been the fastest, doubtless because she was the newest. The armament of the four was 28 armour-piercing guns, ranging from 5.5 in. to 11-in., and 26 quick-firers, ranging from 47-in to 6-in. Thus, in the matter of quick-firers the advantage was with the Spaniards—26 pieces against 18, the calibres practically equal—, but in the matter of armour-piercing guns the preponderance was greatly in favour of the Americans—76 pieces to 28, the calibres of the American guns being also a little larger. It appears that the Spaniards managed to plant only one shell in an American ship during the whole engagement, whereas their own vessels were absolutely riddled. How is that to be explained! Unfortunately, the accounts thus far to hand say nothing about the range. But we are not without means of making a conjecture. The fight took place with the vessels steaming at the top of their speed — not less than 16 knots—and yet within an hour the Spanish squadron was destroyed, Now however excellent the American gunnery may be—and it is evidently splendid—it is difficult to suppose that the destructive accuracy necessary to effect so much in so brief a period could have been obtained at a greater range than 4,000 yards. But at 4,000 yards every one of the Spanish quick-firers ought to have been effective, not indeed against the hulls of any of the American ships except the *Brooklyn*, but certainly against every exposed part of the vessels. The battle of the Yalu was fought at a range of about 3,000 yards, and the Japanese quick-firers, though they could not injure the hulls of the Chinese iron-clads, played terrible havoc with their crews, actually silencing their fire. What happened to the Spanish quick-firers? And then their 28 armour-piercing guns — six 11-in., two 10-in. and twenty 5.5-in.—could not these be pointed straight enough to get in more than one shell in an hour's cannonding? The difference of protection was not so great as may be supposed. The three first Spanish ships on the above list had almost as heavy armour as the *Texas*, and much heavier than the *Brooklyn*. For example :—

	Armour.
Viscaya ..... *Almirante* ... *Oquendo* ..... *Infanta Maria* *Teresa*	12" belt; 10½" gun-position; 3" deck.
Colon	6" belt; 6" gun-position; 3" deck.
Texas.....	12" belt; 12" gun-position; 2" deck.
Brooklyn	3" belt; 8", 5½", 4" gun-position; 2" deck.

The more we compare the squadron the less reason do we discover for the complete failure of the Spaniards to hurt the Americans. It will be exceedingly interesting to hear the accounts given by American naval officers. If downright bad shooting was responsible, it will be plain that the value of that nominally terrible engine of destruction, a modern war-ship, depends in an unexpected degree on the quality of its crew.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BANK OF JAPAN.

There is a rumour that Baron Iwasaki, President of the Bank of Japan, contemplates a visit to England. His object, according to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, is business, not pleasure. He goes, in fact, to sell Japanese Bonds in London. The particular Bonds designated by our contemporary are those that have been purchased during the past three months by the Bank of Japan under instructions from the Treasury. It has been more than once explained in these columns that Count Inouye, the late Minister of Finance, adopted the policy of relieving the pressure in the money market by devoting a portion of the Indemnity to the purchase of War Bonds and Consols. There is some uncertainty about the sum set aside by Count Inouye for the purpose. We always supposed it to be 15 million *yen*, but some vernacular journals have recently been speaking of 30 or 35 millions. However, we think we are right in putting it at 15 millions. Of course, the Treasury is not in a position at present to redeem 15 millions of the national debt as a final transaction. The operation partakes rather of the character of a loan. Fifteen millions are temporarily invested in Bonds, with the intention of selling them again as soon as a convenient market can be found. It is to sell these Bonds that Baron Iwasaki, according to the *Nichi Nichi*, contemplates a trip to Europe, since he finds it impossible to accomplish the transaction satisfactorily through foreign middle-men in Yokohama without paying a heavy commission. We should imagine, however, that if Baron Iwasaki intends to visit Europe for financial purposes, he has a larger object than the sale of the Bonds recently purchased by the Bank of Japan. This is an interesting subject. According to the *Post-bellum* Programme, the domestic loans—Railways Loan and Public Undertakings Loan—to be floated during the first three years (April 1st, 1896 to March 31st, 1899) covered by the Programme, aggregated 129,019,377 *yen*. Of that total the amount nominally floated up to the present has been 49,727,350 *yen*, leaving a sum of 79,292,127 *yen* to be floated this year. But that is not the whole story. When we say "nominally floated," we mean that out of the 49,727,350 *yen* drafted into the Extraordinary Revenue for the two years 1896-7 and 1897-8, only 11,727,350 *yen* was actually subscribed by the people in the form of a Railway Loan, the remaining 38 millions having been taken by the Treasury. In fact, the Treasury issued a loan and took it up itself, purchasing 12 million *yen* worth of Bonds with money temporarily borrowed from the Indemnity and depositing 26 millions' worth with the Bank of Japan as security for advances—so, at least, we understand the system pursued in this case. Of course all these Bonds—12 millions now included among the Indemnity assets and 26 millions lying in the Bank of Japan—must be sold eventually, in order to provide funds for the *post-bellum* programme. Hence it appears that the total sales of Bonds which ought to be effected during the current fiscal year—*i.e.* by March 31st, 1899—stand thus :—

	Yen.
Portion remaining to be floated of the three instalments of the Railway and Public Undertaking Loans ...	79,292,127
Bonds purchased and now held by the Treasury.....	28,000,000
Bonds purchased by the Bank of Japan during the past three months to ease the market	15,000,000
Total	132,292,127

It is not absolutely necessary, however, that any immediate sales should be made. The Government has now in its possession a sum of 214,575,749 *yen* remaining from the Indemnity, independently of the 12 million *yen* worth of Bonds standing in the Indemnity Account, and since the total disbursements to be made during the current year on account of military and naval expansions, railways, and other public works, are only 76,357,452 *yen*, and the amount to be drafted from the Indemnity in order to balance the accounts of State revenue and expenditure for the year is only 14,353,583 *yen*, it is evident that there are ample funds at the Treasury's disposal without any sales of Bonds. Still such sales will be necessary sooner or later, and it is very conceivable that the President of the Bank of Japan may deem it advisable to visit Europe with the object of concluding preliminary arrangements. For, in truth, the total sales of Bonds to be effected under the *post-bellum* scheme are very considerable. We have spoken hitherto of the loans to be floated during the first three years of the *post-bellum* period only, but if the whole period be taken into account, it is found—we omit wearisome details—that the Bonds, still to be sold aggregate 201,664,673 *yen*, the whole of which will, probably have to be negotiated abroad. It is a large transaction, which may well occupy the closest attention of the President of the Bank of Japan.

On the 21st inst., a quantity of dynamite was laid on the railway in a tunnel near Yamakita station. On a goods train passing, the dynamite exploded, but no great damage was done. The supposed offender has been arrested.

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THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Appearances of considerable agitation in political circles continue to present themselves. The situation resolves itself now into briefly this, that three sections of the Constitutional Party have each put forward a candidate for the portfolio of Foreign Affairs and are all believed to be insisting stubbornly upon their title to the nomination. The Tosa section, represented by Count Itagaki and Mr. Hayashi, are said to advocate the selection of Baron Ito Miyoji; the Progressist section, represented by Count Okuma, Mr. Ozaki, Mr. Ohigashi, and Mr. Oishi, want to secure the appointment of Mr Kato—now Minister in London;—and Mr. Matsuda, together with the Liberals that do not belong to the Tosa and Kwanto coteries, are calling out for Mr. Hoshi Toru. It is not unlikely that the story of this dispute, as submitted to the public, has been considerably exaggerated, for the newspapers recounting it have not hitherto shown themselves at all friendly to the Cabinet. But if what they say is true, the new political party's prospects are already beginning to be clouded. For it would seem that the union between the Progressists and the Liberals is of a very hollow character. They have not become fused into a homogeneous whole, but still retain their separate individualities, and insist upon an equal partition of the administrative power. For example, should Mr. Kato be appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Progressists would number five representatives in the Cabinet, namely, Count Okuma, Mr. Ozaki, Mr. Ohigashi, Mr. Kato, and Mr. Oishi; whereas the Liberals would only have three, namely, Count Itagaki, Mr. Hayashi, and Mr. Matsuda. That disturbance of the "balance" is said to be strongly objected to, and, of course, it is perfectly evident that if the two parties are determined to divide everything between them instead of uniting to discharge the duties they have undertaken, the stability of the Cabinet is exceedingly apocryphal.

The *Nippon* is singularly warm—even for the *Nippon*—about this affair. It devotes its whole issue of the 25th instant solely to a discussion of the complication under every conceivable phase. Seventeen days ago, it predicted that "the Ito section would again dash to the onset amid clouds of dust" (*kendo chorai*), and, taking advantage of disputes between the Liberals and the Progressists, would charge between them, "spurn away the Progressists and sweep away the Liberals into the camp of the Opposition." It now sees its prediction on the verge of fulfilment. The *Nippon's* dread of Baron Ito amounts almost to a nightmare, and is certainly a marked compliment to that gentleman's ability. It says that if he gets into the Cabinet, it will be like giving wings to a tiger. Steadily and surely he will draw the Liberals under his pinions, and the Progressists will find themselves isolated once again. Baron Ito ought to feel proud that he can inspire his enemies with such terror.

Mr. Ohigashi is roundly charged with fraudulent practices. Last year, he occupied the post of President of the Omi Railway Joint Stock Company, and during his tenure of office it became difficult to account for the disappearance of considerable sums of the Company's money. At an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders, held in Osaka last October, it was decided that steps should be taken at once to examine the books, but that same night, the office of the Company with all the records perished in a conflagration. Of course such a timely event furnished fresh fuel for suspicion. It is said that proceedings have been actually instituted against the Minister and that his constituents have called on him to resign. But a great deal of confirmation will be needed before any credence can be given to the story. Experience shows that accusations of the most serious character are recklessly preferred during the heat of political conflict in Japan, and we do not remember that any one of the many charges trumped up by newspapers against prominent officials or politicians during the past twenty years was satisfactorily established. In Mr. Ohigashi's case it is only wise to suspend judgment.

It is alleged that Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu, Minister of State for Justice, has decided to resign his portfolio. The resignation is not to be interpreted as in any sense an admission of the justice of the charges now so industriously circulated against the Minister. Indeed, Mr. Hatoyama Kazuo, in whose legal capacity and high character the public have full confidence, recently proceeded to Omi for the special purpose of inquiring into the affair of the Otsu Railway, and, on his return to Tokyo, presented a report declaring that no proof was forthcoming to substantiate any of the accusations. Mr. Ohigashi nevertheless thinks—so rumour says—that to retain the portfolio of Justice after such suspicions have been directed against him, however groundless they may be, would be an unjustifiable proceeding.

His Excellency's view may be very admirable under certain aspects, but it tends to establish a dangerous precedent. If a Minister of State is to cease to be eligible for office merely because his probity has been called in question, it becomes easy for any clique of intriguers to drive a man out of the Cabinet. We doubt whether any conceivable accusation is quite monstrous enough to be universally denied the hospitality of Japanese newspaper columns, and from the moment that a newspaper takes up a matter vigorously, there are always found plenty of people to believe it.

Mr. Ohigashi, according to the *Chugai Shogyo*, wants to be expeditious about effacing himself because he believes that the question of choosing his successor will require a good deal of adjustment. Mr. Hoshi Toru would be an excellent person to take the portfolio of Justice, and his appointment would relieve the strain of the present situation by removing from the field one of the three candidates whose friends are said to be "running" them so keenly for ministerial posts. But then there is the difficulty that Mr. Hoshi is a Liberal, and there is the other difficulty that the Department of Justice may be abolished altogether before many months have passed.

The curious feature of all this talk about Mr. Hoshi is that nobody seems to know whether he himself wants a portfolio. The Cabinet's enemies say that he is far too shrewd a man to throw in his lot with such an unstable ministry as the present, and the Cabinet's friends say that he is not at all likely to press his candidature inconveniently. At any rate he can not reach Tokyo before the middle of next month; so that the so-called political crisis now industriously discussed does not appear to be particularly imminent.

Another rumour circulated with much show of confidence is that Mr. Ozaki Yukio, Minister of State for Education, intends to resign. The reason assigned is that the Cabinet has recognised the desirability of giving the portfolio of Edution to some one connected with the Imperial University. But surely if that consideration exists now, it must have existed equally when Mr. Ozaki was appointed. The *Chuo Shimbun*—an Opposition organ—suggests that the University consideration is a mere prext, and that the real motive underlying the change is a desire to adjust the present political dispute by removing one Progressist member of the Cabinet and replacing him by a non-party man, thus establishing numerical equilibrium between the Liberal and Progressist sections of the Cabinet. There appears to be at least as much conjecture as knowledge in all this political talk.

Quite a number of newspapers agree in connecting the two-days' postponement of Marquis Ito's departure with the alleged political crisis. We imagine that they have no better grounds for the inference than the fact that Counts Okuma and Itagaki, Mr. Hayashi Yuzo, and Mr. Matsuda Masahisa all visited the Marquis at his villa to bid him goodbye, as was very natural.

The *Nippon*, which has more staying power than any other vernacular journal where an attack on officialdom is concerned, continues its campaign against the Cabinet with unabated vigour. It has succeeded in framing an indictment of no less than nine counts. We shall not weary our readers by reproducing them. The *Nippon* evidently proceeds on the principle of the dropping water and the rock, but it seems to have a special circle of readers.

Very conflicting statements are published about the so-called "political crisis," and very conflicting opinions are expressed. Some say that the trouble has been temporarily settled, Baron Ito having no desire to enter the Cabinet and Mr. Hoshi not being on the spot. Others allege that the dispute grows more acute daily, and all seem to think that Mr. Hoshi's arrival in Japan will be the signal for a final battle. The *Mainichi Shimbun* writes very significantly. As an organ of the Constitutional Party, it would not be likely to admit any damaging rumour that had no basis of fact. Hence, when it pens a leading article, lamenting that, while many important national problems await solution, the Cabinet wastes its time over these petty wrangles about the distribution of offices, we must assume that such wrangles are actually taking place.

The difference of opinion to which we have alluded relates to the question whether the Premier's position should be secondary and that of an ordinary Minister paramount, or *vice versâ*. It is a strange discussion, not very likely to interest our readers, we imagine. Journals that desire Count Okuma to retain the portfolio of Foreign Affairs take the former view, and those favorable to the appointment of a new Minister of Foreign Affairs, espouse the latter.

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A CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

Not very long ago it seemed scarcely possible that a conservative party of any strength should arise in Japan. A small group of men, headed by Viscounts Torio, Tani and Soga, did indeed detach themselves from the broad stream of liberalism that swept over the country, and sometimes the public heard a faint protest from them against the unwisdom of swallowing undiluted doses of the egoistic civilization of the Occident. But there appeared to be very little probability that the movement they represented would assume considerable dimensions. We begin to think, however, that recent events are not unlikely to call into practical existence whatever conservative instincts linger in the hearts of the Japanese. Baron Sonoda, for example, the former Chief of Police, has come out as an uncompromising conservative. His speech recently delivered under such indiscreet circumstances, shows that, though he is not sufficiently opposed to the spirit of the age to condemn the principle of party cabinets, he certainly does not think that the time has come for them, or that the present leaders of political parties are in any way fitted to be trusted with the control of the Administration. Something of that kind might have been expected of Baron Sonoda, for he is a sturdy exponent of Satsuma sentiment. We should not have predicted a similar attitude on the part of Viscount Nomura, however. The impression prevailed very generally that Viscount Nomura sympathised strongly with the platform of the former Progressists (*Kaishin-to*), and when he last held the portfolio of Communications, he was regarded as a kind of link between the cabinet and the political parties. But he has now stood forth as a most pronounced advocate of views corresponding with those held by Baron Sonoda. From an interview with him published in the *Taiyo*, we learn that he regards Marquis Ito as slightly distraught for handing over the government to the party politicians, and considers Counts Okuma and Itagaki to have been equally wanting in common sense when they accepted the responsibility of serving with men who are entirely lacking in administrative experience. Occidental nations, the Viscount thinks, long ago discovered the error of their old-time theory that the affairs of a State should be managed in accordance with a mere plurality of its nationals' voices. One might as well contend that a household's manner of life should be determined by the caprices of its domestics. The fact is that want of vertebræ on the part of her statesmen has brought Japan into a sorry plight. The watchwords of men like Marquis Ito and Count Okuma have been *oriai*, *rōraku*, and *bihō* (compromise, cajolery, and patchwork) and never yet was the heart of a nation won by such methods. Viscount Nomura would have the Cabinet apply all its ability sincerely and honestly to reduce administrative expenditures. Thereafter it should lay the Budget before the Diet, and if the Lower House, in a spirit of mere perversity, refused to vote the necessary supplies, it should be dissolved again and again. Japan has her own immemorial policy, of which Imperialism is the basis, and she ought not to subvert it in deference to any "crowd of clamourers" (*wai wai no tomogara*). That is pretty solid conservatism, and as it can not be doubted that Viscount Nomura and Baron Sonoda have many fellow-thinkers, a strong conservative party may spring into existence much sooner than any of us anticipated a year ago.

REFORMS IN FORMOSA.

An Imperial Ordinance issued on the 19th instant fixes the number of judicial officials (*hokwan*) and their emoluments in the case of the Formosan Courts of Justice. Hitherto there have been three kinds of courts in the island, the *Chiho-hoin*, or local courts, the *Fukushin-in*, or Appellate Court, and the *Koto-hoin*, or Supreme Court. Of these the first two alone are retained, and it is enacted that appeals from the *Fukushin-in* may be carried to the *Taishin-in*, or Supreme Court, in Tokyo. The *Chiho-hoin* in Formosa, though the literal translation of the term is "local court," does not correspond to the "local court" (*Chiho-Saibansho*) of Japan proper. The latter is a collegiate court, whereas the former is presided over by one Judge only. It consequently ranks with the *Ku-Saibansho*, or District Courts of Japan. The so-called "Appellate Court" of Formosa seems to stand on the same level with the Local Court of Japan, being presided over by three Judges. The number of judicial officials and their emoluments are thus fixed :—

APPELLATE COURT (*Fukushin-in.*)

	No. of officials.	Salaries. Yen.
Chief	1	3,000 to 4,000
Sectional chief	1	1,600 to 2,400
Judges	5	1,000 to 1,600
Chief Procurator	1	2,200 to 4,500
Procurator	1	1,000 to 1,600

LOCAL COURTS (*Chihoho-in.*)

Chief	3	1,400 to 2,400
Judges	15	600 to 1,600
Chief Procurator	3	1,200 to 2,200
Procurator	5	600 to 1,000

There is nothing definite as to the abolition of the *Koto-hoin*, but since no provision is made for officering it, its disappearance becomes a matter of course. Foreign readers of this Ordinance will be astonished to hear of judges receiving 50 *yen* a month in Formosa. A moderately competent translator can not be obtained now-a-days for such a salary.

There is a characteristic article in the *Nippon* with reference to this Formosan question. The breezy journal claims that the Government has been guilty of a veritably mean trick: it has secretly abolished the High Court (*Koto-hoin*) of Formosa in order to put an end finally to the Takano difficulty. Ex-Judge Takano can not continue any longer to call himself "Chief Judge of the Formosa High Court," since no such tribunal exists. That is a hole-and-corner kind of manœuvering which the *Nippon* finds altogether unworthy of the Government. We are disposed to take a different view of the matter. What surprises us is that any newspaper can be so curiously acute as to detect such profound iniquity. Where does the *Nippon* get its estimate of men and things? Does it honestly imagine that the Ministers of State in Japan are likely to descend to the wretched trickery it attributes to them? And does it think that to abolish an important part of the machinery of justice in a country merely for the sake of avoiding an altercation with an individual judge, is an act which any Cabinet could reconcile with its conception of public duty?

A point much worthier of consideration is the question whether appellate jurisdiction *vis-à-vis* Formosan courts of law can be conferred on the Supreme Court of Japan by an Imperial ordinance. The Supreme Court (*Taishin-in*), unless we are mistaken, has no competence to hear cases appealed direct from Local Courts in Japan. The intervention of a court of Appeal (*Koso-in*) is necessary. Doubtless the Government's idea is that the *Fukushin-in* of Formosa ranks with an Appeal Court in Japan. But does it? Can an important link be thus cut out of the judicial chain by the authority of an Imperial Ordinance? Formosa not being within the purview of the Constitution, its system of Law Courts may be organized without reference to the Diet. But the establishment of a connexion between that system and the system in Japan proper, where the Constitution holds, seems to be a more complicated matter.

FORMOSA AND THE CODES.

The Government has adopted in the case of Formosa the only course which seems prudent and practicable. A Notification issued by the Governor-General, acting, of course, under instructions from Tokyo, declares that all matters of a civil, criminal, or commercial nature shall henceforth be dealt with under the provisions of the new Civil, Criminal and Commercial Codes where Japanese or foreigners are concerned, but that in cases where only the Chinese or the natives of Formosa are concerned, the laws previously in force shall be applied until replaced by new enactments. This Notification was preceded, we believe, by considerable discussion. Many people were disposed to think that no distinction should be made between Formosa and Japan proper, and that the laws applied in the new territory as well as the tribunals applying them should be absolutely the same as those in Japan. Others thought that it would be unreasonable, if not impossible, to extend the provisions of the new Civil and Commercial Codes to the natives of the island and to the Chinese residing there. Happily the latter view has prevailed. We say "happily," because it seems to us almost absurd to imagine that laws like those of which Japan has now come into possession could be understood or observed by the aboriginal and Chinese population of Formosa. England makes no attempt to suddenly replace by new codes and a new judiciary the old laws and the old magistracy of the territories acquired by her in parts of the world lying beyond the pale of what is known as Occidental civilization. She proceeds on the principle that people must be educated before new and difficult literature is placed in their hands, and, on the whole, it seems to us that Japan might do worse than follow the same principle, as she seems to be doing in Formosa. That was the course advised by Mr. Kirkwood after his recent exhaustive investigations, and it is the course that commends itself to thoughtful minds. Meanwhile, we wonder how Judge Takano's advocates reconcile these happenings with their contention that Formosa falls, in every respect, under the purview of the Constitution.

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WAR EXPENDITURES.

The war between Japan and China lasted eleven months. During that time Japan maintained on Chinese territory beyond the sea two *Corps d'armée*, aggregating 120,000 men, and carried on campaigns in four different directions, keeping at sea all the time a fleet of some thirty ships. The total cost of these operations was 200 million *yen*, or 100 million dollars in gold. American financiers estimate that if the war with Spain lasts a year, the total cost will be from 600 million to 700 million dollars. The contrast is very striking. It must be assumed that the American estimates are based on accurate knowledge and sound calculations, but the history of the world furnishes no example of a Great Power's forecasting such an expenditure as 140 million pounds sterling on a war with a small Power. In the struggle with Russia forty-four years ago, the French and British troops landed at Eupatoria on September 14th, 1854, and did not evacuate the Crimea until July 12th, 1856. In fact, the War lasted two years approximately, and its cost is supposed to have been 120 million pounds sterling. We do not understand the American estimate.

Briefly speaking, the expenditures on account of the war are to be defrayed from new or increased taxes and from domestic loans. The taxes are these :—

1. Liquor Tax—namely $2 per barrel (31 gallons) of beer, ale, porter, and other fermented liquors, brewed, manufactured, sold or stored.

2. Special Taxes—(a) On bankers: a tax of $5 on capitals up to $25,000, and $2 on every additional $100. Thus a bank having a capital of 5 million dollars will have to pay a tax of ten thousand dollars. Savings banks having no capital stock are exempted. (b) On brokers, $50 per head. (c) On pawnbrokers, $20. (d) On commercial brokers, $20. (e) On custom-house brokers, $10. (f) On proprietors of theatres, museums, or concert halls, $100. (g) On circuses, $100. (h) On proprietors or agents of all other public exhibitions or shows, $10. (k) On bowling-alleys and billiard-rooms, $5 for each alley or table.

3. Tobacco Tax—12 cents per lb. on manufactured tobacco and snuff; $3 60 to $1 per thousand on cigars and cigarettes, according to weight; $12 to $24 per head on dealers in, and manufacturers of, leaf tobacco.

4. Stamp duties of various kinds—on bonds, debentures, certificates, bills of sale, cheques, bills of exchange, orders for payment of money, promissory notes, bills of lading, telephone and telegraph messages, deeds of conveyance, entries of goods, etc.

5. Insurance taxes—10 cents per $100 of amount insured on life policies, and one half of one per cent, on every $1 insured in the case of fire and marine policies.

6. Taxes on leases, manifests, mortgages, passage tickets ($1 on a ticket costing $30 or less to a foreign port); $3 on a ticket costing from $30 to $60, and $5 on a ticket costing more than $60), powers of attorney, warehouse receipts, medicines, perfumeries, and cosmetics, sparkling wines (1 cent. per pint bottle, 2 cents per quart bottle), and packages of chewing gums or substitutes.

7. Excise taxes—on refiners, etc., of petroleum or sugar, ½ of 1 per cent. on gross receipts, and 1 per cent. on every seat sold in palace, parlour, or sleeping car.

8. Inheritance Taxes—from 75 cents to $1 per $100 on property inherited from $10,000 to $25,000. The tax is multiplied by 1½ on legacies from $25,000 to $100,000; by 2 for legacies from $100,000 to $500,000; by 2½ for legacies from $500,000 to $1,000,000, and by 3 for legacies exceeding a million. It will be a bad thing for any non-blood relative who has been adopted by a wealthy friend should the adopter die during the course of the war. A man inheriting a million dollars under such circumstances will have to pay a legacy duty of $125,000.

9. Taxes on mixed flour and on tea (imported).

This large schedule of taxes is expected to yield an additional revenue of 175 millions of dollars. For the rest, the Government is empowered to borrow, from time to time, such sums as may be needed, up to 500 million dollars at 3 per cent.

One of the most interesting features of the financial scheme is that the stock of silver bullion which had been gradually amassed in the Treasury's vaults is to be utilized at this juncture. The Silverites saw their opportunity and succeeded in getting a proposal introduced that the Treasury store of white metal should be coined into dollars at the rate of not less than four millions per month, the dollars to be paid out as such or to be held as security for the redemption of silver notes. The amount was subsequently cut down to a minimun of 1½ millions monthly, and it is calculated that about 5½ million dollars worth of silver notes will be issued yearly for the next five years under this arrangement. That is a mere flea-bite to the United States, but the measure has evoked a great deal of excited attack and defence. The amount is not considered so much as the principle, and since it is "doing something for silver," the enemies of the white metal object strongly.

MARQUIS ITO'S VISIT TO CHINA.

Marquis Ito has spoken frankly about his reasons for going to China and the course he intends to pursue there, and we find the statement very interesting. He thinks that within the course of the next four or five years China is threatened with sweeping changes, and that unless she awakes to the reality of the dangers threatening her, the crisis will find her quite helpless. It is true that she is beginning to send students to Japan who are expected to acquire knowledge and opinions that will serve to create a progressive atmosphere in their country. But there is not much to be hoped from such methods. Something far more drastic and practical is needed. What that something is may be categorically stated. In the first place, the Chinese Government must establish a great State Bank. The people of China have plenty of money. The Government has none, and, being entirely without credit, has no immediately available resources in times of emergency. The bank should be organized by competent foreigners, and the aim should be to collect a capital of about 60 million taels, and to undertake the issue of convertible notes, so as to place the finances of the State on a sound basis and to facilitate the circulation of money for tradal purposes. In the second place, really good schools for officers should be established. There are already, it is true, institutions called *bubi gakudo* and *suishi gakudo* (military and naval academies), but they appear to be virtually useless, and experience shows that China has no more urgent need than that of good, well-educated officers. In the third place, she must inaugurate a proper conscription system. At present the plan adopted for obtaining and training military men is, in every way, glaringly defective. There is a mixture of voluntary service and hereditary service, of old men and youths, and there is general contempt for the profession of arms, so that the people are entirely without patriotism or national spirit. Only one way of mending such an unhappy state of affairs suggests itself, namely, to introduce a proper system of conscription. Of course, improved facilities of communication are vitally important—railways, roads, steamers, posts, and telegraphs. But all that goes without saying. The terribly discouraging thing about China is that her best men all seem to have their eyes open to the right, but also seem powerless to accomplish anything in the face of the huge mountain of conservatism that casts its shadow over the land. The Chinese appear to be quite deficient in public spirit (*Kōkyō-shin*). The sentiment of individual gain (*rikō-tekisesshin*), of egoism, alone sways them. Such people can hardly be moved to undertake any great national reforms. Each man's moral horizon is limited to the confines of his own family circle. There are signs, Marquis Ito said in conclusion, that the Japanese also are beginning to develop the egoistic tendency. It is to be sincerely hoped that such a calamity will be averted.

FINANCE.

We wish to say a word about our estimates of State Revenue and Expenditure published in this issue. Last year we calculated that the expenditures of the State after the completion of the *post-bellum* programme would be 173½ million *yen* and the income 158 millions, the deficit being thus only 5½ millions, whereas now we are calculating on an expenditure of 189½ millions and an income of only 150. The explanation is simple. The basis of our former calculation was the ordinary expenditures for 1897-8, namely, 120 million *yen*, to which amount we added various items for the maintenance of the fleet, the aid of navigation, etc. But the basis of our present calculation is the aggregate of the ordinary and extraordinary expenditures for 1898-9, namely 146½ million *yen*. When we say "extraordinary expenditures," we do not refer to outlays on account of military and naval expansions: those are things apart. We refer to the extraordinary expenditures that appear in every Budget. It does not seem possible at present for Japanese financiers to confine the outlays of the State to regularly recurring sums. Every Budget contains ordinary expenditures and extraordinary. The latter, from their nature, ought to be temporary, but somehow if one item of extraordinary expenditure disappears, another comes to take its place, and we are driven to conclude that an allowance of from 20 to 25 million *yen* annually must be made in the estimates of every year on account of extraordinary outlays. The Budget—Count Inouye's amended Budget—for 1898-9 includes 25 millions of extraordinary expenditures, and we have now taken that amount as a permanent item of account, a difference of 25 millions being thus created at once between our former and our present estimates. Thus, again, we last year accepted the official estimate of 41 millions for the support of the Army and Navy, whereas we have now concluded that, owing to the rise in the prices of commodities, the proper figure should be 50 millions. We need not pursue the subject at tedious length. Our readers will easily appreciate the causes of the apparent discrepancy.

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FOREIGN CAPITAL AND JAPANESE COMPANIES.

Some days ago the *Jiji Shimpo* had a very liberal article on the subject of the introduction of foreign capital. It advocated the abolition of all restrictions as to the ownership of land, the working of mines, or the purchase of shares by foreigners, and it laughed at the chimera that if aliens obtained a majority of the shares in a Japanese railway they might exercise their propriety rights in a manner highly inconvenient to Japan in time of war. A second article closely bearing on the same subject, now appears in the columns of the same journal. Our contemporary's point is that the principal officials of commercial and manufacturing companies are neither sensible of the weight of their responsibilities not competent to discharge them; that the disasters by which various enterprises are overtaken must be attributed chiefly to want of ability on the part of these officials, and that, if any hope is entertained of getting foreigners to invest money in such concerns, it can not be realized except by selecting a very different class of men to manage their affairs. The *Jiji* seems to us to be very near the truth in this matter. In short, we suspect that our contemporary sees farther than it cares to admit. The unvarnished fact is that foreigners will never invest their money in a Japanese company unless they can have a guiding voice in the direction of its business. When we say "never" we speak comparatively. The time will surely come in the course of years, perhaps many, perhaps few, when Japanese business management will be trusted, and foreigners will regard shares in certain Japanese companies as a good investment. But at present they entertain the *Jiji's* view that the principal officials upon whose ability and zeal the success of a commercial or industrial enterprise largely depends, are just as likely to lack as to possess the necessary qualifications, and that if they put good money into a concern they must know exactly how it is employed and even exercise some control over its employment. There is much talk, for example, about railway companies borrowing foreign capital to extend or improve their lines. Well, they can get it no doubt, but not by the simple process of selling their shares to foreigners. The thing has to be contrived by a regular process of borrowing and lending, the company pledging itself to pay a fixed rate of interest and furnishing satisfactory security for the repayment of the money. The Japan Railway Company, for example, is understood to be in need of a considerable sum for the purpose of developing its system of roads, and no one doubts that the investment would prove profitable. But what security has the Japan Railway Company to offer to foreign capitalists? Its really convenient course would be to get foreigners to invest as ordinary shareholders. Foreigners will not do that, however, unless they can see that the traffic of the Company's lines is efficiently managed. Probably the Japanese think that the traffic arrangements on their railways are quite satisfactory. We assure them that no foreign expert thinks so. The faculty for properly organizing a railway service is not born: it is the outcome of training and experience, and we do not think that the Japanese have any divine dispensation enabling them to dispense with those aids. They have done excellently considering their lights. We have never hesitated to accord them full credit. But if they want the assistance of foreign money, they will have to show themselves a little readier to make use of foreign expert assistance. A Japanese railway with foreigners directing its traffic arrangements, thoroughly conversant with its affairs and able to submit clear statements of them to the public, would soon find foreign investors flocking to obtain the fine dividends that such enterprises may be made to yield in this country.

THE TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

There has been a good deal of talk lately about the probability of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha's projected trans-Pacific line of steamers being abandoned. People said that the Company had failed to obtain funds and found itself unable to make the last payment due on its steamers now building in England. There is reason to think, however, that rumour was entirely mistaken in this case. The amount of the third call on the Company's shares was 650,000 *yen*, and of that sum five hundred thousand has been collected without any difficulty, namely, 400,000 in Tokyo, 50,000 in Yokohama, and 50,000 in the provinces. It can not be supposed that there will be any serious difficulty in procuring the remainder of the money, whether from the banks or the shareholders. Indeed, a very different construction is now put on the talk about abandoning the enterprise. It is stated that some of the shareholders thought they saw an opportunity of realizing a million and a half of *yen* without opening the service, or taking any risks whatever. Their idea was that purchasers could easily be found for their three new steamers at prices a hundred thousand pounds sterling greater in each case than the contract figures. On what facts the idea was based we do not know, but it was of course chimerical, and therefore the project of making a deal with the ships has been abandoned. The steamers are the *Nippon Maru*, the *America Maru* and the *Hongkong Maru*. The first is expected to leave London for Japan on the 10th September; the second, on the 1st of October and the third on the 10th of November. According to the present programme, the service will commence from the 15th of December with the *Nippon Maru* from Yokohama. The shareholders will have to pay up the last instalment on the shares, namely, 520,000 *yen*, to defray runningexpenses, but no difficulty is apprehended on that score. Most of our readers probably remember that this Japanese company is to work in combination with the Pacific Mail and Oriental and Occidental S.S. Companies on the Yokohama-San-Francisco route, each company supplying three steamers. We believe that the idea is to have a regular weekly service each way.

THE SPOILS SYSTEM.

There has been so much talk about "office-hunting fever" (*ryokan-netsu*) and the "spoils system" since the present Cabinet came into power, that our readers are doubtless curious to know how much it all amounts to in practice. We have not published the names of the various newly appointed officials, because, in the first place, Japanese names have very little meaning for our readers, and, in the second, disjointed information on such a subject could not be of much use. We may now, however, sum up the symptoms of this fever, and the diagnosis will show, we think, that it has not been such a very serious malady after all. The party politicians who have obtained office in consequence of the accession of the Okuma Cabinet, and the posts obtained by them, are these:—

Vice-Ministers of State	6
Chokunin Counsellors	6
Private Secretary	7
Chief Secretary of the Cabinet	1
Chief of the Board of Metropolitan Police	1
Chief of the Bureau of Commercial Affairs	1
Chief of the Bureau of Local Administration	1
Chief of the Bureau of Hokkaido Affairs	1
Chief of the Hokkaido Administration	1
Vice-Chief of the Hokkaido Administration	1
Governor of Tokyo	1
Governor of Osaka	1
Local Governors	3
Total	32

Thirty-two is not a very formidable number of officials to displace on such an occasion as the recent change of Cabinet. Indeed, it would be more correct to say twenty-five, for the seven Private Secretaries can scarcely be counted. There has been much more talk about this matter than it merited. The four Heads of Bureaux and six Vice-Ministers certainly ought not to appear in the list if an ideal state of affairs existed, but there has been more or less disturbance of these grades of officials at every change of Cabinet in the past, and it is consequently unfair to hold the present Ministry guilty above all others when it has merely followed the example of all others.

CONTROL OF ELECTIONS.

The Ordinance published a few days ago with reference to the control of elections is probably the most drastic piece of legislation of its kind that has ever been enacted. Imprisonment, without hard labour, for a period of from one month to one year, or the imposition of a fine ranging from 10 to 100 *yen*, is not an excessive punishment for givers or takers of bribes. But does it not seem that legislators lack a sense of proportion when they extend the same punishment to persons who exercise or receive any kind of hospitality in connexion with elections, or who furnish any kind of conveyance, or avail themselves of furnished conveyances, for getting to and from the places of polling? It is a criminal offence, should it be regarded as a criminal offence, to give a voter a drink on a hot day, or a lift in a vehicle? Acts done in perfect innocence and out of pure good-fellowship may expose candidates or voters, under this Ordinance, to malicious and injurious prosecutions. Still more open to criticism is the article providing that imprisonment from 11 days to 6 months together with a fine of from 2 to 20 *yen*, shall be the penalty for publishing any false information about a candidate whether in a public speech, or in newspaper columns, or in circulars or placards. There would be an immense crop of criminal prosecutions under this Ordinance in any Western country. Everybody must sympathise heartily with the Government's desire to secure perfect purity of procedure at elections, but the danger is that this too drastic legislation may open the door to abuses quite as bad as those it is intended to correct.

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THE CABINET AND ITS POLITICAL SUPPORTERS.

Several of the Tokyo journals persist in representing the Cabinet as torn by conflicting opinions, and the Constitutional Party as on the eve of disruption. One fact emerges from the mass of rumours, namely, that in addition to the General Committee of which we recently heard so much, the Party has now organized an Extraordinary Committee of 15, whose duties will be to consult with the General Committee and to conduct investigations into administrative and financial question. All this elaborate mechanism of committees, if it suggests the multitude of counsellors in whom there is wisdom, gives also an impression of the plethora of cooks that spoil the broth. Moreover, there is yet another committee, namely, a subdivision of the Extraordinary Committee. It is called the Basic Committee (*Kiso-iin*) of Investigation, and it consists of Messrs. Suzuki, Taguchi, Haseba, Shigeoka, and Shimada. These names probably convey little meaning to our readers, but our reason for quoting them will be apparent when we say that Messrs. Taguchi and Shimada are staunch advocates of an increased Land Tax. To place such men on a "basic committee" is to invite a dangerous collision of views, unless the Party has decided to abandon the platform on which it climbed into power.

The situation still depicted by several journals is that Count Itagaki and his immediate followers are resolutely insisting on the admission of Baron Ito to the Cabinet as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and have declared their own tenure of office to be dependent on the success of their contention. The *Chuo Shimbun* goes so far as to allege that a Cabinet Meeting held on the 26th instant resolved itself into a violent discussion with accompaniment of table thumping and strident declamation. The *Chuo* is not altogether to be trusted in such matters. Besides, there is a pretty general agreement that Count Itagaki and his friends proposed Baron Ito's admission to the Cabinet from the outset. That fact is interpreted as a proof that the present conflict is crucial. But to us it suggests a different inference; for if Count Itagaki and his supporters agreed to the shelving of Baron Ito's claims when the Cabinet was organized, why should they suddenly adopt a different attitude now? We ourselves think that the Liberals were bound by every principle of political honour to carry Baron Ito into power with themselves, but that is another question.

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Oshigashi Gitetsu, evidently entertains no intention of adopting the course recommended as his duty or announced as his intention by so many astute and well-informed journalists: he is not going to resign. We applaud his decision. It would be illogical and hysterical that a Minister should go out of office merely because the tongue of false report had wagged over his name. Were that rule established, any clique of sufficiently unscrupulous newsmongers could drive any Minister out of office at any moment.

OFFICERS FOR THE NAVY AND ARMY.

It is said that great difficulties are experienced in procuring officers for the Army. Nor can we wonder that such should be the case, for the pay and emoluments seem to be totally inadequate. The monthly stipend of a Major of Infantry is reported to be 27 *yen*, and out of that he is supposed to keep a horse. We do not know whether the figure is correct, but even if it be approximately accurate, the thing amounts to a farce. Her officers are Japan's great strength. The rank and file fight well and support privations and hardships with creditable courage, but the officers are the fine feature of the service. Had China possessed a few officers of the Japanese type, she would have given a very different account of herself in the late war. A Major receiving 27 a *yen* a month and spending 13 of it on a horse, remains with exactly the pay now demanded by an able-bodied coolie for pulling a *jinrikisha*. He has to buy his uniform too. How he manages to live, we can not conceive. If Japan wants to have an efficient army, she must reconcile herself to a little expenditure. It will not do to place her staff officers on the same pecuniary level with the commonest labourers.

The Navy seems to be more fortunate. Some trouble was experienced last year in procuring a sufficiency of candidates for cadetships at the Edajima Kaiheigakko, but the naval authorities and their friends canvassed so successfully that no less than 1,093 students presented themselves at the recent examinations, there being only 130 vacancies. Tokyo sent 776 applicants, Sendai 48, Kanagawa 45, Hiroshima 130 and Kumamoto 94. There are now 295 cadets at the college, and 59 will graduate this year. At Tsukiji there is another educational institution belonging to the Navy, the Kaigun Daigakko (Naval College). The instruction given there is entirely technical, namely, in navigation, in gunnery, and in torpedoes.

THE LADRONES.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* urges that Japan should purchase the Ladrones. After speaking of the *Charleston's* recent visit to the islands, the hoisting of the American flag, and the removal of the Spanish officials and garrison, our contemporary goes on to say that the islands are now without any government, that America does not want them, that they have always been a white elephant to Spain, and that Japan might find them very useful. The Madrid Government offered, it is said, to sell them to Japan several years ago, and Viscounts Enomoto and Aoki were for accepting the proposal, but it fell through owing to Count Inouye's opposition. Spain would probably welcome the transfer of the island to Japan now, opines the *Yomiuri*, forgetting, apparently, that America alone has to be consulted, the Ladrones being now her property. Some trouble is taken to repudiate the idea that Japan would use the islands as a naval station. She would employ them for fishing purposes only. In this context the *Yomiuri* makes a strange statement, namely, that the Department of Agriculture and Commerce is elaborating an improved system which, if successfully carried out, will increase the annual take of fish in Japan by 250 million *yen*.

ARTISTIC COMPETITION.

The public are likely to benefit more than might have been at first expected by the establishment of the new Fine Arts Institution, under Mr. Okakura. We described in a recent issue the broad facts connected with this enterprise, and explained that its projectors intended to take commissions for executing objects of applied art at prices much lower than those ruling in the general market. The Fine Arts School, of which Mr. Okakura was President from the time of its establishment until a few months ago, used to do work of that kind, but appears to have given it up when the troubles occurred which led to the retirement of Mr. Okakura last spring, and to the re-organization of the school under the presidency of Mr. Takamine. Mr. Okakura was followed in his retirement by a large majority of the skilled artists who had acted as instructors in the school, and with their assistance and cōoperation he recently started the Fine Arts Institution (*Bijutsu-in*), an important feature of which is the *Seisaku-bu*, or section of applied art, where commissions will be undertaken for all kinds of artistic work, decorative, pictorial, and what not. The Art School seems to have viewed with some alarm this enterprise on the part of the rival institution, and has now taken steps to organise a *Kōkō kai*, or art-work society, where designs will be made and executed by the graduates of the School. It is understood that Baron Kuki, Superintendent of the Imperial Museum, takes a lively interest in this *Kōkō-kai*, and has assisted to supply capital for it. The result of the competition should be highly advantageous to all persons desiring to procure objects of art, for they will now effectually escape the monstrous profits hitherto realized by middle-men upon all work of this kind.

THE FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

The question of the Philippines is again brought upon the tapis by vernacular journals. We find the old argument repeated, that their commercial and strategical importance to Japan forbids her to stand with folded hands while their fate is in the balance. Reference is also made to historical relations, but the point is too vague to be interesting. Four solutions of the problem are catalogued as exhaustive: the first that the islands should be declared independent; the second, that their neutrality should be guaranteed by the Great Powers, as is the case with Samoa; the third, that the United States should annex them, and the fourth that they should be partitioned. The second of these solutions is pronounced incomparably the best. Independence is hopeless, for the islanders are quite unable to maintain it, and partition would call into operation highly dangerous forces. The only practicable alternatives are annexation by America or guaranteed neutrality. It is advised that Japan should devote her energies to bringing about the latter solution, boldly taking the initiative in proposing it, if necessary; and that if the project be not feasible, she should throw all her influence into the scale in favour of annexation by the United States.

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JAPAN AND SIAM.

Japan seems likely to play her part as Oriental pioneer of Occidental civilization in the case of Siam. In olden times she used to carry on a very refined and magnificent kind of intercourse with that little kingdom. The King of Siam wrote his despatches to the Tokugawa Shogun on tablets of gold—not mean little strips of the precious metal, but fair broad sheets, a foot and a half in length and half a foot wide—which he enclosed in an ivory casket, the latter reposing in a box of sandal wood and the whole wrapped in fine brocade. The *Shogun's* reply did not receive quite such elaborate treatment, but it can not be said to have been unceremoniously manipulated, for it reposed in a silver box which, having been tied with a cord of crimson silk, was wrapped in purple *habutae*, and then deposited in a casket of Paulownia wood enveloped in a wrapper of silk damask. The correspondence thus nobly conducted breathed very fine sentiments of international liberality. Both sides were anxious to cultivate lasting relations of friendship so that their traders might enjoy the profit of maritime commerce, and while the King of Siam found a bond of union and a cause of peace and prosperity in the common reverence of the two nations for the mysteries of Buddhism, the Shogun took care to remind his royal correspondent that from the very creation of Japan the doctrines of moral philosophy had been handed down, and, at the same time, complacently advised him not to be too much startled at the civilization of Japan as seen by his envoys. Japan certainly was a highly civilized country in many respects in the seventeenth century, and we dare say there was more sincerity than flattery in the letter sent by the Siamese Minister of Foreign Affairs to Sakai, Uta-no-Kami, wherein his Excellency, speaking in the name of his six-titled Sovereign, declared that the inhabitants of all lands regarded Japan as differing from their own countries not less than the high heavens differed from the depths below in the superiority of its soil and the nobility of its people. Sakai called this "an elegant letter," as well he might. Probably he would have been pleased to receive many more of the same kind, but the postal service of that time left something to be desired, as may be inferred from the fact that Sakai deemed it highly satisfactory to learn that an epistle addressed by him some years previously to the Siamese Minister had safely reached its destination. At the same time, the Japanese ruler's conception of those that pursued trade and of their methods was not too flattering. He called them "abominable fellows, fond of gain and given up to greed," and he opined that international commerce consisted in the merchants of each side bringing to the other what was worthless and returning home with articles of value. The rulers of Siam in those times had an exalted idea of Japanese horses. War steeds were their great desire, and they got them in small numbers, accompanied by gold screens, suits of armour, swords and glaives. In return they sent to Japan brocades, "snow-white" gauze and calico (!), snow-white nightingale's feathers, elephant's tusks, and, above all, muskets and gunpowder. These last were the things desired above all by Japanese magnates, though it is not to be supposed that the Siamese manufactured either muskets or gunpowder: they merely acted as middle-men, sending to Japan articles imported by them from Europe. We have never been able to understand why the Japanese could not procure equally good muskets and powder through the Dutch at Deshima, but those that have investigated the subject—the principal of whom is Sir Ernest Satow—do not clear up that point. The skins of deer and sharks seem to have been the chief articles of common export from Siam to Japan—that is to say, the articles carried away by the junks—, and we find that Japan, on her side, had already established a reputation for her artistic productions, her chief sales to Siam consisting of gold-smith's work, screens, lacquered cabinets, porcelains, and so forth. All this mutually profitable intercourse came to an end in 1636, when the Government of Japan decided to confine its foreign relations to the Dutch and the Chinese, and adhered to the decision for 220 years. But Siam is now counted once more among Japan's commercial friends. The trade between the two countries is not very important. Of her own produce and manufactures Japan sold to Siam, in 1897, thirty-six kinds of goods, the largest item being coal (3,445 *yen*) and the value of the whole aggregating only 20,572 *yen*; and Siam sold to Japan ten kinds, the principal being rice (1,160,766 *yen*), the second in importance, timber (26,403 *yen*), and the whole aggregating 1,190,968 *yen*. It appears, too, that the export of timber has now been prohibited by the Government at Bangkok, so that rice and deer skins will hereafter be the only staples. The interesting point, however, is that Siam, inspired by Japan's example, thinks of qualifying for the recovery of her judicial autonomy. She intends to have civil, commercial and criminal codes, and the Japanase Government is understood to have promised that when her legal and judicial equipment is complete, her rights shall be recognised. There is talk of ten years—idle talk, we think. Japan began the work of codification in 1873, and has prosecuted it with at least as much diligence as the Siamese can be expected to exhibit, but she can not be said to have completed it yet after 23 years of effort. Talk of codes, indeed, but will there be a Kingdom of Siam two decades hence? Not unless the current of events in the East turns into a channel very different from that in which it has flowed during recent years.

SUSPENSION OF A MAGAZINE.

Count Itagaki's enemies are enjoying the pleasure of a crow at his expense. The Department of Home Affairs has ordered the suspension of a periodical—the *Jitsugyo-Kioiku Zasshi*, or Practical-Education Magazine—and since the Liberals have always been pre-eminently vehement advocates of freedom of speech, the fact that such an order should have been issued by the Liberal leader a few days after his assumption of office, is naturally considered very inconsistent. But that is a superficial view. The magazine has not been suspended because of the quality of its writing but because of a technical violation of the law. In fact under the present Press Law, a journal or magazine can not be suspended by an administrative order on any of the old grounds—writing matter prejudicial to public peace or good order, or disrespectful to officials, &c. The only recognised method is to proceed against it legally, and pending judicial decision, the circulation of the number containing the incriminated matter may be stopped. The periodical in question has been suspended because it violated the provisions of the Law. It is provided by the Press Law, as enacted by the Diet in its 1896-7 session, that a newspaper or periodical intending to discuss political subjects must lodge security money to the extent of 1,000 *yen*, if published in one of the three cities, and 500 *yen* if published outside their limits. If political subjects are not discussed, no security is required. It is for that reason, we may mention *en passant*, that so many periodicals have their place of publication in some of the suburbs outside the limits of Tokyo city. The periodical in question is one of those that have lodged no security. Ignoring that fact, however, it published an essay vehemently discussing current politics, and was therefore suspended.

In connexion with this incident it has been ascertained that books, magazines, journals, and other publications are divided into three classes for purposes of official examination at the Department of Home Affairs. Those of the first class are examined by the Minister himself, those of the second class by the Vice-Minister, and those of the third class by the director of a bureau. Newspapers and periodicals have hitherto belonged to the second class, and it appears that the magazine lately suspended did not come under Count Itagaki's eye at all. It was examined by the Vice-Minister, Mr. Suzuki, and he ordered its suspension for a manifest breach of the law. Vernacular journals say that newspapers and periodicals are hereafter to be examined by the Minister himself. A pleasant occupation for a Minister of State! We should say that it would take him all his time.

REUTER.

Reuter's agent in Yokohama recalls to our recollection the fact that Tokyo and Yokohama are separated by a great distance. He telegraphed to *The Times* on June 10th:—

> The Diet reopened to-day, when the Compromise Bill for the revising of land valuation was rejected, as was also the Government Bill for increasing the land tax, amid great uproar. The Diet will probably be dissolved.

Where did this "great uproar" occur? We who write were in the House of Representatives during the whole discussion and the voting on the two measures, and we can assure Baron Reuter's agent that so far from "great uproar" being a proper description of the circumstances attending the rejection of the Compromise Representation and the Land-Tax Bill, "remarkable calm" would be the correct epithet. In fact, it was to us quite a matter of surprise that such momentous decisions should have been taken amid such singular quiet. Even when the results of the voting were declared, the announcements did not awaken a tithe of the excitement and enthusiasm that would have been witnessed in an Occidental Parliament, and the House subsequently resumed the Order of the Day just as if nothing unusual or extraordinary had happened.

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JAPANESE TORPEDO CRAFT.

Japan's torpedo fleet will soon be quite a picturesque affair if the present system of naming be continued. Marquis Saigo has just christened five new torpedo craft, giving them the following appellations :—

Kagero (dragon fly)	Torpedo-destroyer.
Mochizuki (full moon) ...	do.
Oboro (the moon in clouds)	do.
Nagisa (sea-beach).....	do.
Chidori (peewit).....	Torpedo boat.

The first four of these were built in England, the fifth in Germany. We may add the names of the torpedo-boats already built under the *post-bellum* programme :—

Ikazuchi.....(lightning)	Torpedo boat.
Inazuma.....(thunder)	do
Shinonome...(dawn of day)	do
Murakumo. (clustering clouds)	do
Akebono.....(break of day)	do
Sasanami ...(ripples)	do
Yugori .....(evening mist)	do
Shiranui ...(dragon's lamp)	do

All the above were built in England; those whose names follow in Germany :—

Hayabusa.....(falcon)	Torpedo-boat.
Kasasagi.....(magpie)	do.
Manazuru ...(white-naped crane)	do.
Shirataka ...(white hawk)	do.

Many of these sweet-sounding terms belong to the vocabulary of pure old Japanese words (*yamato-kotoba*) which are fast passing out of daily use. It is curious that the venerable names should be resuscitated for the sake of such a particularly modern institution as a fleet of torpedo craft.

A MODEL DESPATCH.

We want to invite the special attention of our readers to the telegraphic despatch sent by Commodore Watson to his Government describing the destruction of the Spanish squadron at Santiago :—

At 9.30 a.m. to-day, the Spanish Squadron, seven in all, including one gunboat, came out of the Santiago Harbour in column, and were totally destroyed within an hour, except the *Christobal Colon*, which was chased 45 miles to westward by the Commander-in-Chief, *Brooklyn*, *Oregon* and *Texas*, and surrendered to the *Brooklyn*, but was beached to prevent sinking. None of our officers or men are injured except, on board the *Brooklyn*, Chief Fireman Ellis was killed and one man wounded. Admiral Cervera, the commanding officers, excepting that of the *Oquendo*, about 70 other officers and 1,600 men, are prisoners. About 350 are killed or drowned and 160 wounded, the latter being cared for on the *Solace* and *Olivette*. I have just arrived off Santiago in the *Marblehead* to take charge while the Commander-in-Chief is looking for the *Christobal Colon*.

(Signed.) WATSON."

There is a slight ambiguity in the two references to the *Christobal Colon*, the first statement being that she had surrendered and been beached to prevent sinking; the second, that Admiral Sampson was still looking for her. But it is not for the sake of the accuracy or explicitness of the information it contains that we call attention to the despatch; it is because of its extraordinarily quiet, matter-of-fact tone. The Commodore seems to be talking of events in which he had no personal concern whatever. Not the smallest scintilla of excitement can be detected in his language; not the faintest suggestion that credit is due to the gunners and seamen who achieved the singular feat of destroying four first-class cruisers, a gunboat and two torpedo destroyers in less than an hour's time. Commodore Watson is evidently made of the stuff that wins battles. It must be a pleasure to fight under such a captain.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT OF SUSPECTS.

We are entirely in accord with the adverse criticisms recently penned in certain vernacular and local foreign journals on the subject of the solitary confinement of persons suspected of crime. The Japanese Code of Criminal Procedure authorizes an examining judge to order an unconvicted prisoner into solitary confinement, if he believes such a step necessary for the discovery of the truth. It is pleaded that the device is seldom resorted to, but, in common with the *Kobe Chronicle*, we doubt the correctness of the plea. At all events we can vouch for the fact that the solitary cell (*anshitsu*) is commonly spoken of as one of the terrors of preliminary judicial examinations. What may be truly pointed out, however, and should in justice be noted, is that the system did not originate in Japan. It was borrowed from France. The *procés verbale* and all the other stages of procedure in the preliminary examination of persons charged with crime were taken direct from France by M. Boissonnade and incorporated in the Japanese Code. It seems to us a mistake, therefore, to say, as the *Kobe Chronicle* says, endorsing a vernacular journal, that "no European country retains such a method of intimidating an accused person." France retains it, unless we are mistaken; or, if she does not retain it, she gave it up only very recently. But if a dozen Western nations pursued such a method, we should not be at all reconciled to it. It is a blot on Japan's system, and we sincerely hope that she will soon abolish it.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

It appears that the Japanese Representative in Söul has been instructed to prefer two demands to the Korean Government; first, a sum of five thousand *yen* each on account of the sixty Japanese subjects who lost their lives at the hands of Korean mobs or assassins in the years 1895 and 1896; and secondly, the fulfilment of the old promise to grant a charter for the Söul-Fusan Railway to Japanese projectors. An answer to the former demand does not seem to have been yet obtained, and it is said that the Korean Government has asked for three days to consider the latter.

Details of the recent conspiracy in Korea are now to hand, but there is little to add to what has already been stated in these columns. The Independence Club took the lead in the affair, and succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of the Imperial Guards and of several high officials, including Ministers of State. It does not appear that an actual *coup d'état* was contemplated. The idea was to induce the Emperor to abdicate quietly in favour of the Crown Prince. By degrees the movement assumed such dimensions that it could no longer be concealed, and several of the ringleaders were arrested, others going into hiding. The Emperor evidently hesitates to resort to strong measures of repression, though he is encouraged thereto by the celebrated Madame Om, the Dame Margery of the Palace.

IMPERIAL COMMERCIAL MUSEUM.

We observe that Mr. Henry Satoh has been appointed Director of the Imperial Commercial Museum in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Mr. Satoh is not a foreigner, as his manner of spelling his name might suggest. He is a Japanese, possessing a very exceptional knowledge of English, which he has utilized on many public occasions to the great advantage and convenience of Englishmen, Americans, and his own countrymen. He graduated some years ago—we believe—at the Tokyo Commercial College, and since that time has busied himself zealously with commercial and industrial affairs, so that his qualifications make him eminently suited for the post to which he is now appointed. There is plenty of work to be done at the Commercial Museum if it is to be changed from a species of curio display to an institution really beneficial to all concerned in the over-sea trade of Japan, foreigners and Japanese like. That is Mr. Satoh's aim, we understand, and if intelligence and industry can accomplish it, it will be accomplished.

THE TEMPLE CHION-IN AND ITS DEBT.

We related some time ago that singular statements had been made against the Sixty-first Bank, which has its head office in Kurume. The matter was connected with a debt of sixty thousand *yen* which the celebrated temple Chion-in in Kyoto had repaid to the Bank by instalments, spread over five years. Some months after the final instalment had been handed over last fall, a clerk of the bank lodged information that the debt had never been really due by the Temple, and that the whole affair had been plotted by the temple's factor and the Bank's manager. Several arrests were made in consequence of the disclosure, but the magisterial investigation proved that the real plotter was the informing clerk. The tables have therefore been completely turned, and Mr. Sassa Osamu, the manager of the Bank, is now proceeding against his accusers for malicious libel.

MR. JOHN FOSTER FRASER.

The last mail from the United States brings the news that Mr. John Foster Fraser, who will be remembered by many people in Japan as the leader of the "round-the-world" cyclists, has married an American lady. It appears that Mr. Fraser met his bride during the voyage from Yokohama to Tacoma. The three wheelmen having cycled across the great American desert and over the Rockies, a halt was called at Omaha and Mr. Fraser returned by train to the coast and was quietly married. The wedding took place at St. Mark's Church, Seattle, Washington, on June 18th, the bride being Miss Lawrence, the only child of Mr. Francis Lawrence, a well-known owner of gold and copper mines on the Pacific Coast. There was a week's honeymoon, and then Mr. Fraser continued his ride across the American continent.

There is some eagerness among London publishers to obtain the copyright of the book which Mr. Fraser is writing recounting his travels. The volume will probably be issued in the autumn.

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THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

IN order to obtain a clear idea of the present condition of Japanese Finance, it is necessary to consider some figures which we shall set down here, believing that they are not easily accessible to the general public.

The first questions that present themselves are, what was the total amount of the Indemnity received from China; what disbursements have already been made from it, and what sum remains available. The figures relating to these points are :—

A.—INDEMNITY ACCOUNT.

	Yen.
Total Indemnity received from China.	362,322,303
Total Disbursements from Indemnity up to March 31st, 1898 (*i.e.*, up to the end of the 30th fiscal year).....	135,746,554
Total remaining available ...	226,575,749

With regard to the items of the disbursements summarized in this table, they stand thus :—

B.—DISBURSEMENTS FROM INDEMNITY UP TO MARCH 31ST, 1898.

	Yen.
a. War Expenditures.	78,957,164
b. Army Expansion.....	17,641,464
c. Naval Expansion	26,970,712
d. Public Works	6,218,166
e. Expenditures in Formosa	5,959,048
Total	135,746,554

We have next to consider the form in which the remainder of the Indemnity exists, that point being of importance with regard to its immediate availability :—

C.—FORM IN WHICH THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE INDEMNITY EXISTS.

	Yen.
a. Gold (the greater part of which was lying in London at the end of May last)	102,038,409
b Silver coins and bullion	38,897,548
c Miscellaneous	85,669,792
Total	226,575,749

Concerning the item "Miscellaneous" in this table, the exact details are not forthcoming. A portion of the total is, however, easily explained. A sum of 12 millions has been devoted to the purchase of Public Undertakings Bonds—to which we shall refer again presently—and another sum of 17,182,880 *yen* was subscribed to the Chinese loan. Hence, out of the total of 85,669,792 *yen*, shown as "Miscellaneous," a sum of 29,182,880 *yen* is in domestic loan bonds and Chinese loan bonds.

It will be expedient to say a word here about the War Expenditures and the sources from which they were met :—

D.—WAR ACCOUNT.

SOURCES OF REVENUE.	Yen.
a. War Bonds issued in Japan...	116,804,926
b. Surplus Revenue accumulated from previous years.....	23,439,086
c Donations.....	2,949,540
d Taken from Indemnity.....	78,957,164
e. Miscellaneous	3,079,409
Total Revenue	225,230,125
Total Expenditures.....	200,475,508
Surplus	24,754,617

The expenditures and assets in the matter of the War are embodied in a special account. Out of the surplus of 24¾ million *yen* here shown, a sum of 10,650,359 *yen* was transferred to the Extraordinary Revenue for the year 1896. It would appear, therefore, that a surplus of 14,104,258 *yen* still exists, though whether some further outlays may not become chargeable against it we can not tell.

The next point to be considered is the expenditures under the *post-bellum* programme and the sources from which they are to be met :—

E.—"POST-BELLUM" PROGRAMME OF EXPENDITURES.

	Yen.
a. Army Expansion	81,680,827
b. Naval Expansion	213,100,959
c. Railway Construction	107,818,194
d. Other Public Works	28,694,692
Total Expenditures.....	431,294,672

F.—SOURCES FOR DEFRAYING "POST-BELLUM" EXPENDITURES.

	Yen.
a. From Indemnity.....	196,705,938
b. Domestic Loans	213,392,022
c. Surplus of Ordinary Revenue	21,196,712
Total Assets	431,294,672

We now turn to the yearly disbursements under the *post-bellum* programme as originally planned, and compare them with the disbursements actually made :—

G.—DISBURSEMENTS UNDER "POST-BELLUM" PROGRAMME ON ACCOUNT OF MILITARY AND NAVAL EXPANSIONS.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATE.

	Army. Yen.	Navy. Yen.
1896-7	17,250,152	22,192,709
1897-8	21,318,653	60,660,965
1898-9	14,451,288	50,144,834
1899-0	10,632,216	34,517,397
1900 1	7,923,867	21,464,692
1901-2	6,883,440	15,922,018
1902 3	2,643,206	5,181,409
1903 4	578,009	2,410,660
1904 5	—	533,928
1905-6	—	72,347

SUMS ACTUALLY EXPENDED.

1896 7	8,437,261	4,043,287
1897-8	16,945,202	43,449,569

It will be seen that whereas, according to the original estimates, a total sum of 121,422,479 *yen* was to have been spent upon military and naval expansions from April 1st, 1896, to March 31st, 1898, the sum actually expended was only 72,875,319 *yen*, or 48,547,160 *yen* less than the estimate. Several minor causes doubtless contributed to bring about this difference, but the general explanation is that the Government found it impossible to carry on the work of expansion at the proposed rate, owing to the difficulty of procuring labour, skilled and unskilled, in the required quantity.

The late Minister of Finance, Count INOUYE, recommended a re-adjustment of the above annual allotments, so as to effect an approach to uniformity. The maximum expenditures for the two services are put down at 82 million *yen*, approximately, in 1897-8, and at 64½ millions in 1898-9, whereas the maximum in any other year is 45 millions. In fact, the time of greatest pressure ends in 1900, and the curve of expenditure, rising from zero in 1896, reaches its highest point abruptly in 1897-8, then falling with scarcely less abruptness to 29 millions in 1900-1. Count INOUYE would have levelled down these inequalities, and, without reducing the total outlay or extending the total period, would have eased the pressure in the years 1898-9 and 1899-1900. The exact figures of the projected change were never published. Even though no nominal alteration of the programme has been effected, however, from the experience of the past two years we may assume that the Government will find it impossible in practice to disburse the sums estimated for 1898-9 and 1899-1900.

Turning to the expenditures for railways and public works, we have the following figures :—

H.—DISBURSEMENTS FOR RAILWAYS AND PUBLIC WORKS.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATE.

	Railways. Yen.	Public Works. Yen.
1896 7	9,903,200	3,550,983
1897-8	11,162,463	10,851,220

ACTUAL EXPENDITURES.

1896-7	5,154,584	1,126,326
1897-8	14,165,854	9,356,332

Here we see that the original intention was to spend a total of 35,407,866 *yen* on railways and public works in the two years 1896-7 and 1897-8, whereas the sum actually expended was only 29,803,096 *yen*, a difference of 5,604,770 *yen*.

The next question we have to consider is that of domestic loans. It has been shown in Table F. that the total of such loans under the *post-bellum* programme was to be 213,392,022 *yen*. The loans were to take two forms: namely, Public Undertakings Bonds, to the extent of 135 million *yen*, and Railway Bonds to the extent of of 78,392,622 *yen*. The process of floating these loans and the success thus far achieved are shown in the following table :—

K.—DOMESTIC LOANS TO BE FLOATED UNDER THE "POST-BELLUM" PROGRAMME.

	Amount to be floated. Yen.	Amount actually issued. Yen.
1896-1897	12,874,422	49,727,350
1897 1898	67,556,810	
1898-1899	48,588,145	
1899-1900	19,206,678	
1900-1901	15,362,790	
1901-1902	14,527,269	
1902-1903	15,631,373	
1903-1904	7,937,000	
1904-1909	11,707,535	
	213,392,022	

Hence, out of the grand total, there remains a sum of 163,664,672 to be still raised. Moreover, although the Table shows that 49,727,350 *yen* has already been floated, the fact is that only 11,727,350 *yen* was actually subscribed by the people in the form of Railway Bonds. The remaining 38 millions were subscribed by the Government. In other words, the Government, while nominally issuing Public Undertakings Bonds to the amount of 38 million *yen*, really played the part of lender as well as borrower, buying 12 million *yen* worth with money taken from the Indemnity, and 26 million *yen* worth with money obtained by depositing the Bonds in the Bank of Japan. It may therefore be said that out of the whole *post-bellum* domestic loan of 213,392,022 *yen*, only 11,727,350 *yen* has actually been subscribed.

The figures set down above may be conveniently summarized as follows :—

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L.—Actual Expenditures thus far incurred under the "Post-Bellum" Programme.

	Yen.
Railways and Public Works	29,803,096
Military and Naval Expansion	72,875,314
Total	102,678,415

M.—Actual Assets hitherto realized under the "Post-Bellum" Programme.

	Yen.
Subscribed by people to Railway Bonds	11,727,350
Taken direct from the Indemnity	50,830,342
Taken from Indemnity and invested in Public Undertakings Bonds	12,000,000
Obtained by depositing Public Undertakings Bonds with the Bank of Japan	26,000,000
Obtained from Surplus Revenue and Miscellaneous Sources	2,120,523
Total	102,678,415

In attempting to form an accurate idea of the Treasury's circumstances at present, we find an element of uncertainty in the 38 million *yen* worth of Public Undertakings Bonds held by the Government, twelve millions of which were purchased with money taken from the Indemnity, and twenty-six millions' worth were used as security to borrow funds. Treating these for the moment as a settled account, and excluding from our calculation any funds accruing from surplus revenue, since the present difficulty of Japanese financiers is to make incomings cover outgoings and there is no apparent prospect of annual surpluses, we arrive ultimately at the following figures:—

N.

	Yen.
Expenditures still to be defrayed for Military and Naval Expansions	221,906,467
Expenditures still to be defrayed for Railways and Public Works	106,709,790
Total future Expenditure	328,616,257
Sum to be still taken from the Indemnity to meet above	164,951,785
Sum to be obtained by Domestic Loans	163,664,472
Total	328,616,257

[N.B.—If the Public Undertakings Bonds now understood to be lodged in the Government's name with the Bank of Japan and the Bonds held by the Treasury—as explained in connexion with Table K—are placed upon the market, the total domestic loans still to be raised amount to 201,664,472 *yen*.]

It has been shown (*vide* Tables A and C) that the portion of the Indemnity remaining (at the end of last May) was 226,575,749 *yen*, inclusive of a sum of 12 millions in Public Undertakings Bonds. Hence, if we deduct the amount (as shown in the last Table) still to be taken from the Indemnity to complete the post-bellum programme, it would appear that a surplus of 61,623,964 *yen* remains. Is that a genuine surplus? In other words, is the Government in a position to write off the 12 million *yen* worth of Public Undertakings Bonds now included in the Indemnity account, and to appropriate the final remainder—49,623,964 *yen*—to the general purposes of the *post-bellum* programme, thus reducing the total sum of future domestic loans to 140,040,508 *yen*? To answer that question it becomes necessary to know whether any calls have to be made on the Indemnity in connexion with the regular Budgets of State expenditures for the current fiscal year. Turning, then, to Count Inouye's Budget, we have the following figures:—

P.—State Revenue for 1898-9.

ORDINARY REVENUE.

	Yen.
Land Tax	38,566,902
Saké Tax	32,202,708
Other Inland Taxes	13,299,640
Customs	7,418,227
Stamps	5,526,388
Posts and Telegraphs	14,562,275
Miscellaneous	17,849,389
Total	129,425,529

EXTRAORDINARY REVENUE.

Domestic Loans	40,223,350

(N.B.—The sum that ought to be floated this year, under the *post-bellum* programme, is 79,292,028 *yen*, but as 39,068,678 *yen* of that total is part of the loan that should have been issued last year, and was not issued, it does not appear as an asset in this year's account, but, when floated, will be applied to the cost of works included in last year's programme but not yet completed.)

Drafted from Indemnity	36,223,350

(N.B.—This is the sum duly fixed by the *post-bellum* programme. It is not caused by any exceptional expenditure).

Miscellaneous	2,841,708
Total Extraordinary Revenue	79,199,179
Grand Total of Ordinary and Extraordinary Revenue	208,624,708

Q.—State Expenditures for 1898-9.

ORDINARY EXPENDITURES.

	Yen.
1. Administrative Expenditures	42,495,765
2. Military and Naval	43,481,509
3. Service of Public Debt	
a. Interest	24,492,219
b Amortization	7,254,147
	31,746,366
Pensions and Rewards	3,739,298
Total of Ordinary Expenditures	121,462,938

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURES.

	Yen.
Administrative, &c.	25,157,900
Military and Naval Expansion	64,596,122
Railways and Public Works	11,761,330
Total Extraordinary Expenditures	101,515,352
Grand Total of Ordinary and Extraordinary Expenditures	222,978,290

It appears from the above that the Expenditures for the current year exceed the visible revenue by 14,353,583 *yen*. There seems to be no way of defraying this amount except by a draft on the Indemnity. If we deduct this amount from the result arrived at in discussing Table N., we find that there is still a surplus of 35,270,381 *yen* in the Indemnity account. This is the surplus of which Count Inouye applied a part to the redemption of War Bonds and Consols through the Bank of Japan, and to the aid of manufacturers through the Industrial Bank.

In order to complete the materials enabling our readers to take a full view of the financial situation, we proceed to add a statement of the National Debt as it stood on March 31st, 1898, and of facts relating to its growth and amortization:—

R.—National Debt on March 31st, 1898

Consols	173,857,250
War Bonds	124,572,000
Public Undertakings Bonds	38,000,000
Pension Bonds (5 per cent.)	29,453,820
Railway Bonds	17,807,350
Naval Bonds	9,288,600
Hokkaido Railway Bonds	1,000,000
Old Loan	5,266,908
Total	397,245,928

S.—Method of Amortizations.—Amounts reduced yearly in each class of Bonds.

	Consols.	War Bonds.	Railway Bonds.	Public Undertakings Bonds.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
1898 9	446,631	—	5,406	—
1899 0	3,228,555	—	117,350	—
1900-1	2,062,408	1,059,050	74,050	—
1901-2	2,847,938	2,052,250	254,500	447,000
1902-3	2,112,416	1,536,450	328,750	1,399,256
1903 4	1,983,261	1,463,000	414,600	1,441,400
1904-5	1,981,213	1,461,400	521,600	1,521,150
1905-6	2,031,914	1,498,950	637,750	1,642,950
1906-7	2,090,858	1,542,250	766,950	1,984,600

This Table does not include the Pension Bonds, the Naval Bonds, or the Old Loan. The fact is that although the Budget includes a sum of 7½ million *yen* annually for purposes of amortization, the amounts yearly redeemed in each case are not definitely fixed, the Government having a measure of discretion. The dates of complete amortization are alone invariable, namely:—

T.—Years of Maximum Amounts and Complete Redemption.

	Maximum Year.	Year of Complete Redemption.
Consols	1897	1938
War Bonds	1898	1938
Railway Bonds	1905	1938
Naval Bonds	1889	1923
Public Undertakings Bonds	1907	1938
Pension Bonds	1881	1906
Old Loan	1872	1921

We may add here that the volume of Bank Notes in circulation on May 28th was 178,289,343 *yen*, and the gold reserve in the Bank of Japan, 62,973,203 *yen*.

The Table of National Expenditures for the current year shows that the appropriations for the Army and Navy aggregate 43½ million *yen* in round numbers. In that total there are included certain items which can not be properly regarded as "maintenance." Nevertheless they are items that find their way into the accounts year after year, and it seems unpractical and illogical to exclude them for purposes of future estimates. We may say, therefore, that the cost of maintaining the two services has already exceeded the estimate formed by the framers of the *post-bellum* programme. Their calculation was that when the sevices were raised to their full strength on the new basis, the annual expense of maintaining them would not exceed 41 million *yen*. To-day, it stands at 43½ millions. The growth of the ordinary expenditures on account of the two services has been very striking. Omitting the years 1894-5 and 1895-6, because, being years of war, the accounts relating to them are abnormal, we have the following figures:—

Ordinary Expenditures for the Army and Navy.

	Yen.
1893 4	17,457,972
1896-7	32,010,341
1897-8	39,022,012
1898-9	43,481,509

Our readers will understand, of course, that these figures have nothing to do with the temporary expenditures on account of military and naval expansion: the latter are entirely independent. What we have set down in the Table are the expenses regularly recurring year by year in the

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ordinary routine. On the whole, therefore, it seems a reasonable estimate that when the services are brought to their full *post-bellum* strength, their cost to the country will be, not 41 million *yen* as originally calculated, but nearly 50 millions. The discrepancy arises from the operation of factors that could not have foreseen; but that is another question. We observe, further, that Japanese financiers persistently exclude from their accounts any item for the maintenance of the fleet. They can not suppose that it is enough merely to purchase or build ships once for all, and thereafter make no provision for the repair of injuries or the replacement of losses. If the fleet is to be kept up to the strength indicated in the *post-bellum* programme, an outlay of some 13 million *yen* annually on account of repairs and replacements must be anticipated. Hence our final conclusion is that Japan's Army and Navy will cost her about 63 millions *yen* annually if she carries her projects to completion. Roughly speaking, England spends 40 per cent. of her income upon her Army and Navy, whereas Japan will by-and-by be spending 49 per cent., supposing that her income does not expand.

Another source of inevitably increased expenditure is the salaries of inferior officials and *employés*. At present Japan's outlay on account of salaries is this :—

SALARIES, ANNUAL.

	Yen.
Chokunin Officials	1,384 922
Sonin Officials	10,211 674
Hannin Officials.....	10,942,513
Employés (*Yatoi*)	1,203,958
Soldiers and Sailors	2,920,092
Total	26 463,159

In the two upper grades the pay is considered tolerably sufficient. The salary of a *Chokunin* official averages about 250 *yen* a month, and that of a *Sonin* official, about 140 *yen*. But in the cases of *Hannin* and *employés* the emoluments are plainly inadequate. A *Hannin* official averages only 30 *yen* a month, and an *employé* only 12 *yen*. It is impossible to command the services of competent persons for such stipends. That, indeed, is the great difficulty at present. The Communications Department can not get good men to work for the bureaux of posts and telegraphs, and the public are miserably served. Count INOUYE proposed to appropriate an additional sum of 6,860,000 *yen* on this account. This was to have been distributed over four items, namely, (1) salaries of inferior officials and *employés*; (2) contingency expenses in offices of State; (3) travelling expenses for officials, and (4) miscellaneous. The exact details were under consideration when the Cabinet went out of power, but it is certain that Count INOUYE'S estimate was not excessive, and that a sum of fully 7 million *yen* must be included in future Budgets on this account.

The National Debt is another point calling for brief consideration. At present, the service of the debt involves a yearly outlay of 31¾ million *yen*, in round numbers—namely, 24½ millions for interest and 7¼ for amortization. If the present programme be carried out, Public Undertakings Bonds to the total amount of 163½ million *yen* will be issued by the close of the fiscal year 1904-5. But since, during that interval, amortization will have been effected to the extent of 50¼ millions, the actual addition to the Debt will be only 113¼ millions, and the charge for interest and amortization will be increased by 7 millions approximately.

There are still some other outlays to be considered, but we need not discuss them in detail, as their mere statement will sufficiently explain their nature. Compiling the whole, therefore, into a table, we obtain the following result :—

JAPAN'S FUTURE EXPENDITURES.

	Million Yen.
Budget for current year	146½
Add for maintenance of Army and Navy...	6½
Cost of Naval repairs and shipbuilding ...	13
Additions to Salaries, &c.	7
Increased outlay in connexion with the service of the National Debt.....	7
Grants in aid of Navigation.....	5
Prison Expenditures (transferred from Communes to Treasury)	3½
National Calamities Relief Fund	½
Interest on Restored Pension Bonds	½
Total Expenditures	189½

Turning to the Revenue, we find these results :—

JAPAN'S FUTURE REVENUE.

Revenue as per Budget for 1898-9	129½
Additional Customs Dues under New Tariff	8
Increased Return from State Industries ...	7½
Normal Increase of Yield from Taxes	5
Total Income	150

We see here a plain deficit of 39½ million *yen* annually. Nor do our figures cover the whole ground. In the Expenditures we have omitted any reference to Formosa, or to the outlays that the country will have to make in connexion with the operation of the Revised Treaties. Count INOUYE estimated the former at 11¼ million *yen* and the latter at 2½ millions, making a total of 13¾ millions. These outlays are not permanent, however. Formosa may be expected to become self-supporting by and by, and the preparations in connexion with the new Treaties are temporary. On the other hand, Count INOUYE'S estimates took no apparent account of the outlays (13 million *yen*) that will be required for naval repairs and shipbuilding to keep the fleet up to its new standard. We are strongly disposed to think that in including a sum of 13½ million *yen* in the permanent estimates, on account of temporary outlays like Formosa and Treaty Revision, Count INOUYE was looking forward to the ultimate diversion of that sum to the maintenance of the fleet. At all events, we can not escape the conclusion that an increase of annual revenue to the extent of 39 million *yen* is absolutely indispensable, and even that figure does not take into account the natural and inevitable growth of the various Departmental expenditures. Our conviction is that if English financiers had to deal with Japan's Budgets, they would apply themselves at once to find an increase of revenue to the extent of 40 million *yen*; and would, at the same time, warn tax-payers that a further, though comparatively trifling, call would probably be necessary to meet the natural growth of Departmental expenditures. Indeed, considering that the increased income from State Industries, which we have set down at 7½ million *yen*, as well as the normal increase (5 millions) of the yield from taxes will not be fully available for some years, it seems that to put the finances of the country on a really sound footing, an additional income of some 50 million *yen* should be provided. Several Ministers of Finance will probably wreck themselves over this problem before the situation is fairly and squarely forced. So long as—the House of Representatives being controlled by the agricultural interest—the Land Tax remains outside the sources of increased revenue, there can not be a just and satisfactory solution of the problem.

NOTES ON NEWS.

The troubles of the cotton-spinning companies seem to the coming thick and fast. The attachment of the Naniwa Company's factory and plant at the suit of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha has already been announced by telegram. The Asahi Company of Osaka seems to be in equally bad plight. It has not been able to declare any dividend for the first half of the current year, or to pay the interest on its borrowed capital, which amounts to a quarter of a million *yen*. It has therefore been obliged to hand over its Hiroshima branch factory as security for the interest. The Tokiwa Company, also of Osaka, is said to be threatened with an action by a foreign firm which procured machinery to the value of 160,000 *yen* by order of the firm. It would appear that the cotton-spinning industry in Japan has been developed too impetuously.

Marquis Ito says that he is sincerely anxious for the success of the present Cabinet. He has been so badgered and abused for handing over the administration to the party politicians, that if they make a failure he does not care to think what form the indignation of his critics may take. The enemies of the Marquis will probably snatch at that statement as a proof that he is running away to China to escape the reaping of the whirlwind. But no one has hinted at anything of the kind thus far. It is indeed most significant that no publicist has found anything but praise for Marquis Ito in this crisis. If to have avoided condemnation be any evidence that he chose a wise course, he may fairly feel satisfied. The *Asahi Shimbun* gives him a great send-off. Other statesmen, it says, have been content, on going out of office, to build detached villas and sit down to enjoy the fruits gathered while in power. But the Marquis, though approaching the confines of old age, preserves the spirit of a student, and is eager for new work and a fresh field of usefulness. He will find it in China. The Chinese know him, and, if they will listen to any man, he is the man. He will speak plainly and tell them that the basis of national strength is international intercourse. He may be able to get their politicians and students to visit Japan. They know themselves well enough, but they know nothing of others.

It is thought that signs of a change in the current of trade are becoming apparent. The

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excess of imports during this year has reached the enormous figure of 85 million *yen*, but it can hardly continue in the face of the extreme reluctance of Japanese middle-men to take over goods. There are enormous quantities of goods stored now in foreign warehouses. Probably such a plethora never before existed. But the demand for foreign rice, which alone is responsible for over 30 millions of the imports, has sensibly diminished, and since the climatic conditions at present suggest the probability of a fine crop, Japanese buyers are likely to hesitate before pledging themselves as to future shipments. Meanwhile, the apprehensions felt two months ago as to the pernicious effects of the war have not been realized. Sales of tea go on briskly; the silk trade is booming, and altogether a prospect presents itself that something like equilibrium may be established in the country's foreign commerce.

Count Itagaki seems to have thrown himself heart and soul into the cause of prison reform. He could not have taken up a worthier object. Some of the vernacular journals recommend him to make sweeping changes in the *personnel* of prison officials. It seems to us that such a step would be to begin at the wrong end. It is not the unfortunate officials that are to blame: it is the system. Until the Central Government takes the control of the prisons into its own hands, there can be no satisfactory reform. Count Itagaki may well be zealous about this matter. We do not mean simply that a reform of the kind is calculated to appeal to a man of his high instincts. We mean that he is directly responsible for the present unhappy condition of the provincial jails. But for the opposition offered by the Liberal Party under his leadership, the jails would have passed under the control of the Central Government years ago.

JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS.

According to vernacular papers, a report dated the 22nd ultimo has been received from Mr. Homma, a representative in New York of the Central Tea Dealers' Council. It states that tea merchants in New York affirm that the demand for Japanese teas will not suffer any decrease or be affected by the new tax. Retailers have hitherto been enabled to realize large profits, and the imposition of the 10 cents tax will chiefly have the effect of diminishing their gains, the effect upon consumers in general being only slight. Japanese dealers need not entertain any anxiety.

The construction of Waterworks in Tokyo has been in progress for several years, and the supply for three districts—Kanda, Nihonbashi, and Shiba—was recently completed, while Shitaya, and Asakusa will also be provided for almost immediately. Azabu, Akasaka, Kojimachi, and Koishikawa have not made much progress, and Fukagawa, and Honjo are just completing their preparations for commencing work. The delay in the arrival of piping from abroad has considerably obstructed the progress of the enterprise. The whole work is expected to be completed by the end of the year, but the supply of water will not be undertaken, according to the *Shogyo*, until the end of next year.

Mr. Hosokawa Yujirô, a member of the Financial Association, is reported by the *Keizai Zasshi* to have pointed out, at the ordinary meeting of the Society in June, the disparity noticeable in statistics of currency in Japan compiled respectively by the Finance Department, the Bank of Japan, and the Tokyo Banks' Assembly Hall. He urged the necessity of securing uniformity in statistics of coin and paper circulation. The proposal was approved by the Association, and a special committee was appointed to investigate the matter. The coins and notes which at present are legal tender are—new and old coins, government and bank paper, convertible notes, subsidiary silver, nickel, and copper pieces, subsidiary old copper coins and notes of the lowest denominations. The new and old gold pieces are the standard coins, but with the system of convertible notes carried out as at present, the currency of the country consists chiefly of paper and subsidiaries, gold being seldom used. As for subsidiaries, their amount will steadily increase in consequence of exchanged *yen* pieces being converted into them. A portion of the *1 yen* and *2 yen* paper is to be withdrawn, and paper of 5 *yen* denomination will be substituted, another portion being supplied by subsidiary coins. The subsidiaries, therefore, are a factor not to be regarded with indifference. They will directly affect the prices of commodities, the circulation of money, and the expansion of trade.

Discussing the question of new sources of revenue, the *Nippon* advocates the increase of the *saké* tax, and the prohibition of the monopoly of alcohol and the brewing of mixed *saké*, the amount to be realized by the proposed measure being estimated at from 15 to 20 million *yen*. The taxation of sugar requires a special conference with the treaty powers, but if carried out, would secure at least 8 million *yen* more revenue. Lastly, Income and Trades Taxes may be made to augment the revenue by 7 million *yen*. If this be still insufficient to meet requirements, recourse may be had to quite a new form of taxation, namely, the imposition of taxes on house lots. The Government may also take steps to increase the Registration and Stamp Taxes, and will be justified in augmenting the Land Tax to a certain extent.

The Finance Department publishes figures concerning the trade for June, which show that the exports totalled *yen* 13,083,616, and the imports *yen* 29,195,516. The quantities of rice and coal exported from various ports during the first half of this year are as follows:—

Ports.	Coal. Tons.	Value. Yen.	Rice. Tons.	Value. Yen.
Shimonoseki...	181,835	1,269,300	40,320	255,440
Moji	403,383	2,786,610	47,880	294,588
Karatsu.....	13,920	69,600	—	—
Kuchinotsu ...	117,287	790,316	—	—
Moriuau	27,287	210,359	—	—
Otaru.....	8,150	56,300	—	—
Total	752,315	5,182,485	88,200	550,028

The import of rice during the same period is said to have aggregated *yen* 3,9524,404.

The *Jiji* comments on the steps taken by foreign firms with reference to native merchants who have been unable to take delivery of goods for which they had contracted. The imposition of a daily interest of three *sen* per 100 *yen* appears to have produced in the minds of Japanese merchants the impression that so long as they pay interest on their goods, they are not under obligation to take delivery until they deem fit. Thus they are inclined to keep their merchandise in foreign warehouses, affording greater security and advantage, until such time as a favourable market offers. In short, the recent action of foreigners, remarks the *Jiji*, will result in their "choking themselves with their own hands."

The Railway Bureau has determined, according to vernacular papers, to inaugurate a system of special delivery from the 1st August in Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe. Special goods vans are to be run every night from Tokyo and Kobe, so that goods may be delivered to consignees in the towns mentioned within two days. There is no doubt that the new system will have the effect of decreasing, to a certain extent, the complaints hitherto raised against the Railway Bureau for delay in the transmission of luggage. Small parcels have hitherto been entrusted, in most cases, to the express companies for transmission, but as these companies had to wait till they accumulated goods enough to fill a van specially chartered by them the system proved by no means convenient. It is said this special system of transmission will also be adopted on the Tokai and Hokuroku lines so soon as necessary arrangements have been completed. The weight of parcels to be transported under the new system is limited to 50 pounds, but a whole car may be hired on special terms. The following are the general rules connected with the new system:—(1) Parcels for speedy transmission will be charged the following rates of freight:—For 100 miles, 40 *sen*; for 150 miles, 45 *sen*; for 200 miles, 50 *sen*; for 250 miles, 55 *sen*; for 300 miles, 60 *sen*; for 500 miles, 70 *sen*. (2) The articles enumerated below and others similar in nature will not be eligible for speedy transmission:—Raw silk, cocoons, silk textiles, raw hemp or flax, agar-agar, wooden boxes, straw braid, straw, leaf tobacco, weaving machines, children's cars, caps and hats, paper, living birds and beasts, and snake gourds. These articles, however, will be accepted at double rates. Dangerous substances and valuable articles will not be transmitted. (3) Articles for speedy transmission will be delivered at the residence of the consignee in the districts defined by the Transport Departments. For delivery beyond the limits of such a district additional fees must be paid. (4) Parcels of all descriptions must be properly packed, and two wooden tickets bearing the name and address of both the sender and consignee must be affixed.

At a meeting of the Old Schoolmates' Club connected with the Tokyo Semmon Gakko, Count Okuma is said to have spoken as follows:—"I have with pleasure received many kind expressions regarding myself from the managers of the Club, but these expressions have only made me blush. I have often entered the Cabinet, but my political career, I confess, has been a career of complete failure. Things have not turned out as I wished, and my past history has been a repetition of bunglings. Things, however, have now taken a different turn, and I have been called upon to organise a new Ministry. Despite the failures which my personal history shows, I am fully convinced that the ideal which I have hitherto entertained was noble and ought to be carried into effect sooner or later. In my ideal, the subject of education stands prominently. It is the foundation of the State and the key to the development of the people. The progress Japan has made up to the present is the result of education. Unhappily, however, the common education of Japan is crippled by a deficiency of teachers to the extent of over 8,000; while a similar drawback is also noticeable in middle school instruction. Of all policies that require immediate attention at present, the policy of education is the most important. I have determined to steadily carry this principle into practice."

According to the *Nippon*, the transactions of the various banks and companies in Yokohama during the 1st half of this year do not show any serious falling off as compared with the latter half of last year. The following comparative table may be of interest:—

	Dividend for the latter half of 1897. Per cent. per annum.		Dividend for the 1st half of this year. Per cent.
2nd	6 5	.....	6
74th	12	.....	6
Yokohama	6	.....	6
Yokohama Boyeki	7 5	.....	8
Wakao	1 25	.....	(none)
Sanshi (Sericultural)	11	.....	10*
Kigyo (Industrial)	7	.....	10
Commercial	10	.....	8
Musashi Commercial	9	.....	8*
Yokohama Savings	12	.....	12
Kinko Savings	6	.....	6
Yokohama Five Staples Exchange...	40	.....	20
Four Commodities Exchange	8	.....	(none)
Rice, salt, and other Miscellaneous Articles Exchange	(none).....		20
Merchandise Exchange	(none).....		(none)
Yokohama Fire Insurance Co.	4	.....	5*
Wharf Company	10	.....	10*
Electric Light Company	8	.....	8*
Central Warehousing Co. ...	10	.....	13
Commercial Warehousing Company	4.2	.....	6*
Japan Tobacco Company ...	(none).....		10
Yokohama Joint Stock Miscl. Merchandise Company ...	(none).....		(none)

* estimated.

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SOME KOREAN JOTTING.

The Sōul *Independent* of July 9th, contains but a brief note on the recent trial of Constable O'Neil, of the British Legation. The case was tried by Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate of Shanghai, who acted as Assistant Judge, and he had for jury Messrs. Kenmure, Emberly, Hodge, Murdoch, and Hay. The Governor of Sōul, Hon. Ye Chaiyen, was present throughout the trial. No pains were spared to get at the truth of the case, says our contemporary, and the witnesses, including the brother of the deceased, were subjected to the fairest and fullest examination. The result was that O'Neil was discharged after the jury had brought in a verdict of not guilty. The trial, which began at 9.30 a.m., concluded about 8 o'clock at night.

The tri-weekly English journal issued at Sōul very tersely dismisses a memorial that several Confucian scholars have been endeavouring to present at the new Palace gate. This document, says our contemporary, in fulsome terms of exaggerated eulogy and with many stale quotations from Chinese classics, prays His Majesty to marry again. The national calmities such as *Tonghaks*, *Christianity*, floods, droughts, famines, are all attributed to the fact that His Majesty remains a widower. In case His Majesty is not willing to marry again, the memorialists beg that Lady Um should be promoted to the position of Empress, following the example of certain Chinese emperors of great renown."

We in Japan have had more minute details of the recent plot to compel the Emperor of Korea to abdicate, than the Sōul *Independent* has been able to obtain. Indeed, on the 12th July, it was still only able to say, "we shall promptly inform our readers as soon as we have reliable news." But all the same, it read the Emperor a homily upon the subject, concluding in this fashion :—

> We hope the conspiracy just detected will open the eyes of His Majesty to the dangers of the situation. By dismissing his evil councillors and repealing bad laws our gracious Emperor will soon find out that the safety of his person and permanency of his dynasty can be best secured, not by battalions of hired bayonets but by the love and loyalty of his people. The surest means of eradicating conspiracies is to give no cause for their existence.

From an Imperial decree issued on July 5th, it will be noted that the Korean army is to be increased to "ten battalions for the time being." The decree continues :—"Until the Finance Department shall have ample means to defray the expenses for the enlarged army, the Household Department will for a few years bear the responsibility of its maintenance. Though circumstances have prevented Us from creating a naval force, its absence is a cause of regret. Let the Department of War take into mature consideration the question of a standing navy for Korea, its size, its organization and its means of support."

A vernacular paper published in Sōul reports that over $700,000 have already been spent in building the new Palace : and that at least $200 000 more are needed to finish it. Though *The Independent* cannot accept these figures with implicit faith, it says there is no room for doubting that the Palace is being built at a cost which the famished condition of the country does not warrant.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Sōul, July 16th.

Shortly after the 4th inst. it was noticed that the Imperial Guards around the Palace were strengthened very perceptibly. Rumours commenced to circulate that the Emperor was much disquieted. The outside world, however, had as yet no information of the reasons of the perturbation of those in and around the Palace. On the 9th and 10th inst. there were a number of arrests in high official circles, and reports that several who were very much desired had "skipped." One of the latter was General An Kyengsu, a man prominent in official and commercial circles. Among those arrested mention may be made of Min Yong-jun, the court favourite four years ago, and the most influential man in the kingdom at the time, a man whose mal-administration was the direct cause of the uprising of the Tonghaks and the war between Japan and China that followed. Pak Chun-yang, ex Minister to Washington and ex-Minister of several important Cabinet portfolios, a man whose official career has always, so report among his people hath it, been honourable and patriotic; two ex-Commissioners of Police, who manifested great zeal in reforms during the period they held office and who did great good to the people. Fourteen men, it is said, were wanted ; eleven of whom have been arrested and at once handed over to the Supreme Court for trial.

The cause of the arrests, it is now found, is due to a circular which might well be called "The Blue Day Book," issued by "The Young Men's Patriotic Association." This society,—if indeed it can be called a society, or has any existence outside of one or two men—flooded the city with circulars calling upon the people to ask the Emperor to resign in favour of the Crown Prince and to go into dignified retirement, inasmuch as the burdens he had carried during the past thirty-five years were too great and were endangering the sacred health of the Emperor. The Emperor, it is safe to say, fails to see things in the same light as this "Patriotic Association" does, and the probability is that the originators of the scheme, when found out, will rusticate on some of the outlying islands of the Korean archipelago, and they may congratulate themselves if they get off so easily.

The zeal manifested in rooting out this new danger to the peace of Daihan is interesting—almost pathetic. Any organization that has to do with young men is ferretted out and overhauled. It is therefore not surprising that the Epworth League, which in Korea is called "Young People's Society," was pounced upon as an institution endangering the welfare of the state. Its committee, it is needless to say, had no difficulty in explaining their position as a religious organization.

The Independent, with great boldness, points out the real cause of this dissatisfaction among the people, of which the circular may be taken as something of an expression. It says that the last two years not only failed to mark any advancement in the reforms inaugurated but witnessed a decided return to old ways of oppression and methods of extorting money : "Imperial inspectors, illegal taxes, monopolies, departmental agents, miners, soldiers, corrupt judges, grabbing magistrates, highway robbers, etc., have been busily engaged in making the very life a torment in this fair land."

The rains began the latter part of June, rather earlier than usual. There has been a heavy rainfall the last fortnight, though the weather is now more settled.

The Hon. Mr. Kato, the Japanese Minister, has been quite ill for some time with fever, if your correspondent is correctly informed. Mrs. Kato, likewise, has been confined to the house for the past several months.

The *Independent* "obtained through the mail" a copy of the circular of the "Young Men's Patriotic Association" which has caused such a rumpus in Sōul. It does not translate it in full, contenting itself with extracts. "His Sacred Majesty," says the circular, "has reigned thirty-five years. Inheriting the great estate of his ancestors, and appreciating the love of his people, our Emperor has "thirst" after a good government. But failing to secure the service of able ministers His Majesty has in control and manage everything in domestic and foreign affairs. He is constantly worried and anxious. * * * Crowds of evil men darken his vision and bewilder his mind. * * * The excess of sorrow and labor are endangering his sacred health. Can his subjects help feeling concerned about his person? In order to preserve the imperial health and to prolong the imperial life, His Majesty should resign his great office to the Crown Prince, to strengthen the foundation of the imperial family and to advance the welfare of the State. * * * Several persons desired to memorialize the Throne representing to His Majesty the universal wishes of the people. But crafty and evil men, by deceiving His Majesty, have falsely accused the good and loyal."

A good many "growls" have lately been indulged in over the slow progress of the Sōul-Chemulpho railway, and the *Independent* has been induced to insert, at the request of a friend of the Company, Kipling's famous quatrain :—

> Now, it is not good for the Christian's health to hustle the Aryan brown,
> For the Christian tries, and th' Aryan smiles and he weareth the Christian down ;
> And the end of the fight is a tombstone white, with name of the late deceased,
> And the epitaph drear : "A fool lies here who tried to hustle the East."

The Korean Emperor has been administering a snub to the Independence Club. While thanking them for a recent memorial, he caused to be written—"You should not discuss rashly the affairs of the Government without being in (official) positions."

This memorial, by the way, had been signed by 600 members of the Club. On receiving the above answer, these 600, together with 700 more, subscribed another memorial and sent that into the Palace. In this document they calmly tell their Sovereign that he doesn't quite know what he's talking about, and quote the saying of the great commentator Juhui, who declared : "Even a low common subject has it within his duty to make his sovereign good and great, and the people happy and prosperous"; and then added :—"It is also written in the Book of Odes, 'Ask wood-cutters or grass-mowers for counsels.'" Altogether the Club thinks it has scored off the Emperor.

A Korean newspaper of Sōul stated on the 15th inst. that Messrs. Min Yongjoon and Pak Jungyang were confined in cells, whipped and tortured. A note from Gen. Greathouse, the Adviser of the Law Department, informs the *Independent* that the story above mentioned is altogether groundless. "You can," says the General, "deny the story *in toto*, as there is not an atom of truth in it. The fact is Mr. Min is in a very comfortable and large room in the main court-building with open doors, etc. Mr. Pak has also a comfortable room in the yard near the main building with open doors." In regard to the rumour that the prisoners were maltreated, the Adviser has this to say :—"A moment ago I went to the rooms of each and asked the accused if they had been whipped or maltreated in any way, and they said 'No.' I showed the newspaper report and they said it was all untrue. Of course. I knew before I asked them there was no truth in the newspaper report, but thought it proper to investigate."

The *Independent* declares that the "Young Men's Patriotic Association" has turned out to be "an airy nothing" with "no local habitation."

The appointment of Mr. Cho Pyengsik to the position of the Vice-President of the Council of State has, it is said, excited much indignation among Koreans, and the Independence Club has naturally taken advantage of the occasion to send "a nasty letter" to Mr. Cho.

CHINA NEWS.

According to the *P. & T. Times*, Sir Robert Hart had been 12 years cooped up in Peking before he took a holiday last month at Pei-tai-ho.

Drowning fatalities are very frequent at Shanghai this year. The latest victim of the treacherous Whampoa is Andrew Harper, ship's cook of H. M. S. *Phœnix*, who slipped into the river from a sampan as he was stepping on to his ship's gangway after leave ashore.

Mr. J. S. Fearon, Chairman of the Municipal Council, has returned to Shanghai from Peking, and confirms the statement that the extension of the Settlement, as asked for by the

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foreign community of Shanghai, will undoubtedly be conceded. The matter is now in the hands of the British and U. S. Consul-Generals, who are expected to settle the matter with the local authorities. Failing them, it will go back to Peking for settlement.

Colonel Denby, the retiring American Minister at Peking, filled that post for 13 years—a long term indeed for his country's diplomatic service.

Naturally the incident caused the local poet to blossom forth. Here are two of his verses :—

For the men-of war sailors they (the mob) cared not a jot,
Volunteers and police incommoded them not ;
But like sensible men they determined to yield,
When the 12-BORE IRREGULARS came on the field !

It was not their costume, their size, or their gait ;
It was not their guns, which were often held straight ;
It was not the fifty refills in their pokes ;
'Twas the glare in the eyes of brave Councillor S———!

A foolhardy attempt, says the *N. C. Daily News*, was recently made by a European who was formerly employed as an officer in one of the local steamship companies, to row from Shanghai to the Kintoan Light-ship in a small boat. He was successful until he arrived opposite Block House Island when his boat capsized, and he was thrown into the water. Being a strong swimmer he kept himself afloat for nine hours, when he drifted on to House Island in an exhausted condition and badly sunburnt. The natives provided him with clothes and afterwards put him on board the Kintoan Light-ship, whence he will return to Shanghai.

A correspondent writing to a Shanghai contemporary from Paotung-fu, under date July 7, says :—

Yesterday at about six o'clock p.m. two captains and several soldiers belonging to a body of troops recently arrived from the province of Kansu went to the Roman Catholic Mission in the north suburb of this city and asked permission to enter and view the compound. On being refused admittance they made a row and beat one of the attendants, whereupon the Catholics seized the two captains and dragged them into the compound and shortly afterwards sent them to the *yamên* of the magistrate in the city. Not many hours afterwards more soldiers appeared from the camp to enquire about their comrades. On being told what had occurred they returned to the camp, secured an armed mob of other soldiers and returned to wreak their vengeance on the premises and the occupants. One Chinese preacher was badly wounded about the head and a French priest, Père Dumont, was beaten, seized, bound, and dragged to the camp, and the Mission premises were badly smashed up. The magistrate on hearing of the disturbance went to the camp and secured the unfortunate priest and took him off to the *yamên*. The French priests, three in number, are now stopping in the city. The occurrence has been reported to the French Minister at Peking and we are awaiting the outcome. No disturbance have occurred at the other Missions.

The Shanghai papers to hand by the French mail contain long accounts of the riots that arose in the French Settlement, Shanghai, in consequence of the French Municipal Council's resolving to efface the insanitary Ningpo Joss-House. The land on which it stands has long been wanted for urgent public improvements and the French offered a fair price as compensation. Every facility, and indeed encouragement, was offered to the parties interested to remove coffins or bodies, which it had been the disgraceful custom to deposit in the area named, pending removal to the parish or district in which the departed were born; but the notification was disregarded. Saturday June 16th, was the last day, and the French Municipality, resolving to take no half measures, set about the task of obliterating what has been held to be a pestilence-breeding institution. As we heard by cable, these proceedings evoked strenuous opposition on the part of the Ningpo men living in Shanghai, and landing parties from the French cruiser *Eclaireur*, the M.M. *Oceanien*, and the Italian cruiser *Marco Polo* came ashore to assist the local police forces. By Sunday morning things had come to such a pass that the marines had to fire into the mob with rifles and a machine gun, fifteen persons falling dead and many receiving injuries. This action struck consternation into the rioters and stone-throwers and for the rest of the day comparative quiet reigned. The French Consul General, in view of further developments then sent for help—in case of need—from the larger settlement, and in answer to the call the Volunteers turned out and were paraded on the race-course. At midnight there were altogether on duty 150 men from the *Marco Polo*, 90 from the *Eclaireur*, 50 police, and 110 Volunteers, in addition to a number of civilians ready to be called on at a moment's notice, while the bridges over the Yangkingpang were held by fully armed Sikh police. During Sunday several "expresses" were issued by the Ningpo Guild, advising the men to maintain peace and quietness, as the matter had been referred to negotiators—Lo Taotai of Soochow and Count Bezaure, the French Consul-General—and the Shanghai Magistrate also sent out a "six-metrical proclamation." This, as translated by the *N.-C. Daily News*, ran :—

The affairs of the Ningpo prefecture guildhouse,
Have been repeatedly conferred upon ;
It seems that the guildhouse can be saved entirely,
While some other arrangement must be made respecting the cemetery.
Now you people of Ningpo prefecture,
Ought to leave matters to your officials and gentry to settle.
By no means get excited and stir up trouble,
But let each man go about his avocations in peace,
As to those who are not concerned in this matter.
Be very careful how you congregate for the purpose of sight-seeing.
If there should be fighting you may be accidentally hurt,
And this trouble you have brought upon yourselves.
I have always known you Ningpo people
To be clear-headed and to know the principles of justice.
You know our Emperor is always anxious to bestow kindness on strangers from afar,
And you must hence act and conserve the Imperial wishes.
As for myself, your Magistrate, I love my people ;
I have never swerved from this principle.
I do not hesitate therefore to earnestly exhort you
To one and all give heed to my words.

By Monday night affairs had quieted down considerably, the troops were withdrawn, the volunteers thanked, and the *N.-C Daily News* was able to announce on Tuesday morning :—It was stated on the best authority last night that the trouble was settled on the basis of the temporary repairing of the wall of the cemetery, three months being allowed for the removal of the coffins and the handing over of the cemetery to the French Municipality.

GERMAN NEWS.

Professor Koch, that indefatigable investigator, recently paid a visit to German East Africa to study the subject of tropical malaria. Experimenting with cattle attacked by Texas fever, he found that he could infect sound cattle with ticks taken from diseased, and that by inoculating with the ova of ticks taken from diseased cattle he could confer immunity on healthy beasts. His further researches led to the following remarkable conclusions :—

Malaria offered many points of resemblance to Texas fever, and in the case of human disease mosquitoes probably played the part which ticks played in the cattle disease. It was found that wherever there were mosquitoes there was malaria, and wherever, as in the case of a small island on the German East African coast, there were no mosquitoes there was also no malaria. He had taken occasion to follow closely the course of cases of tropical malaria in which the use of quinine was dispensed with. He found that, contrary to the view hitherto accepted, the cases where quinine was not used showed that in malaria as in other fevers the readings of temperature followed a curve to a definite course. Moreover, it had been found possible by a microscopic examination of the blood of the patient to discover from the nature of the microbes it contained the precise stage of the development of the disease. This would be of the greatest importance, since everything depended upon the administration of quinine either shortly before the attack or very shortly after it. It would ultimately, he thought, be possible to administer quinine in a rational manner and so to avoid the injurious consequences of the quinine treatment. Quinine taken at the proper juncture undoubtedly stopped the malarial fever. It did so, not by killing the germs, but by arresting their growth. A rational and scientific employment of quinine, combined with the establishment of health resorts in the mountains, would rob tropical fever of many of its terrors. Professor Koch further discussed what is designated in German *Schwarzwasserfieber*. According to his view this fever is not connected with malaria at all, but is the result in all probability of the quinine treatment. In any event, there was no case of this fever in which it could be safely asserted that quinine poisoning was not present.

As to the possibility of securing immunity from malaria, he called attention to the fact that whole native tribes seemed to be proof against the infection. But if a natural immunity existed it was reasonable to hope that an artificial one might be created. It had been observed, for example, that persons who had suffered from malaria and had made a gradual and slow recovery without the aid of quinine often acquired entire immunity from the disease. In order that progress should be made in combating the ravages of malaria, it was indispensable that doctors trained in bacteriology and in the use of the microscope should be sent to East Africa. The administration of quinine by non-professional hands was a great mistake. If science were one day to cope successfully with this disease it would facilitate the prosperous development of some of the most fruitful districts in the world.

At the recent elections in Germany the Socialists polled about two millions of votes. In 1871, the number was only 101,927. The figures are very significant. Whatever we may think of the Socialist doctrine, the movement seems to be steadily gaining strength in Germany at all events.

It is curious to observe that the alarm felt in Germany about the contingency of a large addition to the Socialist members of the Reichstag was based, not on the advantage that the Socialists themselves might take of their strengthened position, but on the capital which the Government might make out of it for the purpose of uniting other factions to bring about a retrogressive constitutional change. The Socialists, people said, are able and persistent critics in the interests of justice and liberty, but if they become a numerically powerful phalanx in the Reichstag, the Government might be able to work on the fears of other sections so as to secure the abolition of universal suffrage.

The presence of a strong German force in Manila Bay is regarded by at least one German journal as an indication that Germany means to have a *point d'appui* in the Philippines. That forecast is based on the supposition that America will not annex the islands, but that they will pass under the control of a native republic. If would then be necessary, we read, to establish a firm barrier against the lawlessness of the natives. With reference to this interesting subject, we quote from *The Times* Berlin correspondence of June 16th :—

The comments of the German Press upon the concentration of German naval forces in the neighbourhood of Manila afford interesting material for a study of the methods of certain German journals. The *Post* complains that the intentions of the German Government are misrepresented, and speaks of "falsifications on the part of English telegraph agencies in the transmission of news." I must really beg leave to point out that the suggestion of German territorial designs in the Philippine Islands was first made by German and not by English or American journals or news agencies. In *The Times* of Wednesday I quoted the Berlin *Marine-politische Correspondenz*, which quite openly advocated the occupation of a harbour in the Philippines. In these circumstances, it is simply puerile on the part of the *Post* and its Berlin contemporaries to complain that the intentions of the

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German Government are being misrepresented abroad.

It is worth nothing and remembering that the *Post* to-day disclaims all "desires for conquest and occupation" on behalf of the German Government. The aim of that Government, we are assured, is "only to protect effectively its subjects in foreign lands and to maintain with energy German interests that are in any way menaced." The *North-German Gazette*, however, does not offer any explanation of the "naval demonstration" before Manila on its own account, it simply quotes a telegram of the *Cologne Gazette* from Madrid, which says that, according to trustworthy information, all the conjectures of the Spanish Press and of political circles in Spain regarding an intention on the part of Germany to abandon her neutrality in the question of the Philippines are entirely unfounded. "In official Spanish circles the arrival of German ships of war at Manila is regarded as quite natural since great German interests there demand protection."

Instead of any disclaimer directly inspired from Berlin, the German official telegraph agency publishes the following despatch from Washington:—

"Articles in foreign journals which ascribe to Germany the intention of intervening in the Philippine Islands awaken in the minds of the authorities here the belief that some power or other is secretly endeavouring to sow dissension between the United States and Germany with the object of promoting its own interests. The declaration of the Emperor with regard to the neutrality of Germany is recalled, and it is acknowledged that it is impossible to doubt the sincerity of that declaration. The Department of the Secretary of State has received an official communication to the effect that the rumour that Germany would raise the question of the Philippines is unfounded. The German ships of war, it was further stated, had gone to Manila for the sole purpose of protecting subjects of the German Empire and German property."

Why, one must again ask, does not the official telegraph agency condemn the statements of the Berlin *Marinepolitische Correspondenz* instead of attacking "foreign journals?" The *Marinepolitische Correspondenz*, which is notoriously in touch with German official circles, and in particular with the German Admiralty, used the following words:—"For the same reasons which justificed us in demanding the cession of a harbour from China we must claim one from the 'Republic of the Philippines,' which, to all appearance, will be the issue of the present development of affairs."

The *Cologne Gazette* says that should Rear-Admiral Dewey leave Aguinaldo to complete the work of conquest alone in the Philippines, "he would forfeit his legitimate excuse for an intervention of his own in the development of the future fortunes of the islands." The same journal, speaking of the Government of the United States, writes:—"An Administration which is so corrupt and at the mercy of the most pernicious personal influences as that of the Union will hardly be able to repair the ravages which have been wrought by Spanish neglect and by priestly rule in the course of centuries. The citizens of the most free Republic do not yet seem to realize the enormous burdens which the military occupation of colonies and their protection by a navy impose upon a State. The Americans are not even prepared to protect their own coasts against a naval Power of any importance." The contingency contemplated in Berlin seems to be that if Manila falls, and if the Americans are not able to undertake responsibility for the safety of German life and property, Vice-Admiral von Diedrichs will land a force from the German ships. That step once taken, German interests would assume a new complexion.

A demonstration of the absurdity of the duel in Germany has been afforded by a case which was tried the other day before a Berlin Court, remarks a Berlin correspondent of an English paper. A law student named Hans von Flemming, who had already once failed to pass his examination for the Bar, again presented himself last February before the examiners for the *viva voce* examination. The chief examiner, the President of the Judicial Senate, Dr. von Coing, informed him in the presence of three other candidates that he had again failed. Upon this Herr von Flemming, with a contemptuous smile took up his books and immediately left the room, loudly slamming the door behind him," instead of waiting, as etiquette prescribed, for the announcement of the result of the examination of his three fellow students. On the following day he appears to have repented of his fit of temper and called upon Dr. von Coing in order to ask the President of the Senate to use his influence with the Minister of Justice to obtain permission for him to come up for the examination a third time. Dr. von Coing replied that "the unbecoming behaviour" of the student on the previous day rendered such an application out of the question. Herr von Flemming thereupon admitted that "he had, it was true, intended to show his disrespect to the examiners," but at the same time he refused to admit that his behaviour had been improper. Dr. von Coing replied that, whatever the opinion of the student might be "no gentleman would have behaved as he had done." Regarding the words of the President as a personal insult, Herr von Flamming, after some preliminary attempts at negotiations, sent his cousin, a lieutenant in the army, with a challenge to Dr. von Coing, who very properly put the matter in the hands of the Public Prosecutor. The result of the trial was that Herr von Flemming was sentenced to four months' incarceration in a fortress.

The German Emperor has conferred upon the Berlin police a decoration to be worn on their helmets, with the inscription "Steadfast in Loyalty" and the dates 1848 and 1898, and has at the same time presented his portrait in oils to the Berlin President of Police.

The British Consul General at Hamburg, in his report for the past year, mentions that German export trade to South Africa, which passes chiefly through Hamburg, was less in 1897 than in the preceding year. The decline is attributed to the continued prevalence of the cattle plague and to the long drought last year in South Africa, which had the effect of reducing the crops considerably and diminishing the consuming power of the population. The decrease in the shipments from Hamburg to the Cape Colony, and also to the Transvaal, last year was especially noticeable in the export of chemicals, iron manufactures, machinery, and beer. But though there were complaints as to the trade with the Transvaal, the business between Hamburg and the latter has developed in a remarkable way during the past seven years. In 1891 the Transvaal imports to Hamburg were valued at only £1,956, and in 1896 at £33,048; while the German exports to the Transvaal increased from £2,150 in 1891 to £304,053 in 1896. The imports are gold and silver ore, and sheep's wool, while the main exports are prussiate of potash, rifles and ammunition, explosives, machinery, iron manufactures, furniture, beer, and cigars, as well as a number of other German industrial products. The chief promoter of trade between Germany and South-East Africa has been the Hamburg East African line of steamers, which is supported by a Government subsidy granted on condition of the company running its steamers monthly to this part of Africa. In addition reduced rates are granted on the German State railways to goods consigned on through bills of lading from inland towns in Germany *via* Hamburg and forwarded by this line of steamers. These arrangements have been mainly instrumental in introducing German goods to the South African Republic, and other parts of South-East Africa.

The list of honours which have been bestowed by the German Emperor on the tenth anniversary of his accession is a very long one and presents several interesting features, says *The Times*. As if to emphasize the feelings of confidence and of personal gratitude which he entertains towards the aged Chancellor, Prince Hohenlohe, the Emperor has decorated him with the star of a Grand Commander of the Order of the House of Hohenzollern. The highest Prussian Order, the Black Eagle, which Prince Hohenlohe has long possessed, has been conferred upon the Ambassador in St. Petersburg, Prince Radolin, who was formerly Chief Marshal of the Court of the Emperor Frederick; upon the Minister of the Royal House, Herr von Wedel, and upon Chief President of the Province of West Prussia, Dr. von Gossler, the former Minister of Public Instruction. At the head of a list of honours conferred upon officers of the navy there further appears the announcement that the Black Eagle has been bestowed upon Admiral von Knorr, the chief in command of this branch of the service. Many of the other distinctions which are announced have a personal interest in being bestowed upon men of greater or less eminence who have been closely associated with the career of the Emperor. Dr. Hinzpeter, who was one of his Majesty's tutors, is promoted a step in the official hierarchy and becomes a privy councillor of the first class. Dr. Vogt, the director of the gymnasium at Cassel, where the Emperor was educated, receives the Order of the Crown of the second class, and Dr. Guessfeldt, who first attracted the Emperor's attention to the charms of Norway as a holiday resort, and the painter Professor Saltzmann, who, like Dr. Guessfeldt, always accompanies the Emperor on his voyages in northern waters, are respectively decorated with the third class of the Orders of the Red Eagle and of the Crown. A certain political significance may, perhaps, be attached to the bestowal of the title of Excellency upon Count Dönhoff-Friedrichstein, one of the few Conservatives who voted for the ratification of commercial treaty with Russia and braved the wrath of the Agrarians when they endeavoured to oust him from his seat in the Reichstag.

But perhaps the most interesting and significant act of the Emperor on the present occasion is his announcement that he recognizes the high importance of technical education by nominating Professor Slaby, of the Technical College at Charlottenburg, Professor Launhardt, of the Technical College at Hanover, and Professor Intze, of the Technical College at Aix-la-Chapelle, to be life members of the Upper House of the Prussian Diet. While Professor Slaby was delivering his lecture at Charlottenburg this morning he was interrupted by the receipt of a telegram from the Emperor, which he proceeded to read to his class. It was in the following terms:—

"In recognition of the importance which technical knowledge has acquired at the end of our century, and in profound respect for the exact sciences in general, I wish to confer upon the Technical College of Charlottenburg a seat and a vote in the Herrenhaus, and nominate you as the most fit person to be its representative.—William, I.R."

Professor Slaby, addressing the students, expressed his sense of the significance of the step which the Emperor had taken in conferring upon the technical colleges the rights of representation in the Upper House of the Prussian Diet, a privilege which the Universities had long enjoyed. On the invitation of their teacher the students enthusiastically gave three cheers for the Emperor.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The 15th of August will be observed at the Chinese Legation, Tokyo, as the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of China.

On the 26th inst. at 2 p.m., a sand-hill in Ishikawa, Nakamura, collapsed, and one of the coolies working at its foot was killed by the falling sand.

Mr. Asada, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture, on the 27th inst. visited Miura, Kamakura, and Kozu to investigate facts concerning the dysentery epidemic prevailing there.

A private letter from an American naval officer at Manila says that the thermometer there has never gone above 92°, and the climate is perfect.

It is understood at Washington that Mr. N. W. Mohrer, late Consul-General of the United States at Kanagawa, will be one of the board of

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Commissioners to be sent to the Hawaiian islands by the U.S. Government to frame the laws for the new U.S. possession.

On the 22nd inst. at 11 p.m. fire broke out at Tago, Saunobe-gori, Awomori Prefecture. Over 200 buildings, including the post office, schools, and police station, were destroyed.

The P. & O. steamer *Japan* brought to Kobe £750,000 in gold bars for the Japanese Government. The bars were transferred at Hongkong from the P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*.

Lieut. Gaunt, of H.M.S. *Narcissus*, acting Governor at Wei-hai-wei, has been promoted to the rank of commander. By-the-way, his government of England's latest "out-post" is described in a Shanghai paper as being of the variety known as "benevolent despotism."

The Police Inspectors in Kanagawa Prefecture, yesterday, held a conference in connection with the dysentery epidemic and methods of disinfection. The epidemic is becoming more and more serious. On the 26th inst. 28 cases appeared, and 5 of the patients died.

A well-known resident of Shanghai has passed away in the person of Mrs. P. O'B Twing. Of her allotted seventy years, she passed half, with brief intervals, in Shanghai, having arrived there first in 1863. In 1884 she went home, returning in 1888, and since then never left the place.

The fifty-fourth annual commencement of the University of Michigan was held at Ann Arbor on June 30. Six hundred and seventy-four degrees were conferred. The commencement oration was delivered by Prof. Benjamin Ide Wheeler, of Cornell, who spoke on "The Old World in the New." Mr. Riota Kodama received the doctor's degree of the university.

A motion was heard in chambers on the 13th inst. in H.B.M. Court, Shanghai, before the Chief Justice, Mr. H. Browett appearing for the officers and super-cargo, and Mr. H. C. Parkes for twenty-nine of the crew of the British vessel *Amarapoora*, the application being for the sale of the vessel to satisfy portage bills amounting to $15,000. The Court ordered an appraisement and sale.

A fire broke out on the 23rd instant at 8.20 p.m. at a shed belonging to a merchant named Murata, No. 9, Kobunacho, Nichome, Nihonbashi, Tokyo. The conflagration spread at once to the surrounding buildings, and destroyed one godown and 26 houses, besides partly damaging nine houses. The fire is said to have been caused by a spark from a tobacco pipe carelessly left by workmen.

On the arrival at Kobe of the American ship *Baring Brothers*, from Yokohama, on Monday the police flag was noticed to be flying, and on being boarded it was ascertained that six of the crew were in irons on the deck, having, it is stated, been mutinous on the passage down. The vessel left Yokohama on the 12th instant, says the *Chronicle*, and the trouble seems to have arisen a few days after she had been at sea. The men were brought before the American Consul and duly tried.

Work on the *Hitachi Maru*, a steamer of 6,000 tons built at the local Mitsu Bishi Dockyard to the order of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, is approaching completion, says the *Nagasaki Press*, and the vessel will shortly be ready for her trial trip. Captain Going, who has been appointed to the command of the vessel, together with a crew of 85 men, arrived here on the 17th inst. from Yokohama by the *Kobe Maru*. The trial trip will probably take place on the 25th inst., after which the vessel will leave here on the 30th inst. for Yokohama on her maiden trip.

The Times displays a fine healthy optimism when it writes, regarding the protest of the Executive Committee of the Navy League against leaving the native city of Kowloon outside of British jurisdiction, "The dangers apprehended are not perhaps altogether imaginary, but they seem to be of a kind which a little judgment and firmness on the part of the local authorities will meet. They have only to show the Mandarins of Kowloon City that they do not intend to stand any nonsense. When those worthies realize that we are in earnest, all further difficulty of a serious kind will be at an end." Oh! will it?

Sir William Robinson, late Governor of Hongkong, has expressed the following view to a representative of Reuter's Agency regarding the extension of Hongkong:—"The Kowloon arrangement," he said, "is an admirable one, and will be of great benefit to the Chinese as well as the European inhabitants of Hongkong. Now we can look for lines of railway to Canton, up to the Yangtsze Valley, to Peking, and so on. In fact, as I said, Kowloon might be made the Clapham Junction of the East. We must, however, have European management. Kowloon City, which has hitherto been a nest of gamblers and robbers, will now be cleansed and properly policed, to the great advantage of Victoria." But according to the terms of the lease, as published in *The Times*, this will not be so. Kowloon City is to become an Alsatia of disagreeable proportions.

"The expensiveness and lack of durability of rubber-water and ice-bags has led to much fruitless research to discover an efficient substitute for rubber. Professor Jacobsohn," say *Popular Science News*, "announces that the Japanese rice-paper articles of the kind are a distinct advance in the technique of the care and comfort of the sick. They are made of several layers of the soft, flexible rice paper used for so many purposes in Japan, with resin between, finished on the outside with a coat of Japanese lacquer. He exhibited some air-cushions thus made, at the meeting of the Berlin Society of Internal Medicine, demonstrating that the cushions were absolutely air-tight, flexible, 'feather-light,' remarkably enduring, bearing a permanent weight of 150 kilograms, folding into extremely small compass when not in use, and costing less than a sixth of the corresponding rubber articles now in use."

We take the following from a Chicago paper:—"Col. Edmund Rice who had command of the Columbian Guards at the Exposition in Chicago, reached Washington this morning, coming straight from Tokyo, where he has been military *attaché* since the inauguration of President McKinley. As soon as he heard of the declaration of war he telegraphed the Secretary of State to be relieved and applied for active service. While on the sea, and without his application or knowledge, the President nominated him for Inspector-General, and he was immediately confirmed by the Senate. While he appreciates the compliment, Col. Rice says he does not want that sort of duty. He prefers a fighting command, and has asked the Secretary of War to assign him to some regiment—the worst in the front. It is likely that Rice will be gratified, for he is a favourite with Gen. Miles and his abilities are known and appreciated by the President and the Secretary of War."

LOCOMOTIVE BUILDING IN JAPAN.

With regard to the question of locomotive building in Japan, referred to by Mr. R. F. Trevithick in a letter published in our correspondence columns, our readers will probably be interested in the following quotations from an essay contributed by Mr. Trevithick to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in April, 1895:—

PARTICULARS OF BUILDING AT KOBE WORKS.—Two frame-plates of mild Siemens Martin steel were obtained from England, planed on both sides, and shaped on edges to tracings sent from Japan; all holes and gaps for horn-blocks were drilled or cut out in Kobe. Four steel plates forming the radial axle box guides were sent out from England, flanged and bent to required radius in conformity with tracing supplied from Japan, as to foreign makers for het locomotives. The remainder of the material required for constructing the frame was supplied from the store, out of the ordinary stock of iron plates, bars, and angles.

Four straight axles, two of best Yorkshire iron and two of best Siemens-Martin steel, and eight steel tires, were sent out from England as supplied from forge or steel works; all turning and fitting were done in Kobe. The wheels, eight in number, were forged in Kobe from scrap iron, and formed the crucial job in smith work. All tires now used on these railways are of steel; they are made in England, sent out as received from the steel works, and bored out and finished as required in Japan.

The valve gear, spring gear, brake gear, draw-bar hooks, and attachments were made in Kobe, almost entirely from scrap iron. Springs were made from steel out of stores. The buffers were made partly of Yorkshire iron plate, and partly of scrap iron.

The piston-rods were made of round steel supplied from store, but the cross heads were made of scrap iron. The low-pressure piston of steel was sent out from England as received from the steel works; all turning and fitting were done in Kobe. The high pressure piston, being of cast-iron, was made in Kobe. The slide bars were made of steel bars out of stock. The connecting rods and coupling rods were forged from 6-inch square bars of best Yorkshire iron; the crank pins from 6 inch diameter round bars of same quality.

The cylinders, axle-boxes, and all other fittings of cast-iron or brass were cast and finished complete in the Kobe shops.

The boiler was made of plates, bars, and angles of best Yorkshire iron supplied from store, all flanging, &c., being done in the shops. The foundation ring and fire-hole ring were made from scrap iron. All copper tube plates used in Kobe for boiler making or repairs are ordered from England of best quality; the flanging is entirely done in Kobe, after which the tube and rivet holes are drilled. The dome with its seating was obtained from England, though not specially ordered for this engine. All boiler mountings were made in Kobe. Tanks, coal, bunkers, &c., were made of best Staffordshire plates and angles from stock. Besides the dome and its seating, the only finished pieces from abroad put into this engines are one Bourdon pressure-gauge, and one vacuum-brake ejector, one vacuum-brake duplex pressure-gauge, and one vacuum-oil sight feed lubricator. All boiler tubes used in Japan are of course imported; likewise the bulk of the piping, both copper and iron, required in a locomotive; and india-rubber springs, &c.

It will thus be seen that in this job the builders have done nearly every part of the work it was possible for them to undertake unless possessed of iron works. The workmanship, both in detail and in the engine as a whole, leaves nothing to be desired, and compares favourably with that of the best engines imported. The significance of this result is emphasized when it is understood that it is entirely the product of Japanese labour led by Japanese foremen, no foreign foremen being employed in the Kobe workshops.

The position of the compound system for locomotives in Japan is at present merely that of trial. The view entertained after the first fifteen months' working of No. 221 compound, that there was no reason to believe it would prove costly in maintenance, has been confirmed by subsequent experience. On 2nd October, 1894, after sixteen months' running with a mileage of 35,573, the engine was sent to the repairing shop for wheel turning, and a few other small repairs were then executed. On 6th October it was again put to work, and by 31st May 1895 had brought its mileage up to 57,473. It has not been found that any of the non-compound engines do better.

The Government Railways led the way by building this compound locomotive. Two private railways shortly afterwards followed suit by each purchasing one or two four-cylinder compound locomotives on the Vauclain system from the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and finally in August 1894 the Japan Railway put in traffic a couple of two-cylinder compounds built by Messrs. Neilson and Co., of Glasgow. The Baldwin engines, for which possibly too much was claimed, have not quite realized all that was expected of them, nor have they in any way disparaged the locally built engine.

It will thus be seen that a locomotive has been built in Japan, which in first cost and efficiency will bear comparison with imported locomotives; and also that Japan, possessing cheap labour and coal, may not at no distant date find it unnecessary to

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CORRESPONDENCE.

M. BOISSONADE AND THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Although I receive here the *Japan Weekly Mail*, I have not read in it the two articles of the *Daily Mail*:—*A Singular Story, and Torture in Japan* (7th and 9th May). But one of my friends in Tokyo sent me both, as he thinks that I have something to say about the subject.

I quite agree with you as to the inaccuracy of the passages you quote from Mr. Chamberlain's *Things Japanese* regarding the abolition of torture in Japan.

So far from "Mr. Mutsu's having been the patient undergoing the torture when I made my irruption into the room from which I heard heavy groans," Mr. Mutsu, on the contrary, was at that time my best and most powerful supporter in my efforts towards the abolition of this inhuman practice.

The facts run as follows:—The said scene took place on the 15th April, 1875 (8th year of *Meiji*) and my first memorandum to the Minister of Justice (then Mr. Oki Takato) for the abolition was of the following day. It contained truly, as says Mr. Chamberlain, my resolution to resign my office, if I failed to obtain satisfaction.

The translation was not so speedy as the original and was given only after one month (20th May). Many months elapsed without the case coming to an issue.

Then I interested in the case Mr. Inouye Ki, at that time Secretary of the *Sein* itself, whose enlightened mind and generous heart were well known to me. On the 31st of March, 1876, I handed to him, with the copy of my first memorandum, a new one discussing and refuting the more or less specious reasons alleged amongst the judicial officers for the maintenance of torture.

At the same time the institution of a Japanese Senate (*Genro-In*) was just decided, with Mr. Mutsu as Great Councillor.

Mr. Inouye Ki submitted to Mr. Mutsu, in their respective qualifications, the two memorandums, and this latter distinguished officer took up the case so heartily that he caused the Senate to examine it in its first sitting. Thus the Japanese Senate inaugurated its political life by voting the abolition of torture. Mr. Mutsu, whom I had never seen before, invited me the same evening with Mr. Inouye Ki to his villa (of Mukojima), and made me acquainted with the full success of our joint efforts.

As the *Genro In* had only consultative power, it was necessary to obtain a decision from the Supreme Council (*Sein*). It was given by a Notification of M. Sanjo, *Daijo Daijin*, on the 10th of June of the 9th year of *Meiji* (1876).

On the 28th August of the same year, a more explicit Notification was issued by the Minister of Justice, M. Oki Takato, thus running:—

"No sentence can be pronounced against an accused person without full proof of crime. The kind of proofs admitted are: 1st, The free confession of the accussed; (2nd to 8th other evidence)."

At last, as some foreign newspapers of Yokohama frequently expressed doubts about the *true* abolition, a new Notification of the *Daijo Daijin* seemed necessary: it was issued on the 8th October of the 12th year of *Meiji* (1879). It ran as follows:—

"From the Notification No. 86 of June of the 9th year of *Meiji* (1876), the procedure with torture has ceased; the laws, ordinance and notifications concerning the infliction of torture are repealed."

Thus the indisputable date of the abolition is the 10th June of 9th year of *Meiji* (1876).

It is my duty to attribute the greater part of this just and humane step to the late very much regretted Messrs. Mutsu and Inouye Ki and to the much respected Count Oki Takato. I may add, as justifying all aforesaid, that on the occasion of my departure from Japan, in February, 1895, Mr. Shimada Saburo, then Vice-president of the House of Representatives, took the opportunity of an entertainment given to me by the Journalists of Tokyo to publicly recall that event and my initiative towards it; he was specially aware of it (as he said himself) being then Secretary of the *Genro-In*; and thus he broke the silence which had always been kept not only by myself, as was proper, but also by the Japanese and foreigners, for other reasons. Mr. Chamberlain, hearing it for the first time, asked me to give him a note on the subject, in view of a new edition of his *Things Japanese*: but it is so much against my disposition to occupy the public with myself or my affairs that I neglected to comply with his request. I regret it sincerely, because I have caused the learned and kind Mr. Chamberlain to suffer a contradiction from the *Japan Mail* and from myself. Please excuse, dear sir, the prolixity and incorrectness of my English and believe me.

Yours sincerely. G. BOISSONADE.

Antibes, 18th June, 1898.

THE IWATE FAMINE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In response to your appeal for help for the poor sufferers in the Iwate district, I am requested by the Directress and members of the Yokohama Tonic Sol-fa Choral Society, to forward you a donation of *yen* 50.00, which please find enclosed.

I remain, yours faithfully,

ANNA J. DIACK,

Acting Hon. Treas.,
Yokohama Tonic Sol fa Choral Society.

ENGINES IN USE ON JAPANESE RAILWAYS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—No one disputes the right of an Editor to select the items of news which are to appear in his paper, but he owes it to his readers to take every reasonable precaution to avoid giving them spurious information; but when, for his own purposes, he describes the work of any individual, does so wrongly, and has his attention drawn to the fact, there should be additional reasons for putting matters right in the event of being asked to do so.

The Editor of the *Japan Times* evidently holds a different opinion on this point. Thus, the *Japan Times* of 2nd inst. contained an article on "Engines in use on Japanese Railways," in the course of which reference was made to home-built engines (the 9 built at Kobe), but after using that expression it qualified it by remarking, it would be more correct to say the engines were "Composed at Kobe."

The expression "to compose a locomotive" is not English, but from the context it would appear the idea intended to be conveyed, was that finished pieces were imported and afterwards put together in Japan.

As nothing could be further from the truth than this, and since the locomotives referred to practically owe their existence to myself, I felt justified in asking the Editor of the *Japan Times* to afford me the opportunity of publicly contradicting the misstatement.

Whether, because dislike to admit fallibility weighed more with him than securing a fair record of the manufacturing achievements of his country, or because some one had informed him of the unimportant part Japanese experts took in the work; I know not, but certain it is no room was found for my letter.

As your paper has always set an example of fair play in matters of this sort, I trust you will kindly give me the opportunity of stating:

1st. That nine Locomotives have been built at the Kobe works, not composed.

2nd. That the mode of procedure adopted in their construction was just what would have been followed had they been built abroad.

I would further add that no one with the slightest practical knowledge of locomotive construction could have failed to understand from a truthful statement of what was done at Kobe in this matter that the engines were built, not "put together," in the sense of assembling pieces previously prepared abroad; and the methods followed are described in the 1895 April Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and also in the *Engineer* of 19th March, 1897, pages 283, 284, and 290; and I do not doubt that reliable information on the subject would also have been given by the Railway Department to any one requiring it.

Hence, there is very good reason for supposing the Japanese expert who wrote the article I have referred to, fell into much the same error as did the Jackass in Æsop's Fable; *i.e.* he did not understand that donning the lion's skin would not convert a bray into a lion's roar.

Yours truly, K. F. TREVITHICK.

Kobe, July 18th, 1898.

MISSIONS IN JAPAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Voltaire used to say concerning the Holy Roman Empire, as continued by Austria, that it was neither holy, nor Roman, nor empire! Anyone who reads "Impartial Observer's" letter in the *Mail* can instantly see that he is neither as a judge "impartial," nor as a man a competent "observer." He recommends the sending of Japanese Christians to Europe and America to study Christianity and then return to their country to carry on the Gospel. If this man was a real "Observer" he could have seen that this policy has been followed by many Missions for many years. When the writer was in the States some years ago, and had an opportunity of visiting several religious colleges and seminaries, almost in every one of them he saw one or two Japanese young men studying for the Christian ministry. Since then several Missions have passed resolutions to encourage this policy.

"Impartial Observer" thinks that as Japan was successful in introducing western civilization unassisted by others, therefore she is amply able to import the Christian religion also if she thinks it conducive to her spiritual or intellectual or material well-being: *ergo*: no missionaries are needed. Has ever a sober man, let me ask your intelligent readers, who has studied the philosophy of the development of religion either among civilized or savage races for the last six thousand years, written in such a superficial manner?

Missionaries in Japan through much toil and labour have laid the solid foundations of a grand edifice of which Christendom has every reason to be proud and not ashamed. This foundation has been dug and filled up notwithstanding the bitter opposition of those who ought to have been on their side and aiding them, and of whom "Impartial Observer," in all probability, is one. And when this edifice is completed no body of men, I am sure, would be more ready and glad to put down their heavy burdens and retire while with Simeon Chanting:—"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." But to abandon their position before their task is finished would be unpardonable cowardice.

In conclusion, allow me to say that I am not opposed to a fair criticism of the Missions in Japan; on the contrary, I believe that a just, sober, broad and penetrating, even if caustic, criticism is always productive of good. And heaven knows that the conduct of many missionaries is open to severe criticism. But when an ignoramus constitutes himself a final tribunal, and then drivels like a babe, he deserves a good spanking.

Very truly yours, * * *

Yokohama, 25th July, 1898.

URGENCY ORDINANCE RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

(Translated by the *Japan Times*.)

The following Ordinance relative to Election control has been promulgated as an urgency measure:

Imperial Ordinance No. 170.

Art. I.—Any voter for a member of the House of Representatives, candidate or canvasser, discovered carrying on the occasion of an election a fire-arm, edged instrument, sharpened bamboo, cudgel or any other article sufficient to inflict personal injury shall be liable to minor confinement for a term ranging from 1 day to 2 years or to the imposition of a fine ranging from 5 to 200 *yen*, besides confiscation of the incriminating objects.

When deemed necessary Police officials or gendarmes may cause the articles mentioned above to be kept in their custody.

Art. II.—When in connexion with the election an act coming under any of the following clauses has been committed either before or after the election, those guilty of it shall be sentenced to minor confinement for not less than one month, and not more than one year, or to the imposition of a fine ranging from 10 to 100 *yen*. Be it pro-

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vided, however, that when a person accepting a bribe or one who has consented to accept such has made confession within 20 days he will be exempted from the charge.

1. Those who have either directly or indirectly offered or proposed to offer to electors or canvassers money, substances, promissory notes or other things of profit, or public or private posts; or those who have canvassed and pursuaded others to have such an offer or proposal of an offer accepted.

2. Those who have entertained or treated others by way of feast, pleasure-trip or under whatever pretext, or who have accepted such treatment; those who have offered ships, carriages, houses or any such thing to carry persons to and from the place of election or of polling, or those who have accepted such offer; those who have paid for other person's travelling or lodging expenses, and those who have accepted such payment or those who have made promise of such payment and those who have accepted such promise

3. Those who by availing themselves of considerations of irrigation, tenantry, credit on money matters, contributions and other connexions of interest of electors or shrines, temples, schools, companies, associations, corporated cities, towns, or villages with which the electors are connected, have attempted to persuade the electors, and those who have responded to such persuasions.

Art. III.—Those who have committed an act coming under any of the following clauses shall be sentenced to minor confinement for a space of time not less than 2 months and not more than 2 years, together with a fine of not less than 5 *yen* and not more than 100 *yen*.

1. Those who have in connexion with the election used violence or intimidation towards others or have tried to abduct them.

2. Those who have interfered with facilities of communications towards electors or have by fraudulent means interfered with the exercise of their franchise.

3. Those who by availing themselves of considerations of irrigation, tenantry, credit or money matters and other relations of interest pertaining to electors or temples, shrines, schools, companies, associations, incorporated cities, towns, or villages with which those electors are connected, or have tried to intimidate electors.

Art. IV.—Those who with the purpose of obstructing the election have published false information in regard to the candidates by means of public speeches, newspaper paragraphs, circulars, placards, or other process whatsoever, shall be sentenced to minor confinement ranging from 11 days to 6 months with the imposition of a fine ranging from 2 to 50 *yen*. With regard to newspapers or magazines, however, only editors shall be held responsible.

Art. V.—The votes of those who have been punished either according to the present Regulations or otherwise in connexion with the election of members of the House of Representatives, even when such punishment occurs after the date of election, will be null and void. Provided that the foregoing clause shall not apply to the voting of those have been punished in connexion with an act committed subsequent to the date of election. This proviso shall also apply to cases where confession has been made in accordance with Art. II.

Art. VI.—Those who have been punished in accordance with the present Regulations shall come under Arts. 99 and 101 of the Law of Election of the House of Representatives.

Art. VII.—The time-limit of an offence coming under the present Regulations shall come under Art. 104 of the Law of Election of the House of Representatives.

Art. VIII.—The present Regulations shall go into effect from the date of promulgation.

Art. 99 above mentioned relates to the invalidation of election; Art. 101 relates to the suspension of franchise or right of eligibility for the period of of 3 to 7 years; Art. 104 provides that punishments for offences relating to the election shall expire within six months.

FOREIGNERS AND THE REVISED TREATIES.

How we Stand with Regard to Japanese Courts.

(SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

Many foreigners are probably enquiring with some degree of anxiety what will be the provisions under the new Treaties relating to the jurisdiction of Japanese Courts over foreigners in Civil Cases. The question divides itself into three heads: (1) Cases where a Japanese sues a foreigner; (2) cases where a foreigner sues a Japanese; and (3) cases where one foreigner sues another. The *Naichisakyo-Jumbi-Kwai Zasshi* explains the general provisions of Japanese law concerning the first subject as follows:—

According to Japanese law, courts of Jurisdiction are divided into two sections—General Forum and Special Forum. These may, with regard to actions raised by a Japanese against a foreigner, be explained as follows:—

GENERAL FORUM.

Article 19 of the Code of Civil Procedure provides that the General Forum of a person is determined by his residence. A Court where a person has a general Forum is competent to try all actions brought against such person in so far as no exclusive forum is established for any particular action.

Thus, when mixed residence takes place, foreigners can generally be sued in the Court mentioned in this Article. Article 13 of the same Code provides that, "The general forum of a person who has no residence in Japan is determined by the place of his abode, and, where no such place is known, or where it is abroad, by his last residence in Japan. In such forum, however, actions against a person who has his residence abroad can be instituted in respect only of such legal relations as have arisen in Japan."

By this article, the questions, in which Court (1) a foreigner who has no residence in Japan, (2) a foreigner whose abode is unknown or is in a foreign country, and (3) a foreigner who has his residence abroad, but with whom legal relations have arisen in Japan, can be sued, are determined. It is still an unsettled question, owing to the defect of the law, where the foreigner referred to in the last class (3) can be sued if he has never resided in Japan.

SPECIAL FORUM.

(II) Special Forum include Exclusive Forum and others The chief difference between the Exclusive Forum and the General Forum or the other Special Forums is that in the former the law does not permit any agreement between the parties as to a change of tribunal, while in the latter such agreement is permissible (*v.* Arts. 29 and 31 of the code of Civil Procedure).

The various kinds of Exclusive Forum may be enumerated as follows:—

(*a.*) Forum relating to Immovables.—Article 22 of the Code of Civil Procedure provides that, "With respect to immovables the Court within whose district the immovables are situated is exclusively competent for all actions relating thereto, in particular for petitory and possessory actions, as also for partition actions and for actions for the fixing of boundaries."

"For actions relating to predial servitudes the Court within whose district the servient tenement is situated is exclusively competent." The court mentioned in this article has jurisdiction over foreigners concerning actions which may arise relating to the rights of immovables enjoyed by foreigners by the new Treaties

(*b*) Forums relating to actions for nullity of marriage or for adoption, dissolution of adoption, divorce, disavowal or acknowledgment of children, interdiction, quasi-interdiction, etc. Concerning these actions, the new Law of Procedure in Actions concerning the Personal Status (which come into force on and after July 16th, 1898) provide for an exclusive Court for them.

(*c.*) Forums relating to summary procedure (*Tokusoku-tetsuzuki*) and execution. These are made exclusive Forums by Articles 383 and 563 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(*d*) Forum relating to revivor. Paragraph 1, Article 472 of the same Code provides that "The Court exclusively competent for these actions is the Court which has rendered the decision attacked."

(*e*) Forum relating to Bankruptcy. Art. 28 of Law of Constitution of the Courts of Justice provides that "The District Court shall have general jurisdiction in bankruptcy."

(*f.*) Forum relating to cases raised against the judgment of exclusion in respect of Public Summons (*Koshisaikoku.*) This is an exclusive Forum by Art. 774 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

OTHER COURTS OF SPECIAL JURISDICTION.

Plaintiffs may by Art. 25 of the Code of Civil Procedure choose between the following courts and the courts mentioned under the heading of General Forum, such as the court of the place where the defendant is residing.

(*a*) Forum relating to claims respecting rights of property Paragraph 1, Article 15 of the Code of Civil Procedure provides that:

"Against students, servants, business assistants, artisans, apprentices, and other persons residing in a place under circumstances which point to a stay of long duration, actions respecting claims relating to rights of property (*saisanken*) can be instituted in the Court of such place."

Paragraph 1, Article 16 of the same Code provides that:

"Against persons whose business transactions are directly concluded from an establishment in which a manufacture, a trade, or some other business is carried on, actions which relate to such business operations can be instituted at the Court of the place where such establishment is situated."

Article 17 of the same Code provides that:

"Actions in respect of claims relating to rights of property against debtors who have no residence in Japan can be instituted in the Court within the district of which any property of such persons or the property claimed in the action is situated. In the case of debts owing to such persons the residence of the debtor (garnishee) and where a thing stands as security for the debt, the place where such thing is shall be taken to be the place where the property is."

Thus an action respecting a claim relating to right of property against a foreigner residing in a certain locality of Japan under circumstances which from their nature point to a stay of long duration can be instituted in the Court of such locality. Where a foreign company has its residence in a certain locality of Japan, and at the same time has a business establishment in another locality of Japan, an action can be instituted against the company in the Court of the place where such establishment is situated.

(*b.*) Forum relating to obligations. Article 18 of the Code of Civil Procedure provides that:

"Actions brought to establish the existence or non-existence of a contract, or for the performance, rescission, revocation, or cancellation thereof, or for indemnification for non-performance or insufficient performance, can be instituted in the Court of the place where the obligation giving rise to the suit is to be fulfilled."

Article 19 of the same Code provides that:

"Actions by partnerships, companies, or other associations of persons against their members, at also by members against each other, arising out of claims based on such membership, can be instituted in the Court where the partnership, company, or other association has its general right of action or appearance."

Article 20 of the same Code provides that: "Actions arising out of inlawful injuries can be instituted against those responsible in the Court within whose district the act was committed."

As an example of the above-mentioned Article 18, it may be said that where a foreigner has entered into a contract with a Japanese and promised its performance in a certain locality of Japan, an action against him on account of the contract can be laid in the court of the place where the contract was to be performed.

ACTIONS BETWEEN FOREIGNERS.

A little consideration shows that the above is simply the application to foreigners of the present Japanese law relating to Forums, foreigners being governed by the same law as Japanese when the new Treaties come into force. Professor Terao Toru, an instructor of Private and Public International Laws in the Imperial Japanese University, gives his opinion, in his work on Private International Law (perhaps the best work on the subject written in Japanese), on this matter, as well as on cases where a foreigner sues another foreigner in Japanese Courts. An epitome of some essential points of his opinions may be interesting. He says:

All actions raised by foreigners against Japanese are at present tried by the courts of the place where the foreign settlement in which the plaintiff resides is situated, irrespective of the residence of the Japanese defendant. But when the new Treaties come into force, the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure will be applicable to such cases, and will not only be applied to cases in which the legal relations giving rise to the action occurred in Japan, but also to cases in which the legal relations occurred in foreign countries. There is, however, a special provision in the Code of Civil Procedure relating to actions raised by foreigners against Japanese. It is Art. 88 of the same Code, which provides that:

A foreigner appearing as plaintiff or as accessory intervener on the side of the plaintiff shall, on demand of the defendant, furnish him with security for costs.

No obligation to furnish security for costs arises:—

(1) Where by treaty, or by the laws of the State to which the plaintiff belongs, a Japanese in a similar case would not be bound to furnish security;
(2) In cross-actions;
(3) In suits on documents (*shōsho-soshō*), or on bills of exchange or promissory notes;
(4) In actions instituted in consequence of a public summons.

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The action is, on the application of the defendant, to be deemed withdrawn, if security has not been furnished before the decision is rendered (Art. 90 of the same Code).

With regard to cases where the plaintiff and defendant are both foreigners, the Consul of the State to which the defendant belongs has, according to the present Treaties, jurisdiction over the cases, and consequently there is no provision concerning it in the present Code of Civil Procedure. Provisions relating to such cases, with the necessary amendment of the Code, will, however, be introduced when the new Treaties come into force. But even if such amendment does not take place, Professor Terao proceeds, it is safe to conclude that actions between foreigners will naturally come under the jurisdiction of Japanese courts when the new Treaties become operative. In support of this he quotes the actual provisions of the Treaties and Laws as follows:—

(1) By Article 2 of the Civil Code foreigners can enjoy all private rights except those prohibited by Treaties and laws. Assuming that an action were not tried and decided by the Japanese Court on account of its having arisen between foreigners, the rights of foreigners given by the Japanese law would be only nominal, for no right actually exists unless it can be maintained by right of action. As the right of action is the most important right of foreigners and its enjoyment is not prohibited by Japanese law, it must be concluded that it is permitted to foreigners.

(2) The new Treaties (Art. I of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty, and some others) provide that foreigners enjoy the right of action just as Japanese enjoy it. No distinction can be made between the right of action arising between a foreigner and a Japanese, and that arising between two foreigners.

(3) Actions arising between foreigners of non-Treaty States are at present tried by a Japanese Court, and it may therefore be inferred that all foreigners will undoubtedly depend on the jurisdiction of Japanese Courts when the Consular Courts are abolished.

It need hardly be added that since actions between foreigners in Japan come within the jurisdiction of Japanese Courts, the forums applicable to them are the same as those applicable to cases in which a Japanese sues a foreigner.

POWERS OF COURTS.

Reference must be made to the question of the jurisdiction of Japanese civil tribunals in virtue of the subject matter of dispute. The fact that a foreigner is concerned in such cases involves no difficulty, seeing that, as shown above, all cases, whether a foreigner is concerned or not, come under the purview of Japanese law. The law governing such cases is that of the Constitution of the Courts of Justice. Its 14th Article provides that:—

In civil actions, the Local Courts (*Kusaibansho*) subject to the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure with respect to counter-claims, shall have the following jurisdiction:

(1) Over claims in which the amount involved or the value of the object in dispute does not exceed 100 *yen*.

(2) Over the following actions without respect to value:—

(*a*) Actions between lessors and lessees with respect to entering into or giving up possession, or use or occupation, repairs of any dwelling house or other building, or with respect to the detention of a lessee's furniture or effects by a lessor.

(*b*) Actions which concern only the fixing of boundaries of immovable property.

(*c*) Actions concerning possession only.

(*d*) Actions between employers and employed with respect to engagements for one year or any shorter period.

(*e*) Actions between travellers and hotel or restaurant keepers, or between travellers and carriers with respect to:—(1) Payment for their board or lodging, or for the carriage of themselves or of the luggage accompanying them; (2) The luggage, monies, or valuables, deposited by them with such persons for safe keeping.

Article 26 provides that:

In civil actions, the District Court shall have the following jurisdiction:—

1. In first instance:
   Over claims other than those which come within the competency of the Local Courts, or within that of the Appeal Court by Art. 38 provided.
2. In second instance:
   (*a*) Over appeals (*koso*) from judgments (*hakatsu*) of the Local Courts,
   (*b*) Over complaints (*Kokoku*), in so far as the same are provided for by law, against rulings (*kettie*) and orders (*meirei*) of the Local Courts."

Article 37 provides that:

The Appeal Courts shall have the following jurisdiction:

1. In appeals from judgments of the District Courts rendered in first instance;
2. In appeals, on ground of error in law, against judgments of the District Courts rendered on appeal from judgments of the Local Courts;
3. In complaints, in so far as the same are provided for by law, against rulings and orders of the District Courts.

Article 38 provides that:

The jurisdiction both in first and second instance in civil actions against members of the Imperial family shall belong to the Appeal Court at Tokyo. With regard to the procedure in first instance to be followed in this case, the procedure in first instance in District Courts shall be applied.

Article 50 reads:

The Supreme Court shall have the following jurisdiction:—

In last instance:

(*a*.) Over Appeals on ground of error in law against the judgments of the Appeal Courts, other than those rendered by virtue of Art. 37 2, and those rendered in first instance in the cases in Art. 38 mentioned.

(*b*.) Over complaints, in so far as the same are provided for by law, against rulings and orders of the Appeal Courts.

Thus, for example, a case, whether it is raised by a Japanese against a foreigner, or *vice versa*, or by one foreigner against another, comes under the jurisdiction of the Local Court if the value of the subject-matter in dispute does not exceed 100 *yen*, and an appeal, if any, is to be lodged in the District Court. The revision, if any, lies with the Superior Appeal Court of the District Court. If the value is more than one hundred *yen*, the case must be lodged in the District Court, and may be taken on appeal to the Superior Appeal Court, and thence to the Supreme Court.

These laws, which are now in operation, will continue in force, if not abolished in the meantime, when the new Treaties become operative.

THE GRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on Monday afternoon at the Hotel. Mr. J. F. Lowder presided, and there were also present Dr. C. H. H. Hall, Paymaster McDonald, Mr. B.C. Howard, Mr. R. Howie, and Mr. C. K. M. Martin.

Mr. Lowder said he did not think they would deem it necessary, on a hot day like that, that he should read the report. He suggested that it be taken as read.

Paymaster McDONALD moved, Mr. HOWIE seconded, and it was agreed, that the report be taken as read.

Mr. LOWDER introduced the election of directors, remarking that both Mr. Walter and Mr. Howard, who were retiring, were eligible for re-election.

Mr. HOWIE moved and Paymaster McDONALD seconded that both gentlemen be re-elected.

Referring to the election of auditor, the Chairman said they could congratulate themselves that Mr. Keil, whose services to the company had been inestimable, was available for re-election.

On the motion of Paymaster McDONALD, seconded by Mr. HALL, Mr. Keil was re-elected.

It was agreed, on the motion of the same two gentlemen, that the remuneration to the directors should be the same as last year, and the meeting then terminated.

The Profit and Loss Account, and Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the half-year ended the 30th June, 1898, accompany this Report.

The net profit for the half-year, including balance brought forward from the 31st December, 1897, and after providing for general expenses, Directors' and Auditor's fees, bonus to Manager, interest, and writing off bad and doubtful debts, amounts to... YEN.	36,384 08
Which it is proposed to apply as follows.—	
In payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year	25,000.00
Redemption of Debentures	5,000.00
Balance to be carried to new account ...	6,384 08
	36,384 08

It is not considered necessary to write off anything for depreciation for the half year under review.

Messrs. Walter and Howard retire from the Board by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

The office of Auditor becoming vacant, the Directors have much pleasure in recommending the re-election of Mr. Keil for the current year.

According to the Articles of Association, the amount of the Directors' fees for the current year will have to be decided at this meeting.

It is proposed that the dividend shall be payable on the 26th day of July, when the warrants will be issued.

J. F. LOWDER, JAMES WALTER, } Directors.

Yokohama, 13th July, 1898.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON JUNE 30TH, 1898.

LIABILITIES.

	YEN
Capital 2,500 Shares at $100	250,000.00
Debentures	20,000.00
Bills payable	12,453.51
	282,453 51
Balance Profit.....	36,384 08
	318,837 59

ASSETS.

Chartered Bank of I.A. and China ...	33,663 57
Cash in hand	441 17
Fire Insurance Policies.....	1,364.56
Ground (Estimated Value, Oct. 1897, Y. 85,000)	60,000 00
Buildings (Estimated Value, Oct. 1897, Y. 170,000)	137,959 92
Furniture (Estimated Value, Oct. 1897, Y. 53,900)	49 958.23
Electric Light Plant	11,309 96
Steam Launch.....	6,135.28
Wines in Stock	5,307 08
Provisions in Stock	3,608.93
Bills receivable	9,088 96
	318,837 59

Dr.

To General Expenses			28,648.73
„ Fire Insurance			1,760 41
„ Interest			399 96
„ Directors' and Auditors' fees			1,150.00
„ Bad Debts written off.....			34 55
„ Bonus to Manager			500 00
„ Balance, Profit .....Y. 25,900.00			
Redemption of Debentures.....	5,000 00		
Carried forward to new Account	6,384 08	Y. 36,384 08	36,384.08
			Y. 68,877.73

Cr.

	YEN.
By Balance brought forward from Dec. 31st 1897	1,353.29
„ Working Account	66,028 71
„ Rent Account	1,155.00
„ Share Transfer Fees	38.00
„ Share Warrant Fees	3 50
„ Sale of old Material	299 07
	68 877 73
July 1st, 1898. By Balance	6,384.08

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, June 30th, 1898.

J. F. LOWDER, JAMES WALTER, } Directors.

I have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with the vouchers of the Company and certify them to be correct.

O. KEIL, AUDITOR.

Yokohama, July 11th, 1898.

JAPAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Routine work and an investigation concerning the character of one of the members of the Conference occupied the time till Friday noon. Then, too, the extreme difficulty in making appointments, considering the nature and the present state of the work, has made the work of the "Cabinet" unusually difficult. It is commonly said in the United States at such times, "round pegs are made to fit into square holes, and vice versa." But here the difficulty seems to be to make one peg fill three holes. It is practically impossible to man our work properly with the forces now on the field. Then, too, our Missionary Board has lately passed rules requiring all missionaries to acquire a good working knowledge of the

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language, teachers not excepted, and this rule is working to the disadvantage of some parts of the work. All familiar with mission school work well know that a man cannot do full work in the school room and, at the same time, acquire a knowledge of the language. In consequence, some of our very best school workers have asked for an opportunity to comply with the requirements of the board, and to be consistent this request must be granted. It was extremely difficult to man the outposts before; now to properly do so and to do full justice to the school work is impossible. The "Cabinet" laboured long at this tangle of school and evangelistic work, and while no one claims that perfection has been attained, the results on the whole are satisfactory. The division of Kyushin from the rest of the work was approved by Bishop Cranston, so that next year we will meet as separate bodies. The wisdom or unwisdom of this step time alone will reveal, though looked at from our standpoint it seems now a wise measure. Complimentary resolutions including the work of Bishop Cranston, the efforts of the Yokohama Church to entertain the conference comfortably, and the courtesy of the press of the city were adopted by a rising vote. The work of the secretaries was properly eulogized and after a brief address by the Bishop, in which he fittingly portrayed the true ideals and possible attainment of the Christian ministry, the appointments were read and the conference adjourned *sine die*.

Now comes the task of making out estimates for the work for the ensuing year. This of course falls to the lot of the missionaries and will probably occupy two more days. When these estimates shall have been approved by the home board, the work is finished, in so far as the appropriations are concerned, for another year.—*Com.*

NAVAL COURT OF INQUIRY.

A MATE'S BEHAVIOUR.

A Court of Naval Inquiry was held on Tuesday at H.B.M.'s Consulate into the conduct of John B Mollison, chief mate of the sailing ship *Hougomont*, on the voyage between New York and Yokohama. The charge was one of insolence and insubordination. Mr. R. G. E. Forster, Acting Consul-General, presided, and the assessors were Messrs. S. de B. Lockyer, master of the P. & O. steamer *Rohilla*, and Evan Thomas, master of the *Rockhurst*. Mr. F. J. Lowder prosecuted.

Charles Lowe, master of the *Hougomont*, said he was sent from England to New York to take command of the *Hougomont* in succession to Captain McNeill. When he arrived he found accused on board in the capacity of chief mate. Before he had been on board ten days the relations between them became strained, and on several occasions the chief mate was insolent and overbearing to him.

Charles Stewart, third mate of the *Hougomont*, said the chief mate's attitude towards the captain was "indifferent." He was witness of a fracas between the captain and the accused on the 10th May. It was about 4.50 a.m. Witness heard accused shouting, "Mr. Stewart, come and help me put the Captain in irons; he's drunk." The Captain was decidedly not drunk, and witness had never seen him in liquor. When witness came up he saw some scuffling going on. Both men were on the deck, and the mate was on top of the Captain. Witness parted them. After that the accused did no more work on board. Witness, had heard the accused say to the master that he did not come there to act as a boatswain. He said this in an insolent manner.

John Wheylan Thompson, an American citizen, said he was a passenger on board the *Hougomont*. He noticed the chief mate's demeanour towards the captain. He was sometimes so insolent that the Captain was forced to get up and leave the table.

Mr. Emory Emmond, another passenger, characterised the accused's attitude to the Captain as studiously offensive. When the Captain put on or took off sail the mate used to have "a broad sophistic smile on him suggestive of superior knowledge." Witness had seen the altercation between the Captain and the mate with regard to the accusation of drunkenness. The Captain was a very sober man, and there was no ground for the mate's accusation.

Mr. Lowder said he considered the complaint had been established, and therefore subject to the Court he did not consider it would be necessary to call the second mate of the *Hougomont*. He had been sent for, but had not yet arrived.

Mr. Forster said the Court thought the evidence was perhaps desirable. The witnesses for the defence might be heard meanwhile.

George Charles Martin, steward, said he had never heard accused using expressions of disappointment that he had not been made master of the *Hougomont*. He did not know how to describe accused's bearing towards the Captain; witness was not in the cabin much except at meal times. He remembered hearing a discussion at the cabin table on the subject of negroes. The mate would have it that everyone that was black was a negro.

Mr. Forster—I don't like to interfere with your line of defence, but this has not much to do with the case.

Accused—I held that it was a matter not of race but of colour.

Mr. Forster—But is that very important?

Accused—It is, sir.—(Laughter.)

Proceeding, the witness said the passenger Thompson agreed with the mate. He said everyone who was black was a negro.—(Laughter.)

Accused—Did the Captain leave the table in anger?

Witness—It was not very noticeable. He often left before the others.

Proceeding, witness said he heard one day loud voices.

Mr. Forster—What was it about?

Witness—Between ourselves I should say it was Holy Stone?

Mr. Forster—What?

Witness—Holy Stone. They were holy stoning the deck.

Mr. Forster—What do you mean by "between ourselves?" Do you mean in confidence to the Court or what?

Witness—No, sir. I mean in the fo'c'stle.

William Smith, apprentice on board the *Hougomont*, said he had never heard accused make any disparaging remark around the deck about the Captain. As far as he had seen the accused's behaviour seemed to be much the same as that of any other mate. He had heard on two occasions the Captain using language that was not at all gentlemanly. One occasion was when the passenger Thompson tied the Captain's pillows to the bars of the poop sky light. The other occasion was when he sent the mate to his room. He had also seen the Captain seize accused by the throat.

John Armstrong, able seaman, a man of colour, said on the morning of the 9th May he heard the accused calling "Mr. Stewart, come and help me put this man below." His voice sounded as if he were in distress and wanted help.

James Barrett, able seaman, said he had heard the Captain tell accused he would break his neck. (The Captain used a vigorous adjective.) He had never heard accused say that the owners had put him there, and the Captain should not put him out.

Donald McIntosh, able seaman, also spoke to the threat of breaking of accused's neck, and said he (witness) was several times struck by the Captain.

The remaining witness for the prosecution, Walter Cecil Hodd, second mate of the vessel, was called and examined by the Court, but his evidence was of little interest. In answer to accused he said he should not call accused a careless officer.

This concluded the case, and accused then made a rambling statement, in which he said the Captain had acted towards him as if he were a boy instead of an officer of experience. He had been second officer in steamers and chief officer on sailing ships before; and, having been in ship-wrecks twice, had been commended by the Court of Inquiry and rewarded by the underwriters for his good conduct. Before Captain Lowe came aboard he had got on very well with the others, but since, the latter had been at no pains to make his life easier.

Mr. Lowder submitted that the allegations had been amply proved. He might point out that it was within the power of the Court to deal with the accused's certificate but the Master did not wish in any way to interfere with his chance of obtaining his livelihood, and would be perfectly satisfied if he were severely reprimanded, ordered to pay costs, and dismissed the ship.

Written judgment was delivered after tiffin. After setting forth the facts at length, the document proceeded. "The Court having regard to the circumstances above stated, finds as follows: That, having heard and carefully considered the evidence given before this Court touching the complaint above recited made by Charles Lowe, master of the British sailing ship *Hougomont*, official number 106,093, against John B. Mollison, chief mate of the said vessel, finds that the truth of the facts stated in the said complaint has been fully proved, and that the said John B. Mollison was guilty of acts of insubordination and misconduct of board the said vessel when on a voyage from New York to Yokohama, and more especially on the morning of the 9th May, 1898, in falsely accusing the master of being drunk and calling on the third mate to put him in irons. The Court considers that had it not been for the expressed wish of the master they would have felt themselves called on to deal with the certificate of the accused. In view of the master's request for leniency the Court only adjudges that the accused be severely reprimanded and be discharged from the said vessel. The Court, therefore, in pursuance of the powers vested in it by Section 483 of 59 and 58 Victoria c. p. 60, orders that the said John B. Mollison shall be discharged from British sailing ship *Hougomont*, and that the sum of £64-10-10d., being the cost of the proceedings before the said Court, be paid by John B. Mollison, being one of the parties thereto, and he is hereby ordered to pay the said amount accordingly."

LATEST NEWS FROM MANILA.

FORMATION OF A REPUBLIC: AGUINALDO ELECTED PRESIDENT.

FALL OF MANILA IMMINENT.

(From our Correspondent.)

Manila, July 18, via Shanghai, July 22.

The second batch of U.S. troops arrived at Manila Bay on the 16th.

The Filipino Cabinet has been formed with General Aguinaldo as President.

The California battalion has been sent to Paranaque, as the rebels have been unable to capture Manila unaided.

Admiral Dewey is not expected to attack Manila immediately, and it is extremely likely that he will await General Merritt's arrival next Tuesday.

There are 4,000 Spanish regulars in Manila now and their officers declare that they are fully able to defend Manila.

The American troops are totally unprovided with suitable clothing for this climate and the authorities are purchasing clothes from Hongkong.

The Americans anticipate difficulties eventually with the insurgents.

The Japanese residents have been advised to retire to the warships *Naniwa* and *Akitsushima*.

(From the "Japan Times.")

THE WAR.

SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND THE SURRENDER OF SANTIAGO.

GENERAL TORAL TO BE COURT-MARTIALLED.

London, July 22.

The Spanish Government denies authorizing the surrender of Santiago. In consequence General Toral is to be cited to give explanation at a Court Martial.

MADRID GOVERNMENT DESIRES PEACE.

SPANIARDS AND AMERICANS FRATERNISE.

The *Morning Post* publishes a telegram from Madrid stating that the Ministers have unanimously arrived at a decision in favour of peace and that Spaniards and Americans are fraternizing at Santiago.

ATTACK ON SPAIN NOT PROBABLE.

London, July 25.

It is authoritatively stated at Washington that President McKinley will not sanction an attack on the Spanish coast, except as an extreme measure to terminate the war.

THE POWERS AND THE PHILIPPINES.

The *Daily News* correspondent at Berlin telegraphs that the Powers, except England, have arrived at an agreement not to allow the Philippines to be annexed.

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DESPERATE STRUGGLE EXPECTED AT PUERTO-RICO.

London, July 26.

General Miles, with 4,003 men and five batteries of artillery, has started for Puerto-rico. The entire First Army Corps will start next week. The Spaniards are preparing for a vigorous defence.

WATSON'S SQUADRON TO AWAIT RESULT.

The sailing of Watson's squadron for Spain has been postponed until after the Puerto-rico campaign.

THREE SPANISH GARRISONS SURRENDER.

General Shafter has sent an officer to accept the surrender of the garrisons at Guantanamo, Baracoa and Sacualagrand.

SPAIN SUES FOR PEACE: FRANCE AS INTERMEDIARY.

DISORDER IN SPANISH TOWNS.

CUBANS DEMAND A REPUBLIC.

London, July 27.

The Cubans have presented a petition demanding the immediate establishment of the Cuban Republic. There are indications of a general disturbed state of feeling in Spain. Troubles have broken out in Granada, and armed bands have appeared in other districts. The Americans are reported to have landed at Ponce, Puertorico, on Monday. Spain has formally sued for peace through the French Ambassador at Washington. President McKinley will consult the Cabinet before replying.

DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN AMERICANS AND INSURGENTS.

London, July 22.

General Garcia, leader of the insurgents in Cuba, has written to General Shafter, of the U.S. Forces, stating that the action of the United States is not regarded as friendly to the Cuban natives, and the latter will no longer act in concert with the U.S. troops.

AMERICAN DEMANDS.

The principal points which America will demand in the event of peace proposals, are the cession of Puertorico, and the possession of a coaling station in the Ladrones. At Washington, nothing has yet been decided about the Philippines.

ANOTHER FIGHT OFF CUBA.

On the 18th inst., another engagement took place off Manzanillo. Three merchant steamers and five Spanish gun boats were destroyed. A hundred Spanish were killed, while no American was either killed or wounded.

THE AFRICAN QUESTION.

SPECIAL SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENT.

London, July 22.

The British Government has decided to appoint an additional foreign under-Secretary whose duties will probably be to deal specially with African questions.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales is progressing satisfactorily in regard to the injuries to his knee caused by an accident at Baron Rothschild's house. The doctors have decided not to operate, but is said that the limb will be weak for a long time.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

KEEPING PACE WITH RUSSIA.

London, July 25.

The Right Hon. Mr. Goschen, in introducing the Supplementary Naval Programme in the House of Commons, announced the intended addition of four new battleships, four cruisers, and twelve torpedo boat destroyers at a cost of eight millions. This addition, he explained, was necessitated by the Russian programme, the Admiralty considering it necessary to maintain the principle that the British fleet should be equal to those of any two other Powers.

THE QUEEN'S PRIZE.

Lieutenant Yates, of the Third Lanarkshire regiment, has won the Queen's Prize at Bisley.

THE AMERICANS IN HAWAII.

HONOLULU AS A MILITARY POST.

London, July 27.

The United States will fortify Honolulu, making it one of the strongest military posts in the Pacific. Barracks are to be erected to accommodate a large force.

THE GOVERNOR GENERALSHIP OF CANADA.

EARL MINTO APPOINTED.

Earl Minto has been appointed Governor General of Canada.

(From the *Fiji Shimpo*.)

MINING CONCESSION.

Peking, July 21.

Sole mining rights in the province of Pechili have been granted to Mr. Detring, a German.

SECOND BATCH OF U. S. FORCES.

Hongkong, July 21.

A Manila telegram just to hand states that the *China*, American steamer, arrived at Cavite on the 16th inst. and three other steamers on the following morning. These steamers brought the second batch of the American forces to the number of 5,000 volunteers. The bombardment of Manila city will shortly be undertaken by them jointly with the forces of the first batch.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC.

Hongkong, July 22.

The Philippine Republic has been established, and Emilio Aguinaldo was elected President.

REBELLION IN KWANGSI.

Peking, July 14.

The rising in Kwangsi province is growing more turbulent. Several local fortresses have been destroyed by the rebels. Britain has despatched a warship to Wuchow to protect its subjects resident in the vicinity.

THE MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

Söul, July 22.

The Vice-Premier has been relieved from office, the vacancy being filled by Kim Yei-ju (?). Kim Pyong-si and Phong-ho have been appointed Premier and Minister of Education respectively.

MINING CONCESSION.

Söul, July 22.

The Korean Government granted the mining concession to Germany in conformity with her request the day before yesterday. The application of Great Britain will probably also soon be acceded to.

REBELS PACIFIED.

Shanghai, July 27.

The rebels in Kwangsi have almost been pacified. About a thousand of the ring leaders have been beheaded.

(From the "Kobe Herald.")

THE SITUATION IN SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, July 21st, 3 27 p.m.

The strike of Ningpo men is suspended, but no permanent settlement has been arrived at.

A FRENCH CRUISER IN COLLISION.

The French cruiser *Jean Bart* collided with the Hawaiian ship *Helen Brewer* to-day at Woosung. The latter was at anchor at the time. Both ships were damaged.

(From the "North-China Daily News.")

PROGRESS OF THE CHINA REBELLION.

Hongkong, 17th July.

The rebellion in Kwangsi is serious, the Triad Society being concerned in it.

The intention of the rebels is to go westward and take Nanning (in Kwangsi), then northward to Kuellin (the capital of Kwangsi).

Trade receives a serious blow, as several of the towns in the most prosperous districts of Kwangsi have been sacked.

Troops have gone west from Kao chou (in Kwangtung) to head the rebels off north of Pakhoi.

The panic continues at Wuchow.

HONGKONG FINANCIAL RELIEF.

Hongkong, July 21.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies agrees to the proposition for an increased issue of notes by the Hongkong and Shanghai and Chartered Banks.

A NEW AMERICAN POSSESSION.

Hongkong, 21st July, 8.17 p.m.

The Americans have occupied Weeks Island, near the Ladrones.

[Weeks, or Marcus, Island is N.E. of the Ladrones and S.E. of the Bonin Islands.]

TROUBLE THREATENING IN MANILA.

Aguinaldo is getting restive under the American restraint. U.S. Consul Williams requests U.S. Consul General Wildman to go over to influence the rebel leader. The insurgents are quarrelling among themselves.

AGUINALDO CONSOLIDATING HIS GOVERNMENT.

Aguinaldo has established a Cabinet, the members taking the oaths of office in the presence of a gathering of five thousand insurgents, with fireworks and rejoicings.

(From the "Shanghai Mercury.")

PRIESTS BRIBING REBELS.

Hongkong, July 21 5 13 p.m.

It is reported that the priests in Manila are bribing the rebels

A REBEL DEFEAT.

The rebels have suffered a defeat near Malate.

(From Japanese Sources.)

FIRE IN TOKYO

Tokyo, July 28.

On Thursday morning at 2.10 fire broke out at a house in Tokyo, and destroyed 3 houses, 4 being also partly damaged.

MARQUIS ITO.

Gifu, July 28.

Marquis Ito to day went to the Yoro waterfall.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Yamagata, July 28.

The weather having been favourable for some weeks, farming prospects are generally good.

MR. YANO.

Nagasaki, July 28.

Mr. Yano, Minister to Peking, arrived to-day by the steamer *Hiogo Maru*. He will leave for Kobe to-morrow at 4 p.m.

RUSSIAN TROOPS.

Nagasaki, July 28.

Russian troops numbering 864 arrived here to-day from Odessa *en route* to Vladivostock.

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

Solution of Problem No. 377.

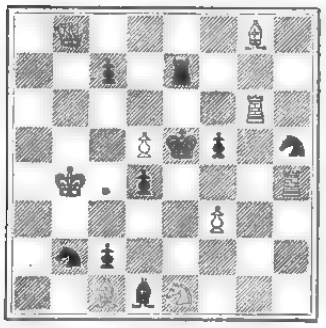
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—B to Kt 6	1—P takes Kt
2—K to Kt 4	2—P to Q 4
3—Q to K 7 mate	
	if 2—K to K 5
3—Q to B 5 mate	
	1—K takes Kt
2—Q to B 5	2—K takes P
4—Q to K 6 mate	
	if 2—P to K 3
3—Q to Q B 5, mate	
	if 2—P to K 4
3—Q to Q 7 mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., and Marco.

Problem No. 381.

By Walter Pulitzer,
Author of "Chess-Harmonies."

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in two moves.

Answers to Correspondents.

C. B. (Hongkong)—Thanks for score! Very useful.

Our valued friend Mr. O. Balk of New Zealand sends us a correct solution of Problem No. 362 by Mr. Mason of Tokyo, which he considers a very pretty composition although not difficult. No. 351 by Mrs. Baird, which our solvers will remember, caused them so much trouble at the time, was solved by the ex-champion in about 5 minutes. "I consider," writes Mr. Balk "that the black P at B 3 gives the key-move almost at a glance." And further, "I played over the two correspondence games between Jordan and the Kobe boys. The finish of the game won by the former made me think of that wonderful shell of the *Olympus* which went right through the *Reina Christina* from stem to stern, bursting boilers and killing officers and men by the score!"

The Vienna Tournament.

PILLSBURY LEADING—TARRASCH A GOOD SECOND.

At the time of going to press we have received the result of 17 rounds and part of the 18th. The score is as follows:—

	WON.	LOST.		WON.	LOST.
Alapin	10½	6½	Pillsbury	13	4
Baird	4	13	Schiffers	6	11
Blackburne	8	9	Schlechter	9½	8½
Burn	9	8	Showalter	7	10
Caro	5	12	Steinitz	10½	6½
Halprin	7½	9½	Tarrasch*	12½	3½
Janowski	11½	5½	Trenchard	3	14
Lipke	9	8	Tschigorin*	10	6
Marco	7½	9½	Walbrodt	8	9
Maroczy	9½	7½			

* Adjourned game in hand.

Game No. 413.

Steinitz Beats Tschigorin.

In the First Round, Steinitz vanquished Tschigorin in a Queen's Gambit Declined. The Russian has a novel and original defence to this opening—2—Kt to QB 3—which has proved quite satisfactory in many games. It will be noticed that Steinitz did not have any advantage in the early part of the game, and while the St. Petersburg champion weakened his position by his 14th, 15th, and 16th moves, yet his defeat is due to the veteran's powerful play, of which this game is a fine example.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—Steinitz. Black—Tschigorin.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	23 Kt x B	R P x Kt
2 P QB4	Kt QB3(a)	24 R R8ch	K B2
3 P x P	Q x P	25 R(Q 9) x R	R x R
4 Kt KB3	P K4	26 R x R	Kt x R(K)
5 Kt B3	B QKt5	27 B x P	Kt K3
6 P x P	Q x Qch	28 B x P	Kt x BP
7 K x Q	B Kt5	29 B B-q	P R3
8 P KR3	B x K Kt	30 P R4	P x P
9 KP x B	Castles ch	31 P x P	Kt Q4
10 K B2	Kt x P	32 B B8	P Kt3
11 B K3	P QR3	33 B B4	Kt(Kt 5q) K2
12 P B4	Kt QB3	34 K Q2	K Q2
13 B B4	Kt Q5ch	35 B x Kt(K7)	Kt x B
14 K B5q	Kt K3(b)	36 B B7(h)	K Q3
15 P Kt4	P QKt4ch	37 K K3	K B4
16 R Q-q	P QB4(d)	38 K B4	K Q3
17 B B-q	K R K-q	39 P Kt3	K B4
18 B Kt2	P B4	40 B x P(i)	Kt x Bch
19 P Kt5	Kt Ktsq	41 K x P	Resigns
20 Kt Q5	Kt K3(e)		
21 P QR4(f)	P x P		
22 R x P	P QR4		

Notes by One of the Judges.

(a) P to K 3 is the accepted move. The text-move is more aggressive, and is of the nature of an offensive rather than a defensive play.

(b) Weak move, as it gets the Kt out of play, P to B 3 is probably better.

(c) Of course, P to Kt 5 wins the BP, yet the play made weakens the Queen's side, and enables White to gain a move.

(d) Kt to QB 3 followed by exchange of Rooks gives better chances for a Draw.

(e) Forced, for B takes Kt and Kt takes B is threatened.

(f) A powerful move, opening the QR file and winning a P.

(g) If K takes R, then B to Q 5.

(h) This is really the winning move, as it holds the Kt.

(i) K to K 5 will also win. The play is brilliant and wins easily.

Game No. 414.

How Tarrasch Beat Baird.

RUY LOPEZ.

White—Tarrasch. Black—Baird.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	21 Q B2	Q KKt5(e)
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	22 P KR3	Q Kt3
3 B Kt5	P QR3	23 R Kt3	Q R4
4 B R4	Kt B3	24 Q B6	R Q8ch
5 Castles	B K2(a)	25 K R2	P KKt3
6 Kt B3	P Q3(b)	26 R x R	Q x R
7 B x Ktch	Kt P x B	27 R Q3	Q x P
8 P Q4	P x P	28 B Q2	B x KRP
9 Kt x P	B Q2(c)	29 R Q8	B x P
10 P KB4	Castles	30 K x B	P KR4
11 P K5	P x P	31 K Kt3	R x R
12 P x P	B KKt5	32 Q x Rch	K R2
13 Q Q3	B QB4	33 P K6	Q B4
14 B K3	B x Kt(d)	34 P K7	P R5ch
15 B x B	Kt Q4	35 K x P	Q B7ch
16 Q Kt3	Kt x Kt	36 K Kt4	P B4ch
17 B x Kt	B K3	37 K Kt5	Q Kt6ch
18 K R-q	Q Q4	38 K B6	Q R5ch
19 Q R4	Q R Q-q	39 B Kt5	Resigns.
20 R B3	Q B5		

Notes by Gunsberg.

(a) Kt takes P is the accepted play. Black has already a cramped position.

(b) It is questionable whether or not he had better given up the P than to make this defence. P to QKt 4, while it weakens the Q side, is in every way better than the move selected.

(c) From the position at this stage of the game it is somewhat amazing that Black could keep up the fight for thirty moves.

(d) In a hurry, so it seems, to reduce his fighting force.

(e) Notice how the Queen goes bobbing round.

Notes.

In speaking of the Vienna Tournament, *The B. C. M.* remarks:—"We have the curious spectacle of a contest in which nearly all the world's strongest players are taking part, but the world's Champion is not one of them."

A new and enlarged edition of Mr. Walter Pulitzer's famous "Chess-Harmonies," says the *Literary Digest*, is in press and will be ready in a few weeks. The first edition of this work elicited praise from problematists, Chess-journals, and the lovers of the "poetry of Chess," the world over. The new edition will contain a number of problems not in the first book, and, as Mr. Pulitzer has increased in wisdom, his Chess-genius has made many discoveries during the years since "Chess-Harmonies" was published. The new book is full of delightful surprises, interesting studies, and all that which evinces originality of idea and beauty of construction. We most heartily recommend "Chess-Harmonies" to our many friends who are interested in the Problem-Art.

The score in the Australian Championship match when the mail left, stood thus:—Mr. Jacobsen, 2 wins; Mr. Jones, 0; drawn, 1.

A short match of five games up is being played at Simpson's between Messrs. Teichmann and F. J. Lee. The first game was drawn, and the second won by Mr. Lee in 41 moves.

There is a general desire to form a new British chess association, and the matter is being seriously discussed North and South. Many chess players feel the need of a commanding central organisation, whose authority on all matters in which the interests of chess are concerned shall be beyond question. Besides, such an association would be responsible for the management of any international or other leading events, and would generally look after the interests of the game and its adherents. The evils and abuses of the present unregulated state of the chess world are generally admitted, and various attempts have been made in the direction now indicated, but with only very partial success.—*Times Weekly.*

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Tacoma, Wash....	N. P. Co.	Tacoma 1	M. Aug. 1
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta 2	M. Aug. 1
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern 3	M. Aug. 1
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic 4	Th. Aug. 4
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	——	W. Aug. 10
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 5	Su. Aug. 14
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Aug. 15
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Glengyle	M. Aug. 15
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Th. Aug. 18

1 Left Tacoma on the 19th July.
2 Left Nagasaki on the 27th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 27th July.
4 Left Hongkong on the 26th July.
5 Left San Francisco on the 26th July.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Tacoma, Wash....	N. P. Co.	Victoria	Sa. July 30
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Arizona	Tu. Aug. 2
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons	W. Aug. 3
Shanghai	N. Y. E.	Kobe Maru	W. Aug. 3
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Aug. 5
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Sa. Aug. 6
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Aug. 10
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Aug. 15
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Aug. 15

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 22nd July,—Shanghai via ports, 16th July, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,797, Treunt, 23rd July,—Nagasaki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,149, S. Tsuji, 23rd July,—Otaru via ports, 19th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, F. W. Horton, 24th July,—Kobe, 23rd July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibold, 25th July,—Vancouver, B.C., 11th July, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Japan, British steamer, 2,795, T. Leigh, 25th July,—London via ports, Kobe, 24th July, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, Inman Sealby, 25th July,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 7th July, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,260, Maubeuge, 25th July,—Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 24th July. Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Indrapura, British steamer, 2,510, Horsfall, 26th July,—New York via Suez Canal and way ports, Kobe, 24th July, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Erato, German steamer, 2,377, Ostermann, 26th July,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 20th July, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Dante, Dutch steamer, 1,302, Th. Kupke, 27th July,—Iloilo, 15th July, Sugar.—Tai Tak Tong.

Glenfarg, British steamer, 2,350, F. Selby, 27th July,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 26th July, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

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Rōjun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, A. E. Moses, 27th July,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 26th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 28th July,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 27th July, Mails and General.—C. P. R Co.
Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Trueb idge, 28th July,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 27th July, Mails & General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Fame (6), British Torpedo Boat Destroyer, 280, Lt. H. A. Gillett, 22nd July,—Kobe.
Grafton (12), British Cruiser, 7,350, Capt. E. P. Jones, 22nd July,—Kobe.
Arthur Fitger, German ship, 1,696, K. Denker, 23rd July.—Kobe, Pig Iron.—Sale & Co.
Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,709, C. Bainbridge, 23rd July,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kwetlin, British steamer, 1,088, J. B. Harris, 24th July,—Moji, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.
Ching Wo, British steamer, 2,517, H. C. Harris, 24th July,—London via Shanghai and way ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.
Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R Archibald, 25th July,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.
Liv, Norwegian steamer, 2,003, Hansen, 25th July,—Kobe, General.—Frazar & Co.
Amagi Kan (11), Japanese Wondensloop, 926, Commander I. Tategaki, 25th July,—Yokosuka.
Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,149, S. Tsuji, 26th July,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, J. Nirei, 26th July,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Luckyer, 27th July,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails & General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, Inman Sealby, 27th July,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General. —O. & O. S.S. Co.
Glenmark, British barque, 1,257, Wm. Johnson, 27th July—Portland, Oregon, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.
Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 27th July,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Sikh, British steamer, 1,736, J. Rowley, 27th July, —New York via ports, and Suez Canal, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.
Rockhurst, British barque, 1,400, E. Thomas, 28th July,—Astoria, Oregon, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, Mr. B. Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bruce, Mr. Benedikter, Mr. Bush, Mr. Coombs, Mr. Walter M. Cabot, Mr. W. E. Dunn, Rev. F. Flynn, Mr. K. Fukushima, Mr. W. S. Cayton Green, Miss Gaskin, Dr. Halstead, Mr. Hochapfel, Mr. A. L. Herringer, Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Miss Leete, Mr.. Matona, Mr. Robert R. Macaulay, Mr. Mano, Mr. Nakahara, Mrs. A. V. Payne, Mrs. Perry and Misses Perry (three), Mr. and Mrs. Powell, Miss Richardson, Miss H. I. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Seaman, Mr. Sakaguchi, Mr. Sakato, Mr. Takatsuji, Mr. K. Tanaka, Mr. and Mrs. Toms, Miss Toms, Miss Rita Toms, and Bishop Wilson, in cabin; 7 in second class; 80 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Japan*, from London via ports:—Mrs. Cooke, 2 children, and servant, and Mr. de Dyke, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. T. Hubbard T. Smith, Mr. Mark A. Shaw, Mrs. Mark A. Shaw, Mr. A. Segawa, Rev. and Mrs. D. L. Gifford, Mrs. J. T. Van Ryn, Mrs. Lieut Parmenter, Miss Irwin, Mr. Shimamura, Mr. Trentzel, Mr. La Roche, Mr. Lyman Tiffany, and Mr. G. Stanton Tiffany, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. James Flood, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. S. N. Syromantinkoff-Sigma, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. Chas. S. Coy, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barbier and and child, Mme. Pelagie Krilloff, Mr. H. W. Daniel, and Mr. E. T. Clarke, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. E. S. Joseph, Mrs. Nellie Beatty and child, Miss Brooksbank, and Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Vos, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Kamiya, Mr. Matsugata, Major A. Cracey and servant, Mr. Magnay, Mr. A. S. Hamilton, Miss Teamen, Mr. van Poesfen, Mrs. Otani, Mr. and Mrs. Lombard and servant, Mr. Schumaker, Mr. and Mrs. Price and 2 children, Mrs. Mackenzie and child and servant, Mr. Okuboni, Mr. B. H. Drummond, Mr. and Mrs. Beauchamp, Mr. Barlow, Mr. C. Kockstock, Mr. and Mrs. Kichman, 2 children and amah, M. le Comet d'Ursel and servant, Lady Hemby and valet, Mr. and Mrs. Wright and valet, Colonel Denby, Mr. W. H. Bell, Mr. G. A. Singston, Miss von Stranch, Mr. Briest, Mr. Dolliot, Mr. J. A. Beaudenbung, Mrs. A. Ficque, Mr. Tanaka, Mr. Kobayashi, and Mr. A. Kleinwort, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. G. J. Chapman, Mr. E. P. Frost, Mr. Polishwalla, Mr. Nowrowalla, Miss A. M. Baker, Lieut. E. H. Shewell, Mrs. Prynne, Lieut. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Jolly, Mr. Kalff, Lieut. Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. Faga, Mr. G. Richarme, Mr. K. Fritsche, Miss Steger, Miss A. G. Waters, Mr. and Mrs. N. Schmucker-H.E. Baron Czikann de Wahlborn and valet, Mr. H. C. Field, Mr. H. H. Bennett, Mrs. Dabelstein and infant, Mrs. and 3 Misses Campbell, Mr. E. A. Probst, Mr. C. J. Dudgeon, Mr. and Mrs. Slevogt, Mr. J. E. Denham, Mr. A. D. Brent, Mr. G. H. Purcell, Mr. and Mrs. Melchers, governess and 2 children, Mr. Bland, Mr. G. Kremsir, Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Wilkinson and child, Mr. A. Rhode, Count Berstoff, Mr. P. A. Schlumberger, Mr. C. Holmes, Mrs. Murai, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Ovisen, Mr. F. Abenheim, Mr. A. D. Brent, Mr. R. J. Ackland, Mr. C. Weber, Mr. J. Komor, Mr. and Mrs. Slevogt, Mr. N. Russell, Mr. J. E. Denham, Mr. T. Kushan, Mr. I. de Bridgny, Lieutenant S. Fletcher, Mr. Bevis, Mr. and Mrs. Hood and two Misses Hood, and Mr. E. H. Tuska, in cabin; Mr. E. Belselman, in second class. In Transit:—Lieut. Brown, R.N., Mr. T. H. Lyle, Surg. C. L. Bunton, Mr. A. K. Rhoden, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Yick Quon, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Stoker, Mr. Mr. R. Difendorfer, Rev. E. Jones, Captain John Onspensky, Mrs. Kurai's child, Rev. and Mrs. Doughty and 4 children, Mr. J. A. Summers, Mr. E. J. Sanford and daughter, Dr. J. Fryer, Mr. A. R. Greaves, Miss Dudley, and Mr. Geo. Flood, in cabin; 10 in second class; 305 Chinese, 10 Japanese, and 7 Asiatic servants, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Victoria*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. J. Trueb idge and child, Mr. Aitken, Mrs. Sherwood, Miss Day, Mr. A. H. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Moller, and Mrs. Edwards and child, in cabin; Mr. Winterbottom, wife and child, in second class; 141 Chinese, and 88 Japanese, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Inaba Maru*, for London via ports:—Mr. E. J. Cowan, Mr. F. E. Fernald, Mr. H. Edgell, Mr. H. Fabor, Mr. B. Gudrej, Mr. R. S. Setlna, Mr. K. Fukuchi, Mr. S. Iwashita, Master S. Iwashita, Mr. K. Kano, Mr. Katto, Commander A. Nakamma, I.J.N., Mr. M. Naruse, and Mr. J. Jenkins, in cabin; Mr. Young, Mr. Hwong Pan Sing, Mr. N. Ikeuchi, Mr. S. Shibagaki, Mr. Y. Ohara, Mr. C. Wilkinson, Mr. T. Kurebayashi, and Rev. J. H. Worley, in second class; 40 Japanese, and 2 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. R. de la Poer, Mr. L. F. M. Dumont, Mr. H Schwer, Miss Crerar, Mrs. R. Finch, Colonel the O'Gorman, Lieut. and Mrs. Bagnall-Wild, Mr J. W. Dearden, Mr. A. J. Madar, Mr. H. P. Madar, Mr. P. Th. Pietzcker, Mr. D. Earnshaw, Mr. and Mrs. H. Ivison, Mr. S. Isaacs, Mr. Chas. Weber, Mr. M. Russell, Master J. Kuhn, Mr. E. H. Tuska, Mr. H. M. Bevis, Mr. G. W. Middleton, Lieut. and Mrs. Boghiloff, Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, Mr. J. F. C. Edwards, Mr. J. Badge, Mr. F. E. Wilkinson, Mr. J. Kuhn, Mrs. A. Kuhn, Mrs. J. Kuhn, Mr. A. Kuhn, Miss C. Kuhn, Mrs. Awdry, Miss Poore, Mr. A. Barnerman, Mrs. Chas. Denby and infant, Mrs. Jas. Flood and infant, Mr. E. W. Frazar, Mr. Y. Izumi, and Rev. Fulkerson in cabin; Mrs. Denby's servant in steerage.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. A. Thomas, Mrs. H. E. Parmenter, Miss Irwin, Mr. J. M. Machaels, Mr. A. H. White, Mr. J. B. Stiven, Mr. C. S. McKinley and European servant, Miss Imhof, Miss L. Zuffluh, Mr. P. L. Gerbard, Mr. C. S. Burr, Miss L. Kidwell and native servant, Rev. M. S. Vail, Rev. J. C. Davidson, Mrs. J. T. Smith and daughter, Miss F. Lynwood, Rev. A. Oltmans, Rev. B. C. Waworth, Rev. H. B. Price, Mr. T. Nakagawa, Mr. Chas. S. Coy, Rev. R. S. Hope, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barbier and child, Mme. Pelagie Krilloff, Mr. H. W. Daniel, Mr. E. T. Clarke, Mrs. E. S. Joseph, Mrs. Nellie Beatty and child, Miss Brooksbank, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Vos, and Mr. S. N. Syromantinkoff Sigma, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. M. Kawahara, Mr. H. W. Lee, Chief Eng. K. Matsuzawa, I.J.N., Mr. S. Yezaki, Mr. H. Iwasaki, Mr. G. Bay, Mr. Baessler, and Mr. A. Johnsfood, in cabin; Mr. K. Nakayama, Mr. K. Oda, Mr. T. Miyajima, Mr. Paul Pabarookoff, Mr. J. H. Thomson, Mr. K. Iwahara, Mrs. G. Tanikawa, Mrs. T. Soyejima, and Mr. and Mrs. Iriye, in second class; 60 Japanese, and 1 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. T. Kato, Mr. W. Tetley, Miss Watkins, Mr. Tsang Sin Wing and servant, Mr. J. Mulloy, Sergt. Cronin, Mr. Chan Joo Shung, Mr. Lee Sue Kam, and Mr. Ah Jong, in cabin; 17 Chinese, 1 child and 2 infants, in steerage.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There are some inquiries for yarns, but at very low prices and on a very limited scale. For grey shirtings the market is still quite dull, and the same remark applies to fancy cottons and woollens.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds, 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds, 45inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.75 to 2.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.15 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches heal	0.28 to 0.41
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Chape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0 15 to 0 17
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0 50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.74½
Cloths—Unions, 54 @ 56 inches	0.50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 3½, per lb	0 50, to 0 60
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7 75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.25 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos 16 24, Singles	$15.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	61 00 to 63.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	75.00 to 76.30
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	69.50 to 76.50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2, 100, Gassed	114.00 to 124.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$19.50 to —
Indian Broach	19.25 —
Chinese	21.00 to 21.50

METALS.

The market is absolutely lifeless.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square 4 inch. and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4 00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4.90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5.90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5.95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (1 to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The market is still quiet, and no movement is expected till next month.

American	$2.05	—
Russian	1.95 to	2.00
Langkat	—	1.85

SUGAR.

The market is quiet, but there are indications of an improving demand. For Manilas prices have ranged 5 to 10 *sen* lower, and Formosas have declined 10 *sen*. In white refined prices are unchanged.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.30 to 5.50
Brown Manila	5.10 to 6.20
Brown Daitong	3.80 to 4.20
Brown Canton	4.15 to 5.80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.25
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A steady demand exists in Europe, but American buyers show no disposition for purchases. Prices are slightly lower all round. The settlements since the 1st July has been 2,203 piculs, against 1,081 for the corresponding date last year. The total visible supply is 6,760 piculs.

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QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.....	$970
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.....	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	920 to 930
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers.....	865 to 875
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers.....	845
Filatures—No. 2, 13/18 deniers.....	880 to 890
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	850
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	830
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	810
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers.....	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	850
Kakedas—No. 1	825
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	790
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is quite lifeless, business being *nil* and quotations merely nominal. The stock on hand is put at 3,170 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best.....	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good.....	100 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium.....	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	85 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 22½

TEA.

Purchases have been large, chiefly in the lower grades. There have been numerous large arrivals, and a stock of over 11,000 piculs is on hand. The total settlements up to date are 148,939 piculs, against 161,416 piculs at the corresponding period of last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$35 & upwards
Choice	$13 to 34
Finest	31 to 32
Fine	29 to 30
Good Medium	27 to 28
Medium	25 to 26
Good Common	23 to 24
Common	21 to 22

EXCHANGE.

Silver has further declined ¼ in London, and quotations for sterling are ¼ lower from China, causing higher rates on China with a firm tendency in other rates and closing for the mails per steamers *Empress of Japan*, *Victoria*, and *Glenfarg* as under.

Sterling—Bank T.T. .....2/0¼ to 1/16	
— — Bills on demand ...	2/0⅝
— — 4 months' sight	2/0½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅜
— — 6 months' sight	2/0⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	2 55
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight ...	2.58½
On America—Bank Bills on demand..	49½
— Private 4 months' sight...	50½
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06½
— Private 4 months' sight...	2.10½
On Hongkong—Bank sight.....4½% dis.	
— Private 10 days' sight.....	6% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	78½
— Private 10 days' sight ...	79½
On India—Bank sight	153
— Private 30 days' sight ...	156
Bar Silver (London)	27½

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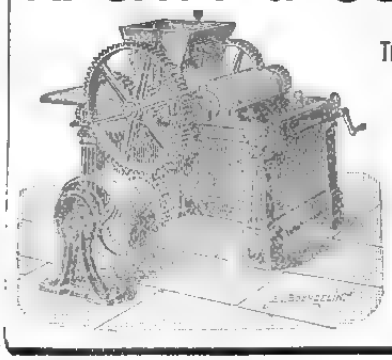

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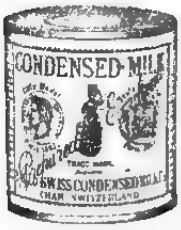

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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, AUG. 6TH, 1898.

DEATH.

AT 242, Kita Shinagawa, on the evening of 31st July, the Baroness ITO FUSA-KO, wife of His Excellency Vice-Admiral Baron T. Y. Ito, Vice-Minister of Imperial Marine; after a long and painful illness.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE young King of Spain is confined to his bed with an attack of measles.

PRINCE BISMARCK died last Saturday night—full of years and honours.

PRINCE CYRIL of Russia did not land at Nagasaki owing to a severe attack of toothache.

THE week has seen no diminution in the heat, despite the thunderstorms of the past few days.

COASTING steamers are lying idle at Shanghai owing to the firemen striking for an increase of pay.

THERE has been some abatement of the dysentery epidemic in Kanagawa Prefecture this last week.

A TELEGRAM of the 7th ult. says the tea market is still active in America and good business is being done.

A MAN named Inagaki Minakichi, 23 years old, living in Sone, in Shikigori, killed his wife with a knife, and committed suicide. The facts were reported by Dr. Wheeler and a Japanese physician, and now being sifted.

price of rice is the familiar reason alleged for the act.

THE Yokohama Cricket Club's baseball team easily defeated a nine from Tokyo last Saturday, the score being 9 runs to 12.

MR. LAFFIN'S speedy cutter *Mary* has won the first race for the Diamond Jubilee Cup, presented by British residents.

THE swimming and diving competitions of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club was held on Wednesday evening, and some fair sport resulted.

THE Industrial Bank has decided to build an office near the Peer's Club, Yurakucho, Kojimachi, Tokyo. The cost will be about *yen* 110,000.

THE Emperor William was deeply affected at the news of the death of Prince Bismarck, and abandoned his tour to Norway, returning to Germany.

MR. OISHI, Minister of State for Agricultural and Commercial Affairs, is reported to have just been married to a young lady of 24 whose name is not reported.

IT is said that Mr. Hoshi Toru's prospects of becoming Minister of State for Foreign Affairs have been destroyed, Count Okuma opposing the idea most strenuously.

CHINA'S advisers are said to be at last growing anxious at the increasing arrogance of the Russian Embassy in Peking in regard to the claims it puts forth.

IT is rumoured that Mr. Yano, Minister at Peking, will be appointed to another post, and Mr. Komura, Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, will take the vacancy.

H.M.S. *Powerful*, on the run from Wei hai-wei to Yokohama, carried out some speed trials with highly successful results, an average of over 18 knots being maintained.

IT seems probable that the American terms of place will only include the session of one of the Ladrone Islands, the Philippines Archipelgo returning to the Spanish Crown.

PREVIOUS to his departure for China, Marquis Ito, went to the palace to bid farewell to the Emperor and Empress, and it is reported that Her Majesty gave the Marquis a handsome present.

THE Nile force has established a depot twelve miles below Shabulka. The Khalifa is concentrating his forces at Omdurman, and has announced that he will lead his army in person.

THE *Washington Post* states that President McKinley will call an extra Session of Congress with the view of passing special legislation to maintain an active army of one hundred thousand men.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who received an injury to the knee while staying at Waddesdon, Lord Rothschild's seat in Buckinghamshire, is progressing favourably towards recovery, but it is said that he will be permanently lamed.

THE Budgets of the Departments for Home Affairs, the Army, Education, and Agricultural and Commercial Affairs, which have been delayed, have at length been completed, and will be submitted within a few days.

ON Wednesday afternoon a man named D. Dupuis, 39 years old, lodging at the Hotel du Commerce and employed as a hotel runner, drank a large dose of opium with the presumed object of committing suicide. He was seen in that state by Dr. Wheeler and a Japanese physician, and now being sifted. He was afterwards sent to the General Hospital, where he is making favourable progress towards recovery.

THE Osaka Alkali Manufacturing Company has held its general meeting, at which a loss for the half-year was declared of *yen* 28,852. This, added to the loss of the previous half-year, makes *yen* 45,582 on the whole year's working.

ON 30th ult. a telegram from Chemulpo, Korea, announced that H.I.H. Prince Henry of Prussia arrived the previous day by the warship *Deutschland* from Kiao-chou Bay. It is reported that he will stay for some time at Vladivostock.

General Merritt is busily engaged in making final arrangements to attack Manila. The remaining transports from San Francisco were expected on the 29th July. There was to be no American or rebel advance on the doomed city until those reinforcements arrive.

THE *New York Herald* announces that steps are being taken in New York to promote the object of an Anglo-American League. A committee has been appointed to take action towards the establishment of a powerful national organization.

A COOLIE named Mishima Tojiro has been arrested on a charge of stealing 2 bags of cotton piece-goods belonging to Messrs. Strachan & Co., on the 23rd ult. while transporting them to the Railway Station. He is alleged to have sold the goods for *yen* 36. Some persons suspected of being accomplices have also been arrested.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY, in consultation with the Cabinet, has determined to accept the offer of Spain to open peace negotiations, but the war will continue unabated until more tangible terms are proposed. It is stated that the President's minimum terms include the complete independence of Cuba and American protection, the absolute cession of Puertorico and the Ladrones, and a port and coaling station in the Philippines.

IN the House of Lords on Monday Lord Salisbury, replying to Lord Kimberley, regarding British interests on the Yangtze, said the Chinese were well disposed towards British enterprise, but it had been suggested that they had been threatened by other Powers to give them the preference. Hence, on the 22nd July, Sir Claude Macdonald, British Minister at Peking, was authorized to inform China that Britain would support her against any Power committing an act of aggression upon her in return for her permitting British subjects to construct or support railways or public works.

As far as imports are concerned, stagnation is still the characteristic. There are only a few enquiries for cottons and woollens, and those at unremunerative prices. The metal market is lifeless. Sugar is steady, with an advance in prices of about 5 *sen* in brown, except Manilas; Formosas are 10 to 15 *sen* dearer. There is an improved inquiry for white refined. Turning to exports, the waste silk market is still quite destitute of life. In raw silk things are fairly active, the demand being chiefly from Europe, though more enquiries at better prices have been coming from America the last few days. Settlements since July 27 have been 1,029 piculs. There are 5,457 piculs in stock. There is a good demand for tea for common and medium grades. Prices have ruled firm, with no change in last week's quotations. The third crop is

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The Cabinet's affairs still continue to occupy the attention of the vernacular press. It must now be confessed that never since the commencement of the *Meiji* era did the Tokyo newspapers engage in such a crusade against a newly organized Ministry. The latest material for criticism is furnished by the action of the Basic Committee of the Constitutional Party. For the sake of readers who may not have closely followed the course of events, it will be well to explain that the business of the Constitutional Party used to be discharged by a General Business Committee of four members. The four men who happened to be on the Committee at the time of the organization of the Cabinet, received portfolios, and a question immediately arose whether they ought to remain on the Committee after becoming Ministers. They themselves maintained that they ought, but the idea provoked much opposition, some alleging that members of the Cabinet could not possibly find time to discharge their duties as members of Committee, and others asserting that if the Party's Business Committee consisted of Ministers of State, the Party would cease to have any control over the Cabinet. It is a strange notion that a political party should see any necessity to exercise direct control over a Cabinet whose *personnel* consists of the party's leaders, but such is the notion of the Constitutional Party. After a somewhat acute dispute, the objectors finally carried the day, and the Ministers had to resign from the Committee. That was the first open indication of the Party's distrustful attitude towards the Cabinet. Then followed another step. The Party appointed another Committee, an Extraordinary Committee, of 15 members, for the purpose of investigating administrative and financial questions; and the Extraordinary Committee, in turn, selected five of its members, and nominated them a Basic Committee, for the purpose of formulating bases of administrative reform. Now, on the face of the matter, there is no apparent reason why a political party should not appoint as many committees as it likes for whatever purposes it pleases. But in this case it must be remembered that the Cabinet had already appointed an Administrative Reform Investigation Committee under the presidency of Count Itagaki. Hence, when the Constitutional Party appoints a similar committee on its own account, the action must be interpreted either as a declaration of want of confidence in the Cabinet, or as a resolve to ignore the Cabinet's Committee and dictate an independent programme of reforms.

* * *

While the public watched these doings with wondering eyes, an announcement appeared in a leading newspaper (the *Asahi*) that the Party's Basic Committee had drawn up a list of eleven principal reforms and nineteen minor reforms, which would be submitted to the Extraordinary Committee immediately for approval. The major reforms were very drastic—abolition of the Departments of Education and Justice, of the Metropolitan Police Board, and of the office of *Chokunin* Counsellor; reduction of the number of appeal courts and of prefectural offices; selection of District Headmen by public vote instead of their nomination by the Government; the granting of equal status to private and public schools; the amendment of the civil service examination system—all excellent measures in themselves no doubt, but of such a sweeping nature that their adoption by the Party Committee without the Cabinet's previous consent, could only be interpreted as a complete ignoring of the Cabinet's discretion.

* * *

The publication of this intelligence created at once consternation and astonishment: consternation on the side of the Constitutional Party, for the Committee had never intended to take the public into its confidence at such an early stage; and astonishment on the side of the public that such a dictatorial attitude should be assumed by the Party towards a Cabinet of its own representatives. It was remarked that the severance of the cooperative relations between the Matsukata Cabinet and the Progressists had been precipitated by precisely a similar incident, namely, a breach of confidence in publishing an interview with the Premier which the interviewers had engaged to keep secret, and it was predicted that an *impasse* had been created, inasmuch as the Committee had now pledged itself to a course along which the Cabinet could not possibly follow it. The comments of the leading journals varied according to their political complexion. Some—the *Yorzuo Choho*, for example—saw in the affair a deliberate attempt at mischief-making on the part of discontended politicians who had failed to obtain any of the "spoils," and a conspiracy on the part of the so-called "Satsuma Faction," headed by Mr. Haseba Junko, to create a split in the ranks of the Constitutionalists, and thus bring about a large secession by way of preliminary to the organization of an opposition party. Others—as the *Kokumin*—pointed out that the much vaunted and long desired regimen of responsible Cabinets was now proved to be an utter farce, since a Cabinet deprived of all the power properly belonging to it, ceased to have any responsibility. Others—as the *Nichi Nichi*—severely criticised the Constitutional Party, charging it with inability to distinguish between private and public interests. Others—as the *Yomiuri*—attacked the proposed reforms themselves, and cried out that, with several international problems of the gravest character to be solved, the time was quite unsuited for raising a discussion about such petty issues. Others—as the *Hochi Shimbun*—utilized the occasion to formulate a long indictment against the Cabinet and the Constitutional Party, accusing the latter of inconsistency and complete ignorance of the proper rôle to be played by a political party towards a Cabinet composed of its own leaders. In short, the general view is that unless the Constitutional Party radically alters its arbitrary and distrustful attitude, an impossible situation will be created. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, however, suggests an explanation at once simple and thorough. It says that the Basic Committee has not really formulated any programme as a committee, but has merely catalogued the various reforms presenting themselves to each of its members, and that it has now, in its collective capacity, to consider the feasibility of the projects. In reply to that explanation, it is alleged that Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi, on behalf of the Committee, actually carried the programme to Count Okuma and submitted it for his opinion and that the Count promised to state his views after mature reflection. We do not perceive that such action on the part of Mr. Kataoka imparts to the proposals any hard-and-fast character. On the contrary, the desire may have been to consult the Premier before the Committee definitely formulated its opinion. However, we are here endeavouring to reflect the views of the vernacular press, not to traverse them, and very excited, perturbed views they are.

* * *

The third article which the Government proposes to tax is salt. But the salt industry of Japan is already in a precarious condition. Representations introduced in both Houses of the Diet last session indicated that unless some improved methods of manufacture can be adopted, Japanese salt will soon cease to be a paying article of manufacture. The sum and substance of Mr Taguchi's contention is that unless the Land Tax be resorted to, the necessary increase of State revenue can not be obtained.

* * *

In the eyes of Englishmen nothing can look stranger than that a prominent member of a political party should differ from its leaders on an important subject and yet retain his connexion with the party. Mr. Taguchi Uchichi, the editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, is in that predicament. He holds unswervingly to his opinion that without increasing the Land Tax no possibility exists of placing the finances of the State on a sound footing, whereas the last Cabinet's attempt to increase the Land Tax was the proximate cause of the Ministry's fall, and of its replacement by the *Kenseito*, Mr. Taguchi's party. The latest number of the *Keizai Zasshi* contains an exhaustive and interesting statement of Mr. Taguchi's views on this important subject. The *saké*-brewers, it is said, have declared that they can pay an increased tax of 3 *yen*—that is to say, they can afford to pay 10 *yen* per *koku* instead of the present charge of 7 *yen*—if the Government takes two steps. Those steps are, first, to interdict the brewing of unrefined *saké* in quantities less than a hundred *koku*; and secondly, to impose upon alcohol such an import duty as shall prevent it from competing with Japanese *saké*. Both of these measures are pronounced impossible by Mr. Taguchi. To understand his argument it is necessary to explain that unrefined *saké* is the great drink of the peasant classes, and that a large quantity is brewed privately. *Saké* brewed for domestic consumption, not for sale, is exempted from tax, but there is a restriction, namely, that the quantity brewed must not be less than 10 *koku*. One would suppose that the restriction should be differently formulated: that it should take the shape of a prohibition to manufacture more than a certain number of *koku* under the title of "for domestic use." But experience has evidently furnished reasons for fixing the minimum, not the maximum. The professional brewers now propose that the minimum should be raised to 100 *koku*, or 3,970 gallons. It is evident that few, if any, families consume such a large quantity of *saké* as 3,970 gallons *per annum*, and it is further evident that a family which can afford to brew so much for its own use would not drink the unrefined variety. "Unrefined *saké*," or "muddy *saké*," as it is commonly called, is essentially the beverage of the lower orders. People do not drink it from choice but for economy's sake. Hence, the measure proposed by the professional

* * *

brewers would have the practical effect of putting a complete stop to private brewing, and would place the whole business in professional hands. We do not, for our own part, see why private brewing should be allowed at all, unless—which can scarcely be credited—unrefined *saké*, a highly deleterious beverage, is considered necessary to the health and comfort of the peasant class. Mr. Taguchi, however, seems to take it for granted that domestic brewing must not be stopped, and that it would be intolerable were the minimum limit fixed at more than 20 *koku*. Next, with regard to imported alcohol. It costs 25 *yen* a *koku*, and from one *koku* of alcohol 5 *koku* of mixed *saké* can be manufactured. The new Tariff will enable a tax of 40 per cent. to be levied upon alcohol, so that the cost of mixed *saké* will stand at 7 *yen* a *koku*. Evidently refined Japanese *saké*, costing 24 *yen* a *koku*—namely, 14 *yen* originally and 10 *yen* of tax—must very soon be driven out of the market if it has to compete with mixed *saké*, which many people like just as well, at only 7 *yen*. To place the two on an equal footing, alcohol must be subjected to an import duty of 500 per cent., or 125 *yen* a *koku*. Hence, Mr. Taguchi argues that under any circumstances the import duty on alcohol will have to be very greatly increased. Again we must say that we do not perceive the relevancy of the argument, for if the *saké* brewers are satisfied, nothing more need be said. However, the general inference is that the Government can not adopt with regard to home brewed *saké* and imported alcohol measures such as will put an end to the former and drive the latter out of the competition. If they can not, the calculation is that the demand for *saké* brewed by dealers will not increase from 4 million *koku*—the present consumption—to 6 millions and that the yield of a ten *yen* tax would be only 40 million *yen* instead of 60 millions, as hoped by the Government. In other words, by raising the tax from 7 *yen* to 10, the resulting increase of revenue would be 10 million *yen* instead of 30 millions. One imagines that the official appraisers and calculators understand all these things very clearly, but Mr. Taguchi thinks they do not, and he compares them, with

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some seeming confusion of ideas, to a blind man who has fallen into the hell of hunger (*gakido*) and doesn't see the viands with which he might appease his appetite—in this case, the Land Tax.

* * *

As to the second source of revenue contemplated by the Government in preference to increasing the Land Tax—namely, a tax on sugar,—Mr. Taguchi's demonstration is very plain. He says that sugar manufactured in Japan must be sold for 25 *sen* per catty in order to cover expenses, whereas the best refined sugar can be imported at from 12 to 13 *sen* a catty. Hence, even with things as they are now, the home-manufactured article must ultimately be driven out of the market. There is consequently a strong inducement to impose a heavy import duty on the imported article. But how is it to be done? Under the new Tariff the duty will be 10 per cent.—an impost quite insignificant in this context,—and the Anglo-Japanese Revised Treaty provides that if Japan finds it necessary to levy an additional tax on home-manufactured sugar, she shall be at liberty to levy an import duty of the same amount on foreign sugar. In short, the Treaty binds her to begin with her own sugar, which is already on the point of being driven out of the market, and which will certainly disappear if its price be raised fifteen or twenty per cent.

* * *

The *Fiji Shimpo's* opinion about the formation of a political party to oppose the Constitutionalists is very much to the point. Such a party is greatly needed, it thinks, but to organise it with the National Unionists for basis would be to court certain failure. The members of the National Unionist Party may be very able and very trustworthy men. But they are inseparably connected with the now obsolete system of clan cabinets, and are therefore hopelessly disqualified for a place in popular favour. There is not the most shadowy use in talking any longer about the unconstitutionality of party cabinets or the mistake that Marquis Ito made in handing over the Administration to the *Kensei to* leaders. Baron Sonoda's views are wholly out of date. To expect the country to revert to the old system is as rational as to look for frost in the dog-days or sparks of fire in rain-drops. If the National Unionists are to form the nucleus of an opposition party, they must cease to call themselves National Unionists. Moreover, if there is to be a new party, it must have a leader able to stand up against Count Okuma, and there is no such leader in the country except Marquis Ito. Count Okuma and Marquis Ito are the two champion politicians of the era. There are no others in the same rank with them. Marquis Ito, however, can not be expected to take the field against Count Okuma at present. That is quite evident. There is nothing for it, therefore, but to wait until the proceedings of the present Cabinet furnish some principle to form the basis of a new political association.

SOME LEGAL QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

At a recent meeting of the *Kokusaiho-gakko* (International Law Institute), held in the Hall of the Japan Red Cross Society, the following legal questions, which we translate from the *Gaikojiho*, were investigated:—

1. Is it lawful for a belligerent State to cut submarine telegraph cables?

2. May a belligerent State establish a hospital in the territory of a neutral State, for treatment of the wounded?

3. Is the Act prohibiting foreigners from becoming principal officials (*jinyaku*) of a railway company a breach of the Treaties?

The first question was discussed in a written communication from Mr. S. Takahashi, who is now staying in England. In his private letter to Mr. T. Ariga, a member of the Institute, Mr. S. Takahashi mentioned that when the same question was discussed by the Japanese Naval Department in connection with the war between China and Japan, the majority held the negative opinion, but he advanced the affirmative. The question is now receiving great attention in England, and Mr. Holland, the eminent jurist, is of the positive opinion, but there are many who hold the opposite view. The magazine deals with the opinion of Mr. Ariga only. It says that, owing to its importance, the question has not yet been decided in the International Conference for the Protection of Marine Telegraph Cables, though there have been frequent discussions. Art. 15 of the Convention for the Protection of Marine Telegraph Cables of the 14th March, 1884, sets down that no article of the convention imposes any restrictions whatever on the free actions of belligerents. A French doctor who attended the conference, stated the following four cases:—

(*a.*) Cables which connect different localities of the same State. In this case the hostile and belligerent State may intercept communication and destroy the cables.

(*b.*) Cables which connect a locality of one of the belligerent States with a locality of the other belligerent State. In this case belligerents can do as they please with the cables.

(*c.*) Cables which connect one of the belligerent States with a locality of a neutral State. In this case the belligerent State may intercept the cable communications; and the hostile and belligerent State may, after occupying the locality, even destroy the cable if it is necessary to do so for the purpose of war. The same right also extends to men-of-war which blockade the coast of the hostile state.

(*d.*) Cables which connect two neutral States. In this case, a belligerent State has under no circumstances the right to intercept communications or cut the cables. In all the above cases the same principles apply both to Government cables and to private cables.

Mr. Ariga suggests that the question may have arisen again in Great Britain in connection with the Hispano-American war. According to a French magazine, the submarine cable between Spain and Cuba passes the territory of the United States at Key West, but its owner is a British company, and it is the sole line between Great Britain and the Bahama Islands and British Guiana. If it is cut by the United States, Great Britain must suffer a loss of great political and economical consequence.

The second question was raised upon the fact that a Naval Hospital established at Yokohama by the Naval Department of the United States of America continues to exist even after the Hispano-American War has commenced, and a naval officer of the United States, who was wounded at the battle at Manila, is now receiving medical treatment there. It was unanimously decided that the fact of the Naval Hospital continuing to exist is a breach of Japan's neutrality, because no belligerent State can perform in a neutral country any act which has any connection with war, and the medical treatment of wounded soldiers has a distinct relation to war.

With regard to the third question under discussion, it was decided that the prohibition was a breach of the Treaties. The details of the discussion are to be reported separately by the magazine.

THE NINGPO JOSS HOUSE.

On July 19th, the *N. C. Daily News* published a series of documents sent to it by the Secretary of the French Municipality, which, it says, throw some useful light on the dispute in reference to the Ningpo Joss-House. The first—we quote our contemporary—is an extract from the Minutes of the French Council's meeting on the 11th of May last, at which it was decided to ask the French Consul-General to expropriate, as authorised by the French treaty of 1844 and the proclamation of 1849, the lots on the French Concession in dispute, 186 and 191. This was the opening of the ball. The next is a letter of the 18th of May from the Chairman of the French Council, M. Baird, to the Count de Bezaure, explaining that the lots in question were wanted for the erection of a School and a Hospital, there being no other ground available, asking him to proceed to their expropriation, and adding that the Municipality would deposit in a bank at the disposition of the holders of the title-deeds the assessed value of the property, Tls. 41,375. Then follows an extract from the minutes of the meeting of the French Council on the 1st of June last, at which an ordinance from the French Consul-General was read, calling on the proprietors of the two lots in question to present themselves within eight days at the Consulate-General to prove their titles. This ordinance, dated the 23rd of May, was communicated to the occupants of the two lots in question by the Secretary of the French Municipality.

No. 4 is an extract from the minutes of the 22nd of June. The Secretary announced that he had written to the Representative of the Ningpo Joss-House, telling him that in conformity with the Consul-General's ordinance of the 23rd of May, he had to prove his title to lots 186 and 191 at the Consulate-General. Up to the 21st of June, the answer of the Representative of the Ningpo Joss-House was, that he had no title-deeds for these lots. No. 5 is a letter of the 23rd of June from the Secretary of the French Municipality to the Representative of the Ningpo Joss-House acknowledging a letter of the latter in which the fact that there were no title-deeds forthcoming was conveyed. The sixth and last document is a letter, dated the 1st of July, from the Secretary of the French Municipality to the Representative of the Ningpo Joss-House. It says:—

"Sir,—The Representatives of the Association known as the "Ningpo Temple" who have been, for several years, occupants of lots 186 and 191 on the cadastral plan of the French Concession at Shanghai, not having, as is learnt from your written information, any title-deeds for the said lots, I am instructed to inform you that, in accordance with the terms of the Treaties, the French Municipality has lodged with the Consul General of France a claim to repossess these lots which are necessary for the accomplishment of certain works of public utility which will be especially of advantage to the Chinese population of the French Concession, and which are as follows:—

"A School for the education of young Chinese;

"A Hospital where medical attention will be given gratuitously to poor Chinese residents;

"An Abattoir for the provision of wholesome meat for the inhabitants of Shanghai.

"The Consul-General having admitted the claim of the French Municipality, the latter assumes from this day the right of proprietorship over lots 186 and 191,

"The agreed indemnity will be paid to the rightful claimant after an understanding between the Consul-General of France and the Chinese authorities."

These documents, says the Shanghai journal, give a clear and intelligible account of the negotiations which would undoubtedly have ended peaceably and amicably had not the Taotai exhausted the patience of the Count de Bezaure and the French Municipality by his procrastination and indecision. As we have already said, these papers clear up one or two doubtful points, and answer some of the objections that have been made by pro-Chinese advocates, and we cannot but commend the action of the French Municipality in making them public. They might well have been made public even sooner, though few have doubted that our French neighbours were acting well within their rights in the steps they have taken in reference to this old bone of contention, the Ningpo Joss-House.

The new engines of the Yokohama Electric Light Company in Takashima-cho have been completed and passed the Government examination. The company will start work with them on or about the 4th inst.

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THE AMERICAN TERMS OF PEACE.

The telegraph insists in asking us to believe that the United States Government proposes to limit its acquisitions in the Far-Eastern Pacific to "one of the Ladrone Islands." It is very difficult to credit such a statement. "One of the Ladrones" can only mean Guahan, or Guam. The group consists of fifteen islands; a northern section of ten, all of which are uninhabited; and one, Guahan, the largest and southernmost, has the sole town in the colony, namely, San Ignacio de Azalia, with its fortified harbour of Umata. What possible use could the United States have for Guahm? It lies away out in the Pacific, nine hundred miles eastward of the Philippines and four hundred miles south of the Bonin Islands. The climate, indeed, is not bad, the mean yearly temperature being about 81° F., and the variations of temperature not very great; but the total population is only some 8,000, and the total area of the 15 islands is only 417 square miles. We can scarcely suppose that the United States Government thinks of establishing a naval base in such a remote quarter of the world at such an immense distance from any sphere of American interests. In fact, the project appears to us to be one of the most unaccountable ever formulated. America does not want a naval station in the Pacific three thousand miles eastward of Hawaii. If this war is to end by placing her in possession of two insignificant groups of islands, one two thousand miles and the other five thousand miles away from her shores, and both in the tropics, she will certainly come out of the struggle a great deal weaker than she went into it. As mere territorial acquisitions, Hawaii and the Ladrones are practically worthless. America's reason for annexing Hawaii was understood to be the necessity of having a half-way house to the Philippines. Hence, if the Philippines are not to come into her possession, Hawaii assumes the character of a white elephant. The programme suggests a strange shrinking from the consequences of her own acts, and even from her just responsibilities. For she can not leave the Philippines to their fate. She has effectually broken the power of Spain there, and rendered the islands uninhabitable for Spaniards or any other Occidentals unless means of preserving law and order are organized under Western control. It is not to be supposed that any of the foreigners now settled in the islands will remain there contentedly, or can hope to remain there in security, if a republic is established under Aguinaldo, or if the Spaniards, in their greatly weakened condition, have to renew a struggle which plainly overtaxed their strength even before this war with America. The stepping aside of America would assuredly mean the stepping in of some other Power, perhaps of two or three other Powers, and that is a contingency for which America will not secure the thanks of the world. But the crowning curiosity of the whole affair is contained in the idea, "one of the Ladrones." One out of 15 tiny islets having an aggregate area of 417 square miles! What is to become of the remaining fourteen? Spain certainly does not want them. Even with Guahan in her possession she has never drawn any revenue from the Ladrones, and would have been glad to dispose of them to any Power at any time during the past twenty years. Japan might be able to make something of them, but it would not be much, and at any rate, that is another question. We trust that the conditions of peace telegraphed by Reuter may prove to be incorrect.

THE PHILIPPINES PROBLEM.

Vernacular journals continue to harp on the subject of the Philippines, but all symptoms of a disposition to oppose occupation by the United States seem to to be now disappearing. The *Chuo Shimbun*, after noting the alleged consensus on the part of the Continental Powers of Europe to protest against the transfer of the islands to America, and England's contrary attitude, and after pointing out that all England's acts are plainly dictated by a desire to bring about an Anglo-Saxon alliance, declares that such an alliance should have Japan's support, since it would certainly make for the peace of the Orient. The *Chuo* adds that the Japanese Representative in Washington has received instructions which, though not, of course, publicly declared, are understood to indicate a line opposed to that taken by the Continental Powers of Europe. The *Kokumin* also has something to say on the same subject. It thinks that Japan should endorse the annexation of the Philippines by America, but should endeavour to obtain a *quid pro quo* in the shape of tariff concessions with regard to this country's textile fabrics, porcelains, and so forth. It is a great opportunity for Japan, our contemporary thinks, and she must not lose it by devoting her whole attention to party disputes.

REUTER'S AGENT.

We observe that an attempt is made by the *Japan Gazette* to defend the accuracy of Reuter's agent in Yokohama. The latter telegraphed to London that "the Compromise Bill for the revising the land valuation and the Government Bill for increasing the land tax were rejected amid great uproar." We have denied that there was any uproar in connexion with the rejection of these Bills, and our denial is founded on actual observation, for the editor of this journal was present throughout the debate and is, therefore, in a position to speak with absolute confidence. The *Japan Gazette*, however—or probably Reuter's agent speaking through the columns of the *Japan Gazette*—quotes from the *Japan Times*' report to show that there was an uproar. The matter is very simple and has already been explained in these columns. There certainly was an uproar, but not in connexion with the rejection of the Bills. At the commencement of the sitting a difference of opinion arose between the President and certain members with reference to a point of procedure. The dispute waxed very hot, and a disgraceful scene occurred, but order was restored after a time, and the House then proceeded to discuss and vote upon the two Bills, which were rejected in the quietest and calmest manner possible. If Baron Reuter's Yokohama agent considers that a disturbance about a point of procedure prior to the discussion of two Bills warrants him in saying "the Bills were rejected amid great uproar," he only affords another example of the want of discernment that has caused the public to complain so loudly of Reuter's telegraphic service.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

An interesting analysis of the political divisions of the House of Peers is given by the *Fiji Shimpo*. The total number of members at present is 320, of whom some fifty are Princes and Marquises, sitting in their own right and never taking any active part in the proceedings. Among the remaining members not more than 240 or 250 ever attend the sittings, and several of them are divided into four sections, the *Sanyo-kai*, the *Konwa-kai*, the *Kenkiu kai*, and the *Chawa-kai*. The third of these sections consists chiefly of men of Choshiu extraction and ex-officials who lost their posts on the occasion of the recent change of Cabinet. These members, some fifty in all, are inveterately hostile to the present Cabinet and may be expected to oppose it on every possible occasion. Then there are the men of Satsuma extraction, ex-governors of prefectures and superannuated officers of the Army and Navy. These folks do not feel at all satisfied with the turn that events have taken. They regard the party politicians as bucolic upstarts (*debiyakusho*), and harbour an ill-defined sense of resentment against progress in general. Their strength is about 30, and they too must be counted hostile to the Cabinet. Then come the members of the *Chawa-kai*, headed by Baron Ozaki and Messrs. Funakoshi and Ohara. These also, seeing that the times are leaving them in the lurch, and that, if they are ever again to emerge from the obscurity of retirement it will not be under the *régime* of party cabinets, are enemies of the present Ministry. Thus the undoubted opposition numbers fully 100 members. On the other side are the great majority of the Counts, Viscounts and Barons, elected by their respective Orders. They regard party cabinets as an unavoidable outcome of Parliamentary institutions, and are disposed to vote with the present Ministry. The members of the *Konwa-kai*, headed by Viscounts Tani and Soga, are also more or less favourable to the Cabinet, and the same may be said of the *Sanyo-kai*, led by Prince Konoye. The supporters of the Cabinet thus muster about 100 strong, that is to say, are numerically equal to its opponents. Everything depends, therefore, on the action of 30 or 40 independents whose political complexion can not be predicted.

A CURIOUS THEORY.

Mr. Shimamura, who has returned from Hawaii, where he held the post of Japanese Representative, is credited with a very singular theory. He thinks it probable that as Asiatic labour is essential for the successful cultivation of sugar, which may almost be called the sole staple product of the islands, the United States Government, will not, after annexation, place any obstacle in the way of Japanese immigration. Nevertheless, annexation will have a very injurious effect on the Japanese labouring in the islands. There are twenty thousand Japanese employed on the sugar plantations, and they send home from five to six hundred thousand *yen* every year. That excellent result is attributed by Mr. Shimamura, not so much to the industry and thrift of the men, as to the severe measures now adopted to check idleness. Those measures will cease to be applicable after the islands have passed under American control, and Mr. Shimamura thinks that the saving will then come to an end.

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POLITICAL NOTES.

Whether the newspapers exaggerated the significance of the action recently taken by the Extraordinary Committee of the Constitutional Party in formulating a number of sweeping reforms for the Cabinet's adoption, or whether the Committee itself finds that to press its views would produce serious consequences, there is now an evident disposition to minimize the importance of its action. Baron Kusumoto, leading member of the Party's General Committee, has given interviews to the representatives of two leading journals within the last two days, and has addressed to each practically the same language, namely, that the programme of reforms suggested by the Extraordinary Committee endorsed by the General Committee, and submitted by him on behalf of the latter to Count Okuma, is not by any means intended as a hard-and fast pronunciamento, whose adoption is essential to the continuance of amicable relations between the Party and the Cabinet. Baron Kusumoto's explanation is marked by a good deal of difficulty. He wants to reconcile two seemingly irreconcilable positions, namely, that while the Committee intends its programme to be something more than a mere suggestion, and while it does not expect its reforms to be pooh-poohed, it has no intention of fighting if they do meet with that fate. In short, the Committee is represented as having jotted down its ideas in a light-hearted sort of way, hoping much that they may be adopted, but by no means irrevocably pledged to push them in the teeth of the Cabinet's opposition. The conclusion at which we arrive, as outsiders, is that a mistake was made. The Extraordinary Committee, though it never really had any intention of presenting an ultimatum to the Cabinet or otherwise embarrassing it, nevertheless went to work with such a needless display of formality and took so little care to keep its opinions private, that it ultimately found itself occupying in public eyes a position which it had never intended to assume. However, the upshot of the matter is that this particular incident is not destined, apparently, to create any serious trouble.

One interesting result of this commotion has been to demonstrate the somewhat brittle character of the tie that holds the Constitutional Party together. It has been noticeable for some time that the *Mainichi Shimbun*, which, as the organ of Mr. Shimada Saburo, ought to be in touch with the present cabinet, and the *Hochi-Shimbun*, which used always to be a staunch supporter of Count Okuma, adopt a decidedly captious tone towards the present Ministry. In fact, if they are genuinely friendly, they manage to conceal the sentiment most successfully. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, however, was believed to be quite staunch in its allegiance until this affair of the Committee occurred. But now we find it insisting that the Committee's proposals must be forced upon the Cabinet, and that the consequence of the latter's refusal to accept them must be the defection of the whole Party. There is, it is true, a saving clause. The *Yomiuri* does not think that the Extraordinary and General Committees have any right to arrogate the position of representing the whole Party. Steps ought to be taken to ascertain the views of all the provincial sections, and a general meeting should then be held to formulate a programme for the Cabinet's compulsory adoption. Evidently if such a course as that advocated by the old Progressist journal were adopted, Cabinet Ministers would be nothing more than subalterns of the political party whose support they enjoy. The thing would be absurd and hopelessly unpractical under ordinary circumstances. But the circumstances are not at all ordinary here. The plain truth is that party politicians are beginning to be terribly distressed for lack of principles, and when any chance of supplying the deficiency comes in sight, they clutch at it with more avidity than judgment. Principles to fight for would come to them like manna in the wilderness of their vacuity.

The abolition of the Metropolitan Police Bureau seems likely to be become the first bone of contention under existing circumstances. Several ardent reformers, notably the *Nippon*, have persuaded themselves that the Board was never intended as an instrument for protecting the citizens of Tokyo, but served wholly, and was always destined to serve, as a species of semi-military bulwark for the Clan Statesmen. Therefore, they maintain that it ought to be swept out of existence, the more so since the special system of municipal government for Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto has been abolished. But Count Itagaki is understood to scoff at the notion of abolishing the Board. He says, indeed, that he is thinking of organizing a replica of the Tokyo Board in Osaka. Here is a pretty definite difference of opinion.

Contemptuous tolerance is the tone now adopted by the *Jiji Shimpo* towards the Cabinet. It declares that it could overthrow the Ministry by a stroke of its pen. But it refrains, because the too sudden discomfiture of the present administrators would be bad for the prospects of party Cabinets in general. None the less the Ministry is doomed: the forces of destruction, generated by itself, are steadily working out its ruin. Such language on the part of the *Jiji* is the more remarkable when we recall that, twice in recent issues, it addressed to the Constitutional Party solemn warnings against the serious results that would be entailed by its disruption, inasmuch as its failure would put back the hands upon the clock of political progress, and create for the advocates of suspending the Constitution precisely the opportunity they are longing to find. If the *Jiji Shimpo* regards that as a catastrophe and desires to avert it, the supercilious character of its present utterances can hardly be called consistent.

Mr. Hoshi Toru's prospect of becoming Minister for Foreign Affairs seem to have disappeared. As long ago as the 30th ultimo, a strong note of disapproval was struck by the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which insisted that if ever Mr. Hoshi was needed at his post, the present is the time of greatest need, and that in quitting Washington merely for the purpose of playing for his own hand in domestic politics, he was sacrificing the interests of the nation to his own personal ambition. The *Shogyo Shimpo*, a non-partizan and thoroughly sober journal, took up the subject a few days later and treated it in exactly the same way, adding a very outspoken censure of Count Okuma for sanctioning Mr. Hoshi's departure from his post, and urging that he should be at once superseded. Finally, the *Jiji Shimpo* endorsed these criticisms in the most emphatic language, and now several vernacular journals assert that, the proposal to appoint Mr. Hoshi having been brought forward at a regular meeting of the Cabinet, was resolutely opposed by Count Okuma, who pointed out that, in order to discharge the duties of Foreign Minister satisfactorily the holder of the portfolio must not only enjoy the confidence of foreign States, but also possess political influence at home, qualifications which Mr. Hoshi can scarcely be said to have.

It is expected that this decision will effectually alienate the sympathies of the Kwanto section of the former Liberal Party, and that its disaffection will be openly announced within a few days. We can not think that such an event would be any loss to the Constitutional Party. Mr. Hoshi Toru is a very able man. He has proved himself to possess qualities that should make his services valuable to any Cabinet. Among his supporters of the Kwanto section, also, there are some members who have earned a good reputation in the Diet. But if the Kwanto section is not bound to the Constitutional Party by any bond stronger than the hope of obtaining a portfolio for Mr. Hoshi Toru, its recession would be a source of strength rather than of weakness.

SILVER YEN.

The silver *yen* may be said to have passed finally out of existence. It ceased to be legal tender nine months ago, and it lost its exchangeable value on the 31st of July, becoming thenceforth mere bullion. The *Nippon* notes that since the coin first came into being in Japan, the aggregate quantity struck was 162,077,072 *yen*, to which must be added trade dollars totalling 3,056,638 *yen*. It is calculated by the Authorities that 26,150,471 *yen* worth of these coins remained unexchanged on July 31st, an amount exceptionally large when judged by the history of similar currency changes in other countries. Where are all these coins? The bullion value of the *yen* to-day is only 87.1 *sen*, so that there is a loss of 12.9 *sen* on every *yen* which its holder failed to present for exchange before July 31st. The generally received supposition is that, during the war with China, large quantities of silver *yen* were sent from Japan to pay the troops and defray expenses incidental to the campaigns in Manchuria, Liaotung, and Shantung. Coins shipped in that way would not have appeared in the customs returns, and, passing into the hands of the Chinese, have probably remained circulating in the Middle Kingdom, their holders totally oblivious of the new currency arrangements in Japan. It is not necessary indeed, to assume the existence of any oblivion, for to be able to convert the coins into gold pieces having no utility in Manchuria and China as tokens of exchange would not have tempted their holders to send them over to this country for such a purpose. But that explanation does not apply to 4 or 5 million *yen* worth supposed to be still held by Japanese in Japan. The loss on 4 millions, at the present rate of exchange, is 516,000 *yen*, and who the careless sufferers are it is difficult to conceive.

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THE PRISON QUESTION.

It is confidently alleged that despite Count Itagaki's very earnest advocacy of prison reform, the preliminary most essential to any success in that direction, the transfer of the communal jails to the control and support of the Central Government, can not be accomplished before the fiscal year 1899-1900. The difficulty is financial. An addition of 3½ million *yen* to the State's annual expenditures is more than the Treasury cares to sanction, considering that the reform is not indispensable. There is, therefore, to be a species of compromise. Count Itagaki is to have his way in Tokyo, immediately, and the rest of the country is to wait until the sun of financial prosperity emerges once more from the clouds. The cost of rebuilding the Tokyo House of Detention and the Ichigaya Prison is estimated at 600,000 *yen*, and it is expected that the site of the present Municipal Police Board will be utilized.

We do not vouch for these details, but they appear credible. If they are correct, the fact is very regrettable, nor can we refrain from saying that it will redound little to the reputation of the first party cabinet to have postponed this most desirable reform. In truth, it is to the opposition of the political parties that we must attribute the long delay which has occurred in improving and unifying the prison system. The *Meiji* Statesmen would have carried out the reform long ago had they succeeded in obtaining the consent of the House of Representatives. So far back as 1892, a Bill for transferring the Prison expenditures from the charges of the communes to those of the State was presented to the Diet, but the Lower House professed to see in it a device to block the pet project of the political parties, namely, reduction of the Land Tax. On the one hand, an addition of 3½ million *yen* to the annual calls upon the Treasury would plainly furnish an argument against the expediency of diminishing any of the taxes, and, on the other, by relieving the burdens of the communes to that extent, the Government would be in a better position to oppose a reduction of the Land Tax. The House, therefore, rejected the measure, and rejected it session after session. Now, again, it is to be rejected by the first party cabinet in order to avoid the alternative of augmenting the Land Tax. We sympathise with Japan's financial difficulties, though we attach little importance to them, but we are bound to say that the representatives of the agricultural interest have constituted a solid obstacle to the progress of reform ever since the first session of the Diet.

It seems pretty certain that Count Itagaki will have to limit his scheme of prison reform to the three principal cities—Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto—and the five Open Ports. This is another of the blessings that Treaty Revision must be credited with conferring on the Japanese people. Were not the operation of the Revised Treaties so close at hand, it is very doubtful whether, under existing financial conditions, the present Cabinet could have been persuaded to devote funds for the purpose of prison reform even on the limited scale described above. However, a bill providing an appropriation sufficient for the three Cities and the five Ports is now said to have been drafted.

The most objectionable features of the communal jails, in Count Itagaki's opinion, are that no arrangements can be made for separating first offenders from hardened criminals. It is not even possible to separate suspects and convicts. The result is that the jails, instead of being houses of correction, become nurseries of crime. No less than 56 per cent. of the prisoners now undergoing punishment are *recidivists*, and out of the 9,900 persons released on the occasion of the late Empress-Dowager's decease, 4,900 have had to be incarcerated again. Another palpable abuse is that the system is calculated to deter competent men from taking service as wardens. The head wardens are wretchedly remunerated, and can never rise any higher in the official scale. The career is such that no able man could think of embracing it.

We may mention in connexion with this that there is talk of foreign legal experts being employed, one in each of the three cities and open ports, to advise the Japanese judges when Consular Jurisdiction is abolished. We regard the rumour as extremely apocryphal, but give it for what it may be worth.

DEATH OF PRINCE BISMARCK.

Karl Otto, Prince von Bismarck-Schönhausen, was born at Schönhausen on April 1st, 1815. After studying at Göttingen, Berlin, and Gerrefswald, he entered the army, and afterwards became a lieutenant of the Landwehr. Turning his attention to politics in 1846, he became a member of the Diet of Saxony. His views from the first were anti-democratic; in one of his speeches he actually argued that all great cities should be swept from the face of the earth, because they were the centres of democracy and constitutionalism! In 1851 he entered the diplomatic service, and was successively minister to Vienna (1852) St. Petersburg (1859), and Paris (1862). Recalled to Prussia in the latter year, he was made Minister of the King's House and of Foreign Affairs. In this position he exercised the power of an autocrat, treating the House of Deputies in the most cavalier manner, and visiting with heavy punishment all who expressed views, in the press or otherwise, hostile to the Government. The opportunity soon came for Bismarck to carry out his pet scheme of making Prussia the head of Germany. Aided by an alliance with Italy, he attacked Austria, and in a campaign of a few weeks' duration Prussia defeated that Power, Bismarck obtaining in recognition of his services the title of Count and a valuable estate in Luxemburg. This was the opening incident in the unification of Germany. Provinces and kingdoms were at once annexed; to their great indignation the free towns received Prussian garrisons; and at the close of the year Bismarck had succeeded in concluding with Bavaria, Baden, and Wurtemberg, which could not be treated so cavalierly as the smaller States and cities, treaties of alliance for offensive and defensive purposes, the King of Prussia having the chief military command assigned to him in case of war.

In 1867 the North German Confederation, comprising 22 States with a population of 29,000,000, had been organised, with the King of Prussia at its head, a Federal Council composed of delegates of the different states, and a Diet or common Parliament elected by universal suffrage. At this time signs began to be forthcoming of approaching trouble with France. The Luxemburg question was the first to be raised. Germany strenuously opposed the proposed cession of the province to France, and eventually the dispute was settled by the Grand Duchy being declared neutral territory, and its fortresses dismantled. Both Powers, as Powers are apt to do when meditating war, expressed the most pacific intentions, but both went on adding to their armaments. The final rupture was brought about, as everyone knows, by the offer of the Spanish Crown to Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern. The French Government naturally took umbrage at this, and demanded explanations from the Berlin Cabinet. Count Bismarck explained that the King of Prussia had given his consent to the Prince's acceptance of the Crown only as head of the Hohenzollern Family, and not as the head of the Government. A few days later the withdrawal of the candidature of the Prince was announced, but despite this France declared war against Prussia. The details of the war need not be recapitulated: Bismarck, after the capitulation of Paris, dictated the terms of peace to the French national assembly setting at Bordeaux, and on January 18th, 1871, he saw King William of Prussia crowned Emperor of Germany in the Palace of Versailles. The same month he was made Chancellor of the German Empire, and two months later received the title of Prince. The later public life of the Prince was more of activity in his own country than of international importance. Early in the seventies he greatly incensed the Roman Catholics by promoting legal measures directed against the freedom of the Church, and resulting in the expulsion of the Jesuits. The Prince presided over the congress of representatives of the Great Powers which sat at Berlin to consider the Eastern question, and recast the Treaty of San Stefano in 1878, and his later foreign policy was to secure the friendship of Austria and prevent Russia from falling into the arms of France. In neither of these respects has the result been ideal; the Franco-Russian alliance is an accomplished fact and Austria is too disunited to be a valuable ally to any one. Bismarck's home politics had chiefly for their aim the defeat of the Social Democrats, and extension of German trade and commerce. He tried his hand at colonising, but with no great success. Since his retirement into private life in 1890 he has been an interested spectator of political affairs, but it must be confessed that the last few years of his life have taken off much of the heroic and revealed the Iron Chancellor as a querulous old gentleman. Bismarck's life was twice attempted, the first time in 1866, and the second in 1874. The culprit on the latter occasion he declared was an agent of the clerical party.

FORMOSA.

A few days ago a cablegram from Formosa said that several hundreds of rebels had made act of submission, and that the complete pacification of the north-eastern portion of the island was considered to have been practically accomplished. That was good news. But unfortunately another telegram comes on its heels, saying that two officials have been assassinated by insurgents, and that another military expedition will soon be sent from Taipeh to break up the truculent bands. The

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two items of news are not necessarily contradictory, for the assassinations took place in the north-westerly part of the island—Shinchiku and its neighbourhood—whereas the process of pacification was going on at Gilan, in the north-east. Still the latest intelligence is decidedly discouraging.

Meanwhile a novel kind of ceremony has been held by the Governor-General in Taipeh. On the 17th of July, his Excellency invited all the old men in the neighbouring districts to a *Kyôrô-kai*, or entertainment for old-age. No less than 314 persons, all over 80 years of age, attended—a fact which speaks remarkably well for the climate of Formosa and the habits of the people. Including the relatives and friends who accompanied the veterans, 700 folks had to be entertained. There were theatricals and music for their amusement, and the Governor-General read an address which appears to have been most happily worded. Refreshments were provided on an ample scale, and there was a distribution of gold-foil fans decorated with the figures of the old man and the old woman of Takasago, silver foil fans inscribed with the ideograph "congratulation," cakes of all sorts and desks of *shitan* wood for folks of 100 years and upwards. The affair is said to have been a brilliant success, causing unbounded satisfaction to all the people.

FORMOSA RAILWAY COMPANY.

It seems that the affairs of the Formosa Railway Company are now in a decidedly parlous state. The company is said to have been relying entirely on the prospect of obtaining a loan of fifteen million *yen* from Messrs. Peacock and Company, and with that end in view has induced the Governor-General of Formosa to grant several postponements of the time originally fixed for commencing operations, the 1st of October being the last date agreed upon. But the negotiations with the English firm are reported to have fallen through, and it is quite hopeless to attempt any sale of the Company's shares or debentures in the open market abroad, for Japanese finance is now regarded with doubtful eyes, and even Government five-per-cent. securities would not be purchased by foreign capitalists at par. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, from which we take these particulars, adds that several locomotives ordered by the Company from Europe arrived recently in Kobe, and that, money to pay the customs dues on them not being forthcoming, an application for grace had to be made to the Department of Finance.

IMPORT OF IRON FROM CHINA.

It is alleged that the Viceroy Chang's iron-smelting works are likely to become a source of supply to Japan. Their yearly output is now said to be 15,000 tons, and the manufacturers claim for the iron a quality quite equal to that of English metal, offering it, however, at cheaper prices than the latter. They see no reason why a market for half of their production should not be found in Japan. We need scarcely say that the prospect provokes some severe criticism from Japanese journalists, who wonder when the long-talked-of iron foundry will be in operation in this country.

TOKYO STREET RAILWAYS.

Apparently there is at length a prospect of street railways being built in Tokyo. There has been no lack of enterprise on the part of the citizens in this matter, but officialdom has always managed to be obstructive. The first tramway was laid in 1883, and proved so successful that the Tram Company, 1893, applied for permission to convert their lines into electric trams. The Authorities hesitated—for what reason we do not know—, and presently another company was formed under the auspices of Mr. Amenomiya. It called itself the *Tokyo Denki-tetsudo Kaisha* (Tokyo Electric Railway Company), and its promoters worked hard to obtain a charter, being well persuaded that the enterprise would be very lucrative. Other capitalists, however, entertained the same view, and a third company was organized by Mr. Fukuzawa Sutejiro. It called itself the *Tokyo Densha Kaisha* (Tokyo Electric-car Company), and it seems to have convinced the officials that it had as good a claim as either of the rival associations. One of the chief causes of delay at that time appears to have been uncertainty on the party of the Authorities as to whether this enterprise ought not to be made a State, or at any rate, a municipal affair, instead of being abandoned to private speculators. While the question still hung in abeyance, the war with China broke out, and was followed, as our readers know, by a perfect fever of speculation. No less that sixty-four companies were organized for the purpose of constructing street railways, some being for electric lines, some for electric hawser-cars, some for underground roads, some for overhead railways, some for atmospheric cars, and so forth and so on. The excitement and competition reached their height while Count Kabayama was Minister of State for Home Affairs, it being understood that he was in favour of leaving the work to private enterprise. Much perplexed to choose between the innumerable schemes put forward, the Authorities appear to have adopted the plan of deciding what they wouldn't have rather than what they would have. Thus they eliminated electric-hawser cars, electric railways, gas engines, kerosene engines, and overhead lines, and they also made up their minds not to sanction any extension of the horse-trams. But before this process of elimination had been completed, the speculative fever began to cool and money grew scarce, so that, in the end, there remained in the field only two companies, the *Tokyo Denki Tetsudo Kaisha*, of Mr. Amenomiya, and the *Densha Tetsudo Kaisha*, of Mr. Fukuzawa. These two now joined forces and made a joint application for permission to lay a line worked by electricity on the reservoir principle—so, at least, we understand the term *chikudenchi shiki*,—and there was every indication that they would succeed in obtaining a charter. In the meanwhile, however, the Tokyo City Assembly had begun to think that the business was too good to be left to private individuals. A committee of 15 was appointed to investigate the matter, and the majority decided that the work should be taken up by the Municipality. A report in that sense has been prepared and will be submitted to the assembly when it next meets. There is little doubt that the committee's recommendation will be endorsed, and that an atmospheric railway (*kuki-assa-tetsudo*) will be the scheme adopted, as it is considered much safer than an electric line, and can be built for 4½ million *yen*, or 3 millions less than the electric railway would cost.

The story has a close resemblance to that of the waterworks. In 1887 a private company, promoted by Messrs. Shibusawa Eiichi and Masuda Ko applied for permission to construct waterworks in Tokyo. They asked for a moderate Government guarantee, they proposed a rigid system of official supervision, they formulated a moderate scale of charges, they undertook to hand over the waterworks and all the plant in good order to the Municipality gratis at the end of thirty years, and they engaged to finish the work in six years. Had the Government consented, Tokyo would have had a fine supply of water five years ago, and the city would now be within twenty years of coming into possession of a valuable property without paying anything for it. But the Government considered that such a work ought to be done by the Municipality *ab initio*. The Municipality did undertake it at last, and we know the result. Tokyo will have to remain two years longer without waterworks, and in the meanwhile the streets in some section or other of the city are always impassable. The Government may, have been right in principle, but the Tokyo Municipality has displayed remarkable incompetence from a business point of view. The progress of the waterworks is ludicrously slow, and foreign observers are forced to conclude that if the method of conducting the work supplies any test of the ability of Japanese engineers, there is a very wide margin for improvement. Will the electric railways be another example of perfunctoriness and inertia?

TELEPHONE EXPANSION.

Telephonic communication between Tokyo and Osaka is said to be on the verge of establishment. The interval was divided into three sections, the work on which was assigned to the experts of Tokyo, of Nagoya, and of Osaka respectively. The Tokyo section—from Tokyo to Hamamatsu—is said to have been already finished; the Nagoya section is on the verge of completion, and the Osaka section will be ready by the middle of this month. It is expected, therefore, that the through service will be commenced from Sept. 1st. In connexion with this, it may be mentioned that the subscribers to the telephone exchange in Tokyo now aggregate 3,800, and that arrangements are in progress to enable an additional 1,500 to subscribe. The number seems very small, but the blame for that rests, we believe, not with the citizens of Tokyo, but with the Authorities. During the past three or four years the demand for telephone accommodation has so far exceed the capabilities of the Authorities to keep pace with it that persons who had subscribed in the early days and obtained installations in their houses, were offered considerable sums to surrender their places on the list to other people. Measures to afford additional accommodation for 1,500 subscribers in the course of a twelve-month are spoken of as a noteworthy effort, but it is hard to sympathise with such an estimate where a city of 1½ million inhabitants is concerned.

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MARQUIS ITO AND CHINA.

Marquis Ito says that in visiting China he is keeping a promise made some time ago to Marquis Li. After the Shimonoseki conference in 1895, the Viceroy asked the Japanese Premier to come to China, and he replied that he should do so as soon as he found himself out of office. The time has now come. With regard to his reason for taking Korea *en route*, the Marquis says that although he has paid several visits to the Occident, he has never had an opportunity of personally inspecting the conditions of the Orient. His only visit to China—in the spring of 1885, when the Tientsin Convention was concluded—was made for official purposes, and he had no leisure to look beyond the conference chamber. He will now endeavour to make good the deficiency. It is not his intention to thrust any views of his own either upon the King of Korea or upon the Chinese statesmen. If they address any questions to him, he will speak his mind frankly, but he does not go upon a mission of any kind.

At Kyoto the Marquis has had an opportunity of conversing with Mr. Yano, the Japanese Representative in Peking. Mr. Yano denies that Li Hung-chang has lost his influence. He is as powerful as ever. But the dead mass of Chinese conservatism refuses to take any visible impression from the impact of agencies which would make themselves felt elsewhere. At the same time, Mr. Yano is convinced that China's sentiments towards Japan have undergone a very marked change. She no longer regards this country as a renegade upstart, but has begun to think seriously that the progressive route chosen by Japan is the only course to safety for an Oriental country. The Emperor, according to Mr. Yano's estimate, is an able and patriotic man. He and the Empress Dowager have now definitely embraced liberal views. They read the newspapers; lose no opportunity of conversing with men of progressive views; are steadily, and with all prudent celerity, issuing proclamations and inaugurating measures to bring about a new era; have decided that Japan is the best and most convenient model to take, and are about to enlist the services of Japanese experts for re-organizing the army, the navy, and the police.

All this must be highly satisfactory to Count Okuma. When Count Okuma accepted the portfolio of Foreign Affairs in the Matsukata Cabinet of 1896, he had formed, and immediately began to put into practice, a most definite policy with regard to China. His views, at that comparatively early period, had assumed precisely the complexion of Lord Salisbury's views at present. He saw that the only chance of preserving China's independence was to induce her to adopt a progressive policy, and he believed that no people were better qualified than the Japanese to assist her towards that goal, inasmuch as not only were they bound to her by ties of history, of neighbourhood, of consanguinity, and of common Oriental interest, but also they had themselves recently trodden the difficult path of the new civilization, and were therefore specially qualified to help another nation over its obstacles. Count Okuma held these opinions very earnestly, and was most anxious that China should be induced to regard Japan in the light of a friend genuinely anxious for her welfare. If was on those lines that Mr. Yano's instructions were modelled, and no one could have been more likely to work in consonance with Count Okuma, for Mr. Yano had always been a staunch political partizan and private friend of the Count's. It is an interesting coincidence that Count Okuma, on resuming the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, should find not only that the course of events has fully vindicated the wisdom of his policy, but also that his views, under the able exposition of Mr. Yano, have already borne good fruit. Mr. Yano has undoubtedly made a great success in Peking and, although he deserves promotion, it is to be hoped that he will resume in China the duties he has hitherto so well discharged. No diplomatic post outside Japan is of such great importance at present as the Peking Legation.

JAPANESE JUDGES.

The extensive sifting of the judicial sheep from the judicial goats that was effected by the late Minister of Justice, Mr. Sone, is said to have been insufficient, and there is an expectation that the present Minister, Mr. Ohigashi, who is about to make a tour of inspection of all the provincial courts, will contrive another weeding out after his return to Tokyo. The judges who were induced to retire at the instance of the last Minister are supposed to have been too old-fashioned or too ill-instructed to administer the new Codes, but one wonders how the Judges themselves were induced to take that view of their capacities, and what means Mr. Ohigashi will adopt to effect the further clearing that he is said to contemplate. The Minister of Justice has no competence to remove Judges. Unless they resign of their own accord, or are pronounced unfit for the discharge of their duties by a council of their own colleagues, they hold their office for life. Japanese Judges, however, appear to be remarkably amenable to persuasion. Indeed, there is this idiosyncracy about a Japanese official that, if competent experts pronounce him unfit for his post, he resigns quietly and uncomplainingly in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred.

It is nevertheless alleged that great discontent exists in judicial ranks. Mr. Sone's drastic measure is not condemned on its merits, but there is a strong objection to the procedure adopted by him. When he sought the Emperor's permission to accept the resignations of the Judges, the fate of the Ito Cabinet was already sealed, and the fact that its tenure of power had virtually terminated was well known. The Judges, it is said, think that, under such circumstances, the consummation of the measure should have been deferred until the next Cabinet had assumed the direction of affairs. They are especially discontented about the men that have been appointed to the Judiciary in lieu of those removed. The new nominees, they assert, have no qualifications except their political connexions. These facts are published by the *Fiji Shimpo* and may therefore be considered credible, we presume.

PRICES.

There is a distinctly marked tendency to a decline in the prices of commodities. The Bank of Japan has conducted investigations in the case of forty staples, with the result that, taking 100 as the average figure in 1887, the figures for July and June of the current year and for June, 1897, stand thus:

	July, 1898.	June, 1898.	June, 1897.
Average price of 40 staples.....	168	174	159

Out of the 40 articles, 14 showed no change in July as compared with the preceding month, and 4 showed an appreciation. Those that remained stationary were, ginned cotton, floss silk, firewood, bran, cut tobacco, tea, bean-sauce, oil, nails (imported), leather, lining stuffs (silk), silk, glass (panes) and hemp. The four articles that showed an increase were sugar, eggs, white cotton cloth, and lacquer (juice). Taking the average of the first six months of the current year as 100, the figure for July was 96.36.

The history of the gradual appreciation of commodities during the past twelve years—commencing with 1887, the year when the normal state of affairs was first disturbed, and taking the average of the same 40 staples throughout—is shown by the following figures:

1887	103
1888	107
1889	112
1890	117
1891	109
1892	115
1893	117
1894	126
1895	135
1896	145
1897	161
" January	170
" February	173
" March	176
" April	179
" May	177
" June	174
" July	168

It thus appears that the maximum was reached in April of the current year, since which month there has been a steady decline. Rice, we should explain, is not included in the table. Rice is behaving somewhat strangely at present. It recently declined in price, apparently because harvest prospects were regarded as exceptionally fine, but it has again gone up, though there is nothing in the weather to damp previous hopes.

HYOGO WAREHOUSE TROUBLE.

There appears to be no prospect whatever of an amicable settlement of the Hyogo warehouse complication. The creditors are said to be very willing to compromise the matter if the defaulting merchants show any genuine desire to redress the wrongs they have committed. But neither the actual perpetrators of the frauds, nor yet the directors of the Warehouse Company, seem to be inspired by any earnest wish of the kind. The directors are shilly-shallying, and the principal defaulter, Mr. Yonezawa, has retired to Harima, leaving his clerk and employés to bear the brunt of the fight. Several suits at law have, therefore, been instituted, and it is thought that a criminal prosecution may yet be undertaken.

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PRESENTATIONS TO DR. MAC DONALD.

Among the passengers for Canada by the steamer *Empress of Japan* on the 30th instant were Dr. D. Macdonald, Mrs. Macdonald, and Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Macdonald's sister. Dr. Macdonald is returning home for a brief spell of well-earned rest. We understand that he has resigned his position in the mission to which he belonged, and that when he returns to Tokyo, which will probably be next spring, he will be entirely free to practise his medical profession. Dr. Macdonald has obtained the highest kind of popularity in Tokyo during his many years of residence there, not merely for the sake of his skill and self-denying benevolence as a physician, but also because of a manner of life more eloquent than any direct propagandism of the cause he has at heart. When the news of his intended visit to Canada became known a desire was expressed in many quarters to prepare some slight testimonial of the feelings entertained by the community towards him. Subscriptions were according invited for that purpose, and it was finally decided that the testimonial should take the form of a purse. On the evening of the 27th ultimo, the Committee appointed to make the presentation assembled at the house of a friend in Tsukiji, and Sir Ernest Satow, H.B.M.'s Representative in Tokyo, handed to Dr. Macdonald an envelope containing a cheque for 1,466 *yen*. (We publish elsewhere a list of the subscribers).

Sir Ernest Satow, in making the presentation, said that he might confidently claim to be echoing the sentiments of the British community of Tokyo when he expressed high admiration of Dr. Macdonald's professional career and sincere esteem for him as a man. At all times and in all places the Doctor had been found where duty called him, and his services had been rendered in a manner which, while proving his professional skill, endeared him to all that came in contact with him. The community could not part with him even for a brief interval without a sense that they were about to suffer a serious loss, but, on the other hand, they felt that he had well earned the rest he was now about to enjoy, and they hoped soon to see him once more at his post in their midst. They trusted that Dr. Macdonald would accept, as a very slight recognition of their esteem and his sterling worth, the testimonial which they had met this evening to present to him.

Dr. Macdonald, who was evidently much moved, replied that he could not convey in words any adequate idea of his gratitude for undeserved kindness. His life in Tokyo had been made pleasant by the genial friendliness of the community, and his discharge of his professional duties had been rendered very easy by the confidence and consideration he found on all sides. He had always deprecated the idea of any monetary testimonial, especially in these hard times, and since his services had already been sufficiently remunerated. But it was too late to urge any objections of that kind now, and he accepted with infinite pleasure and thankfulness this renewed token of the community's kindness.

After the presentation, refreshments were served, and then the whole party which included Mrs. Macdonald, Mrs. Perry, and some other ladies, joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne."

On Wednesday, 27th instant, a number of the Tokyo Masons assembled at the Lodge in Tsukiji for the purpose of presenting a Jewel to Worshipful Brother Dr. D. Macdonald, who was about to proceed to Canada on leave. Dr. Macdonald has been one of the most zealous, popular, and highly esteemed members of the Lodge, and the Brethren unanimously decided to mark their sentiments towards him by the presentation of a Jewel. The Worshipful Master, Mr. E. L. James, made the presentation, and said:—

BRETHREN—The purpose for which we have met this morning is, I am sure, a source of heartfelt pleasure not only to each of us now present, but also to every member of the Tokyo Lodge. It is to show our esteem and affection for our Worshipful Brother Dr. Macdonald and to mark our sense of his devotion to the Craft, his faithful and able discharge of his duties as Master of the Lodge, and his sterling qualities as a man and a Mason, by asking him to accept from us a Past Master's Jewel. Speaking in the voice of the Lodge, I will now read a short Address which has been prepared in his honour:—

WOR. SIR & BROTHER,—On this the occasion of your bidding farewell to Japan for a season, to revisit your native land, the brethren of the Tokyo Lodge, with whom you have been so intimately and pleasantly associated for some years past, deem it a pleasing and fitting opportunity to ask you to carry away a small masonic emblem as an expression of their high appreciation of the efficient and dignified manner in which the duties of the chair have been discharged during your years of office just closed, and likewise as a slight recognition of the value your bright example and sterling qualities as a man and Mason have been to the cause of the missionary in demonstrating all those true and admirable tenets of the Craft—charity, self-denial, and brotherly love—in your daily walk in life.

With this object and in this fraternal spirit the brethren, Worshipful Sir, have invited you here to-day, deputing me to ask you to receive from them a I. P. M. jewel, and I am but giving utterance to the genuine sentiments of every member of the Lodge in saying that a similar decoration has never adorned a worthier brother nor one more loyal to the Craft or held in higher esteem by his fellowers.

WOR. SIR,—I assure you we are all one at heart in wishing you a very happy holiday, also that you may realize loving reunion with your kindred and friends in the Home land, and that in due time you may return to us again for long years of useful service with robust health of body and mind and conscious always of the approval of the Great Architect of the Universe whilst you carry on with your characteristic benevolence of heart His Great Mission to suffering Humanity in that self-denial calling of your choice.

In these expressions we are mindful not to forget the tender partner of your life work, for whom as a true Mason's wife, nothing we can say would adequately convey our regard and esteem.

Dr. Macdonald replied in brief but fervent terms, expressing his keen appreciation of the kindness shown towards him by the Brethren and the honour they had conferred on him, and assuring them that any success achieved by him in the discharge of his duties had been due, not to merit on his own part, but to their loyal and able cöoperation. Letters having been read from many absent members expressing regret for their inability to attend and hearty sympathy with the presentation, the Brethren adjourned to the Hotel Metropole for luncheon.

We learn from a gentleman who has just returned from Guam, that on Saturday, July 10th, four American transports passed Guam bound to Manila. One, probably the *China*, entered the harbour of St. Louis de Apra, but did not anchor, her intention being merely to ascertain if any vessels were there. She and her companions then left, steering to the westward.

M. BOISSONADE.

The difference between M. Boissonade and some of the local foreign journalists who "champion" the interests of their nationals in Japan is well illustrated by the *Kobe Chronicle's* comments on that gentleman's letter, recently published in these columns. The *Kobe Chronicle* claims that "this great reform (the abolition of torture) was due to the action taken by M. Boissonade." M. Boissonade says:—"It is my duty to attribute the greater part of this just and humane step to the late very much regretted Messrs. Mutsu and Inouye Ki and to the much respected Count Oki."

We should not have thought of re-opening this question had not the *Kobe Chronicle* taken M. Boissonade's letter as the text of an attempt to prove that we have been wrong about the main issue. M. Boissonade writes:—"I quite agree with you as to the inaccuracy of the passages you quote from M. Chamberlain's *Things Japanese* regarding the abolition of torture in Japan." That is enough for us. M. Boissonade is the judge in this matter. His verdict is final. Since, however, even his verdict is perverted by the *Kobe Chronicle* to its own purposes, we shall add a word here. M. Boissonade, as we have shown, "attributes the greater part of this just and humane step" to three Japanese officials, whereas the story told in *Things Japanese* and endorsed even now by the *Kobe Chronicle* is that the step was "entirely due to the personal initiative of M. Boissonade de Fontarabie," and that his "firm stand brought the immediate disuse of a practice so shocking to humanity." Being familiar with the *Kobe Chronicle's* adroit habit of evading the responsibility of its contentions by escaping through some side door, we shall deal with the question of "initiative," for our contemporary is quite capable of making the whole issue turn upon that point. M. Boissonade's words are:—"The said scene"—*i.e.* the scene alleged to have induced him to interfere vigorously in the cause of the abolition of torture—"took place on the 15th of April, 1875, and my first memorandum to the Minister of Justice for the abolition was on the following day." Observe that. M. Boissonade's "first memorandum" was penned on April 16th, 1875. Now on August 25th, 1874, that is to say, nearly eight months before the date of M. Boissonade's first memorandum, the following Notification was issued by the Department of Justice and translated in the columns of the *Japan Weekly Mail* of August 29th, 1874:—

NOTIFICATION NO. 19 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

From ancient times it has been the practice to use torture in investigating criminal cases. But it would be an outrage if an innocent person should be made to appear guilty owing to the use of undue severity. Therefore recourse to torture shall in future be discontinued.

Provided that, in cases where the process of examination might otherwise present difficulties, torture may be employed for the occasion, but should such necessity occur, the circumstances must be noted, and a report of all instances of the kind must be made to the Department of Justice at the end of each month.

(Dated) August 25th, 1874.

Thus the question of "initiative" is effectually disposed of. The general use of torture in criminal investigations was publicly interdicted eight months before M. Boissonade, according to his own

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showing, took any action whatever in the matter.

One word remains to be added. The main object of the *Kobe Chronicle's* most disingenuous writing—we purposely avoid any stronger term—is to convict the *Japan Mail* of an effort to belittle the debt that Japan owes to her foreign employés, and to deprive them of the credit justly belonging to them. We have not the slightest intention of attempting to refute such a contemptible charge. Readers of the *Japan Mail* will be amused by it. But if the *Kobe Chronicle* has any desire to be just, or any genuine solicitude for the interest of Japan's foreign *employés*, we recommend it to publish M. Boissonade's letter in full. M. Boissonade is one of Japan's real benefactors, and his memory will be handed down with honour and affection through many generations of Japanese. The fine instincts that he obeys when relating his share in such incidents as the abolition of torture, are infinitely better calculated to earn credit and respect for this country's foreign *employés* and for foreigners in general, than the very paltry methods of the *Kobe Chronicle*.

POSTAL COMPLICATIONS.

Quite a little storm has been caused by an attempt on the part of the Government to obtain funds for improving the provincial postal service. The amount required in 300,000 *yen*, and it was calculated that one half of the sum might be procured by lowering from 5 per cent to 3½ per cent. the commission allowed to sellers of post-card. But when the Government's resolve in that sense was announced, it at once provoked acute opposition. Many of the wholesale dealers in such articles—the men who purchase them in large quantities from the Government, paying ready money down—claim that they would actually suffer a heavy loss if they continued the business on the new terms, and there can be no doubt that if the authorities insist, considerable inconvenience would be caused to the public. Five per cent. seems a very moderate commission when we remember the rate of interest now commanded by money in Japan. A considerable interval must elapse before the wholesale dealers receive the sums paid by them on receipt of the cards from the Government, and, inasmuch as they have to divide the profit with the retail dealers, their own share must be very paltry. It is alleged that the average retail-dealer sells about 15 *yen* worth of cards monthly, and that his present profit on the transaction is only 31 *sen*, which does not nearly compensate him for his trouble.

COTTON SPINNERS.

Thirty cotton-spinning companies of the Keiban districts sent representatives to Sakai on the 30th ultimo, for the purpose of holding a conference to determine what steps should be taken to relieve the present depressed condition of the industry. They came to the conclusion that the amount of production must be diminished, but they could not agree about the method of diminution, some being in favour of stopping night work at the mills, and some advocating an increase of the number of holidays. A committee was finally appointed, with instructions to investigate the subject, and present a report in two weeks.

THE RECENT DISASTER IN THE HARBOUR.

It will be observed from our report of the inquest on the body of Miss Simons that the chief responsibility for the lamentable accident is thrown upon the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. We can not appreciate the justice of such a finding. The facts of the case are now pretty clearly known. It appears that the cargo-boat, having been towed by a steam-tug to the entrance of the harbour and there cast off, hoisted small sail and proceeded on her way to Kanagawa. When the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's launch was approaching the bow of the *Victoria*, those in charge of the launch noticed the cargo-boat, and saw that she was sailing on a beam wind, the breeze being from the south. They judged from this that she intended keeping on a course that ought to have taken her across the bows of the *Victoria*. Hence, when the launch was steered along the side of the *Victoria*, and when her whistle was blown before rounding the latter's stern, the officer in command of the launch and the steersman seem to have entertained no doubt whatever that they were leaving the cargo-boat behind them, and that she would be crossing in front of the *Victoria* as they emerged at the stern of that vessel. Their calculation would certainly have been correct had the cargo-boat held on the course she was observed to take, but for some unexplained reason she appears to have changed her direction so as to pass under the stern of the *Victoria*. Even under these unexpected circumstances a catastrophe was not inevitable. Indeed, it would seem that the collision would not have occurred had not the cargo-boat made a third change of course after sighting the launch. There was nothing in the state of the sea or the position of the ships in harbour to embarrass the cargo-boat or limit her choice of a course, and if it be held that the launch was steered too close to the *Victoria*, the same must be said of the cargo-boat, for, if one was in a wrong place, so was the other. Had the launch been in charge of inexperienced or incompetent men there might be grounds for assuming that the fault lay with her. But we have ascertained that her steersman is one of the most experienced harbour navigators in Yokohama. He has been in the employment of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for two years, and before his engagement by the Company had served Messrs. Martin and Company, the well-known firm of Stevedores, for fourteen years, during the whole of which time his duties were to navigate launches and tugs up and down the Bay and in the harbour. We are informed that he had been selected by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company on account of his excellent record, and that he had always been an entirely sober, trustworthy man. There was also a competent foreigner, Mr. Pope, in command of the launch, and two men were stationed on the look-out, one in the bows, the other at the stern. In short, the arrangements seem to have been above criticism, and certainly the Company can not be accused of understaffing its launch. The facts are difficult to reconcile with the finding at the inquest.

MORE INSUBORDINATION ON THE PART OF STUDENTS.

The Ordinary Middle School in Oita Prefecture has been the scene of a serious display of insubordination by the students—another of the displays that reflect so much discredit on the educational system of Japan. As usual the trouble had its origin in an objection on the part of the students to one of those placed in authority over them, this time the Principal himself, Mr. Takeda Yasunosuke. The nature of the objection is not stated: it seems to have been of a general character. On the 9th of last month, matters culminated in a strike. The whole of the 4th and 5th year students, together with a portion of the 3rd year lads, absented themselves from their class-rooms, and attempted to secure the cöoperation of the remaining students by threatening severance of intercourse and even personal violence. Things continued thus until the afternoon of the 16th, when a party of five-and-thirty of the malcontents proceeded to the school, and, laying hands on a student who appears to have taken the lead in discountenancing their methods, beat him severely. The police had been observing the attitude of the students for some days, and a party of constables were actually on their way to the school at the time of the above occurrence when an appeal for help reached the station from the principal. They found the riotous students armed with sticks and bamboo poles, making a decidedly forceful demonstration. Seventeen were arrested and the others were handed over to their parents and sureties, but it seems that the truculent lads escaped with a reprimand. The boy who was beaten did not wish to proceed against them, some interchange of apologies and explanations having taken place. Meanwhile we find no intelligence as to the settlement of the question between the principal and the recalcitrant students, who are said to have numbered 210.

It appears to us that there is only one explanation of these frequent cases of insubordination at schools in Japan. Japanese students have no natural antipathy to discipline. Their old-time principle that a learner must not tread within three feet of his teacher's shadow, is operative still, though not, perhaps, so actively at it used to be. The experience of foreigners who have taught in Japanese schools is, we think, tolerably uniform. They have found the lads quiet, attentive, anxious to learn and, on the whole, less disposed than English boys to set authority at naught. If that statement be correct, and we believe that it will be generally endorsed, the unavoidable conclusion is that the fault lies with the teachers. How, indeed, can it be otherwise! The miserable emoluments of teachers and instructors in Japanese schools render it altogether hopeless to expect that good men will choose such a career. None but mediocrities turn to school-teaching. It is regarded as a veritable last resort for men whose abilities and attainments give no promise of success in other professions. No wonder that the students quickly discover and rebel against the incompetence of their teachers. Their own careers are in question. What surprises us is that the object lesson inculcated by these often-repeated experiences of students' revolts is not appreciated by Japanese publicists. Of course the

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natural impulse is to condemn the student. To foreign onlookers especially there is something so intolerable in the notion of school-boys arrogating to themselves any voice in the management of the school or the choice of instructors, that an outcry is immediately raised against the presumption and truculence of the student. Well, insubordination in every form is ugly. Nihilism is very ugly in Russia, and so is Social Democracy in Germany, but no thinking man can persuade himself that the Nihilists and Social Democrats are solely responsible for their rebellious tendencies. Neither is the Japanese student solely responsible for his. On the contrary, the chief responsibility, we believe, is to be sought in the incompetence of his teachers. They do not deserve respect and therefore can not command it. But the public and the educational authorities remain practically insensible to this state of affairs, and in the meanwhile the student earns an undeserved reputation for want of moral balance—a reputation that reflects injuriously on the whole Japanese nation.

BLOCK IN DELIVERIES OF IMPORTS.

Vernacular newspapers say that the quantity of imports now lying in Yokohama awaiting delivery to the Japanese on whose account they were imported represents a sum of twenty million *yen*, and that the delay in taking delivery threatens to ruin some of the foreign importers. Appealed to by the Foreign Chamber of Commerce in Yokohama, the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce asked for time to investigate the matter before giving a reply, and the result of the investigation is said to be a conclusion that while the responsibility rests chiefly with the Japanese, the foreigners also are more or less to blame. The latter verdict seems to be based upon an idea that some of the foreign importers behaved with dilatoriness after receiving the orders, and ultimately "rushed" them through with undue haste so as to anticipate the operation of the new Tariff. The value of that argument is not quite apparent, but we give it for what it may be worth. At all events, the Tokyo Chamber has decided, it is alleged, that the best exit from the deadlock will be to get a trustworthy Japanese bank—presumably the Specie Bank—to guarantee the ultimate taking over of the goods on condition that an interval of from six months to a year be allowed.

THE BARLEY CROP.

The barley crop this season, having now been harvested, is declared to be an exceptionally good yield. The figure is 19,599,842 *koku*, being 7.19 per cent., better than last year's crop, and 9.2 per cent. better than an average crop. The following figures are given for the past decade :—

	Koku.
1889	15 316,897
1890	16,712.965
1891	18,078.373
1892	15 941,276
1893	16,625 229
1894	19 809 915
1895	19 526 123
1896	17,325.317
1897	18,192.051
1898	19,599 842

TEA-PREPARING MACHINE.

Vernacular newspapers report an invention likely to be of considerable interest to persons engaged in the tea trade. It is a machine which takes the newly plucked leaf and performs all the necessary operations preliminary to packing—rolling, roasting and "polishing," the last being a process which we do not clearly understand, unless it be an alternative term for "facing." The machine is supposed to manufacture 200 *kwan* (1,666lbs.) of tea in 24 hours, and it requires only one man to tend it and a boy to oil it. The saving of labour claimed for it is 66 per cent., but that seems a moderate estimate if it accomplishes the work attributed to it, for certainly three men and three boys could scarcely manipulate 1,669lbs. of tea in 24 hours. The inventor of the machine is said to be Mr. Mochizuki Hatsutaro, of Shizuoka. His biographer seems to have been reading the stories of Palissy and Cellini, so curious is the resemblance between Mochizuki's career, as narrated by Japanese newspapers, and that of those celebrated mediæval artists. For fifteen years he toiled to work out his idea, spending all his substance on the attempt, and breaking up the woodwork of his house to obtain timber for his experiments, just as Palissy burned his furniture in the enameller's kiln. Finally, having been reduced to the condition which the Japanese describe as *kirei-ni bimbo*, or "beautifully indigent," he was assisted by Mr. Ito Koyemon, a tea-manufacturer of Ise, who supplied funds for the construction of a timber machine. This attempt ended again in failure, wood proving unsuitable for the purpose, and the object might never have been attained had not another and more competent capitalist, Mr. Yamaguchi Tetsunosuke, come to the rescue. Thirteen hundred *yen* were now expended in getting an iron machine made at the Tanaka Foundry. It has been tested by the *Dōshō-shæ*, with the results described above, and the issue of a patent is now expected.

A NEW TAX.

It is stated that one of the new taxes talked of as a means of augmenting the revenue is a tax upon silk garments. The talk is vague, and the amount estimated as the proceeds of the tax is not mentioned, but the idea is very strongly opposed by some journalists, especially the *Shogyo Shimpo*. They say that the project is very old-fashioned; that it has been discussed again and again, and that no financiers ever found any tangible reason to have recourse to it. The *Shogyo* does not think that the tax would bring a revenue of more that from one to two million *yen*, and is sure that the trouble of collecting it, and the annoyance caused, would be immense.

THE MITSUI GINKO.

With this issue we publish the half-yearly balance-sheet of the Mitsui Ginko. The figures speak for themselves, showing that they do a steady increase of business in all departments. The capital is *yen* 2,000 000, and the reserve funds now amount to *yen* 2,944,234 482. Towards this sum 360,000 was added this half-year. The profits for the period were *yen* 438,156.453, from which a dividend of *yen* 280,000 was declared.

TERRIBLE AFFAIR IN YOKOHAMA HARBOUR.

ONE LADY KILLED AND ANOTHER INJURED.

An extremely lamentable affair occurred in Yokohama harbour about 12.30 on Friday, involving the death of one lady and serious injury and mutilation to a second. The launch of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company—the *Spindrift*—had taken passengers on board the *Empress of Japan*, and, with a party of ladies and others who had come to say good bye, was making its way to the side of one of the company's lighters where the launches sometimes pause to enable friends to give a last wave of the handkerchief to those on board the big liners as they leave the harbour. The launch, before rounding the bow of the *Victoria*, which lay in her course, blew her whistle to warn any craft that might be coming up on the other side. Unfortunately this signal was either unheard or disregarded by a large Japanese sailing junk which was under tolerably fast way, and before anything could be done on the part of the launch to avoid it, a collision took place, the bow of the junk crashing into the other craft on her starboard side. A number of ladies were standing on the deck of the launch, and one of these, Miss M. E. Simons, of the Methodist Episcopal Mission, No. 221 Bluff, was struck in the chest by the junk's bow with terrible force, and rendered insensible on the spot. Another lady, Miss Belle J. Allen, of 13 Tsukiji, Tokyo, received shocking injuries, one ear being almost completely torn from her head. Dr. Louis Ottofy, of Vivanti Buildings, Main street, a dentist who has newly arrived in Japan, happened to be on board at the time, and, possessing some knowledge of what to do in such cases, at once endeavoured to restore respiration by artificial means, in the hope that the effect of the blow had not been so serious as it proved. The efforts, however, were unsuccessful, and when the terrible wound had been revealed it was at once evident that the case was hopeless. In fact, if death was not instantaneous it must have followed a very few minutes after the infliction of the shock. The launch was at once directed to the Hatoba, Dr. Eldridge was sent for, and was quickly on the scene. Both ladies were taken to his house, but it was at once apparent that Miss Simons was beyond all medical skill, and her body was afterwards conveyed to 221 Bluff. Miss Allen received treatment at the doctor's, and she is progressing favourably. The ladies had been to bid farewell missionary friends who were going to America, and the tragic affair will be as great a shock to these latter as it will prove to their many acquaintance in Yokohama and Tokyo. Both had been in Japan for several years, and the deceased was shortly expecting a visit home on furlough.

A TRIBUTE.

Both young ladies were Ohio girls; were educated at the same State university—the Wesleyan, at Delaware; and had been, since their college days, the most devoted of friends. Miss Allen was instrumental in Miss Simons' conversion and probably led her to the Mission field, where she came in 1889 then a girl of only 24. Yesterday Miss Allen, true as she had always been, attempted to save her loyal co-worker, otherwise, it is believed, she would have entirely escaped. After leaving school Miss Simons taught art for a while, a work for which she was eminently well fitted and when she came to Japan, it was to take the position of art instructer in the Nagasaki girls' school. Here she remained about four years, till 1892, when she was transferred to Yokohama and put in charge of the day school work of the mission, in which work she continued until the present year, making her home at 221 Bluff. The handsome buildings at this place were of her own design. To say that she was one of the most conscientious missionaries in the field does not half express her fidelity to the work; and to her personal friends she was just as loyal.

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PRINCE BISMARCK.

WITH the dying century the men that have made it the most memorable in the history of the world are taking final leave of the scene where they played such a mighty part. Not many weeks ago the news of Mr. GLADSTONE'S decease reached us; to-day the telegraph tells of Prince BISMARCK'S death. There have been few greater figures in European annals than these two men, though their fame rests on very different bases. BISMARCK was born less than three months before the battle of Waterloo and the restoration of the French monarchy, which it was his destiny afterwards to strike permanently in the dust. While he was still a baby in arms France passed through the terrible ordeal of the NAPOLEONIC collapse, when the soldiery of eleven nationalities invaded her territories, when eleven hundred thousand armed men ground her under their heel, and when, in addition to the enormous indirect losses entailed by the tide of invasion, she had to pay an indemnity of sixty million sterling. Before BISMARCK was four years old, this indomitable nation had risen from the ashes of its humiliation and stood once again in the front rank of great Powers. There is nothing more wonderful than the recuperative energy of France. An unparalelled display of that extraordinary capacity was the first object-lesson that the Prussian lad studied, and the teaching was not forgotten in later years. His boyhood and youth were passed among influences that might have made of him a GLADSTONE rather than a BISMARCK. For while he could not but share the sentiment of profound satisfaction with which their deliverance from French tyranny animated the German people, it rested with his own disposition to determine whether he should sympathise with the revolutionary movement that overthrew the Bourbons and established the right of free speech and personal liberty in France, or with the stern conservatism of the METTERNICH *régime*, when political association and political speech were interdicted, when the press was sternly muzzled, and when the idea of making the people contented by granting their reasonable demands never presented itself to German statesmen as a practical policy. There can be no doubt about the complexion which BISMARCK'S mind assumed amid these surroundings. He acquired, and throughout his life practised, the principle that free exercise of the subject's mind is an obstacle to the growth of a State's greatness, and that while it is a Government's function to superintend and direct every phase of the national life, it is the people's duty to obey unreasoningly. His career as a student, that time of splendid youth and limitless aspirations, began just when Prussian ambition was becoming a potent factor of the time. We talk in these later days with wondering contempt of the series of *likin* stations that check the course of commerce along the great rivers of China, but we need only look back to young BISMARCK'S *studentenjahre* at Göttingen to see twenty-seven custom houses on the Rhine alone, and a multitude of petty States whose forty millions of inhabitants, speaking the same language and born of the same stock, would have been a great power in Europe had not their mutual jealousies paralysed their strength. To knit together that loose congeries of principalities, to place Prussia at the head of the confederation, and to crush her rival, Austria—these were the political aims that BISMARCK carried with him from the university. They gathered strength during his subsequent service as an officer of the Landwehr, and when, at 31 years of age, he took his seat in the Diet of Saxony, he had already taught himself that as an army to be effective must implicitly obey one chief, so a State to be internationally powerful must entrust the unchallenged direction of its affairs to a Sovereign. BISMARCK, we can scarcely doubt, reached that conclusion by a process of the most matter-of-fact reasoning. There was no transcendental element in his logic. But he knew well that the masses are swayed not by reason but by sentiment, and he therefore stood forth as the champion of that marvellous doctrine, the divine right of kings: the doctrine which he enunciated to the General Diet in the memorable words:—"The Prussian Sovereigns are in possession of a crown, not by grace of the people, but by GOD'S grace; an actually unconditional crown, some of the rights of which they have voluntarily conceded to the people—an example rare in history." If BISMARCK induced himself to believe that theory, he also entertained a very rooted conviction that the Prussian monarchs should exercise their divine rights through the agency of a gifted statesman. He lived to see his theory caried to extreme limits in the practice of the present EMPEROR, whose faith in the protecting providence of Heaven is one of the curiosities of the century, but he lived also to find his own tenure of office incompatible with that other conviction as to the indispensability of the gifted agent.

Circumstances, it is said, create the men to deal with them. BISMARCK would certainly seem to be a striking illustration of the proverb. There was something singularly picturesque about his sudden *début* on the stage of a troublous time. His huge stature, his immense physical strength, the wildness of his youth, the uncontrollable energy of all his acts and utterances, his uncompromising opposition to Liberalism, his sweeping condemnation of every concession to popular demands, his splendid ability, and his iron resolution—it seems impossible that anything but a great historical crisis should have given birth to such qualities. And history will never forget how they were exercised; how they made Prussia great and Germany tranquil; how they won triumph after triumph over adversaries hitherto regarded by the world as invincible; and how they raised Germany from a mere geographical expression to the supremacy of Central Europe. Students of the time have asked whether BISMARCK could have achieved such wonderful results had not fate enabled him to profit by the cöoperation of a VON ROON, a VON MOLTKE and a DREYSE. It is hard to assess the exact share of credit belonging to each of the actors in the wonderful drama, but assuredly BISMARCK towers head and shoulders above all the great men whom Prussia's fifty years of patient effort produced. The splendid agents that worked out her purposes, equally with the vast accumulation of forces they found ready to their hand, were created by the spirit that nerved her throughout that long interval of preparation, and could never have existed without that spirit. The honour, therefore, belongs primarily to the German nation, but no German will deny, we imagine, that by far the greater part belongs to BISMARCK. The century may well be proud that such a name is inscribed on its annals. It is true that BISMARCK'S latter years were passed in comparative obscurity, and that he did not always bear with the magnanimity of true greatness the neglect which a youthful EMPEROR showed towards his veteran abilities. But these small flaws in the magnificent jewel will not survive the touch of death. The German people will remember him only as the splendid instrument of their greatness. It has been often asserted that BISMARCK was hostile to England. Certainly his acts prove that he would at any moment have sacrificed England for Germany's sake. But that should not be a reproach even in the eyes of Englishmen. Germany's position in Central Europe is one of immense difficulty, and there is very little room for altruism in her treatment of other States. At the same time, BISMARCK could never have been a possibility in Anglo-Saxon politics during the present century. He was the representative of a type of statesmen who, however great their potentialities, however large their sphere of usefulness under certain circumstances, could not stand among the conditions that exist in England and America. We believe that, a hundred years hence, a statesman of his creed and methods will be impossible anywhere in Europe. But he suited his time, and in welding together the Teutonic fragments into a German entity, prosperous and powerful, he established a lasting claim on the gratitude not of his country alone, but of the whole civilized world.

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CHINA AFFAIRS.

The telegram published in Thursday's *Japan Mail* is explained by the following note, taken from the columns of the *N.-C. Daily News*:—"It is reported from Peking that M. Pavloff, the Russian *Chargé d'Affaires*, has sent in to the Tsung-li Yamên another very strongly worded protest against the Imperial Railways of North China being allowed to carry out their contract with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank." According to our Shanghai contemporary, the official classes in Peking are beginning to feel very anxious at Russia's evident intention of securing paramount influence in the councils of the Chinese Empire.

Dispatches received in Shanghai from Changsha report the finding of valuable gold quartz in a small township called Taohuaping, in the district of Pingchiang, Hunan.

A Chinese paper reports that Japan has asked for a special settlement at Foochow in the section south of Nantai bridge and ending at its southern end. Hearing of this, the British authorities demanded the extension of their settlement to the end of the northern part of the bridge. The matter is said to be in the hands of the British Minister, who is pressing the Tsung-li Yamên to consent.

The *North-China Daily News*, commenting upon the appointment of Mr. F. S. A. Bourne as Consul and Assistant Judge at Shanghai, says:—He undertakes the duties of Assistant Judge, Consul in charge of the Land Office, and Assessor at the Mixed Court. Mr. Bourne is a very able man and a hard worker, but even he will find it physically impossible to cope with all these duties. Have the powers that be any clear idea of what Shanghai is, and of the extent of the duties that her Majesty Consulate-General and Supreme Court have to fulfil?

During a violent thunderstorm at Shanghai on Saturday, July 23rd, lightning struck the cupola of the new Municipal Hall, shivering the heavy wood-work and throwing large fragments on to the verandah of the Secretary's house, breaking some of the windows, but not damaging the building. The rainfall was very heavy, being 2.95 inches, of which 2.85 inches fell in the first 50 minutes. The thermometer sank from 95° to 76°.

Rumour is a busy jade in China, especially where Peking affairs are concerned. The other day it was announced with all the pomp of detail and comment that the Emperor had pinned on Li Hung-chang's breast the decoration of the Double Dragon, a Chinese order hitherto confined solely to foreigners. Now it appears that the Emperor has not done anything of the kind.

Shanghai is still suffering from its washermen's trouble, though its case is not so bad as Yokohama's. In this context, a Wuhu correspondent of a contemporary writes:—

It is a curious reversal of the ordinary dependence of the outports upon Shanghai, that since the Ningpo Joss House riot in the French Concession, foreign clothing has been sent up river to the laundry owned and supervised by the Customs Staff at Wuhu, owing to the closing of the washhouses at Shanghai, and the intimidation of the laundrymen!

The French priest M. Fleury, who was captured by a band of brigands in Central Szechuan a fortnight ago, during a plundering riot, is still in their hands. The Chunking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* says that the man responsible for the whole affair is named Yü Man-tze. Yu has for many years been under a ban, and he now knows well that the mandarins, constantly and vigorously pressed by M. Haas, French Consul, are bent upon capturing him. His career of crime is a long one, and the Roman Catholic Christians have suffered severely from his during lawlessness. Further on, this correspondent adds:—No one will be greatly surprised if M. Fleury's captivity emboldens France to make heavy reprisals, and it is easy to believe that the incident is capable of giving rise to complications in which other powers than China and France would be potentially concerned. The wish of Jêo Tantai, as expressed to the local fathers, was to buy the captive's liberty, but this has been definitely put aside, not less at the instance of M. Fleury himself who, we learn, is bearing himself heroically, than at that of M. Haas and others.

A notification has been issued by Capt. King Hall, R.N. and Mr. Consul Hopkins, Commissioners for Wei-hai-wei, that no sale of land on the island of Liukungtao or within the Inner Zone on the mainland, made since the 24th of May last, will be recognised as legal, until it has been referred to the British Commissioner or Administrator for approval.

The lively Tientsin correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* tells the following pretty story of the new Viceroy. He calls it Jung Lu's enterprise—well, we want new names for things occasionally. "The new Viceroy, Jung Lu, has taken over the seals of office as you know. He has taken some other things as well. Some hundred miles to the N.E. of Tientsin are gold mines which a company has been working with some success for several years. This worthy gentleman appears to look upon them as legitimate booty pertaining to his position, or as perquisities of his office: at any rate, he has notified the Directors that their services are no more needed" or words to that effect," and that he will take charge, and has done so. Will the shareholders get anything is a question of some importance. This is one of the mountains in the way of China's progress. It is to be hoped that the Emperor will hear of it and interfere for some degree of justice."

A recent visitor to the new German station at Kiaochou Bay, says a China paper, is delighted with it as a future watering place, a commercial port, and a naval station. The coal found is equal to Cardiff, and no one, he learns, is more delighted with this German acquisition than Prince Henry of Prussia.

Referring to the recent lowering of the brokerage rate in Yokohama to $\frac{1}{16}$ per cent., Mr. G. A. Matthews writes to a Shanghai contemporary:—"For my part I have long been of opinion that a sliding scale should be arranged for bill brokerage, ranging from $\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. on small transactions to say $\frac{1}{2}$ per mille on large amounts."

It is good to hear occasionally of the biter being bitten. An instance is recorded in a recent issue of the *N.-C. Daily News*. It says:—As the *Kiangfoo* was coming down the River on her last trip, thirteen thieves got on at one of the stations, and attacked the passengers with the intention of robbing them, just as the next station was reached. Capt. Bassett mustered all hands and attacked the thieves in turn, capturing eight of them, five escaping in the boats that came alongside at the station. On arriving at Shanghai Capt. Bassett handed over his captives to the French police, who recognised five of them at once as well-known old river-thieves.

True to the traditions of the Palace, the Emperor of China, before starting the reformation of his Army, has ordered Prince Ching "to go through the old records and see what our Imperial ancestors did in this respect and transcribe their actions for our perusal." Meanwhile, His Majesty has received a memorial from Wu Ting-fang (Ng Choy) his Minister to the United States, Spain, and Peru, urging speedy reformation of the Manchu and Chinese regiments in Peking and in the provinces, and that they should be armed and drilled with modern arms of the newest and best description, without exception, etc. The Emperor has commanded the Ministers of the Grand Council to join with the Princes and Officers of the Peking Field Force as well as with the Captains-General, etc., of the Eight Banner Corps, to deliberate over the memorial and report thereon.

From the *N.-C. Daily News*:—A Nanchang, capital of Kiangsi province, dispatch states that the gentry and *literati* of that city have selected a Committee amongst their number to go to Japan for a tour of inspection of the schools and colleges in that country in order to study the educational question there. On the return of the Committee it is intended to remodel the present schools and colleges of Nanchang upon the former. The schools and colleges in the various prefectures, sub-prefectures, departments, and districts of Kiangsi will then take those of Nanchang as models. The Committee, it is expected, will be able to start for Japan in August.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Three cases of dysentery appeared in Yokohama on Wednesday.

The Rev. E. R. Fulkerson has been appointed by the Secretary of State of the United States Vice-Consul of the United States at Nagasaki.

The report that there is a serious outbreak of plague at Amoy is stigmatised by the *China Mail* as "hysterical tomfoolery." Amoy has no more than the usual hot season sickness.

Owing to the heavy rain of Wednesday night, the tunnel on the railway between Okitsu and Shizuoka was badly damaged and trains on the Tokaido will be suspended until this afternoon, when the repairs are expected to be completed.

At Amboyna, says the *Sourabaya Courant*, shocks of earthquake continue to be felt. A series of shocks well nigh destroyed the town a few months ago. Since then shocks, mostly slight, have been continuous. These shocks are not volcanic at all, and are accounted for by a subsidence of the land. It appears that the coral formation on which Amboyna rests is dislocated. It is supposed that, right under the town, the coral formation is parting and crumbling away. Every time a fresh piece drops a shock happens. These shocks are always vertical. The crust under Amboyna grows thinner, so that it is considered that Amboyna will shortly sink into the deep. The shocks experienced at present are preceded by dull sounds, like that from a heavy object falling into water. Then follows the shock, which is more or less severe, according to the greater or less loudness of these sounds. It is now ascertained that two great hollows are extending underground there, so that it is only a question of time for Amboyna to be swallowed up in an abyss. It is proposed to remove the town and station to a neighbouring island.

At the inquest on the body of Herbert Ernest Tuck, stoker of H.M.S. *Victorious*, drowned in Nagasaki harbour on the 27th ult., the following verdict was rendered, by a jury consisting of Messrs. Baker, Stone, and Carnduff:—"The deceased accidentally came to his death by drowning in the harbour of Nagasaki, and the accident was caused by the sampan [in which the deceased with eleven other liberty-men had taken passage for the shore] being overcrowded, and by the recklessness of the men who had taken passage in her." The jury added a rider to the effect that in their opinion if someone had been in charge on board the ship to see that standing orders in regard to the overcrowding of boats by marines were carried out, this accident would not have occurred. The *Nagasaki Press* observes in this context:—From the evidence given, it appeared that blame could not reasonably be attached to the Japanese boatman whose boat was overturned. It is true that he was carrying passengers in excess of the number allowed by the regulations; but the fault really lies in the absence of proper care on board the warship. Liberty-men, it appears, may, if they choose, go ashore at their own expense in a sampan instead of in the ship's boat provided for the purpose. But, even so, the authorities on board the ship should certainly exercise supervision to see that no boat carrying liberty-men leaves the ship's side in a dangerously overloaded condition.

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SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN JAPAN.

The twelfth regular meeting of the Synod was held—July 14th to 19th—in Van Schaick Hall of the Ferris Seminary, 178 Bluff, Yokohama.

The meeting was opened with a sermon by the retiring Moderator, the Rev. Mr. Yamamoto, pastor of the Shiloh Church of Yokohama. The text was 1 Cor. 15; 57,58, and the sermon a plea for an earnest faith based upon the truths and principles of Christianity. Many are prone to be content with a purely numerical increase of believers and churches. But this is not the sort of success that we should seek to attain. What we need to aim at is the promulgation and establishment of the fundamental truths of the Gospel. Again, there are some who are inclined to rest in a sort of idealistic faith. Christianity, they say, is a spiritual religion. We need not concern ourselves about the form either in doctrine or in Church organization. One form is as good as another, and all forms are imperfect and inadequate. Hence, keep fast hold of Christ, sit at His feet, look always to Him, and all will be well. The preacher admitted that in this position there is a large element of truth, but at the same time declared it to be a dangerous one. Christianity is not a system of purely spiritual ideas, or notions. It is not subjective only, but also objective. As a system, it rests upon certain well defined and firmly established truths. It is, therefore, important that each Church should formulate these truths for itself and hold fast to them. The Church of Christ in Japan has a short, simple, and evangelical creed; upon this creed we Ministers should unite; upon the truths embodied in it we need to lay the greatest emphasis; we should see to it that they are taught, and as far as possible accepted, in the Churches over which we have charge, because we believe these truths to be essential to an intelligent and Scriptural faith. The discourse was an able one and was listened to with interest by all present.

The sermon being ended, the Synod at once proceeded to the election of officers. The Rev. K. Ibuka was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Mr. Yamamoto, Clerk, instead of Mr. Wada, who asked to be relieved of the office.

Reports of Committees were first in order. The Committee on the State of Religion presented an interesting report. According to it the whole number of Churches connected with the Synod is 71; preaching places 102; ordained Ministers 88; whole number of believers 11,131; number baptized during the year 683; total of contributions for all purposes *yen* 23,354 417.

Another report of great interest was that of the Committee on cooperation. This Committee was appointed by the Synod at its previous meeting to confer with the Missions said to be cooperating with the Church of Christ in Japan with a view to securing cooperation of a closer and more formal character than that hitherto in existence. The committee reported that, in accordance with the instructions of the Synod, a conference had been held with representatives of the various missions, but with no very satisfactory results. The committee found that the missions, though not averse to cooperation in a general and somewhat vague sense of the word, were nevertheless wholly unwilling to cooperate upon the plan suggested by the Synod. The committee regarded this as very unfortunate, and had used every means in their power to reach a satisfactory conclusion in the matter, but in vain. It was, therefore, with regret that they felt constrained to report that "cooperating missions," in any formal, or official, sense of the term, do no longer exist. At the same time, the committee could not forget the great work done by the Missions in the past, and would recognize the work still being carried on by them. The Committee would also recognize the value of that informal and moral kind of cooperation which the missions propose to carry on. As to what should be done under the circumstances the Committee was somewhat at a loss to say. There seemed to be nothing left but for the Church and the Mission to go on very much as heretofore, each party working on its own lines. The Committee, however, suggested that, hereafter in making up the statistical tables it be indicated in some way what work is being done by the Japanese Church and what by the missions, as a matter of information. A prolonged discussion followed the presentation of this report. A large majority of the Synod was in favour of simply accepting the report and letting the matter drop. The minority, however, strenuously insisted that, as the question of cooperation was one of the greatest importance in the work of the Church, a Committee be appointed to negotiate further with the missions, and if possible, secure cooperation of a more definite kind and more in accordance with the views of the Synod on the subject. As the discussion seemed likely to go on indefinitely and without any satisfactory conclusion, it was at length decided to refer the whole matter to a Committee with instructions to consider the subject carefully and recommend what action should be taken. At a later session, the Committee thus appointed brought in the following resolutions, which were adopted by a large majority, to wit:

1. That the Synod express its thanks to the Committee on Cooperation and direct that its report be printed in the Minutes.

2. That, inasmuch as it appears that the Synod and the Council of Missions differ in opinion regarding the wisest method of cooperation, further consideration of the subject be postponed for the present.

3. That, since the obligations of the Church of Christ in Japan to the Missions are certainly very great, although unhappily in the matter of cooperation no agreement has been attained, nevertheless it is wise and proper to maintain a feeling of cordial friendship between the parties and to promote a spirit of mutual helpfulness.

4. That the clerk of the Synod be directed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Secretaries of the several Missions. Although, as stated above, these resolutions were adopted by a large majority, a few members of the Synod were still much dissatisfied. They, therefore, pressed the matter further by addressing inquiries to the Synod in reference to two points. The first was to this effect, viz that since it has been made clear that there is no longer any such thing as official Cooperation between the Synod and the Missions, How shall Churches and preaching places which receive aid from the Missions be regarded? To this it was replied that, according to a previous action of the Synod,—of which mention will be made later on—such Churches and preaching places are hereafter to be distinguished, in the stable of statistics, from those belonging entirely to the Synod, and should be regarded as under the case of the Presbyteries within whose bounds they fall.

The second inquiry was in regard to the relation of those Missionaries who are not full members of Presbytery. Since all formal cooperation has ceased, have such missionaries the right to be elected as advisory members of the Presbyteries and the Synod? To this it was answered that such cases are fully provided for in the Canons of the Church—see Canon 23, Sect. 6. There still being dissatisfaction on the part of some, the Synod passed a resolution directing the presbyteries to strictly enforce the Canon on this subject. With this the long discussion on the question of cooperation came to an end, and everybody drew a sigh of relief. The whole subject is a delicate and complicated one growing out of the transitional stage through which the Church, as a whole, is now passing. As long as the Church was entirely supported by, and largely under the control of, the Missions there was little difficulty. When the Church shall become able to assume responsibility, financial and otherwise, there will be plain sailing again. In the meantime, the situation calls for prudence and forbearance on the part both of the Church and of the Missions. Of this the Synod was fully aware, hence the evident anxiety of all present while discussion was going on and the great relief when the question was at last disposed of.

Bearing on the same general subject, the Synod at a previous session, took the following action, viz:

1. That in statistical reports hereafter the churches and preaching places receiving aid from the Missions, or other outside sources, be indicated.

2. That preaching places under control of the presbyteries, but receiving aid from the Missions, be put in a separate column.

The Committee on the examination of presbyterial records, found that in Naniwa presbytery a certain preaching place had been placed under the care of a Committee consisting of ordinary Church members. The Committee inquired whether under the Canons this was allowable. The answer was in the negative, only ministers and elders being competent to take such responsibility.

The same Committee discovered in the records of Miyagi Presbytery that certain preaching places had been cut off from connection with the presbytery. The Committee stated that inquiry had been made into the reasons which led to such action on the part of the presbytery, and while in a measure the circumstances seemed to justify it, at the same time in the judgment of the Committee the action was unwise. After some discussion the report of the Committee was adopted as rendered.

An interesting case of appeal came before the Synod and was referred to the Judicial committee. The case was that of an elder in the Ushigome Church, of Tokyo, who some time ago became convinced that immersion is the only proper form of baptism. He, therefore, had himself re-baptized by immersion, and proceeded to teach in the Sunday School of the Church in which he was an elder that baptism by sprinkling is not baptism at all. The session of the Church then took the matter up and decided to remove him from his office as elder. From this decision he appealed to the presbytery, which sustained the action of the session. From the decision of the presbytery he then appealed to the Synod. The report of the Judicial Committee on the case was as follows:—The mode of baptism differs in different churches. In the Oriental Churches the Common mode is immersion. In the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England, the Lutheran Church, and in the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, the common mode is sprinkling. The Church of Christ in Japan, as most of the Churches of Christ throughout the world, holds that the mode is not essential. Both immersion and sprinkling are valid. To insist upon a different view is to oppose the great principle of Christian liberty, and to make Christianity a religion of forms. This is contrary to the spirit of the New Testament. The Church of Christ in Japan has great respect for the rights of conscience. It is for this very reason that it insists that the mode of baptism shall not be made an essential. In all matters excepting those immediately connected with the fundamental truths of Christianity this Church will ever exercise the utmost forbearance towards any of its members who hold their views in such a way as not to disturb the peace of the Church. But to hold and teach that persons should be re-baptized has a manifest tendency to divide the Church into parties and to destroy the spirit of love. An officer, or private member, who deems it his duty to propagate such views should apply for dismission to some other Church with whose principles he is in harmony. The Synod therefore confirms the decision of the presbytery.

Another item of interest was the appointment of a committee of three to prepare a pastoral letter to be sent to all ministers, evangelists, and Church sessions, urging upon them the importance of looking carefully after Church members who change their residence from one place to another, and to see to it that such persons obtain letters of dismission and recommendation and thus keep up their connection with the Church as a whole. Similar action was taken by the Synod at its previous meeting a

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year ago, but the matter was deemed to be of sufficient importance to merit further attention. Among other important resolutions passed were such as these —

That a committee of three be appointed to consider the method of Church Sustentation now in operation in the Free Church of Scotland, and to report as to the wisdom of adopting some such plan for the Church of Christ in Japan. This committee is to report at the next regular meeting of the Synod.

That the report of the Board of Home Missions for the past year be accepted, and that the Board be authorized to raise and expend upon the work in the coming year the sum of yen 3,600.

That the request of the First and Second presbyteries of Tokyo to be united be referred to a committee. This committee reported at a later Session in favour of the union. The report was adopted and steps taken to consummate union in the near future.

The committee on the revision of the Hymn Book having reported progress, three members were added to the committee and it was authorized to complete and publish the revision as soon as possible.

Appropriate resolutions in reference to the death of the Rev. G. F. Verbeck, D.D., were adopted, to be recorded in the minutes and a copy of them sent to the bereaved family.

The Synod adjourned to meet in Tokyo in July, 1899, the day of meeting being left for the standing Committee to determine later on.

In regard to the meeting just held, several things could not fail to impress the sympathetic observer.

1. Full and free discussion of all important questions was allowed. No restraint whatever was put upon the expression of opinion.

2. At the same time, business was despatched in a manner at once expeditious and dignified.

3. Though there were serious differences of opinion in regard to some of the questions discussed, a spirit of unity and brotherly love pervaded the entire meeting.

4. The religious and devotional spirit was very strong thoughout the meeting. A prayer meeting, well attended, was held every morning at six o'clock in which the members of the Synod prayed earnestly for one another, for the Church, and for the speedy coming of the Kingdom in this land.

5. The meeting of the Synod was preceded by two days of conference and prayer. Important problems, doctrinal and practical, were earnestly and thoughtfully discussed by leading men in the Church of Christ in Japan and by Mr. Kozaki of the Congregational Church.

6. Again, one could not but be impressed with the fact, that notwithstanding all difficulties and drawbacks, Christianity is already taking deep root in this country, and that the day cannot be far distant when it must be recognized by all as one of the potent factors in the making of the New Japan. T. T. ALEXANDER.

BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN JAPAN.

This Board recently made its fourth annual report to the Synod. It may be worth while to call attention to some interesting features of the report. The Board has been carrying on work throughout the year in the following places, to wit:—Neda, Minami-Saku-gun, and Kita-Saku-gun in the province of Shinshu; in Mito, Ota-mura, and Shimotsuma in Ibaraki Ken, and in Taihoku and Tainan, Formosa. From these centres the work branches out in all directions and is gradually assuming larger and larger proportions.

The present report, as compared with that for the previous year, shows a decided falling off in the number of baptisms, the whole number for the year being only thirty-two. Of these, seven were in Taihoku and vicinity, twenty-two in Ueda, and three in Ibaraki Ken. In Taihoku there are many inquirers, also in Minami and Kita Saku Gun, and it is expected that a considerable number will be baptized in all these places in the near future.

In the matter of self-support good results have been attained. It is sometimes said that the policy of the Board tends to hinder self-support, rather than to promote it. The facts do not seem to justify this criticism. The Church at Ueda, which has been for some two years under the care of the Board, became self-supporting during the year covered by the present report. The Church has received no aid since the end of March. It pays its pastor twenty-five *yen* a month and defrays all other expenses. The work in Minami and Kita Saku-gun, also, has become self-supporting, paying the Minister's salary and all other expenses. Indeed, it has been the aim of the Board from the beginning to push self-support as rapidly as possible. It is firmly believed by the members of the Board that the best way to secure financial independence on the part of the Churches and preaching places under its care is by the timely and judicious use of money, thus encouraging the believers and gradually assisting them up to the point where they are able and willing to take care of themselves. It is hoped that the Church in Taihoku, which now pays one half the pastor's salary, may become self-supporting at no very distant day. The believers there, however, are making strenuous efforts to build a chapel, and this may delay progress in the direction of self-support.

The work at Tainan was begun a little more than a year ago, and has gone on under difficulties. It has had from the start the sympathy and generous assistance of the Missionaries of the English Presbyterian Church, who are working there. But unfortunately the Rev. Mr. Hirayama, who was sent there by the board, was compelled to resign his position and to return to this part of the empire on account of the serious illness of his wife. He returned last last spring and the Rev. R. Hosokawa, until recently pastor of the Kaigan Church in Yokohama, has been sent to take his place. Those who know Mr. Hosokawa will feel a deep interest in his work, will sympathize with him in his separation from home and friends, and follow him with their prayers. He is an earnest and consecrated man, well fitted for the work he has undertaken.

The report shows that the finances of the Board were, as usual, managed with care by the executive Committee. It may not be known to some that the Board itself consists of twenty members, one half of whom are elected at each regular meeting of the Synod. Care is always taken in the elections to secure a thoroughly representative body of men, so that every presbytery is represented in the Board. The management of financial matters and of the work in general is, however, entrusted to an executive committee residing in Tokyo and Yokohama. The Board's fiscal year has hitherto been from July 1st to June 30th, but hereafter will correspond to the calendar year, in accordance with the action of Synod at its late meeting. For the year just ended the Board was authorized to raise the sum of *yen* 3,600. The amount actually raised was 2,891.152. There was, however, at the beginning of the year a balance in hand of 4,455. There was also in hand 65,365, balance from a fund raised for the purpose of sending a committee to Formosa. This balance the Synod authorized the Board to expend upon its regular work. Adding these balances to the amount raised during the year we find that the entire sum at the disposal of the Board was 2,960.972. The sum expended was 2,892,694, leaving a balance at the end of the year of 68.278.

As the Board has just completed its fourth year it may be interesting to note the advance that has been made from year to year in the amount of contributions received. The total contributions for the

1st year were	562.196
2nd year	...1,469.763
3rd year	...1 909 968
4th year	...2,891.152

Of the amount raised last year churches and preaching places connected with the Board contributed... ... ... 363.800

Other Churches and preaching places ...	94 5936
Individuals (Japanese)	802 749
Missionaries in Formosa	250 000
" in Japan proper	159.000
Woman's Societies (Japanese)	93.098
Methodist Protestant Church for Work in Formosa	25.719
Japanese Church in San Francisco ...	25.510
Raised in Connection with Special Meetings in Celebration of the Church's 25th Anniversary	225 340
Total	...2,891.152

Thirteen churches contributed over 25 *yen* each, viz. :—

Taihoku Church	...130 000
Ueda "	... 85 100
Kaigan "	... 80.000
Kochi "	... 72.000
Ichi Bancho "	... 57.097
Shiloh "	... 46 850
Nagoya "	... 37.786
Daimachi "	... 35.307
Yamaguchi "	... 33 755
Shinsakai "	... 33 010
Hakodate "	... 27.825
Sapporo "	... 27 000
Kyoto "	... 25 890

Of the above churches only the Kyoto Church receives aid directly from the Mission, and it pays one half the pastor's salary and all incidental expenses. Eight churches contributed to the Board 10 *yen*, or more, and less than 25, each, as follows :—

Nagasaki Church	23 210
Kojimachi "	16.000
South Church (Osaka)	12.770
Chiba "	12 000
Shitaya "	11 649
Hongo "	11 500
North " (Osaka)	10 000
Seigen "	10 000

No one of these is dependent upon mission funds.

Out of a total of about sixty-eight Churches for the Church of Christ in Japan, twenty contributed nothing to the Board. These twenty are for the most part directly dependent upon the missions.

The total number of preaching places is about one hundred and twenty. Of these fifty-five gave nothing. The preaching places contributing most liberally were :—

Minami Saku Gun	50 00
Two places in Ibaraki-ken	71 07
Ichigaya	12 05
Aki	10 20

These are all independent of mission aid. In short, a careful examination of the figures shows that only a comparatively small proportion of the board's income for the year was from Churches, or preaching places, directly connected with the missions, probably from ten to fifteen per cent. In this particular the present report does not differ materially from that of the previous year, an account of which appeared in the *Japan Evangelist* for September, 1897.

The estimate for the work of the incoming year, as approved by the Synod, is *yen* 3,700. The work formerly under the care of the Board at Neda and elsewhere in the province of Shinshu having become self-supporting, it is purposed to begin new work. The Board has already completed arrangements for taking the Kobe Church under its care. The Church, aided by Missionaries, has agreed to take a large share of expenses from the start, and, it is expected, will soon be able to pay everything.

The Board is also authorized to open up work in Kumamoto, or some other important point in Kyushu, and at some place within the bounds of the Miyagi presbytery.

It is the purpose of the present members of the Board to push the work as rapidly as possible and to secure greater results during the incoming year than ever before, God willing. Let us not only wish them success in their efforts but also encourage and help them forward in every possible way. For, it is to such institutions as this Board, now small in their beginnings, that we must look for a large share in the ultimate evangelization of this country.

T. T. ALEXANDER.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

MISSIONS IN JAPAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I may be, as your correspondent * * * asserts, neither "Impartial" nor an "Observer"—I may also be an "Ignoramus"—and may "drivel like a babe, and deserve a good spanking" for the opinions expressed in my previous letter. But at the same time I would remind * * * that personal vituperation is not argument, and that he who descends to such a line of defence only proves that his cause is a weak one.

Your correspondent says that "the Missionaries in Japan, through much toil and labour, have laid the solid foundations of a grand edifice, of which Christendom has every reason to be proud"—and that "when this edifice is completed, no body of men will be more ready and glad to put down their heavy burdens and retire—but that to abandon their position before their task is finished would be unpardonable cowardice!"

Like many other thoughtful persons outside mission work, I certainly fail to see wherein consists the heroism of sticking as long as they can to the fat salaries, noble mansions, luxurious living, and comparatively easy work notoriously characteristic of mission work in Japan.

Not without good reason has this country been aptly dubbed "the happy hunting ground" of the American and English missionary?

The stranger arriving at Kobe, Osaka, or Yokohama, struck by the palatial appearance of certain foreign buildings in those ports, naturally exclaims interrogatively, "I presume these are the residences of the Consuls?" "Oh! No"—is the reply, "those are the Missions!"

It is a fact that the majority of missionaries and their families quit the ports, and "fly from their great toil and labor" at the first approach of summer in the month of June—to the various mountain health resorts—where they never fail to secure the most eligible sites—there to remain until the end of September—recruiting themselves from their "arduous labors" of eight months previous, by the gentle distractions of picnics, reading parties, lawn tennis, literary, social, and musical evenings, etc., etc., while the hard-worked merchants and their staff of clerks in the Treaty Ports, the journalists, the medical men, and others who have their livings to earn, can with difficulty snatch a fortnight's relief from their work during the intense heat of summer!

It was only the other day I found myself in the company of an intelligent woman who was just returning homewards after doing Japan, and heard her volunteer the following remark:—"Do you know what business I would enjoy if I had to earn my living? I would become a missionary in Japan. I think they have the jolliest time of any of the community that I have met! Why! where I come from, we always consider that a girl who goes out to the East as a missionary is a model of self-sacrifice, and she is lauded as a heroine accordingly, but now I see it is the best way of getting a delightful five years' trip, with all your expenses paid!"

It is an undeniable fact that missionaries are not in the same request amongst the Japanese as they were twenty years ago. Then the Japanese were ready and willing to swallow any doctrine for the sake of the European education they were craving for, but now that they have made themselves almost independent of extraneous educational aid, or think they have, they are continually giving the missionaries to understand that their presence as converters only is no longer required—not only through the vernacular papers, but by their recent action (however much to be reprobated in the manner of doing it) of the Doshisha affair and others.

But the missionaries are loth to take the hint, however broadly given, and prefer trimming their sails to suit the altered times, to furling them altogether.

The plain truth is—the whole world has undergone great changes since missionaries were a necessity. Two generations ago, no sensible or philanthropic person could gainsay their immense usefulness in introducing, along with Christianity, the peaceful arts of civilization throughout the length and breadth of the South Seas, nor can the most unorthodox thinker of the present day withold his admiration of the self-devotion and heroism of those pioneers of Christianity who knew in all cases they were risking their lives, and, as frequently happened, did sacrifice them, to the cause to which they had dedicated themselves, even although in many cases it turned out that their labours were put to good interest for their descendants who now, as in Honolulu and many other places, have become immensely wealthy by the greatly increased value of land granted by converted native chiefs to their fathers for little or nothing?

But was it really Christianity or civilization that those pioneer missionaries brought to those benighted lands? In the autobiography of the Rev. Dr. Paton, one of the earliest workers among the fierce cannibals of the New Hebrides, he naively relates an anecdote which, all unconsciously, tells as much against as for his work. After telling his readers that the first idea of Christianity grasped by the minds of the naked savages was that conversion was inseparably connected with clothes, he goes on to narrate how a specially contumacious female subject who was undergoing the process of conversion, but had for a long time proved impervious to all efforts on her behalf, suddenly appeared at his door one Sabbath morning, exlaiming joyfully, "Look, see Massa Paton, I Christian now!" proudly exhibiting her hitherto unadorned charms arrayed in high boots, a sailor's shirt and sou'wester, with a pair of trousers tied in a negligé manner round her shoulders by the legs, after the fashion of a lady's pelerine or cape (I crave pardon of my fair readers for my ignorance in describing the technicalities of their attire).

Who can say how much Japanese Christianity may be, as the saying is—"only skin deep"—but may perchance, as in the case of this female convert from Tanna or Rarotonga, have only reached the outside of the skin?

The Japanese, when their country was opened to the world, were neither cannibals nor naked savages—on the contrary, they are in possession of a written history which proves that they were clad in silk attire at a period of the world's history when the ancestors of those who now come to convert them were daubing their bodies with woad and other dyes in lieu of clothing! They have shown that they possess critical acumen and scientific and philosophic bias, which forbids their accepting without question the doctrines of Christianity when presented to them under the same aspect as it was to the cannibal denizens of the South Seas, and that is the great mistake that missionaries make, in treating them, in the matter of the Christian religion, as babes and sucklings, instead of acute speculative men inclined to materialism, as they have shown themselves in many cases.

In conclusion, I for my part am quite willing to take the consensus of all national public opinion, whether held by educated Japanese or foreigners (outside of missions, of course) on the question "Are missionaries, and the religious doctrines they offer to the Japanese, necessary to Japan at the present time?" and to abide by the verdict of the majority, if your correspondent * * * will do the same.

I am, yours, "Impartial Observer."

July 28th.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Before endeavouring to reply to "Impartial Observer's" second letter, I should like to call the attention of your readers to the fact that, without the slightest provocation from the Missionary side, this gentleman charges them with wasting Mission money, with incompetency and many other things; then he offers to them a few most extravagant suggestions which, I still firmly believe that no human being having a deep—I might say even a shallow—knowledge of the history of the development of the religious instinct of mankind would have offered. Indeed, it was his language that can be characterized as vituperative and not mine, unless poignant truth be termed vituperation. I simply said that he was absolutely ignorant of the real facts of the whole situation, and I freely confess that the more I read this man's mental productions, the more I am confirmed in my former opinion that "Impartial Observer" is neither acquainted with history nor with human nature; as for impartiality there is no more of that very rare quality in him than there is life in a piece of ice! However, let us came to the real points of controversy. "Impartial Observer" has collected and marshalled with flippant language those "street" (in default of a fit English word) charges so common amongst a certain, not very serious, element of the Open Ports.

1. "Missionaries' fat salaries." Missionaries are paid what a fourth-rate minister would be paid at home; and while the latter, if a man of ability, would have every opportunity to advance in influence, in knowledge, in salary, and in everything else, the foreign missionary, from the day he leaves his home, has the door of progress absolutely shut upon him. I don't know a single missionary who has grown fat on his slender salary; on the contrary, I know numbers who haven't been able to save enough money to educate their children: they have to be helped by some kind-hearted individual. I know others who have grown old in the field and returned home to pass their last days in need and penury. These are real facts with many of them I am personally acquainted; they are not manufactured "hard facts."

2. "Palatial residences of many missionaries." I have been within scores of missionary homes, but I have not met a single house which could be properly called "palatial." As a general rule missionary residences, especially in Yokohama and Tokyo, are attached to some part of the mission institution: school, hospital, &c., which, to a superficial observer, whose main object is slander, not justice, might perhaps and do look palatial."

3. Missionaries leading a luxurious life and abandoning their work during the summer-heat, &c." I am afraid that there is considerable truth in this point. However, it should be observed that we are living in a "brutally materialistic age" as the late Matthew Arnold called it. There is no wonder that many missionaries are more or less affected by it. I wish and pray to God that they were more self-sacrificing.

4. "Considering the Japanese as equal to the cannibal denizens of the South Seas." This is shamefully false. No missionary possessing a scrap of common sense would consider Japanese as savages, or would convey the truths of the Gospel to them in the same way as they are conveyed to the cannibal of the South Seas. No body of men more appreciates Japanese intellect, Japanese hospitality, Japanese art, in one word, Japanese civilization, than the missionary body. To prove this I have simply to allude to the fact that the missionary body was the first which passed resolutions recognizing the equality of Japan with the Western civilized countries, and asking their respective governments to have the old treaties speedily revised. I have never heard a missionary but talk with admiration of the many admirable qualities which the race possesses. I firmly believe that it is the earnest desire, nay solicitude, of every Protestant missionary that Japan under divine Providence should grow into one of the mightiest empires which history has witnessed: mighty in spiritual, moral, and material prosperity.

5. "Japanese do not want missionaries." No nation ever did. But I am sure, and am speaking from personal knowledge and long experience, that the Japanese Christians still do want missionaries. At present these Christians are very anxious to become independent and manage the work themselves—a very laud-

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able desire. At this transitional period very likely some slight friction will occur between the native Christian and the missionary, but something far milder than the disgraceful Doshisha episode. However, whatever the troubles caused by the human frailty, the divine side of Christianity will go on advancing in Japan as it has been everywhere else for the last 20 centuries.

I have met many "educated Japanese" and have had long talks with them about many important questions, the future of Christianity amongst them. With the exception of those whose minds were vitiated by the sceptical foreigner, the rest have spoken very favourably concerning the missionary and his work. A short while ago I was visiting the new mayor of a large town—not a Christian; he told me that during the mayor's meeting the Governor of the province—not a Christian—said, before all, "Japan at present needed Christianity more than anything else." Of course I am not quoting this solitary expression to show that the missionary is still needed in Japan; that necessity emanates from a higher command.

With these explanations I withdraw from this unpleasant controversy, hoping every intelligent and impartial observer will see things as they are and not through the dim eye-glasses of unfair prejudice.

Very truly yours,

* * *

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have prayerfully read "Impartial Observer's" communications in the *Mail*. I have hopelessly failed to fathom the profundity of his reasoning. This is, no doubt, because of the obtusity of my mental faculties. Missionaries in Japan are thoroughly familiar with a common species of fungus, infidel criticism, which springs up in a night like Jonah's gourd, but withers away in the heat and light of truth. I imagine that "Impartial Observer" must be classed with the fungus. If his strictures are aimed against the general principle of missionaries living in good houses, eating good wholesome food, taking good care of their physical frames, and such like, then I have to take direct issue with him. As exceptions to the general good sense of missionaries, some, no doubt, do revel in luxuries beyond what is seemly. But this is the exception. And when we remember that the longevity of preachers and farmers exceeds that of any other class, it would appear that "Impartial Observer's" wisest course would be to join one of these classes. Probably he would be better fit for the former.

But it would appear that he lays his objection deeper. He says: "In conclusion, I on my part am quite willing to take the consensus of all rational public opinion, whether held by educated Japanese or foreigners (outside of missionaries, of course) on the question, are missionaries, and the religious doctrines they offer to the Japanese, necessary to Japan at the present time, and to abide by the verdict of the majority, if your correspondent * * * will do the same."

This is an "impartial" method, indeed. The worth of Christianity in Japan is to be decided by its enemies and others who are alike ignorant of it! "Impartial Observer," indeed! He is unacquainted with the elementary rules of justice. But that he may have an opportunity to experiment with his method, I for one accept his conditions. Now how shall we test the matter? Cry aloud to your gods, my friend, and see if they will come to help you. While you are devising a way of escape, I will suggest that we call, in any suitable place in Japan, a great assembly of the educated people, that one or two speakers for Christianity, and the same number for infidelity be chosen, that they present their respective sides, and that the merits of Christianity and infidelity be decided by a vote of this educated assembly.

None of this educated assembly could be excluded from voting; for in that case the decision would be partial one. And further, while of course such an assembly could have no legislative force, and hence each would be left to hold to his old beliefs though the decision might be against him, yet such a notable occasion would have great influence on the coming social institutions of Japan. I submit my proposal as fair and impartial; and while "Impartial Observer" is making his answer I would ask the Editor if he has heard of a colossal church of Infidels to be soon established in Japan for the purpose of saving the people from their sins, opening industrial schools for orphans, asylums for the poor, hospitals for the sick and diseased, publishing tract and scientific treatises against intemperance, narcotics, prostitution, etc., etc.? The Christians who have for so long been doing nothing for humanity but flashing out bitter attacks against the philanthropic infidels ought to be put to shame by this grandly magnanimous enterprise. I must hope that all will encourage a union of both forces in this good venture; and for one I shall speak nothing but good for it, if it be so.

Very truly, E. SNODGRASS.

Tokyo, Aug. 1st, 1898.

[We can not publish any more letters on this subject. In dismissing it we would ask *** whether he thinks that missionaries would be well advised if they deliberately sacrificed their health by remaining in the cities during the heat of summer.—ED. *J. M.*]

THREE CONTRASTED PUBLIC NOTICES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—On page 3 of your to-day's issue, appear three paragraphs to which I would desire to draw the attention of your readers.

The first is a list, nearly a column long, giving the amounts subscribed, with the donors' names appended, towards a sum of *yen* 1,466 just presented, on his departure from Japan, to a worthy man of whom the writer of this letter would be sorry to utter a word of disparagement, since his many years' work in Tokyo speaks for itself. It was, however, stated in the report of the presentation that the recipient observed that "he had done no more than his duty, for which he considered he had already received sufficient compensation." For his admirers to tender him a further sum of money after this admission is something like the pressing attentions of a too zealous host, who, when the guest whom he delighteth to honour assures him that he is filled to repletion still hospitably insists upon his partaking of more? However, it was but natural and just that the many friends and admirers of such a man should wish to give him some substantial parting proof of their regard, and the incident is only alluded to because, by a singular coincidence, the report happens to come into close juxtaposition with the other two—the second of which is a notice from the Hon. Treasurer of Christ Church acknowledging receipt of two additional donations of *yen* 150, which, with a previous sum in hand of former subscriptions amounting to *yen* 984.50, will he thinks, "leave a surplus which should be sufficient to meet the expenditure for the coming year," which notice the writer leaves un-commented upon.

By these two reports it would appear that when any claim is made upon the pockets of the community, whether for a "send-off" to a deserving friend, or for the yearly support of the particular church in which they worship, there is no question either of lack of money, or of inclination to part with it.

Passing on to the next column, we observe a modest paragraph of one inch, in which the editor acknowledges receipt of two sums amounting to *yen* 60, forwarded in response to an urgent appeal made some days ago to the charitably disposed of the community, concerning the actual present condition of the Japanese people in a country district within a day's journey of Tokio and Yokohama, thousands of whom, it was credibly reported by both the native and foreign newspapers, had been for some months past "endeavouring to keep life in them by subsisting on roots, grass, and pine-bark, the supply even of these becoming exhausted, and that consequently, deaths from starvation were of daily occurrence."

I respectfully submit these three contrasted reports to the consideration of the editors of the foreign and vernacular journals and their readers, whether Japanese or European, heathen or Christian, missionary or layman, and would ask whether some united effort could not be organized for the latter as well as for the two former objects, if public attention were drawn to it?

Should my appeal, like that of your previous correspondent, be allowed to pass by unheeded, then can I only exclaim, in the words of Thomas Hood,

"Alas for the rarity
Of Christian charity
Under the sun!"

I am your's

ANOTHER "SAMARITAN."

A MISSTATEMENT CORRECTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The late Bishop Bickersteth in his Pastoral Letter of Lent, 1892, Appendix K, page 32, quotes at length a Creed which he says, "Japanese Congregationalists are proposing to adopt during the current year." The Bishop criticises this proposed creed for what it omits and for the insertion in it of belief in the Lord's day, the Lord's Supper, and the immortality of the soul.

In his Pastoral Letter of Advent, 1892, Appendix C, page 18, under the heading, "The Congregational Creed," the Bishop writes as follows:—"The Creed proposed for adoption by Japanese Congregationalists, which is quoted at length in my Pastoral of last Lent, has since been rejected by that body, and in its place, the following statement has been substituted;—

We believe, (1) in the one God, (2) in Jesus Christ who came to earth to save sinners, (3) in the Holy Spirit, from whom we receive new life, (4) in the Bible, which shows us the way of salvation, and (5) in Baptism and the Holy Supper, in punishments and rewards given by God according to our merits, in everlasting life, if we are righteous, and in the resurrection of the dead.'

"The rejected statement contained the phrase, 'We believe in Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God, who suffered and died to atone for the sins of the world.' That this truth is devoutly held by large numbers of Congregational Christians, may be thankfully believed. That the public profession of the truth has been rejected in favour of a clause which omits all reference to the person and nature of the Lord, and as a matter of fact has been heartily welcomed by Unitarians, is a subject for profound regret. Speaking generally, it cannot be too clearly felt that systems which do not definitely teach the truths contained in the Apostolic and Nicene Creeds, whatever benefits may accrue to individuals from the moral teaching which they impart, are not merely negative in tendency and results, but retard the progress of the kingdom of Christ in Eastern lands."

The above statements, made of course under a misapprehension of the facts, more than six years ago, in the pastoral Letters of a Bishop in Japan, have only recently come to my notice, as no copy of these letters was sent or shown to any member of our American Board Mission, so far as I know. I first saw them quoted at length, as from Bishop Bickersteth, in a book on Missions published in England, where deductions were made putting the whole Congregational body in Japan under a cloud. In Cobbold's Religions of Japan, also, page 106, Bishop Bickersteth is quoted as saying that the Congregationalists in Japan have adopted the following Creed:—

"We believe in the one God, in Jesus Christ who came on earth to save sinners, etc." Here also damaging deductions are made. W. E. Curtis, also, in "The Yankees of the East," page 419, says a missionary told him concerning the Congregational Creed; "It left out some of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity. For example, it said nothing concerning the atonement or the divinity of Christ."

Now the facts are that the Creed which

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Bishop Bickersteth quoted in his Pastoral Letter of Lent, 1892, as proposed for adoption, was drawn up by one man, and shown to others of the Japanese Kumi-ai body, but was never presented to that body, nor "rejected" by them. When the Pastors and delegates of the Kumi-ai churches met in their yearly Conference in Osaka, in April, 1892, the Creed which was adopted by them there, was the only one which was proposed for consideration, and it was adopted with very little change. This Creed is short, and judged by many standards incomplete, but on the divinity of Christ, it is very explicit.

The Creed is as follows:—"We believe in the one infinite and perfect God, who is revealed in the Bible as father, son, and holy spirit. We believe in Jesus Christ, who being God, became man, and for the sake of saving a world of sinners, endured agony, died and rose again. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the giver of new life. We believe in the Bible which was given by inspiration of God and which makes us wise unto salvation.

We believe in the Holy Church, Baptism by water, the Holy Supper, the Lord's holy day, the everlasting life, the resurrection of the dead, and righteous rewards and punishments."

The Japanese of the second article is as follows:—*Warera wa Kami ni shite, hito to nari, yo no tsumibito wo sukuwan tame ni, kutsū wo uke, shishite yomigaeri tamaeshi Iesu Kirisuto wo shinsu.* This Creed was thoroughly discussed and was adopted by a rising vote. I was present during the discussion and when the vote was taken, and if my memory serves me, all present but two arose to vote in the affirmative for it. Certainly only two men voted against it, and they voted "nay," because they wanted a fuller creed. They were two of the most conservative men in the body.

The old adage is true in this case that a misstatement will travel a hundred leagues while Truth is getting his boots on, but this misstatement was published on three continents, and several years had elapsed before the only men who knew the truth were aware of it.

This misstatement, published not only in the Pastoral Letter in Japan, but quoted from that in books published in England and America, and repeated and circulated very widely by those who accepted the Bishop's statement as true, has done injustice to a body of men who, as a body, are most faithful and loyal to Christ.

While it is true that a few, three or four men, during the last six years' among the Kumi-ai workers, under the influence of Unitarian and rationalistic influences, have lost their faith in the Divine Christ, or assumed an equivocal position, nearly one hundred others stand firm and unmoved. This is a surprising fact and it shows the power and persistence of basal and perennial Christian truth. I know whereof I speak, for the most of these men are my old pupils, and I have travelled about among them during the last two years. They are preaching a Divine Christ, not because they are afraid to avow a contrary belief, for nearly one half of them are working in self-supporting churches.

One is reminded of a story Rev. Dr. Barrows tells in one of his recent lectures in India, to illustrate Vivikananda's claim that theosophy is rapidly becoming the popular faith in America. The story is as follows:—A man came to a boarding housekeeper one day and asked him if he would buy a car-load of frogs legs. "No, of course not," was the repiy. "Will you buy fifty bushels"? "No." After a few days the man came back with three pairs of frogs legs, and the proprietor of the boarding house said, "Is this all you have? I thought you had a car-load." The man replied, "Well, the frogs made such a terrible noise in the pond near my house that I thought there were a million of them, but I have been dredging it for three days and I can find but three frogs."

A very few unsound men have made noise enough to throw discredit upon the whole Kumi-ai body, but, notwithstanding this and notwithstanding misstatements which have been so widely circulated, the great body of these workers are as loyal to Christ and as faithfully working for him as any body of men in Japan.

Kyoto, July 29, 1898. J. D. DAVIS.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. D. MACDONALD.

The following is a copy of the circular relating to the Macdonald Testimonial, and of the list of subscribers:—

It is proposed to offer to Dr. D. MacDonald, on the occasion of his departure for Canada, a monetary testimonial, in slight recognition of his splendid services as a physician during many years in Tokyo, of the self-denying benevolence animating all his acts, and of the noble record of Christian charity which will always be associated with his name in Japan:—

	Yen.
Sir Ernest Satow, K C.M.G.	50
Col. A. E. Buck	50
John H. Gubbins, Esq., C.M.G.	25
Miss J. A. Leete	5
Miss S. Gardiner	10
W. D Cox, Esq.	10
E. P. Cox, Esq.	5
The Chinese Legation	3
Baron d'Anethan	25
Baron Rosen	25
Archdeacon Shaw	10
Miss M. M Shaw	5
L. van de Polder, Esq.	5
W. Silver Hall, Esq.	20
Rev. C. E Garst	5
Prof. E. Foxwell	10
Miss Monroe	30
Mrs. Kirby	25
Richard J. Kirby, Esq.	25
E.P.P.	10
Rev. Isaac Dooman	10
A. T. Macnab Esq	20
T.T.A.	5
Rev. C. H. D Fisher	5
Roman Catholic Mission	20
Bishop S. S. J. Scheschewsky	10
Rev. A. Lloyd	10
J. Mc D. Gardiner Esq.	10
Bishop McKim	20
Mrs. Nellie C. McKim	5
Rev. R. Y. Davidson	5
Rev. D. Thomson	5
De la Barrera Esq.	10
Rev. E. Woodman	5
Rev. Chas. H. Evans	10
Mrs. Buncombe	10
Communauté du St. Esp. Jesus	5
John de Rijke Esq.	20
Miss Belle J. Allen	10
Miss Clara Parrish	10
Miss Clarissa H. Spencer	5
X X X.	10
A. J Hare, Esq.	5
Mrs Summers	5
R. M Witschi, Esq	5
Miss Emma Williamson	20
Mrs S. E Goodbehan	10
Mrs E Spencer Large	10
Prof. H. Terry	25
John McDonald, Esq.	10
Rev. Joseph Cosand	5
Miss M. A. Gundry	5
Rev. H. Harris	5
Rev. H M. Landis	10
Rev. William Imbrie	5
Pro. Jno. C. C. Ballagh	10
Rev. T. M. MacNair	10
Dr. Herbert W. Swartz	5
J. O S.	5
Miss Harriet S. Alling	5
Rev. L Wigle	10
Miss C. E Hart	20
Miss L. S Blackmore	20
Miss K. M. Youngman	5
Capt. Brinkley, R A.	25
W. F. Page, Esq.	10
T. B. Glover, Esq.	10
Miss O. Julius	20
Miss Peacock	5
F. Nobemins, Esq.	5
Miss Ella Blackstock	25
A. W. Thompson, Esq.	25
F. W. Hammond, Esq.	10
Mrs. Florence Smith	5
A. R. Pattison, Esq.	5
Clay Mac Cauley Esq.	5
Miss M.A. Clagett	5
The Misses Prince	10
D. C. M. Boadbury	10
Dr. Harper H. Coates	15
R. Edward Divers	10
Dr. Whitney	10
Capt. J. M. James	20
A. Macmillan Esq.	10
L.C. Bordon Esq.	10
Rev. H. Waddell	20
J. Johnstone Esq.,	20
Rev. W. J. White	20
Mrs Bongonin	25
R. J. Ward, Esq,	50
Miss Bristowe	1
Rev. George Pierson	1
Dr. Baelz	100
Mrs Scudder	1
Mrs Schenck	1
Rev. J. S. Waller	4
Mrs. George Scott	28
Rev. John Scott	20
Rev. John Davis	1
Mrs. Chappell, Mayebashi	10
Yeend Duer, Esq.	20
G. Forrest, Esq.	5
W. H. Stone, Esq.	20
Edwin Dun, Esq.	20
H. W. Denison, E q.	25
J. Conder, Esq	10
Miss Perry	10
Ralph Paget, Esq.	20
	1,469
Expenses for collecting	3
Cheque paid Dr. McDonald	1,466

THE FATALITY IN YOKOHAMA HARBOUR.

Inquest and Funeral.

The inquest on the body of Miss Simons, the victim of the launch disaster of last Friday, was held on Saturday morning at the American Consulate. Mr. J. F. Gowey, Consul General, presided over the inquiry, and the two associates were Messrs. N. F. Smith and G. W. Bramhall.

Dr. Worden said the name of deceased was Maud E. Simons. She was a citizen of the United States. He saw her before her death, and afterwards, at four o'clock in the afternoon, he saw her dead body at 221 Bluff. Deceased was 33 years of age.

Dr. Eldridge said about one o'clock on Friday he was called to see the deceased at the Hatoba. He found her dead. There being another injured person on board, he attended to her first, and did not examine the body of the deceased till between six and seven o'clock yesterday afternoon. From the appearance of the body, taken with what he knew of the history of the accident, he believed that the deceased came to her death as the result of heart rupture or paralysis of that organ, the result of sudden and great compression applied to the thorax.

Miss Elizabeth R. Bender said she, deceased, and others were on the C P R. launch returning from the *Empress of Japan*. They were standing on the starboard side near the bows. The launch was rounding the stern of the *Victoria*, when they noticed a junk approaching. They saw that a collision was inevitable. The prow of the junk struck the side of the launch. She did not see it strike Miss Simons, but she saw the latter fall. She was put inside the cabin, and witness paid her attention to the other young lady—who was hurt. She herself did not hear any whistle.

Miss Clarissa H. Spencer said she was on the left side of Miss Simons when the accident occurred. She saw the prow of the junk approaching; and immediately after it struck the boat. She saw both Miss Simons and Miss Allen fall.

By the Court: The launch had been passing alongside the *Victoria*, and it was just after rounding her stern that the junk crashed into her. Witness could not judge, even roughly, the distance between the launch and the junk when they first saw the latter.

Miss Fanny G. Wilson said she was sitting on the deck of the steam launch. They had been steaming alongside the *Victoria*, and had almost reached the end of the ship when she saw a Japanese junk coming across the bows of the launch. About half a minute after the junk struck the launch, and witness saw Miss Simons lying, as she supposed, in a faint. She gave her attention to the other injured lady, and when she saw Miss Simonds carried off the launch she supposed she was dead. Witness heard the whistle of the launch before the collision.

Miss Harriett S. Allen said she was on the launch. Five ladies were on the deck and two were sitting in the cabin windows. As they rounded the stern of the *Victoria* a junk came from the opposite direction, apparently at right angles. It was not more than 20 feet away, and a collision

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could not be avoided. The collision took place only a few seconds later. They were all pushed down towards the stern of the launch. She heard a cry, and saw Miss Simons fall, pick herself up, and fall down again. The whistle of the launch was blown before they rounded the stern of the *Victoria* and again when the launch was sighted.

Mrs. George Pett Pearson, who affirmed, said she was sitting in the cabin on the port side when the accident occurred. She was talking to a friend, and her head was turned away so that she saw nothing before the shock. She then turned and saw Miss Simons apparently falling into the water, while Miss Allen was being forced through the window. Witness with the help of her husband pulled Miss Allen through the window, and laid her on a seat. Miss Allen had a very tight hold of Miss Simons, but witness induced her to relinquish her grasp. When Miss Simons was brought into the cabin witness thought from the expression of her face that she was dead. The junk appeared to make a great effort to avoid a collision.

Miss Evans also gave evidence. She said the whistle of the launch had almost ceased when she reached the stern of the *Victoria*, and immediately after the prow of the Japanese vessel appeared. She thought she felt a thrill in the launch as if of hesitancy whether to go backwards or forwards. She heard no orders given. She only heard one whistle. She also saw several men on the junk attempt to do something with the sails, either to check its speed or change its course.

A Japanese policeman named Yata Kimbei said he was on board the launch. After leaving the *Empress of China* and just on the point of rounding the stern of the *Victoria* he saw the bows of a Japanese junk. He shouted a word of warning when the junk was about 180 feet distance, but a collision occurred directly afterwards. The sails of the junk—the ordinary square sails—were set and a south wind was blowing at the time. The steam launch whistled, and stopped her engines as soon as she saw the junk. He did not see the ladies struck.

Ogawa Riouzo, sailor on the *Takasago Maru*, the junk referred to, said the boat belonged to one Akimoto. He was on board at the time of the accident. The boat was coming from Shinagawa, and had entered the breakwater. A south wind was blowing, and he was pointing the head of the junk towards the west. Witness was steering. As his boat was rounding the stern of a foreign steamer he saw the launch belonging to No 14. The distance between them was about six feet. He was 25 years of age, and had been in command of this boat since May. The length of the boat was about 50 feet. As soon as he saw the launch he ported the helm.

Mr. George Pett Pearson, who affirmed, said he was on the launch when he heard a cry and saw the Japanese vessel's prow over the side of the launch. The shock was very inconsiderable. He heard a whistle before the shock, and he thought also before they rounded the *Victoria's* stern. He did not see deceased struck.

Mr. Louis Ottofy, dentist, stated that the launch first headed for the Hatoba and then changed its course, rounded the bow of the *Victoria*, and passed alongside of her until it approached her stern, when the launch slightly changed her course, which suggested to him that it was about to go towards the open harbour. He heard the whistle blow before they approached the stern of the *Victoria*. He did not recall hearing it a second time. Some action had taken place in the wheel house which one recognised in the change of motion of the vessel immediately the junk came into sight. He was on the opposite side from that which received the impact and had time to prepare for the shock, which was inconsiderable. Immediately after the collision the people who were in the cabin got out, and on looking in he saw an injured lady being passed in. He crawled through the window into the cabin. Just at that moment another lady was being handed in, who he had since learned was Miss Simons. He at once recognised that the injury she had sustained would probably be fatal. He tore open her clothing, exposing the chest, and drew out the tongue to clear the air passages. Respiration was very feeble, and the only hope of saving the patient's life lay in creating artificial respiration, which to endeavoured to do. He used the Marshall Hall method, which he had practised before. He had studied the subject in his course as a dental student. He was unable to distinguish any action of the heart or of the lungs. He continued the motion for inducing respiration for five minutes; at the end of that time the patient was certainly dead. He then looked for the wound, which was just below the heart, and was much discoloured. The junk came at an absolute right angle, and could not have been seen by the steersman as quickly as witness saw it. When witness first saw it, it was only 20 feet away, and as it was coming at good speed the engineer could not have avoided the collision. The junk was very close to the stern of the *Victoria*, she shaved it, in fact.

The Court at this point adjourned for tiffin. On resuming, Yamanouchi Kota, of the Water Police, said he was on board the *Victoria* on Friday morning, when he saw the collision. At that time the launch and the junk were about 150 feet away from the *Victoria*. They were nearer a Japanese steamer than the *Victoria*. While the cargo boat was passing the *Victoria* just before the collision it was about 240 away; the launch passed the stern at a distance of 120 feet. The mast of the junk he considered was about 36 feet high. He thought he saw the junk change her course after the launch whistle was blown, but he thought this made the collision a more serious one.

Mr. W. T. Payne, agent of the company, said he left the Hatoba on the launch about 11.40 with the ship's papers of the *Empress of Japan*. At that time there were very few passengers on the launch, as she had already made a trip. On leaving the ship there were ten or twelve ladies on the deck of the launch, and a few others in the cabin. At 12.20 or 12.25 the launch left the steamer, and made rather a wide circle across the bows of the *Victoria*. He was standing in conversation with friends on the port side about midships. As they approached the *Victoria* witness went aft, and stood at the corner of the cabin looking at the *Victoria*. He put in a diagram showing the positions of the different craft spoken of. The junk was not a proper sailing junk, but a towing junk fitted temporarily with a Japanese sail. He saw nothing of it when the first whistle was blown, but the accident happened almost immediately after. He did not notice any alteration in the course either of the junk or the launch. He could not say what was the strength of the wind blowing at the time; it was a fair sailing breeze for light craft. He should say the launch was not going at more than three-quarters speed; her full speed was about eight or nine knots, as she was only built for a tug boat.

Mr. Charles F. Pope, who was navigating the launch, said when it was just astern of the *Victoria*, about 130 feet distant, the whistle was blown as a signal to any approaching vessel. He heard the whistle once. As soon as they were about half-way across he saw the junk approaching in the opposite direction at a distance of about 40 to 50 feet. They barely had time to make any alteration to the launch's course when the collision took place. They were going at five to six knots an hour. It was usual to blow the whistle when passing a vessel. Previous to the collision the helm was put to port slightly. He did not see the accident to the ladies. He thought it was not possible to have seen the mast of the junk from the other side of the *Victoria*. He was satisfied that the steersman had a clear and unobstructed view. To a foreigner his whistle would mean that he was going to starboard; he did not know what it would convey to a Japanese.

Mr. A. R. Owen, was on board the launch at the time of the accident also gave evidence as to whistle blast, the appearance of the junk, and the collision.

A Japanese sailor named Ikeda, who was at the wheel of the launch at the time of the accident, made a long rambling statement to the effect, as far as could be understood, that he had been under the impression that the junk would pass on the other side of the *Victoria*. There was a man employed on the look-out, but the collision occurred almost at the same time as he gave warning. Witness stopped the engine, and gave orders for reversing it. The launch was running at half speed.

Mr. Scidmore informed the Court that there were no harbour regulations for Yokohama, only the international regulations observed by all countries.

The case was adjourned till Monday.

VERDICT.

The inquest was resumed on Monday morning at the American Consulate, Yokohama.

At the commencement of the proceedings, Mr. W. T. Payne, C. P. R. agent, explained that there were certain harbour regulations in force in Yokohama harbour, and one of them was to the effect that no steamer launch was permitted to tow within the harbour more than two tow boats. Within his own observation he had seen these regulations violated. He recalled the most recent instance as occurring on March 25th last as the *Empress of Japan* was leaving the port. A steam launch towed within the breakwater six cargo boats, which were cast off and drifted across the bows of the *Empress of Japan*, so that the steamer had to stop and back, at considerable risk to herself. No accident occurred, but he wished to enter his protest against such proceedings which involved great risk to steamers leaving and entering the harbour. These boats being large and flat-bottomed made a great deal of leeway, and he wished to bring it out that they formed a great menace to the safety of navigation.

Mr. Gowey—Don't you think that if it is so it is a reason for steam launches using extraordinary care?

Mr. Payne—Yes, I entirely agree.

Mr. Smith—What is the distance the launch could have turned in?

Mr. Payne—I am not proposed to answer that question; the boat is 75 feet long.

Mr. Smith—She is a twin-screw steamer?

Mr. Payne—Yes.

Mr. Smith—Then with one engine going astern and the other ahead she should be able to turn very quickly.

Mr. Payne added a word as to the experience of the steersman of the launch, who had been for 14 years in the service of Martin & Co. as steersman, and had been selected for his post on account of his having the largest experience in the harbour.

Suzuki Kojiro, boatswain on the launch, said he was on the starboard side near the stern at the time of the accident. He had seen the junk towed by a launch as far as the harbour entrance, when the two separated. At the time the steam launch began to pass alongside the *Victoria* from the stem to the stern the junk was about 700 feet away. When they had passed the bow of the *Victoria* the junk was of course hidden from sight. When his launch was rounding the stern of the *Victoria* the junk came straight at her, and hit her on the starboard side. When he first sighted her after passing the stern she was only 60 feet away.

Ikeda Shijiro, steersman, was recalled, and made a long rambling statement which threw no further light on the question.

Mr. C. F. Pope, recalled, said he thought the launch with one engine reversed going at half speed could turn in a circle of 200 feet. Witness was speaking to some one when the accident happened. After the steersman had been given his instructions it was witness's custom to leave the navigation of the launch to him.

Mori Kanjuro, the supposed look out-man on the launch, said there were many persons on board, and, being short in stature, he could not see in front. He had no special duty, but was on the launch to do anything that he was wanted to do.

Another *sendo* named Keigoro, was also called, but his evidence was immaterial.

At this point the Court took a lengthy recess, and on returning into Court Mr. Gowey read the verdict as follows:—"We find that Maud E. Simon died on board the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's steam launch *Spindrift* in the harbour of Yokohama, Japan, on Friday, July 29th, 1898, and that the cause of her death was internal injuries received in a collision between the said steam launch and the Japanese cargo boat *Takasago Maru*, and that the said collision was due to carelessness in navigation by the persons in charge of both the said vessels, and more particularly of those in charge of the said steam launch."

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral service took place at 5 p.m. on Saturday at 221 Bluff, one of the large rooms of which was completely filled by European and Japanese friends of the deceased. It was a most pathetic scene, and an occasional sob, to be heard here and there among the audience, testified to the regret felt at the lady's sudden death. After the singing of the hymn, "Abide with me, fast falls the eventide," the Rev. Dr. Cleveland read a portion of Scripture, after which a prayer in the vernacular was offered by the Japanese pastor of the Tobe Church, who later give an address in the native tongue concerning the virtues of the deceased, and the sorrow felt by the Japanese congregation at her untimely end. After a solo by Mrs. Cleveland, the Rev. Dr. Cleveland gave a brief outline of the life of Miss Simons, the main facts of which were given in our issue on Saturday. Bishop Cranston then delivered a lengthy address, in which he claimed that Miss Simons belonged to a band of Christian Crusaders who had made the nineteenth century notable. The fact that young women educated in the best institutions of Europe and America threw up all worldly prospects and advantages, and responded to the call of duty as Miss Simons had done, showed, he thought, a heroism that had not been equalled in the history of our race. He must ask them to distinguish between the madness of devotion and fever of enthusiasm and an intelligent appreciation of duty. It was the former spirit that had made the old crusaders; it was the latter that made intelligent, highly educated, and refined women—women who received the best knowledge that could be bestowed on them under

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the most favourable conditions, women with careers before them—leave their homes for strange lands where many difficulties and sometimes many terrible ordeals awaited them. He must say he felt almost ashamed of his own sex when he found men, also intelligent and educated, who came forward to express an unfavourable opinion of work they could have no possible opportunity of judging. Those leaders who criticised missions must remember that it was missionaries who had floated three-quarters of the business of the world. He meant that missionaries had gone first to the wild parts of the world, they had gained the confidence of the natives; and traders and speculators had followed to profit from it. And then they did not refrain from slandering and sending home false reports of the work. After a warm eulogy of the late Miss Simons, the Bishop concluded by the expression of a hope that her life and death would be the means of stimulating her fellow-workers to an even more consecrated, and steady, and holy industry.

After the singing of the hymn, "Lead, kindly light," and final prayer by Rev. Dr. Johnson, a procession was formed for the Cemetery, where the interment took place. A large number of beautiful wreaths were sent.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

LATEST FROM MANILA.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ATTACK.

MORE U. S. TROOPS EXPECTED.

(From our Correspondent.)

Manila, July 29, via Shanghai, August 1, 6.38 p.m.

General Merritt is now busily engaged in making final arrangements to attack Manila. The remaining transports from San Francisco are expected on the 29th—to-day. There will be no American or rebel advance on the doomed city until these reinforcement arrive. The situation is, consequently, unchanged.

STRIKE OF CHINA COAST FIREMEN.

SHIPPING DELAYED AT SHANGHAI.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Shanghai, Aug. 1.

A strike is now on among the firemen engaged on the steamers that ply up and down the China coast. They demand a rise of four dollars per month. The shipping at Shanghai and the big coast ports is being seriously delayed.

(From the "Japan Times.")

THE WAR.

MC'KINLEY WILL NEGOTIATE FOR PEACE: WAR TO CONTINUE MEANTIME.

CUBA TO BE INDEPENDENT.

ANNEXATION OF PUERTORICO AND LADRONES.

London, July 28.

President McKinley, in consultation with the Cabinet, has determined to accept the offer of Spain to open peace negotiations, but the war will continue unabated until more tangible terms are proposed. It is stated that the President's minimum terms include the complete independence of Cuba under American protection, the absolute cession of Puertorico and the Ladrones, and a port and coaling station in the Philippines.

NO SUSPENSION OF HOSTILITIES.

SPAIN MUST GIVE BINDING PLEDGES.

London, July 29.

America does not consent to suspend hostilities unless Spain gives binding pledges to abide by the broad preliminary conditions outlined yesterday.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

ADVANCE OF THE BRITISH FORCES.

DERVISHES CONCENTRATE FOR ATTACK.

The Nile force has established a depot twelve miles below Shabluka. The Khalifa is concentrating his forces at Omdurman, and has announced that he will lead his army in person.

KING ALFONSO ATTACKED BY MEASLES.

The young King of Spain is confined to his bed with an attack of measles.

PRINCE OF WALES RECOVERING.

The Prince of Wales continues to make favourable progress towards recovery, and is going to Cowes.

BISMARCK DYING.

Prince Bismarck is seriously ill. His family is assembled at Friedrichsruhe.

THE GOODWOOD CUP.

The following are the results of racing for the Goodwood Cup:—1. King's-Messenger. 2. Pie Powder. 3. St. Cloud.

GREAT BRITAIN AND CHINA.

THE YANGTZE QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

London, July 30.

Mr. Curzon, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, declared in the House of Commons that England regarded the assurance of China respecting the Yangtze as definite and binding. He was aware the undertaking for the Pekin-Hankow railway had been granted to a Belgian syndicate, but China had assured Sir Claude Macdonald that Russia had no interest in the line.

AN ANGLO-AMERICAN LEAGUE.

IMPORTANT MOVEMENT IN NEW YORK.

The *New York Herald* announces that steps are being taken in New York to promote the object of an Anglo-American league. A committee has been appointed to take action towards the establishment of a powerful national organization.

DEATH OF PRINCE BISMARCK.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH TRIBUTES TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS STATESMAN.

London, Aug. 1.

The French press, while paying tribute to Bismarck's greatness, implies that France is unable to forget 1870. The English papers, however, extoll his colossal genius as the creator of Germany, comparing him to Napoleon, Pitt, and Cromwell, and belauding his services to the peace of the world by the establishment of the Triple Alliance.

Prince Bismarck had a serious relapse, and died at eleven o'clock on Saturday night. The Emperor William was deeply affected at the news, and interrupted his tour to Norway, returning to Germany.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR IRELAND.

The Irish Government Bill has passed all stages in the House of Lords.

THE PEACE CONDITIONS.

A SPANISH-AMERICAN COMMISSION.

The Washington Cabinet has decided upon formulating the following conditions of peace:—The cession of Puertorico, recognition of Cuban Independence, cession of one of the Ladrones. No armistice will be granted, and the United States refuses to assume either the Cuban or Puertorico debts. The future of the Philippines is to be left to the decision of a Spanish-American Commission, America in the meantime exercising control over Manila and vicinity, and also of Cuba, pending the establishment of a stable government.

THE FATE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

DISCONTENT IN AMERICA.

President McKinley's reported intention to abandon the Philippines has provoked strong protests in America.

GREAT BRITAIN AND CHINA.

STATEMENT BY LORD SALISBURY.

BRITISH SUPPORT PROMISED TO CHINA, IN RETURN FOR COMMERCIAL FACILITIES.

London, August 3.

In the House of Lords on Monday Lord Salisbury, replying to Lord Kimberley regarding British interests on the Yangtze, said the Chinese were well disposed towards British enterprise, but it had been suggested that they had been threatened by other Powers to give them the preference. Hence, on the 22nd July, Sir Claude Macdonald, British Minister at Peking, was authorized to inform China that Britain would support her against any Power committing an act of aggression upon her in return for permitting British subjects to construct or support railways or public works.

UNITED STATES ARMY INCREASE.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY'S PLAN.

The *Washington Post* states that President McKinley will call an extra Session of Congress with the view of passing special legislation to maintain an active army of one hundred thousand men.

AMERICANS OCCUPY PUERTORICO.

SPAIN ACCEPTS CONDITIONS.

London, Aug. 4.

The Americans have occupied Juanadiaz, Puertorico, amid the acclamation of the inhabitants. It is reported both from Washington and Madrid that Spain has in principle accepted the peace conditions.

THE AMERICAN TROOPS FOR MANILA.

Hongkong, Aug. 1.

According to intelligence from Manila, dated July 27, the third batch of American troops arrived at Manila on the 25th July. General Merritt arrived by the steamer *Newport*. Other transports are expected to arrive within a few days. The troops at Cavite are engaged in manœuvres.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	M. M Co.	Salazie 1	W. Aug. 10
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 2	Su. Aug. 14
Hongkong	P. & O Co.	Rohilla	M. Aug. 15
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India 3	M. Aug. 15
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Glengyle	M. Aug. 15
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Th. Aug. 18
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Olympia	Th. Aug. 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. Aug. 22
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Aug. 31

1 Left Hongkong on the 2nd inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 26th July.
3 Left Vancouver on the 2nd inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Aug 5
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Sa Aug. 6
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Aug. 10
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Sata-ma Maru	W. Aug. 10
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Aug. 15
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Aug. 15
America	P. M. Co.	Glengyle	Tu. Aug. 16
Canada, &c	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Aug. 19
Tacoma, Wash. ...	N. P. Co.	Olympia	F. Aug. 19
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Salazie	W. Aug. 27

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CHESS

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 378.

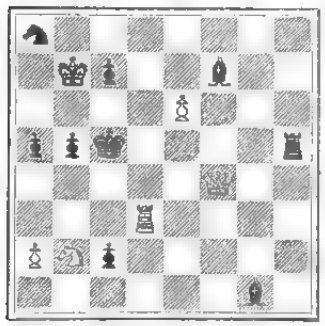
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—K to Kt 8	1—Kt to B 3 ch
2—B takes B mate	
	1—K to Q 4
2—P to K 4 mate	
	1—B takes R or moves
2—R to K 5 mate	
	1—R moves
2—Kt to QB 3 mate	
	1—Kt to Q 4
2—B takes B mate	
	1—Kt any other move
2—B to QB 6 mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Miss S., and D.D.

PROBLEM No. 381.

By H. F. L. MEYER, London.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in two moves.

GAME No. 413

NOVEL CHESS.

The Field gives a game played by signal between two men-of-war lying in the English Channel—H.M.S. *Arrogant* and *Mars*. Here is the score :—

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING.

White—H.M.S. *Arrogant*. Black—H.M.S. *Mars*.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK
1 P Q4	P Q4	17 Kt K5	Kt Q2(g)
2 P QB4	P K3	18 KtxQBP	
3 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	(h)	R B sq
4 P K3(a)	P QB4	19 KxB	PxKt
5 Kt B3	Kt B3	20 Kt K3	Kt Kt sq
6 P QR3	P Q3(b)	21 Kt B5	B Kt4(i)
7 B K2	B K2	22 BxB	QxB
8 Q Q3(c)	BPxB	23 Kt K7ch	KxRsq
9 KPxP	PxP	24 KtxR(j)	RxKt
10 QxBP	Kt R4	25 P B4	Q B3
11 Q R4ch	P Kt4	26 Q K3	Kt B3
12 Q B2(d)	B Kt2	27 QR B sq	R QKt sq
13 P Kt4(e)	Kt B5	28 KR Q sq	Kt K2
14 BxKt(f)	PxB	29 Q K5	QxQ
15 Q K2	B Q4	30 QPxQ	Kt Kt3
16 Castles	Castles	31 P Kt3	Resigns

NOTES.

(a) The variation beginning with 4—B to Kt 5 is more usual now than this, the older form of development.

(b) A developing move instead of this would be better; *Mars*, however, in imitating the moves of his opponent, follows a course more suggestive of the name of the latter than of his own martial appellation.

(c) The Queen is in the way of the Bishop here. 8—P to QKt 3, followed by B to Kt 2 is preferable.

(d) 12—Q to Q sq at once would have been better.

(e) The Knight might be left undisturbed in favour of 13—B to K 3.

(f) Here also B to K 3, followed by Castles, would be better.

(g) Black has a good game, and might have improved it with 17..... Q to B 2, while the text move should lose a piece.

(h) White should have played 8—Kt takes B, and, if P takes Kt, 19—Kt to B 6 wins a piece. If 18 ..... Kt takes Kt, then 19—Kt takes B ch, Q takes Kt; 20—Q or P takes Kt, etc.

(i) Another weak move, losing the exchange and practically the game in consequence. 21..... B to B 3 should have been played.

(j) The remainder is all "plain sailing" for White.

GAME No. 414.

A VIENNA TOURNEY GAME.

KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—Blackburne. Black—Pillsbury.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	22 R B5	KR Q
2 P KB4	P Q4	23 P Kt5	PxP
3 Kt KB3	PxKP	24 P K6	PxP
4 KtxP	B Q3	25 Kt B5ch	K R
5 B B4	Kt KR3	26 R B6	Kt B7
6 P Q4	PxP e p	27 B K4	Kt K6
7 QxP	B KB4	28 RxP	RxKtP
8 Q K2	Castles	29 B Q3	R Kt7ch
9 Castles	Kt B3	30 K R	R Q7
10 B K3	BxKt	31 RxKt	R(Q7)xB
11 PxB	Kt Q5	32 R K5	R Q7
12 Q Q2	KtxP	33 R K7	RxP
13 BxKt	PxB	34 R K	P B4
14 RxB	QxQ	35 P R4	P B5
15 KtxQ	KtxR	36 PxP	P B6
16 KtxR4	QR Q	37 P K6	PxP
17 Kt B6ch	K R	38 Kt B4	P B7
18 R R5	K Kt2	39 R KKt	R Q8
19 P KKt4	K Kt3	40 Kt K2	RxKch
20 B K2	R Q7	41 KtxR	R R8
21 B B3	R KR	Resigns.	

NOTES.

Mr. Steinitz has stated his belief that prejudice against chess as an intellectual exercise had been created in the public mind by the calamitous breakdown of Morphy's faculties and intensified by his own personal experience at Moscow. It is his desire to combat the growth of this prejudice, and it is for this reason that he is bent on bringing out his book on "Jewishdom in Chess." An unfounded statement, if permitted to circulate uncontradicted, in time assumes all the dignity of truth. Such is the case with the above ideality concerning Morphy. It has been published all over the world, and we deem it our duty, in the interest of truth and chess, to put a stop to its further circulation. Chess had nothing to do with Morphy's "calamitous breakdown." His decay was the natural effects of quite a different cause. If Morphy had never learned the first moves of chess he would just the same have broken down and become the physical and mental wreck he was when death happily came to his relief. Let us hear no more about chess being the cause of his breakdown from vigorous youth to imbecility.—*New Orleans State Democrat.*

Paul von Frankenberg-Proschlitz, formerly a member of the New York Chess Club, died in Germany recently, leaving 600 marks to the Club. The New York Chess Club passed out of existence several years ago, and there is a question regarding the legal heir.

In chess there is something that suggests the science of geology. Suppose that at some stage in a game between two good players—not too far advanced a stage, say the twenty-fourth or thirtieth move—the distribution of the pieces is reported to a third good player. Then it is quite possible that he would be able from mere inspection to pick out the piece that was moved last and to state where it came from. He might replace it, announce the previous move and so on, until, in the end, the board would show a known position in one of the recognized openings, after which he would have no difficulty in naming the rest of the moves.—*The Australasian.*

P. F. Blake, the famous English problem composer, has just won the championship of the Manchester Chess Club. This is a feat, indeed, and, as the *Manchester Evening News* observes:—"The cranks who are so fond of alleging that problem composition ruins a man for across the-board play will perhaps lie low for a time after this latest evidence in refutation of their theory."—*Times Democrat.*

At the annual meeting of the Hongkong Chess Club, accounts were passed showing a balance of $216 02, an increase of about $30. It was resolved to have the Club room open only on Thursday during the summer months.

The current number of the *American Chess Magazine* contains a brief sketch of the English chess enthusiast. Sir George Newnes, through whose generosity the Anglo-American cable contest became an institution. It is, perhaps, not generally known that Sir George, who is now a member of Parliament, the owner of several of the best-paying weekly magazines published in England, and counted as a millionaire, owed his rise in fortune to *Tit-Bits*, a paper which was started by him a decade or so ago. The journal had an extremely modest beginning and was conducted on novel lines, being largely made up of "reprint." It was frowned upon by the English press generally, and *Punch* went out of its way on several occasions to lampoon its methods. Notwithstanding the active hostility of its contemporaries, *Tit-Bits* was a money-maker from its inception, and its founder was speedily raised from poverty to affluence. It is comparatively but a few years since Sir George trotted around the streets of Manchester, literally on "his uppers." Even at this time he was possessed with the idea that one day by a lucky stroke he would become rich and powerful. It is on record that among his Manchester friends he was referred to slightingly as "the man with an idea."

Steinitz, all things considered, is doing well at Vienna, but it is barely possible that his constitution, now enfeebled by age, will be able to withstand the severe strain which the prolonged encounter entails. He claims to be the veteran of the Vienna tournament, but Herr Schwartz is about the same age—namely, 62. The ages of the other competitors are, approximately — Alapin, 44; Baird, 40; Blackburne, 56; Burn, 50; Caro, 39; Halprin, 25; Janowski, 30; Lipke, 26; Marco, 35; Maroczy, 28; Pillsbury, 26; Schiffers, 48; Schlechter, 24; Showalter, 38; Tarrasch, 36; Trenchard, 41; Tschigorin, 48; Walbrodt, 27. Schwartz has not played in leading contests for some years. Lipke won first prize at Leipzig in 1894. Alapin came in among the minor prize winners in 1890 at Manchester.—*The Times.*

The committee having charge of the arrangements of the Vienna tourney accorded the players an additional rest day during the week, as it considered the continuous strain might prove injurious to the health of some of the competitors. The status of the contestants has not been materially changed, although Tarrasch by securing the postponed game against Tschigorin placed himself upon an even footing with Pillsbury up to the twenty-second round, when the young American received the bye. Steinitz has a capital chance of securing a prize, but Baird and Showalter appear to be hopelessly outclassed. The results by rounds follow:—The twenty-second round, Lipke beat Janowski, Alapin beat Trenchard, Steinitz beat Schlechter, Maroczy beat Showalter, Halprin and Blackburne drew, Schiffers beat Caro, Tarrasch beat Baird, Burn beat Walbrodt, Tschigorin beat Marco. The score now stands :—

	WON.	LOST.		WON.	LOST.
Alapin	12	9	Pillsbury	15½	4½
Baird	4	17	Schiffers	9½	11½
Blackburne*	9½	10½	Schlechter	10½	10½
Burn	11	10	Showalter*	8	12
Caro	6	15	Steinitz	13½	7½
Halprin	8½	12½	Tarrasch	16½	4½
Janowski	14½	6½	Trenchard	3½	17½
Lipke	11½	9½	Tschigorin	13	8
Marco	9	12	Walbrodt	10½	10½
Maroczy	11½	9½			

* Adjourned game.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645. R. Swain, 29th July,—Shanghai via ports, 23rd July, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Arabia, German steamer, 3,560. Dempwolf, 29th July,—Hamburg via ports, Shanghai, 25th July, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Powerful (14), British Cruiser, 14,200. Capt. Hon. Hedworth Lambton, 30th July,—Wei-hai wei.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039. E. B. Bishop, 31st July,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 29th July, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, Edward Porter, 31st July,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 15th July, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,589, C. Hillcoat, 31st July,—London via ports, Kobe, 29th July, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Frundsberg (9), Austrian Corvette, 1,400, Capt. Lucian von Ziegler, 31st July,—Manila, 13th July.

Hohenzollern, German steamer, 2,376, H. Bleeker, 1st Aug.,—Hongkong, 27th July, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Whiting (6), British Torpedo Boat Destroyer, 280, Lieut. Barton, 1st Aug.,—Nagasaki.

Glenfarry, British steamer, 1,925, Ferguson, 2nd Aug.,—Rangoon, 17th July, Rice.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Clam, British steamer, 2,311, Black, 2nd Aug.,—Batoum via ports, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Prometheus, British steamer, 3,583. Day, 3rd Aug.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe 2nd Aug., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

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Esmeralda, British schooner, 130, J. T. Harrison, 4th Aug.,—Guam, Copra.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Glenfarg, British steamer, 2,350, F. Selby, 29th July,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, A. E. Moses, 29th July,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 29th July,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Duntrune, British ship, 1,452, G. Winterton, 30th July,—Portland, Ore., Ballast.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Truebridge, 30th July,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Erato, German steamer, 2,377, Ostermann, 31st July,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Wm. H. Starbuck, American ship, 1,272, Henry McDonald, 31st July,—Port Townsend, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, Edward Porter, 1st Aug.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell Carlill & Co.

Nestor, British steamer, 2,417, W. Asquith, 2nd Aug.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Dante, German steamer, 1,302, Th. Kopke, 2nd Aug.,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Captain.

Arabia, German steamer, 3,560, Dempwolf, 3rd Aug.,—London, Hamburg and Antwerp via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Fitzclarence, British steamer, 2,600, I. Pattie, 3rd Aug.,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Japan, British steamer, 2,795, T. Leigh, 3rd Aug.,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,260, Maubenge, 3rd Aug.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 3rd Aug.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. N. Bentz, Mr. and Mrs. Solshinokoff, Mrs. Ransome, Mrs. E. Sells, Colonel F. J. N. Nunstead, Mr. V. Wahee, Mr. D. Arimond, Major S. Ono, Major T. Yamamoto, Lieut. M. Kono, Mr. O. Satow, Mr. H. Yamaguchi and child, and Miss K. Mochida, in cabin; Mrs. M. Ohtani and 3 children, Mr. G. Satow, Mr. H. Mori, Mrs. and Mrs. Kong Seng Ing, and Mr. Young Jang Seng, in second class; 48 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Braemar*, from Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C.:—Mr. A. Mueller, and Mr. A. G. Price, in cabin; 58 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Tooker, Mr. Lumberg, and Miss Monk, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Hohenzollern*, from Hongkong:—Mr. Ph. R. Goedkoop, Mr. E. Liethy, and Mr. T. Mera, in cabin; Mr. K. Yamasaki, Mr. T. Yoshida, Mr. Hans Temme, Mr. Aug. Schroeder, Mrs. Richardson and children, Mr. Etzoff, in second class; 3 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Glenfarg*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Rev. D. K. Harrington, Lieut. B. Cedie, Mr. Wm. Morris, and Mr. Pierre Dumarest, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. G. H. Almond, Mr. L. Bérinduaque, Mr. L. V. Bœck, Lieut. P. Brown, Mr. Edgar Bruce, Mrs. Edgar Bruce, Surg. C. L. Bunton, Mr. Jas. Burns, Mrs. Jas. Burns, Miss Burns, Mr. A. G. Campbell, Mr. A. M. Chalmers, Mrs. A. M. Chalmers, Mr. H. R. Coombs, Major A. C. Cumberland, Mr. R. E. Difeodorifei, Rev. J. H. Doughty, Mrs. J. H. Doughty and maid, Miss Helena Doughty, Master John Doughty, Miss Adeline Doughty, Mr. W. F. S. Dugdale, Mr. T. Y. Dzushi, Mr. L. Escombe, Mr. Geo. Flood, Dr. Fryer, Mr. K. Gammell, Mr. A. R. Greaves, Mrs. A. R. Greaves, Mr. A. L. Herdlinger, Mr. Y. Hiraga, Mrs. J. M. Hood, Miss Mabel D. Hood, Miss Alice W. Hood, Mr. J. M. Hood, Jr., Mr. H. J. Hunt, Mrs. H. J. Hunt, Mr. J. Jacobson, Rev. E. Jones, Mr. S. Kimura, Mr. A. Lassos, Mr. J. P. Lawrence, Dr. L. Lönholm, Miss Lönholm, Chevalier Luzzatti, Dr. D. Macdonald, Mrs. D. Macdonald, Miss E. M. Neilson and maid, Dr. I. Nitobe, Mrs. I. Nitobe and maid, Master Nitobe, Mr. Y. Okuda, The Earl of Oxford, the Countess of Oxford, Capt. John Ouspensky, Rev. J. Parker, Mrs. Parker and child, Mrs. H. C. Perry, Mrs. M. K. Plummer, Mr. Lu Yick Quon, Mrs. Lu Yick Quon and daughter, Miss Read and maid, Mr. A. K. Rhoden, Miss E. Russell, Miss M. H. Russell, Mrs. E. J. Sanford, Mr. A. Sassen, Mrs. A. Sassen, Dr. Oscar von Schab, Mr. A. Schumacher, Mr. R. Stephenson, Miss Sterling, Mr. Theodore Stern, Mrs. Theodore Stern, Lieut.-Col. Stoker, Mrs. Stoker, Mrs. F. W. Such, Mr. J. A. Summers, Prof. I. Tanakadate, Count August Valentinis, Mr. P. C. Van Buskirk, U.S.U., Dr. R. W. Watson, Miss E. Williamson, and Miss K. M. Youngman, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Riojun Maru* for Seattle, Washington:—Rear-Admiral Y. Matsumaga (I.J.N.), Paymaster J. Takeuchi (I.J.N.), Paymaster S. Shimizu, Mr. J. H. Callaco, and Mr. M. Rowlinson, in cabin; 18 Japanese, and one European, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yinsen Maru*, for Otaru via ports:—Admiral S. Ito, Commander M. Takashima, I.J.N., Rev. Chas. Bishop, Rev. C. F. Kupper, Rev. and Mrs. D. S. Spencer, Mr. Harry Spencer, Mr. David Spencer, and Mr. Robert Spencer, in cabin; 35 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Victoria*, for Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.:—Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Price and 2 children, Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Waller and 4 children, Mr. and Mrs. Theo. J. Morris, Mrs. T. J. Edwards and child, Miss Reina Day, Miss M. Farrow, Mr. A. G. Aitken, Mr. J. S. Burnet, Mr. W. D. Baker, Mr. M. M. Ellis, Mr. W. B. Sewell, Mr. A. H. Stewart, and Mr. Chas. Weber, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Thwaites, Mr. H. J. Metz, Mr. G. Neubert, Mr. F. W. Home, Mr. W. L. Crow, Mr. de Berigny, Mr. L. Komor, Mr. J. Omer, Major-General N. Yanjoul, Lieut. Deverell, Capt. Menogue, Capt. Lang, Mr. Z. Polianorsky and boy, Mrs. A. Frique, Mrs. and Miss Asse, Miss Dudson, Miss Annie, Mr. Yamaguchi, Mr. Rickman, Mr. G. Harris Purcell, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. Wehrung, Mr. Barlow, Mr. C. E. Miller, Mr. Gribble, Mr. Saltarel, Mr. Andrew Herd, Mr. A. G. Dutche, Mr. Benoist, Mr. Gilanton, Mrs. Rumsey, Miss H. Stone, Mr. K. Takahashi, Mr. Y. Mitsugi, Mr. T. Takebe, Mr. Cascarine, and Mr. A. Harteloup, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Japan*, for London via ports:—Mr. S. Toms, Mrs. S. Toms, Miss Toms, Miss Rita Toms, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ede, Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, and Mr. S. Hankin, in cabin; Mr. Edward Woodgate, Mr. Edwin Gill, Mr. A. Bambrook, Mr. A. Whiting, Mr. Edward Oliver, and Mr. William Ladick, in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Kagoshima Maru*, for Otaru via ports:—Mrs. E. S. Patton, Mrs. Fraser, Master Drummond, Miss Sells, and Mr. S. Yasui, in cabin; 30 Japanese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—General Kuroki, I.J.N., Constructor A. Ishikawa, I.J.N., Mrs. and Miss Paton, Mr. J. W. Copmann, Rev. and Mrs. G. C. Needham, Rev. H. Loomis, Rev. J. H. Ballagh, Mr. T. B. Pocklington, Rev. and Mrs. D. L. Gifford, Rev. A. F. King, Mr. R. Hachiya, Miss Gheer, Mr. T. Sone, and Mr. J. M. Sutherland, in cabin; Mr. T. Tabata, Mr. Nakamura, Mr. Y. Noguchi, Lieut. S. Uchikoshi, I.J.A., Lieut. N. Oda, I.J.A., Constructor K. Ise, I.J.N., Mrs. M. Takebayashi, Master T. Takebayashi, Mr. C. Mikajiri, Mr. R. Furikui, Mr. J. Waßilevich, Mr. B. Leonteff, Mrs. J. Muranka, Mr. Chang-thin-Tuh, Mr. Hong-hwan, Mr. Shin Whin-Ging and child, and Mr. Tsu-Wei-chun, in second class; 71 Japanese, and one Chinese, in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

	TEA.						
	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK & EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	DUBUQUE	MINNEAPOLIS.	TOTAL PACKAGES.
Hongkong	31	—	42	372	—	—	447
Amoy	—	1,328	—	—	—	—	1,328
Foochow	991	914	—	303	—	—	2,208
Shanghai	1,781	870	1,126	134	—	—	3,911
Hankow	299	—	311	100	—	—	701
Kobe	3,088	—	—	—	—	—	3,088
Yokohama	6,842	549	—	172	—	—	7,563
Total	13,025	3,661	1,479	1,081	—	—	19,246

	SILK.			
	NEW YORK.		OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Hongkong and Canton	R.S. 310 / W.S. 106		—	416
Shanghai	219		—	219
Chefoo	—		—	—
Yokohama	321		—	321
Total	956		—	956

REPORTS.

The German steamer *Hohenzollern*, Capt. H. Bleeker, reports:—Left Hongkong, the 27th July at 2 p.m. Passed North Pt. of Formosa, the 29th July at 1.30 a.m. Yoko Island, the 30th July at noon. Siwo Pt., the 30th July at 4.30 p.m. Buck Island, the 1st August at 10 a.m., and arrived at Yokohama, the same day at 4.30 p.m. Got through Formosa Channel N. E. wind, strong. North of Formosa Easterly winds rain; outside the Islands squalls with torrents of rain. Last part of voyage N. E. light fine weather.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is no improvement in the deadlock, the few enquiries that are made for yarns and shirtings being at prices below home values.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.55 to 2.85
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.75 to 2.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2.00 to 3.75
	PER YARD.
Cottas—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.15 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.38 to 0.42
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 32 inches	0.15 to 0.17
Cloths—Plain, 54 to 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb., per ½	0.50 to 0.60
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 32 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	0.25 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 42.50
Nos. 36 42, Singles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 2 60, Plain	60.00 to 63.00
Nos. 2 80, Plain	75.00 to 76.30
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2 60, Gassed	69.50 to 76.50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2 100, Gassed	114.00 to 124.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$19.50 to —
Indian Broach	19.25 —
Chinese	21.00 to 21.50

METALS.

There is some enquiry for galvanised corrugated sheets and tin plates, but at extremely unsatisfactory prices. In other directions the dullness is absolute.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch. and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4.00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4.90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5.90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5.95
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (1 to 4 inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

Market quiet but steady. Quotations:—

American	$2.05	—
Russian	1.95 to	2.00
Langkat	—	1.85

SUGAR.

Market steady, with an advance in prices of about 5 *sen* in browns, except Manilas; Formosas are 10 to 15 *sen* dearer. There is an improved inquiry for white refined.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.40 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.10 to 6.20
Brown Daitong	3.90 to 4.30
Brown Canton	4.20 to 5.85
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.25
White Refined	7.70 to 8.60

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is fairly active, the demand being chiefly from Europe, though more enquiries at better prices have been coming from America the last few days. Settlements since July 27th have been 1,020 piculs. There are 5,457 piculs in stock.

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QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	$920
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	920 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	865 to 875
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	845
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	880 to 890
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	850
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	830
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	810
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	850
Kakedas—No. 1	815
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	790
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is still quite destitute of life; there have been no settlements, and the following quotations must be taken as merely nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	85 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 22½

TEA.

There is a good demand, particularly for common and medium grades. Though there is a very large stock prices have ruled firm, with no change on last week's quotations. The third crop is now being picked. The total settlements this year so far have been 155,214 piculs, compared with 167,544 piculs at the corresponding date of last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$35 & upwards
Choice	$33 to 34
Finest	31 to 32
Fine	29 to 30
Good Medium	27 to 28
Medium	25 to 26
Good Common	23 to 24
Common	21 to 22

EXCHANGE.

Silver again ⅛ higher from London and sterling quotation ⅛ higher from China, but no change made in rates here.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅛ to 5/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 5/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0½
— — 6 months' sight	2/0½
On Paris—Bank sight	2.55½
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.58 to 09
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	50½
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06½
— Private 4 months' sight	2.10½
On Hongkong—Bank sight	4¼% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	6% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	78½
— Private 10 days' sight	79½
On India—Bank sight	153
— Private 30 days' sight	156
Bar Silver (London)	27½

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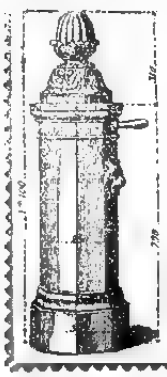

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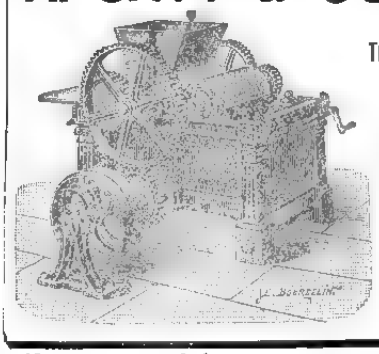

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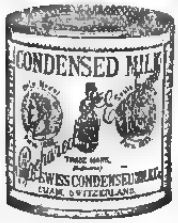

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 7.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, AUGUST 13TH, 1898. 明治三十一年八月十三日 Vol. XXX.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCH QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, AUG. 13TH, 1898.

BIRTH.

At Westlands, Yokohama, on the 10th inst. the wife of JOHN STIVEN, of a son.

DEATH.

On August 9 (2 o'clock a.m.), at No. 261, Bluff, LEONORA, beloved daughter of John Griffin.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE first transport with American troops from Santiago has arrived at New York.

SIR T. LIPTON, the London tea merchant, has sent his challenge for the America Cup.

THE Japanese warship *Takasago* arrived at Hongkong on August 5th from Singapore.

THE conduct of Aguinaldo, the insurgent leader at Manila, is regarded with suspicion.

THE rice crop in Kanagawa prefecture is expected to be better than the average of centre years.

THE landing of U. S. troops on the south east coast of Puerto Rico has been practically completed. The Americans are everywhere welcomed.

THE *Novoe Vremya* announces that Russia has acquired the Sultanate of Raheita on the Red Sea, as a naval base.

DURING the week many ministerial changes have been telegraphed from Korea, but none seem of any consequence.

THERE appears to have been a serious uprising of rebels in South Formosa during the first week of August.

DURING July 33,860 boxes of tea were sent into Kobe from the interior: purchases included 2,263,600 lbs.

DYSENTERY seems to be very rife all over central Japan at present. A few isolated cases of cholera are also reported daily.

THE Queen of Denmark, who is 81 years of age, is reported to be seriously ill. The family is assembling at Copenhagen.

COUNT ITAGAKI, the Home Minister, has duly notified the coming into operation of the revised treaties in July of next year.

THE Yokohama Cricket Club achieved an easy victory over the Fleet last Saturday: on Thursday the return match ended in a draw.

THE Powers regard the Anglo Russian relations in China as critical. Complications are apprehended. The stock market is weak.

SPAIN has accepted conditionally the conditions of peace outlined by the United States and hostilities are expected to cease at any moment.

MR. SHIMIZU, President of the Commercial College, who has been subjected to much adverse criticism of late, resigned the post on the 6th inst.

YOKOYAMA Seigen, 38 years old, an employé of the Kwansei Steamship Company, of Osaka, on the 5th inst. absconded with *yen* 11,100 belonging to the Company.

WEDNESDAY was the date of the general elections. In Yokohama the day passed quietly, the old member, Mr. Shimada Saburo, being re elected by a large majority.

TELEGRAPHIC intelligence from Chemulpho, dated the 5th inst., says that the German cruiser *Deutschland* left for Vladivostock that day H.I.H. Prince Henry is on board her.

A CONFERENCE of Superintendents of Prisons has been convened in the capital for the 15th prox. Improvements in the system and in the treatment of prisoners will be discussed.

THE third batch of U. S. troops have arrived at Cavite. There has been some serious skirmishing outside Manila. The Americans lost a good many men, but nothing in proportion to the Spaniards.

A VERY impressive memorial service in honour of the late Prince Bismarck was held in the Public Hall on Monday. The orator of the day was Dr. Baelz, the distinguished Tokyo physician.

THE typhoon predicted in the early part of the week, did a good deal of damage in North Formosa. It did not reach Japan, though it caused an appreciable drop in the temperature for a day or two.

MR. MATSUDA, the Minister for Finance, in a recent interview, acknowledged that investigations are being conducted as to available sources of increased revenue. He favours a land scheme whereby luxuries may be taxed, so that the rich may bear a fuller share of the national burdens than they have hitherto done, while the poorer folks will be relieved of many taxes that now press heavily upon them.

COMMANDER TAJIMA, Chief Engineer Tsuruuchi, Ensign Fujiwara and a staff of men, left by the *Belgic* on Saturday, to bring home the torpedo boat *Shiranui*, now completing at Glasgow.

THE Anglo-Russian relations in China are being followed with keen interest in America. Both the *New York Times* and *Sun* advocate prompt and joint action between the United States and Great Britain.

H.M.S. *Powerful* has gone to Batavia, to join in the celebration of Queen Wilhelmina's majority, but the *Centurion*, *Victorious* and *Narcissus* remain in Yokohama. The Fleet will shortly assemble at Hakodate for manœuvres.

MR. AMENOMIYA KEIJIRO, the prominent merchant of Tokyo, on the 4th inst. paid a visit to Count Okuma at his official residence, and offered his opinions on the advisability of allowing foreigners to own shares in private railways.

IT is rumoured that the Governor-General of Formosa intends to establish a salt monopoly in the island from which he expects to derive an income of 640,000 *yen*. He further intends revising the Land Tax, thereby increasing the yield by 900,000 *yen*.

A FUKUYAMA despatch to the Admiralty, dated the 5th instant, reports that all the machinery and fittings of the sunken torpedo-boat No. 23, have been recovered, but the boat still remains at the bottom of the sea. It is expected that she will be floated soon.

THE Osaka Industrial Bank (capital paid up *yen* 500,000), the 136th National Bank, (capital paid up *yen* 350,000), and the 130th National Bank (capital paid up *yen* 1,500,000) in Osaka recently agreed to amalgamate under the name of the 130th National Bank.

ACCORDING to the investigations of the Finance Department, banks throughout the country at the end of last month numbered 1,739. Their paid-up capitals amounted to *yen* 371,060,624. Comparing this return with June, there is an increase of 11 banks and in capitals of *yen* 6,661,500.

A STRIKE of engineers on the Nippon Railway Company is expected shortly owing to the determination of the Directors to abolish the usual half yearly bonus to the staff. It is said that the Company's business has been very unsatisfactory and the dividend to be declared for the current half-year will be cut down to 5½ per cent.

IN the course of a debate in the House of Commons, on the estimates for the Foreign Office, Mr. Curzon said nothing could be more definite or more precise than the assurance of support given to China. He denied that the open door had ceased to exist either in Manchuria or elsewhere, or had been shut in Britain's face. The concessions secured in China during the last few months were far greater than those obtained by all Britain's rivals put together. This proved that she had maintained her ascendency in the political councils at Pekin.

TRADE is very dull in Yokohama, sugar and kerosene among Imports alone showing any life. Raw Silk is very brisk and Waste Silk also meets enquiry, though principally from Europe. Tea is very active, orders coming in freely from the United States, though exports to date show a falling off of a million pounds compared with last year.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The great object of a certain section of the vernacular press is to bring about the disruption of the two bodies forming the Constitutional Party, namely, the Liberals and the Progressists. It need scarcely be said that the *Chuo* is the leader of that effort. The *Chuo* is the organ of the National Unionists, who alone have kept their colours nailed to the flag staff of the "Meiji Statesmen," and who now find themselves behind the time. Their only hope of becoming once more a potential factor in the political field is to draw to themselves some flotsam and jetsam from the unwieldy ship of the Constitutionalists. They are working with great address. In the days of the last Matsukata Cabinet, certain Ministers, whose retention of portfolios was supposed to represent a compromise with the preceding Administration, were dubbed *Hanshoku Daijin* (cabinet convives, or ministers by courtesy). The Opposition now retaliates by declaring that the present Ministry abounds with "cabinet convives." It might be supposed that the allusion was to Marquis Saigo and Viscount Katsura. By no means. That hypothesis is carefully negatived. It is to Count Itagaki and the other Liberal representatives that reference is made. Marquis Saigo, and Viscount Katsura are an *imperium in imperio*. The Cabinet can not touch them. They stand independent and autocratic. To call them "ministers by courtesy" would be absurd. But the Liberal portfolio-holders are mere make-weights. The Progressist Ministers stand to them in the relation of step-parents and treat them as adopted children. Out of eight portfolios the Liberals have only three; the Progressists have five. Among all the new Vice-Ministers there is but one Liberal—Mr. Suzuki, of the Home Office—; the rest are Progressists. Among all the new Directors of Bureaux and *Chokunin* Councillors there is not one Liberal; the whole are Progressists. On the other hand, all the new Governors of Prefectures are Liberals. In a word, the Liberals have been treated as rustics. They have been banished from the capital to the provinces, from the central government to the local administrations. It may be urged that a portfolio of paramount importance—that of Finance—has been assigned to the Liberals. Yes, but finance is just the stumbling block of the time. If there is to be any great failure, it will be in the field of finance. The Progressists were only too glad to saddle the Liberals with that responsibility. How much, again, of Count Itagaki's views are to be carried into the domain of practical politics? Since last spring he has been an open and ardent advocate of the State purchase of private railways. All his life, especially of late, he has been an earnest projector of prison reforms. In neither direction are his opinions endorsed by the Cabinet of which he is supposed to be a leading member. He has been appointed President of the Committee of Administrative Reform. That looks like an honour. In reality it is a trap. Everybody that has hitherto essayed administrative reform has made a failure. The Progressists are only too pleased to place Count Itagaki at the head of the forlorn hope. The measure of respect he receives and of influence he wields has been clearly indicated by the affair of the Foreign Office portfolio. He wanted it for Baron Ito. But the *Shimpo to* Ministers would not listen to him. They paid even more attention to a small section of his own Party, the *Kwanto ha*. It is thus that the Liberals have been cajoled and deceived; played with as greenhorns are played with by professional gamblers. All their toil of 24 years, all their political struggles, are now as bubbles on the surface of a stream.

* * *

In such manner do the hostile journals endeavour to create the "little rift within the lute." It must be confessed that they have a specious case. Nor are their arguments strongly traversed in any direction. The *Yiji Shimpo* is, perhaps, their most effective opponent, and even the *Yiji* seeks not so much to deny their premises as to point to the evils that their advice may precipitate. Nothing less than the interests of the Constitution are at stake, according to the *Yiji*. The Cabinet, it finds, is simply a replica of the Satcho combination. The Progressists and the Liberals are to-day what the men of Satsuma and the men of Choshiu used to be. There is still a balance of power to be preserved; there are still conflicting interests to be reconciled. But the issue now hanging in the balance is, not whether a forward step shall be taken towards the bourne of representative institutions, but whether the hands shall be put back through a large arc on the dial of progress. If this Cabinet suffers disruption owing to the influence of forces generated by its own squabbles and jealousies, the conservatives who believe that the situation can be saved only by suspending the Constitution, will step into the breach with flying colours. Then all the work of the Progressists and the Liberals during nearly a quarter of a century will be nullified, and the advocates of progress will themselves have created an opportunity for its enemies.

* * *

There is a great deal of journalistic impatience about the Cabinet's failure to introduce any of the numerous reforms expected of it. Newspapers seem to imagine that a Ministry can inaugurate sweeping changes on the very morrow of its assumption of office. The *Asahi* is inclined to attribute the delay to the fact that the best men of the Constitutional Party have all stood aloof, and the mediocrities have been hoisted into power. The country hoped that a thoroughly new atmosphere would permeate the whole region of officialdom when the system of party cabinets was inaugurated, but the hope has proved quite fallacious. There has been no change for the better, and it would be extravagant to look for anything striking from such men. The *Yiji* echoes the cry but in different terms. The party politicians, it says, before they came into power, were never tired of declaiming about the imperative necessity of reducing the number of superfluous officials. Why do they not undertake that most desirable reform? Assuredly there are superfluous officials. In one particular Department there are 30 waiters and 40 pages to 300 officials. Seventy servants to three hundred officials, a ratio of one to four! It is a painful task to dismiss men from office, depriving them, perhaps, of the means of subsistence. But it has to be done. The longer the hesitation, the more irksome the effort. Weed out all the needless men, and give better salaries to those that remain.

* * *

The *Nippon* is vigorous as ever. It avers that the old shibboleth of the party politicians has been perverted into a cloak to conceal their shortcomings. Once upon a time the word "responsibility" was always on their lips. They wanted "responsible cabinets." If only the State had a responsible cabinet, everything would be for the best in this best of all worlds. Well, they have got their responsible cabinet, and now "responsibility" is their refuge from public criticism. They can not lightly undertake this or essay that, being "responsible" Ministers. Such a reform might have been rashly attempted, or such a measure precipitately approached, in the days of "clan administration," when Cabinets were not animated by any proper sense of "responsibility." But now, all that is changed. Responsibility opposes an effective barrier to every hasty movement. "Oh, responsibility," says the *Nippon*, adapting the immortal invocation, "what crimes of opportunism are not committed in thy name!"

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* shares the views of the *Asahi*. The watchword of the parties used to be *jinsai tōyō*, or appointment by merit. They complained not merely that clan favoritism closed the door to men of talent without influence or patronage, but even that the system of examination for office and of promotion served to [illegible] ed officialdom into a species of monopoly. Has any improvement taken place under their own regimen? Have not men of expert knowledge and valuable experience been driven out in order that their places might be given to needy party politicians?

* * *

The discussion about finance continues ceaselessly. It is now alleged that the Constitutionalists are divided into three sections with regard to this subject. There is, first, a section whose members insist that no occasion exists for increased taxation. They say that ends can easily be made to meet by applying the pruning knife to administrative expenditures. Abolish the Army and Navy Departments and replace them by a War Department (*gumma-sho*). Lop off the Divisions newly added to the Army and revert to the old establishment. Abolish the Metropolitan Police Board, the Department of Education, and the Department of Justice. Dismiss all superfluous officials. By these means the State expenditures may be diminished to the extent of 50 or 60 million *yen*. This section is under the leadership of Mr. Otake Kanichi. It is not numerically strong, but its followers are increasing. The second section do not object to augmenting the *sake* tax and other sources of revenue, but will not suffer the land tax to be touched. Their contention is that many reforms are urgently needed in the communes—engineering, sanitary and police reforms—, and that funds for carrying them out can be obtained only from the local land rates. But unless the land is to bear a heavier burden than it did in feudal times, the land tax, the land rate, and the local expenses (*chosan-hi*) must not aggregate more than 4 per cent. of the value of the land. Already that aggregate has been reached. Hence there is no margin for increase. This section is headed by Mr. Takekomi. It includes a large majority of the old Progressists. Finally, there is a third section, including many Liberals and several Progressists, who hold that an increase of the Land Tax is inevitable. The financial difficulties may be tided over for a year or two by sundry expedients, but to place the economy of the State on a really sound footing, recourse must be had to the Land Tax. The heads of this section are Messrs. Shimada and Taguchi. They will not commence their campaign openly until after the general elections. Meanwhile, they have sent out a circular to tenant farmers with the object of obtaining materials to frame an indictment against the landowners. This is the *Asahi's* analysis.

* * *

It is the opinion of the *Shogyo Shimpo* that to put an end to the private brewing of *sake* for domestic use would be to attack an immemorial custom of the peasant class, and that the people would bitterly resent such an innovation. The burden of the increased *sake* tax, were that veto imposed, would fall almost entirely on the middle-lower and lower classes. It is true that the proposed tax upon silk garments would be paid mainly by the upper classes. But the amount would be paltry compared with that of the increased *sake* tax.

THE KWANGSI REBELLION.

News has already reached us by cable of the suppression of the Kwangsi rebellion. The last stages were marked by much bloodshed, over 1,000 men being killed at Yuagnu, a city captured by the rebels soon after the affair gathered strength.

Chang Chi-tung recently referring to China's population, arrived at the same total estimate as Lord Salisbury, but he proceeded to handle it very differently, says the *P. & T. Times*. The venerable Viceroy made a clean sweep of 50 per cent. for women with crippled feet and therefore useless; 25 per cent. for opium smokers as unreliable; four fifths of the balance of dilapidated and the "brave" a mere handful of 20,000,000; and then we have to descend to an acceptable minimum of the word "brave."

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FINANCIAL QUESTIONS.

It appears to be now generally believed that in compiling the Budget for 1899-1900, the Minister of Finance will have to provide an additional revenue of 50 million *yen*, if he adopts the estimates presented by the various Departments of State. The appropriations sought by the Departments are not yet publicly known, but a leading Tokyo journal professes to have obtained information showing that the following increases, as compared with the figures for the current year, have been asked for :—

	YEN
Foreign Office	400,000
Home Office	1,150,000
Finance Office	?
Army	8,000,000
Navy	6,000,000
Agricultural and Commercial ...	2 000 000
Communications	10,000,000
Justice	1,900,000
Education	2,500,000
Total	31,950,000

There is already a deficit of 14 million *yen* on the revenue side of the Budget for the current year, so that, if the above figures were allowed to stand, a total shortage of 46 million *yen*, in round numbers, would present itself. But of course the Departmental requisitions will not be adopted in their entirety. They never are. It seems to have become habitual in Japan that each Department should ask for more than it wants, being well assured that it will obtain only a portion of its requisition. Some people go so far as to say that the less political influence a Minister wields, the larger are his financial demands, inasmuch as he knows that the pruning knife will be applied to his proposals in inverse proportion to his weight in the Administrative scale. It may be taken for granted, we think, that the total increase of expenditure will be cut down to 30 or 35 million *yen*. There will remain, however, other sources of outlay—the maintenance of the Fleet, Formosa, &c.—so that our recent conclusion as to the necessity of providing for an increase of revenue to the extent of 50 million *yen* is likely to prove correct.

It is, of course, quite impossible to form any really intelligent idea of the financial situation by means of such shadowy outlines as the above. No information is vouchsafed as to the nature of the increased appropriations demanded by the Departments. Considerable portions of them are doubtless intended to meet extraordinary and temporary outlays. Until discrimination of that kind is possible, judgment must be suspended.

There is observable among the Constitutionalists a distinct wavering on the subject of the Land Tax. Mr. Matsuda himself now talks openly of increasing the tax upon urban lands. Of course that is a different thing from increasing the general a Land Tax. The provincial land-owners would not raise any objection to the imposition of a higher rate on urban lands, and, as we have showed more than once, such a measure is urgently demanded in the cause of justice. It would not yield a great increase of revenue, however, unless the rate is radically altered. Out of the total of 17½ million *yen* that Count Inouye proposed to obtain by augmenting the Land Tax, only 1½ millions would have come from urban lands. Still, the fact that the Minister of Finance is beginning to look towards the land can not be ignored.

Very outspoken is the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. On the 10th of last month, a big meeting of land-owners was held in Osaka. It was attended by over 400 delegates, representing two cities and twenty-five prefectures. The meeting decided unanimously that agitation in favour of re-assessing the taxable value of land must be undertaken, and there can be no doubt that a powerfully supported bill in that sense will be presented in the next session of the Diet. The object of reassessment is, not to raise the rate on lands supposed to be undervalued, but to reduce the rate on lands supposed to be over-valued. Hence the general result of the measure would be a diminution of revenue. Now in discussing that proposal, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* frankly acknowledges that the only source from which the revenue can be properly augmented is the Land Tax; that since the Government is resolved not to have recourse to the Land Tax, there will be nothing for it but to fall back upon the Indemnity; that the latter course will necessitate the sale of bonds into which the available portion of the Indemnity has been converted; that, under such highly embarrassing circumstances it is most inopportune to talk of re-assessing the taxable value of the land, and that to press the question would be to create dissension in the ranks of the Constitutional Party. Such admissions sound strange in the mouth of a pro-Cabinet journal. It has to be remembered, however, that many of the Constitutionalists did not oppose the project of increasing the Land Tax on its merits, but merely declined to give it favourable consideration unless the State expenditures were submitted for simultaneous discussion. The Cabinet would not necessarily be acting inconsistently if it asked the next Diet to sanction an increase of the Land Tax in connexion with the Budget.

STRIKE OF LETTER-CARRIERS IN YOKOHAMA.

Vernacular newspapers report a strike of letter-carriers in the Settlement. The reason assigned is decidedly peculiar. Some time ago the Department of Communications decided—we quote the story as it is told—that the pay of the letter-carriers must be increased, first-class men to receive 60 *sen* daily instead of 50 *sen*, and the others classes being raised in proportion. But when this much-needed reform came to be carried out, funds were found to be deficient. The officials, therefore, hit upon the device of lowering all the carriers by one class, and then putting the new scale of emoluments into operation. Of course the result was that while all the classes—except the first, which disappeared—seemed to have had their salaries raised, each man really remained in receipt of exactly what he had before. In short, the "benefit" that the men derived from the change was a reduced status and unaltered pay. On the 3rd instant, 20 of them struck work, and their two leaders were dismissed. This greatly angered the remaining 60, and steps were taken to concert with Tokyo for a general strike. The Authorities fortunately succeeded in persuading the men that if they quietly resumed work, their grievance would be redressed "by-and-by."

PROFESSOR TOYAMA.

Some distinctions are dearly bought in Japan. The cases of Professors Hamao and Toyama are in point. Professor Hamao, after years of zealous application to educational duties, rose to be President of the Imperial University. There is only one higher prize in the sphere of education. It is the portfolio of the Department. Probably, in the opinion of many people, the post of President of the Imperial University is the more desirable of the two. There is a certain *cachet* about it. A mere politician may become a Minister of State. The moral gifts and the practical achievements that qualify a man for such an office are not necessarily of such a kind as to confer lasting benefit on his country. But to become President of the University means that really solid work must have been done in the cause of education; that is to say, in the very best interests of the country. Besides, the position of President of the University is virtually permanent, so far as anything can be permanent in Japan. When we add that reservation, we do not mean to suggest that impermanence is characteristic of this country's institutions or of its people's doings. But there is constantly operative among the Japanese an impalpable factor called *giri*, which may at any moment upset all calculations built on a Western estimate of given conditions. It often seems to outsiders that a certain official is fairly fixed in his post; that nothing except an unforseeable catastrophe should move him. Yet he suddenly and quietly disappears from the administrative scene, making way for a successor whose qualifications are not so palpably superior as to warrant the change. What has happened? The answer is general difficult to express intelligibly. That omnipotent *giri* has asserted itself in some form or other. Some shadowy moral principle has failed to obtain full recognition from the official, some sentiment would be outraged by his continuance in office. Doubtless, in the great majority of cases, these experiences, could they be clearly analysed and correctly synthesized, would spell out a very pretty creed of altruism and a finely ordered state of "spheres of individual interest." But we are here concerned only with the fact that a special element of instability has to be reckoned with in Japan, and that even an office like that of President of the University is only relatively permanent. It is, at all events, removed above the high-water mark of the ebb and flow of party politics, and that is no small consideration. Mr. Hamao became President of the University on the 30th of March, 1893. He occupied the position for a space of over five years, and on the 6th of November, 1897, he accepted the portfolio of Education. The appointment was hailed with universal satisfaction; not, perhaps, for personal reasons, but because it seemed to indicate that the administration of educational affairs was thenceforth to be entrusted to educationists. There is much to be done in the sphere of education in Japan. A great deal has been done, we frankly admit, and we also confess that as Englishmen we hesitate to criticise. It is only 64 years since the first grant of public money for educational purposes was made in England—a paltry sum of twenty thousand pounds sterling—, and no reader of history can recall, without a feeling of intense humilia-

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tion the extraordinary arguments adduced by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Stanley, Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Disraeli five years later, when it was proposed to increase the grant by a moiety, and to extend its benefits to unsectarian schools. Such arguments were partly the outcome of a terrible record of religious intolerance; an echo of the anti-popery struggle that left such cruel scars on the heart of England. Yet we doubt whether the spirit of "fantastic bigotry" inherited by Englishmen from the days of "bloody Mary" swayed the nation more powerfully than the traditions of political Christianity and the Shimabara struggle influenced the Japanese at the beginning of the *Meiji* era. Nevertheless, arguments such as the Primate of England and men like Peel, Gladstone and Disraeli used from their parliamentary places in 1839 would be freely denounced as semi-barbarous did they come from the lips of Japanese legislators to-day. Our own country's antecedents, therefore, forbid us to pass harsh judgment, and we are content to say that the status of private schools in Japan at present and the attitude of the Government towards religious instruction seem quite unworthy of the enlightened progress which has won so much honour for the country. When the Department of Education came to be presided over by a genuine educationist, there were hopes that these and other defects might be remedied. But for Mr. Hamao personally it proved to be an evil hour when he accepted the portfolio. He held it for just 67 days, and then passed out of sight. A ministerial post is like the plough in the parable. A man must never look back from it. To lose it is to become lost to use, and even to memory unless the loser has some special faculty for keeping himself before the public. Professor Hamao does not seem to possess that faculty. He has passed completely out of sight, for the moment at all events. He has bartered his fine position of President of the University for sixty-seven days of portfolio tenure—"a crowded hour of glorious life"—followed by extinction. Professor Toyama became President of the University in succession to Professor Hamao. He occupied it for five and a half months, and then, like his predecessor, accepted the portfolio of Education, That happened on April 30th, and June 30th saw the Professor relegated to private life. The two experiences were remarkably similar from an arithmetical point of view. Professor Hamao, 5½ years as President of the University, 67 days as Minister of Education, and thereafter, nothing; Professor Toyama, 5½ months as President of the University, 61 days as Minister of Eduction, and thereafter, nothing.

But Professor Toyama has not passed out of sight. He has qualities that compel the public to observe him. We have sometimes thought that Professor Toyama might be not inaptly be called the Brougham of modern Japan. He possesses the same vehement, remorseless cynicism, the same command of scathing rhetoric, the same pitilessness of denunication as that "strong and strange" figure of early Victorian days, though happily he is without the boundless self-confidence and overweening vanity of the great English jurist. When he passed from the control of the Department of Education, he doubtless found himself embarrassed by unemployed energy—the energy of which he had formerly made such brilliant use as Director of the College of Literature in the Imperial University. He therefore took to speech-making, a sphere where he is eminently qualified to shine. At first his utterances were of lamb-like gentleness. He welcomed—who more heartily?—the advent of party cabinets. This second revolution filled him with bright hopes. And so forth and so on. But suddenly he changed his tone, and let it be very clearly known that while ardently advocating the principle of party cabinets, he regarded with profound disdain the first practical application of the principle in Japan. He showed as much ingenuity in fitting contemptuous epithets to the new Cabinet as old Martin Chuzzlewit exhibited in finding abusive names for Pecksniff. It was a *nuye-naikaku*—a cabinet resembling the fabulous *nuye* of mediæval days, a monster partly monkey, partly tiger, and partly snake. Its hide was many-coloured. It had no administrative independence, being ruled by the head-quarters of the Constitutional Party as effectually as France was governed by the Jacobin Club in the eighteenth century. It was, in fact, a Jacobin Cabinet. It was a Cabinet pretending to stand on a foundation of liberty, yet its acts were circumscribed by daily dread of a *coup d'état* by the Army and Navy. It might be called the Army-and-Navy Cabinet. The Army and Navy possessed extraterritorial privileges and defied the administration. It was nonsense to suppose that Japan could leap at one bound to a political pinnacle which England had barely mounted after decades of hard struggle and painful effort. The goal had not been reached. The progressive march had only just begun. These were the days for binding on sandals (*waraji kake no toki*), not for taking them off. Counts Okuma and Itagaki must be prepared to leave their bodies in the breach which the nation was attempting to scale. They need not fondly imagine themselves to be Gladstones and Disraelis.

This speech was delivered on the 21st of July, if we remember aright. What the occasion was, we do not now recall exactly, but we think that it was a dinner given to Professor Toyama by his University colleagues. Very little notice was taken of the oration. It may almost be said to have fallen flat. But on August 2nd the Professor followed it by another profoundly sarcastic utterance at the general meeting of the Miyagi Prefecture Educational Society. Mr. Ozaki, the present Minister of Education, had been invited but did not attend, and his absence was taken as a text by Professor Toyama. They were, he said, greatly disappointed no doubt by the Minister's absence. But what then? A Government that did n't care for education, whether it was a clan government or a party government, must be overthrown. Any peaceful means to that end were permissible. This new Cabinet talked much of administrative reform; of abolishing the Departments of Justice and Education, and so on. Of course the Ministers had courage for the effort. Let them make it. They might be confidently trusted to do so. They surely had the courage of their professed opinions. Let them begin to show it by granting the budgetary appropriations of the various Departments, not on a scale fixed by the personal and political influence of the heads of the Departments, but with honest reference to the merits of the objects of expenditure. Courage was above all things the conspicuous characteristic of party Cabinets. Clan cabinets had nothing of that quality. The second revolution of the *Meiji* era had now been achieved. Therefore there could be no hesitation about revolutionizing everything—the State grant to education, for example. Count Okuma was an ardent educationist. He had founded and supported one of the greatest and most flourishing colleges in the empire. He had associated himself with education in many ways. Surely, now that he stood at the head of the Administration, he would be consistently helpful to the cause he had so long advocated. Two years ago, Representations had been presented in both Houses of the Diet and adopted, urging that a portion of the Indemnity should be applied to educational purposes. But the Cabinet of the time, being a "Clan Cabinet," had no courage to adopt that advice. Things were different now. The Representations had been presented and supported by Count Okuma's closest friends, the leaders of the present Constitutional Party. Consistency and courage being the attributes of party cabinets, the horizon looked very bright for education. Besides, what had won the war against China? What had obtained the Indemnity? Education; nothing but education. Let its merits and achievements be properly recognised. When he was a member of the Cabinet, it had come to his knowledge that 7½ million *yen* of the Indemnity remained unappropriated. They would be content with half of that sum. They would be content with a third of it. But they expected some.

This speech was repeated in substance by Professor Toyama on the following day at a meeting of the Meikei-kai in the Koishikawa Botanical Garden, the Minister of Education being present. Our readers will perceive that it was a subtle speech. Professor Toyama himself, if invited to explain his utterances, might say that they had no object except to obtain a larger measure of State aid for education, and might contend that he had credited the present Cabinet with very fine qualities which were wanting in its predecessors. But no one hearing or reading the speech could fail to detect the vein of bitter sarcasm running through it. Now there is a regulation, issued by the Department of Education in 1897, which interdicts all attempts to impart politics into the sphere of education or to enlist the influence of students or person engaged in education for the purpose of promoting political ends. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* wants to know whether Professor Toyama has not violated that regulation. It does not approve of the regulation, regarding it as an undue interference with the freedom of speech, but it contends that, so long as a law is operative, it must be obeyed and enforced. There is here an interesting point, however. Professor Toyama is not merely an educationist,—if, indeed, he can any longer be called an educationist, seeing that he sacrificed, and has not recovered, his educational position for the sake of becoming a Cabinet Minister. He is also a member of the House of Peers. In which capacity did he speak at Sendai and at Koishikawa? If as a member of the Upper House, he certainly is not bound

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by the regulation of the Department of Education. At any rate it would be very bitter for the present Cabinet to have to employ such a regulation for the muzzling of its political opponents.

There is another interesting point, too. Mr. Ozaki Yukio, Minister of State for Education, stood up and answered Professor Toyama at the Koishikawa meeting. Mr. Ozaki is a great debater. His speeches in the Diet are famous. He answered Professor Toyama after Professor Toyama's fashion. If the condition of the schools and the circumstances of the time called so imperatively for a grant of 3 or 4 million *yen* in aid of education, it was strange, he said, that Professor Toyama had not made the discovery until his own exit from office; strange that he himself, as Minister, had made no display of the courage now so much demanded of his successor. It was easy to apply for big appropriations. The so-called "Cabinet Convives" had done that; had, indeed, made a habit of doing it, for they knew that if they didn't ask for much more than they wanted they had no chance of getting what they did really want. But he (Ozaki) did not propose to adopt that system of "second-price" requisitions. He had a different idea of ministerial dignity. He thought, too, that a member of a Cabinet had to consider something more than the interests of the particular Department over which he presided; he had to consider the general convenience of the State, and the condition of the public finances.

That was a Rowland for Professor Toyama's Oliver. It was more too. It was an official recognition of the propriety of discussing such subjects at a meeting of educationists. The Cabinet can not claim that speech on a particular occasion was unlawful for Professor Toyama but lawful for an official. A Minister of State can not meet a man on his own ground and then declare that he violated the law when he ventured on such ground. We do not suppose that the Government thinks of proceeding against Professor Toyama, but it is strange that this obvious point does not occur to the vernacular newspapers.

THE COST OF NEUTRALITY.

If taking part in a war is expensive, so too is the business of looking on in a lawful manner. Japanese newspapers say that the total outlay incurred by Japan, up to the time when the accounts were last figured up, in connexion with discharging the duties of a neutral, was 436,429 *yen*, which money was defrayed from the Second Reserve Fund; and that a further expenditure of 122,118 *yen*, out of the Third Reserve Fund, will have been made by the close of this month. In short, the average monthly bill on this account totals about 100,000 *yen*. Not every person will understand precisely what the costly functions of a neutral are. Perhaps the simplest way of explaining the matter is to say that when a State declares strict neutrality, she must show herself prepared to vigorously resent any disrespect of her declaration on the part of the belligerents. That entails movements of ships and other precautions. It is not pleasant for a country to be anywhere near the scene of warlike operations.

JUDICIAL EXCITEMENT.

One of the periodical agitations of a more or less sentimental character so common in Japan, has now been started in connexion with the Judicial Department. Many details of the story have no interest for our readers but the general outline is worth tracing. Eight years ago, while Count Yamada held the portfolio of Justice, some busy folks tried to persuade the public that the Judiciary and the Department of Justice were in quite a lamentable condition, the judges, the procurators and the officials being split up into a number of sections, each presenting a different political complexion. The statement contained the proverbial grain of truth. In those days, the civil law and civil procedure of the country were still a mixture of traditional customs and imported principles, and the Judiciary consisted of old-fashioned men with little or no basis of genuine legal knowledge, and young men educated according to modern standards. These two sections stood naturally opposed to each other, but the strength of the second was dissipated by sub-division, the students of French law, the students of English law, and the students of German law being mutually antagonistic. The promulgation of the Code of Civil Procedure and the Commercial Code (in great part), and the final revision of the Civil Code furnished a complete system of Japanese law, and put an end to the differences of English, French and German, so that the three sub-sections of the modern men united, and took whatever steps were lawfully possible to bring about the retirement of the men of the old school, who stood in their light, and were considered quite incompetent to administer the new Codes. There was nothing political in all this. The members of the Judiciary, despite of various rumours circulated by news-mongers, seem to have always stood carefully aloof from politics. Out of 3,700 high-class officials in Japan, 1,600 belong to the Judiciary; and out of an aggregate sum of 4 million *yen* paid annually to these officials, 2¼ millions, in round numbers, go to the Judiciary. It is a poor average—1,400 *yen* per annum—, but the higher offices are much desired, and naturally the well-equipped and competent juniors feel impatient that the prizes of the profession should be monopolized by the ill-equipped and incompetent men of the old school. At the same time, the responsible officials of the Judicial Department have always appreciated the necessity of weeding out the superannuated judges as quickly as possible, and the necessity became more imperative than ever when the new Codes were promulgated. The Constitution, however, presents an obstacle to any arbitrary process of "weeding," for it guarantees to the judges life tenure of office. Fortunately the 74th Article of the Law of Organization of the Law Courts supplies a partial remedy. It provides that any Judge may be removed if a Council of Judges pronounces him incompetent. During the 9 years of the Law's operation, not more than 4 Judges have been dealt with by such a tribunal, though some hundreds have resigned either because they shrank from being cited before a Council, or because they were persuaded of their deficient qualifications. When Mr. Sone, the last Minister of Justice, came into office, he approached this problem entirely without prejudice. His predecessor, Mr Kioura Keizo, is said to have been trammelled by connexions with the Judiciary. At all events, he took no step towards the more expeditious process of sifting demanded by the time. But Mr. Sone went to work vigorously. He induced quite a number of the antiquated Judges to resign, and appointed men of the new school to their places. The press welcomed these steps enthusiastically, but the judges of the old school, both those that had resigned and those that felt insecure, concluded that they were being hardly used, and began to cast about for some materials to construct an indictment. They found them in two facts, one that Mr. Sone had acted with apparently unseemly precipitancy; the other, that he has procured the abolition of the Regulations for the Fixed Establishment of Courts (*Tei-in-rei*), and the substitution of a regulation which fixed the total number of judicial officials only, leaving the detail for each court to the discretion of the Minister. As to the former point, it is a mere question of dates. Mr. Sone tendered his resignation on the 25th of June, when the Ito Cabinet fell, but consummated the above changes in the Judiciary on the 27th. Why, being still in office, he should not have proceeded with a much-needed reform, all the preliminaries of which had been arranged, we fail to see. It is known also that this very question of time was submitted to Marquis Ito, and that he authorized Mr. Sone to proceed, despite the pending change of Ministry. As to the second point, if the discretionary power conferred by the revised Regulations was really desirable, the crime of revision is not apparent. The old-school Judges found a strong champion in Mr. Kojima Iken, formerly Chief Justice of Japan, who resigned his post some years ago in connexion with an accusation of card-playing preferred against certain Judges. Mr. Kojima has addressed a long letter of indictment to the present Minister of Justice. It is in one sense an amusing document, for the writer has carefully constructed it on the lines of a parliamentary paper; but it also an unhappy document, for if we remove from it Mr. Kojima's suspicions—suspicions which he, an ex-judge, seems to regard as valid evidence—, if we remove his suspicions that Mr. Sone acted, from first to last, not in the interests of an improved administration of the law, but simply in the interests of his own personal friends whom he desired to promote, there remains nothing of the indictment. There is not much in the story either, our readers will probably say. Well, not much. But many Japanese evidently think that there is.

THE SWIMMING MATCH.

It is plain that the swimming contest to-day between foreigners of this Settlement and Japanese from Tokyo is looked forward to by the latter with much interest—which is quite as it should be. "A Yokohama Boy" writes to the *Yorozu Choho*, strongly repudiating the idea that the Tokyo swimmers may be regarded as the champions of Japan. He has no doubt that if the empire were searched, much more proficient performers might be found. We entirely agree with him. But it is a Roland for an Oliver. Precisely the same point has already been made with reference to the Yokohama foreigners, or let us say, Eng-

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lishmen, for apparently only one nationality will be represented. The British residents of Yokohama do not pretend to be champions in any sense. They are always ready to stand up for the old country, and do the best that in them lies, but when they look at the records they can not labour under any delusion as to their own prowess. We advise the Japanese also to consult the records. A friendly trial of skill in Yokohama is all very well. It has its uses apart from the mere question of athletics, and whichever side wins will have the hearty applause of the other. But if the Japanese swimmers want to measure themselves fairly and squarely by foreign standards, they have a much more infallible test than that furnished by a swimming match with the representatives of a small community at a treaty port. They have only to consult their watches. Their times will settle the question unerringly.

AMERICA, JAPAN AND ENGLAND.

There is evidently a strong impression in Japan that the Tokyo Government has taken a decided line about the Philippines, and that this country and Great Britain will be drawn closely together by the event. Japan would be more than human if she failed to welcome this opportunity of paying off some of the Liaotung score. Russia, France and Germany combined to deprive her of the fruits of her victory in Manchuria, and there are strong indications that the same league of Powers will interfere to prevent America from dealing freely with the territory she has conquered in the Philippines. The Japanese are persuaded—we derive our idea of their views from the editorial utterances of the *Fiji Shimpo*, the *Kokumin Shimbun*, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the *Hochi Shimbun*, the *Asahi Shimbun* and the *Nippon*—that the peace of the East will not be promoted, or the balance of power preserved, either if the Philippines are left in Spain's hands, or if they are handed over to Aguinaldo and his followers, or if any European Power except England is allowed to have a controlling voice in their disposal. There is no special wish that the islands should pass into British possession. That alternative would be unhesitatingly preferred, however, to the occupation of the whole or any part of them by Germany, France or Russia. It is not that any sentiment of hostility is entertained towards the last three Powers, apart from the not unnatural desire to "get even with them" in return for Liaotung. It is that all three are credited with designs of territorial aggrandisement, the prosecution of which is not consistent with the peace of the East. What the Japanese seem to desire before everything is that America should annex the Philippines. They regard the presence of the United States in the Far East as a guarantee of peaceful commercial development and a bulwark against arbitrary aggression. They think, too, that a certain responsibility devolves on America. She drew the sword in the cause of right and she must not sheathe it in such a manner as to promote disorder. It is true that she entered the lists as the champion of an oppressed people. But it is also true that she commenced the War, and the duty devolves upon her of bringing it to a conclusion which shall not involve the danger of other wars. Japan does not want the Philippines for herself, but she is determined that they shall not pass into the possession, or lie at the mercy, of Russia, Germany or France. Great Britain's policy is identical with Japan's in this respect. It is essential, however, to guard against another surprise. The Liaotung lesson must not be forgotten. Before any triple alliance can step into the field in connexion with the Philippines, an alliance to oppose it must be concerted and ready. Evidently the leading vernacular Journals think that these facts are recognised, and have become the basis of active procedure, by the Foreign Office in Tokyo.

LIBERALS & THE PROGRESSISTS.

The friction between the Liberals and Progressists seemed to have been transformed from a mere suggestion in the columns of hostile journals to a fact recognised in the columns of their own organs, Count Itagaki's attitude towards the scheme of reforms emanating from the Committee of the Constitutional Party is represented by the *Yomiuri Shimbun* as almost defiant. He says that if the Committee's programme is submitted to the Cabinet merely for purposes of comparison, well and good. But if it is intended to be a document of instructions, then it is a most arbitrary invasion of the Cabinet's administrative rights. In short, if the Party imagines that it may formulate a decision for the Cabinet's guidance, it is arrogating intolerable authority.

Every sober-minded person will endorse Count Itagaki's view, we imagine. But the *Yomiuri Shimbun* is an organ of the Progressists, and the *Yomiuri's* way of presenting the Liberal leader's opinions is distinctly calculated to ruffle the susceptibilities of the Progressists. Besides, there is much significance in the fact that the *Yomiuri* should separate Count Itagaki from the rest of the Cabinet in such a manner. Why should he be singled out as the particular Minister to denounce the Party's arbitrariness?

The problem of the Metropolitan Police Board also threatens to become a source of dissension. Count Itagaki is uncompromisingly opposed to abolishing the Board. He even talks of extending the system from Tokyo to Osaka. He is strongly supported in that view by the *Tokyo Shimbun*, the organ of the Liberals. But several Progressist organs have stoutly advocated the advisability of abolishing the Board, and the *Fiji Shimpo* now joins its voice to theirs.

The transfer of Mr. Abe Hiroshi from the Governorship of Toyama Prefecture to that of Chiba, has not thrown oil upon the troubled water. Mr. Abe was formerly Governor of Chiba, but was moved elsewhere for reasons that do not seem to have enhanced his reputation. His restoration to Chiba is supposed to have been effected at Count Itagaki's suggestion and has been severely criticised by the Progressist organs, who contend that it was a step dictated solely by party considerations. The *Tokyo Shimbun*—the Liberal organ—replies quite angrily. Count Itagaki, it says, is not guided by party considerations in selecting or recommending officials. Such accusations are intolerable, and if a spirit of that kind is to dictate the utterances of the Progressist organs, relations had better be severed without delay.

JAPANESE RAILWAYS & FOREIGN CAPITALISTS

The news circulated some time ago to the effect that the Formosan Railway Company had successfully negotiated a loan of fifteen million *yen* from a British firm, evidently created quite a flutter in Japanese railway circles. Company after company has come forward since then and tried to effect a similar operation, but one and all seem to have experienced great difficulty. The Boso Railway Company, the Kobu, the Kishiu, the Hokuyetsu, the Sanyo and the Nippon are all said to be carrying on negotiations, and it is supposed that if they succeed, their example will be followed by many others. Meanwhile the Boso Company's affairs are subjected to the operation of a very inconvenient search-light by one of the vernacular newspapers (the *Chiuo*). It is a rather tedious story, but we shall tell it in as few words as possible. The Boso Railway connects the provinces of Kazusa, and Awa. Its capital is 1,200,000 *yen*, in shares of 50 *yen* each, which are now fully paid up. The shares, however, are not worth more than 25 *yen* in the open market, and the banks will not advance money against them. The section of the line from Chiba to Ichinomiya is already open to traffic, and the section from Ichinomiya to Katsura (19 miles) is under construction. In March, 1897, a general meeting of the shareholders sanctioned a loan of 90,000 *yen*, in response to the representations of the directors, who pointed out, that in consequence of the sudden appreciation of commodities, the work of construction could not be completed. It is now alleged that this ninety thousand *yen* has disappeared, though not a moiety of it has been spent on the railway. It is further alleged that an additional loan of 350,000 *yen* was subsequently contracted—200,000 from the Mitsubishi Bank, 50,000 from the Imperial Industrial Bank, and the remainder from capitalists in Chiba, and that only a fraction of it appears in the Railway's accounts of expenditure. In short, a direct charge of dishonestly alienating the Company's money is preferred against the directors. The idea is that several of the directors have been endeavouring to utilize their connexion with the Railway in a questionable manner. They have been lending its money to a maritime carrying company organized by themselves to work in conjunction with the line. This part of the story is told in considerable detail, but our readers will probably prefer not to be troubled with more than the bare outlines. If the facts stated by the *Chiuo* be correct—as to which we, of course, offer no opinion—the carrying company (*Kaiun-goshi Kaisha*) has been losing steadily at the rate of from 300 *yen* to 500 *yen* monthly ever since it commenced business in March, 1896; its capital of 50,000 *yen* was dissipated long ago, and it has lived by borrowing money from the directors of Boso Railway, the last loan being a sum of 70,000 *yen*, nominally for the purpose of dredging the Miyako River, a work upon which only a tenth of the amount has been spent. It is altogether a very bad showing, but that implicit reliance can be placed on the *Chiuo's* story is doubtful, for after relating all the above

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particulars and several others in the minutest and most circumstantial manner, the Japanese journal winds up with the naïve remark that doubtless the directors will come round carrying some version of their own, which it will publish in due course. One imagines that steps would have been taken to obtain the directors' version before the *Chiuo* admitted the narrative to its columns, but our contemporary evidently knows that one side of a story makes the best tale. We may add here that the *Yorozu Choho* makes an attempt to discredit the Kobu Railway company also by alleging that the directors have been misappropriating its funds. Meanwhile the Minister of State for Home Affairs has been asked to say what form of security a Japanese railway company may lawfully offer to a foreign capitalist, and his Excellency's answer is awaited with considerable interest.

The Directors of the Boso Railway have lost no time in replying to the sweeping charges brought against them by the *Chiuo Shimbun*. They deny emphatically that there has been any improper alienation of the Company's funds or any chicanery whatever. Of course they do not enter into particulars. Declaring the whole indictment to be false, they naturally see no occasion to discuss it in detail. They admit, however, that the affairs of the Company are in disorder, though they claim that the thorough reforms now in progress will completely remedy that defect. The *Chiuo* makes a merit of publishing this rejoinder, and alleges that its own accuracy is vindicated by the Directors' admission of disorder. Opinions differ. Our own notion is, first, that the *Chiuo's* fairer and more prudent course would have been to seek information from the Directors before giving publicity to a sweeping accusation against them; and secondly, that there is all the difference in the world between an embarrassed state of affairs and the deliberate misappropriation of trust money.

The Boso Railway Company is in an interesting condition just at present, and as no one knows what its affairs may bring forth, we are devoting more attention to it than it would deserve under ordinary circumstances. Our own belief is that the management of Japanese railway companies leaves much—a great deal, in fact—to be desired, and that by not employing the best agents to aid them, the shareholders are losing large sums of money. At all events, railway enterprise in Japan will soon find itself in a *cul-de-sac* unless foreign capitalists come to its assistance, and the best way to promote that consummation is to give all possible publicity to their affairs. We have had occasion to repeat the injurious accusations brought against the Directors of the Boso Company by the *Chiuo Shimbun*, and we have had occasion to refer to the general but emphatic denial made by the Directors. We now learn that the Company held an extraordinary meeting on the forenoon of the 11th instant, when 144 shareholders attended, representing 16,559 shares out of a total of 24,000. The purpose of the meeting was to appoint new Directors, in lieu of the old, who tendered their resignation. But of course the shareholders had a great many questions to ask. They wanted to know, in the first place, why the Directors resigned, and it must be confessed that the answers they received were not very satisfactory. Their general drift was that the Directors were too much occupied with other business. Then the shareholders asked whether it was true that locomotives and other properties of the Company had been sold, and the Directors replied in the affirmative, explaining that, owing to the difficulty of collecting calls on shares, unexpectedly heavy expeditures and the necessity of paying for imported materials, recourse to that device had been unavoidable. Finally, the meeting decided to appoint an investigating committee, with instructions to report within two months, and to postpone acceptance of the Directors' resignations pending receipt of the report.

It is alleged that when Baron Suyematsu held the portfolio of Communications, he decided that the Railway Regulations must be amended, in the sense of allowing foreigners to become shareholders. A draft of the amendments was in course of preparation when the Cabinet went out of office. Mr. Hayashi, the new Minister, is said to hold precisely the same views as Baron Suyematsu on this subject, so that the latter's draft will, in all probability, be used without alteration for submission to the Diet next session. It will be necessary, however, that the opinion of the Railway Council should be taken before going to the Diet and there is a strong probability that the military members of the Council will raise some objection. In military circles there is an idea that railways likely to be required for strategical purposes should be the property solely of the people of the country. It is a somewhat chimerical anxiety, seeing that full provision for the unobstructed use of a road by the State can always be inserted in the charter and enforced by the Government. Still, we do not pretend to say that the Japanese are the only people to whom such apprehensions would present themselves.

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.

The operation of the new law for the better regulation of elections has already brought about a fiasco, though whether the blame rests with the law itself or with the manner of its application there appears to be some uncertainty. One of its provisions interdicts the giving or taking of money, goods, bills of exchange, or other articles of value in connexion with electioneering. A few days ago, agents canvassing on behalf of Mr. Hoshi Toru in Tochigi Prefecture distributed newspapers to the voters and others. The police held that newspapers belong to the category of "other articles of value," and the consequence is that some four thousand persons are in the position of law-breakers. It seems a very absurd incident. If the framers of the law intended it to bear such an interpretation, they showed a great lack of practical knowledge. We suspect, however, that the police have misconstrued the provision in question. Speaking generally, however, foreign critics will agree that the new law is excessively stringent. It certainly could not be enforced in Great Britain.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

It is pointed out, rightly we venture to think, that the dispute about the portfolio of Foreign Affairs reflects very little credit on the disputants. There would be no difficulty in understanding a difference of opinion, and in appreciating a warm controversy, if the question concerned the national good; if the interests of the country were at stake. But no one pretends for a moment that such considerations have anything to do with the matter. No better Minister can be found than Count Okuma. He is the man upon whom the choice of the people would certainly fall under existing circumstances. Hence the trouble has its origin simply in office-seeking, and has become serious owing to the jealousy between the two sections of the Constitutional Party.

Vernacular journals assert that an agreement has been come to between the Liberals and the Progressists on the above subject, and that a candidate not belonging to either party but acceptable to both, has been selected. They refrain, however, from giving his name. We are not accustomed to such reticence on the part of our Japanese contemporaries, and we venture to think that the explanation is very simple, namely, ignorance. At present, the question appears to be who shall succeed Mr. Hoshi Toru at Washington rather than who shall succeed Count Okuma at the Foreign Office.

Another busily circulated rumour is that the Government has decided to appoint ambassadors to England, America, Russia, France and Germany; that the change will be made from the beginning of next year and that the promotion is not likely to fall to any of the Japanese Representatives now in those countries. The people responsible for this story appear to forget that Japan can not accredit an ambassador to a foreign Power unless the latter agrees to send an official of similar grade to Tokyo. We have not heard that any negotiations in that sense have taken place.

Several Tokyo journals allege that the question which of late has caused so much friction between the Liberals and Progressists—the question of the portfolio of Foreign Affairs—, seems to have been amicably settled, both parties having agreed that the post should be given to Mr. Ebara Soroku, a prominent and much respected member of the Liberal Party. But Mr. Ebara declined to accept it, and for a moment the trouble appeared likely to be renewed, when happily another expedient was hit upon, namely, the transfer of Mr. Ozaki Yukio from the Department of Education to the Foreign Office, and the appointment of Mr. Ebara to the vacancy thus created. It is added that this plan suggested itself originally to Count Okuma, but the Liberals were determined to have the Foreign Office and nothing else. Perhaps we ought to explain that the fact of several Tokyo journals' simultaneously publishing an item of news does not necessarily lend to the intelligence the force generally attached to concurrent testimony. It simply means, in the majority of cases, that the item has been supplied by a news agency.

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THE NATIONAL UNIONISTS.

The tide of change has swept past the National Unionists and left them stranded on a *terra incognita*. No one knows now what flag they fight under, or to what principles they cling. They can not be regarded as enemies of government by party, for they took an active part in bridging over the chasm between the old and the new when they joined hands with the Liberals to support the Ito Cabinet. That was the co-operation era. Every one understood the issue to which it pointed. The National Unionists understood. But they had no sympathy, apparently, with the cause that led to a rupture between the Liberals and the Cabinet. So far as we know, that cause was, proximately, the Cabinet's reluctance to grant portfolios, already occupied, to leaders of the Liberal Party. There was no reason why the National Unionists should support such a claim. They did not support it; their allies broke away, and they found themselves isolated, numerically insignificant and morally uninfluential. Thirty candidates will appeal to the constituencies in the National Unionists' interest on the 15th instant. Not more than twelve or thirteen are expected to be successful. It is evident that the Party is moribund. Rumour says that its leaders will forestall the death-blow by voluntary dissolution, after the elections. They will be acting wisely. The name *Kokumin Kyohai* has an unpleasant sound in the ears of Liberals. But out of what elements is the new opposition to be formed? There must be an opposition. Nothing is so intolerably wearisome as perpetual agreement. The Constitutionalists can not be called exactly a mutual admiration society, yet they are sufficiently in unison to be threatened with the monotony of agreement, and unless there is some fire of opposition to keep their elements fused, the cooling process will soon commence with disastrous results. How is the opposition to be organized? Under what leaders? On what platform? Undoubtedly we are assisting at one of the most interesting developments of Japan's political progress.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

We have received the following letter:—

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN.
Lighthouse Office.
Yokohama, August 5th, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed to enclose herewith notice and to inform you that the advertising in your paper as well as the other English papers, the notification, *re* the lighthouses, &c., hitherto in use, have been discontinued and that in future the printed English translation of the notification as is issued, will be distributed to all concerned.

I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,
K. TAKATSU.

This appears to us to be a very ill-advised departure. The saving will be a mere bagatelle, and the consequence of diminished publicity may be disastrous. It seems to us quite impossible that the printed English translation should be "distributed to all concerned." Who are "concerned?" How is the Lighthouse Office to carry out such a programme? By this journal exceptionally favourable rates have always been accorded to the Lighthouse Office, and the utmost care has been taken not only to give prominence to the advertisements, but to call special attention to them by means of editorial paragraphs. Shipping folk, by long years of usage, have learned to look to the newspapers for information on these highly important subjects, and if they do not find the information there, they will assume that it is not to be found anywhere. We certainly can not be a party to these abrupt and, as we venture to think, highly perilous innovations. We consider it our duty to continue the publication of the notices, leaving the Lighthouse Office to profit by their gratuitous insertion.

THE "KAWA BIRAKI" FRACAS.

Vernacular newspapers report a collision between officers of H.B.M.S. *Narcissus* and some Japanese pleasure-seekers, on the occasion of the River-opening Fete in Tokyo last Saturday. The officers—they are spoken of as "officers" but may really have been warrant officers or even blue-jackets, for if they were in plain clothes, a distinction of that kind would scarcely be made by Japanese newspapers—the officers numbered five, and were accompanied by a Japanese friend and an interpreter. They were in a boat on the river enjoying themselves, when another boat came up, having on board Mr. Kasai Yosaburo, manager of the Hokkaido Life Insurance Company, several *jinrikisha*-drawers and some dancing girls. Mr. Kasai and his companions are said to have been "elevated"—not to use a stronger term—, and finding something very entertaining in the behaviour of the British officers, they began to jeer at them. The officers replied by throwing the stumps of their cigars at the jeerers, and the latter retaliated with bottles, cups, tea-pots and articles of that class. The others, of course, did not receive this shower unmoved, and a potting match ensued, with the result that two persons were wounded in the Japanese boat and three in the foreign. As to the character of the wounds nothing is reported by the Tokyo press, but inasmuch as the police are said to have taken away the injured men for medical aid, it is to be feared that the hurts were not trifling. Mr. Kasai managed to abscond, but was arrested the following morning at 6 a.m. when returning to his inn.

It appears that Mr. Kasai had among his boat-companions on the 6th instant, when the fracas occurred with some officers of the *Narcissus*, a police inspector named Kajiya Katsutaro, and that the latter has now been dismissed from the service, the Authorities being of the opinion that his failure to interfere in the cause of peace and good order was a flagrant dereliction of duty. The *Mainichi Shimbun* is disposed to criticise this procedure as partial. It argues that as there were wounded persons on each side, both parties must have been to blame, and the Japanese, therefore, ought not to be punished until full investigation has been made. It occurs to us as not improbable that full investigation has already been made. At all events, the accounts given by the vernacular press showed that Mr. Kasai and his companions were emphatically to blame. It was they that commenced the trouble by jeering at the Englishmen, and it was they that first introduced a dangerous element into the affair by throwing bottles and cups. If the story told by the Tokyo journals be correct, Mr. Kasai and his companions deserve to be punished, and we trust that they will be.

A TYPHOON.

The Central Meteorological Observatory at the beginning of the week predicted the advent of a typhoon. On the 1st instant, the barometer began to fall in Formosa, and a change of weather set in, with rain gradually increasing in violence. Reports from the south of the island were to the effect that a rapid fall of the mercury took place on the 3rd instant, and that 63 millimeters of rain fell in 8 hours. The centre of disturbance travelled thence to the Riukiu Islands, and on the afternoon of the 5th the reading of the barometer at Ishizaki-jima was 738 mil., and a gale was blowing from the north-east. At 10 p.m. that night the mercury fell 16 mil., and the wind and rain increased in violence, 207 millimeters of rain falling in 8 hours. The reports of the Observatory appear to have been mangled in their transfer to the columns of the vernacular newspapers, so that we are unable to discover exactly what the storm did. The gist of the matter, however, is that instead of holding its original direction and travelling from Ishigaki-jima towards Kiushiu, the centre assumed a new route on the afternoon of the 6th instant, and travelling past the north of Formosa at a speed of about 10 miles an hour—not the velocity of the wind but the rate of the storm's motion—, entered China southward of Shanghai and headed in the direction of Ningpo. The warning addressed to Kiushiu has therefore been rescinded, but the Meteorological experts point out that as the action of these storms can not be predicted with any assurance, there may be another equally radical change of direction in the present case, and it would therefore be unwise to abate all precautions until four or five days have passed. If the storm has bid us a final good-bye, we owe it a thankful farewell, for without coming north to disturb us, it gave us 24 hours of delightful and most refreshing coolness. Indeed, the incident illustrates the enormous extent of the area affected by these violent atmospheric disturbances. The typhoon never got closer to us than the Riukiu Islands, yet it made itself distinctly felt during three days. Throughout the 7th, there was a perpetual rumbling of distant thunder with fitful showers, succeeded by that particularly ominous condition of the air when the most distant noises sound sharp and clear as in a mountain solitude. On the 8th, we had a cloudy sky with rare glints of sunshine and ragged flecks of rain like little pieces torn by a tempest from the face of the ocean. Then followed a night of invigorating coolness, and then, as the storm turned in its tracks and headed away to the south and west, the heavy heat of the dog-days once more re-asserted itself. Yet the centre of the storm never got within 700 miles of Yokohama and Tokyo.

The following telegram, dated the 7th inst., despatched by the Governor-General of Formosa, has reached the Home Office:—About 2 o'clock on the morning of the 7th instant, the weather suddenly became unsettled and the wind gradually increased to the force of a typhoon: the wind was accompanied by heavy rains. About 10 o'clock the same morning, the typhoon passed away, though the rain continued to fall. The Tamsui River, which runs alongside of Taipeh city, overflowed its banks and almost the whole of the streets

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were flooded. About 759 houses were destroyed and 31 partially damaged, and some 11 lives were lost. Taipeh Prison was seriously damaged, but the prisoners are safe.

According to information sent to the *Chugai Shogyo*, the flood-water reached the roofs of the buildings at some places.

THE RICE HARVEST.

The prospects of the rice harvest are said to be very good. Accurate estimates are not yet possible, of course, but information collected officially from various quarters is interpreted to indicate a probable yield of 41,310,000 *koku*, as against an average crop of 37,340,000 *koku*. Last year's crop was only 33,000,000 *koku*. It follows, therefore, that if this forecast be verified by events, the farmers will find themselves, at the end of the year, richer by about 124 million *yen* than they were at the end of 1897, and 59 million *yen* richer than they would be at the end of an average year. These figures are suggestive. They show how insignificant the question of increasing the Land Tax is compared with the quality of the harvest. Count Inouye's project would have added 18 million *yen* to the tax paid by owners of rice lands. In other words, the difference between a good crop and an average crop of rice is 4½ times greater than the additional tax that Count Inouye would have imposed. Another point is worth noting. The value of 41 million *koku* of rice, at 15 *yen* per *koku*, is 615 million *yen*, and the tax upon agricultural land is 36 millions, in round numbers. Hence the tax is $\frac{1}{17}$ of the rice crop, omitting all the other produce of the soil—barley, wheat, millet, mulberry, tea, root crops, cotton, hemp, tobacco, &c. Yet there are men who venture to tell the Japanese land-owner that he pays as much to the State as he did in feudal days when the *daimyo* took $\frac{2}{5}$ of the rice crop. Two-fifths of 40 million *koku* of rice represent 240 million *yen*, and the tax is 36 millions.

THE FORMOSAN REBELS

Formosa is truly a most disheartening place. A few days ago, intelligence reached us that several bands of insurgents had made act of submission and that at length the sun of tranquillity was really rising above the horizon. The Governor General, too, in a speech delivered by him on the 27th ultimo, spoke as though the reign of good order would soon be established throughout the island. But now comes a telegram from Taipeh, dated the 8th instant, saying that a body of Japanese troops was engaged for three days attacking the rebels in Gashizan; and conveying the impression that this onset did not result in any signal success. A general advance, we read, was make by the Japanese on the 5th instant, but encountering desperate opposition, they were unable to hold their ground, and had to fall back upon Hoinchu on the 7th instant, having repulsed the insurgents and burned their village. Two officers, five privates, and an official of the local office of the district were killed on the Japanese side, and the wounded numbered eight. The list of casualties is not very heavy, but the report indicates unlooked-for capacity of resistance on the side of rebels.

FORMOSA.

Formosan affairs are now a good deal *en evidence*, not only because of the sweeping administrative reforms recently effected, but also because of some statements made by the Governor-General after a dinner given by him to the principal Civil Officials on the 27th ultimo. His Excellency said that the necessary administrative reforms having now been effected, attention must be directed to the development of the Island's material resources. He does not seem to have elaborated that point at all, but to have passed on at once to the question of the railway. He declared himself most anxious to see it constructed. If, however, the Government undertook the work, the Diet's consent must be obtained as a preliminary, and there would be a delay of probably one or two years. If, on the other hand, foreign capital could be procured, it would be possible to proceed at once with the construction.

We may observe, in parenthesis, that this difficulty about foreign capital is very inexplicable. According to all accounts, Messrs. Peacock & Company are perfectly willing to provide the money if satisfactory arrangements can be made about its repayment. Surely that is an elementary condition? Neither the Governor-General nor the Directors of the Formosan Railway Company imagine, we presume, that British capitalists are going to furnish millions of *yen* unless they can obtain some guarantee for the recovery of the money. The fact is that the Japanese are not behaving in a practical manner about this railway problem. It will not do merely to say, the law does not forbid foreigners to hold shares in Japanese railways, or to have a Japanese railway hypothecated to them as security; therefore such privileges are presumably enjoyable by foreigners. That kind of constructive potentiality is altogether too vague where hard cash is in question. There must be something tangible; something in black on white. The alternative is for the Government itself to borrow money, pledging the credit of the State. But the Government will presently have quite enough borrowing to do on its own account.

Lieut.-General Baron Kodama's allusion to developing the material resources of Formosa is what principally attracts attention in Japan. The finances of the Island are dealt with in special accounts and do not appear in the State Budget. But a considerable grant in aid has to appear in the Budget. Count Matsukata, in his Estimates for 1898-9, put the figure at 13 million *yen*. Marquis Ito, in his Estimate for 1899-1900, put it at 11 millions. The present Cabinet is said to contemplate 10 millions. No wonder that Japanese publicists are beginning to ask how long this state of affairs is to continue. The revenue at present is derived from (1) Government Industries and Government Properties; (2) Internal Taxes; (3) Customs Duties, and (4) Miscellaneous Sources. Baron Kodama proposes to add to the revenue obtained from Government Industries by establishing a monopoly of table salt, which will yield 640,000 *yen*, and to the revenue obtained from Internal Taxes by making the Land Tax payable in money instead of grain, by which means there will be an increase of 900,000 *yen*. But 1½ million *yen*, together with the improved yield of the Customs after the new Tariff goes into force, will still leave a large deficit, and the question is, what then? The *Yomiuri Shimbun* makes some bold suggestions: stop the import of opium and grow poppies as a State monopoly; make State monopolies of the camphor industry, of gold dust gathering, and so on. The *Yomiuri* seems to forget that State monopolies are the most costly affairs in the world in proportion to the profits they produce.

What appears to us to have been the most interesting portion of the Governor-General's speech was his allusion to the aborigines (*seiban*). He described them as a serious obstacle to progress, and said that he had asked a certain foreigner what other Governments would do with such folk under similar circumstances, but the foreigner's reply had not been conclusive. Give these aborigines wine, and they drank it with all the good will in the world, but when it was finished, they turned and murdered the donors. How were they to be treated? Should they be cleared out of the country? They were wild animals with human faces. Should they be handled like beasts? "How would you, as a Christian, proceed towards them?" he had inquired. But the foreigner had confessed himself unable to reply.

These are certainly very significant utterances. They are surprising, too. We did not imagine that the aborigines justified such a description. In the south they are said to be quiet, tractable people. It is only in the northerly districts, where the camphor distillers have encroached upon their territory that they show themselves truculent and bloodthirsty. So, at least, we have always understood.

The Governor-General added that the north of the Island would soon be completely pacified, and the south also, he hoped, before long. Speaking of immigration, he said that the Western coast was pretty thickly settled, but that there was much room in the south and east. He referred also to Kelung harbour. The committee of experts had recommended that the deep parts should be dredged and the shallow filled in, but such a plan would reduce the area of the harbour, a result which he was very anxious to avoid, in view of the importance of the anchorage. His own idea was that the whole harbour should be dug out. The matter was under consideration.

THE SERVICE OF TRAINS FROM YOKOHAMA TO KAMKURA AND ZUSHI.

As the Railway authorities have always shown a courteous desire to be informed of points affecting the public convenience, we ask permission to direct their attention to a very unwelcome feature in the service of trains from Tokyo to Yokosuka *via* Yokohama, as shown in the schedule issued on the 1st instant. There is a large passenger traffic during the summer months from Tokyo and Yokohama to Kamakura and Zushi. As to the Japanese sections of the traffic we have nothing to say, of course, but with regard to foreigners we are assured that there are fully twenty regular travellers during the summer, to say nothing of casual tourists. On the completion of the double line, it was expected that the

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service of trains would be improved, and the disappointment caused by the new schedule is proportionately great. For, according to the present arrangement, there is one train less than before in the evening, at the very time when people from Yokohama want to return to their sea-side homes. Nine trains leave Tokyo between 7.25 a.m. 1.40 p.m., but there is not one between 3.25 a.m. and 6 p.m., nor does the 6 p.m. train call at Yokohama. In short, for people who want to go from Yokohama to Kamakura or Zushi no train is available between 4.20 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. The former is, of course, too early for business men, and the latter is much too late for anyone desiring to get to Zushi or Kamakura in time for dinner. According to the old schedule, a train left Tokyo at 4.55 p.m., calling at Yokohama at 5.50, an arrangement which suited the foreign community very well. We have no doubt that had these circumstances presented themselves to the Railway Authorities, a more convenient schedule would have been drafted.

Another point which we may take this opportunity to notice is that the accommodation for first-class passengers from Yokohama during the summer months is very inadequate. That is a fact of which the Railway officials must often have taken cognisance, but whether the cause be insufficiency of rolling stock or some other defect not easily appreciable, no measures are adopted to remedy the inconvenience. Tickets are issued apparently without reference to the available accommodation, and although there is an evident disposition to make things comfortable, it often happens —as it did on the evenings of the 2nd or 3rd instant—that while only one first-class carriage is forthcoming, the number of passengers would suffice to fill two, the result being that some have to stand up and others to seek places in second or third-class cars. These are small matters, easily remedied, but their neglect greatly affects the comfort of passengers and the reputation of the Railway Authorities.

THE AMERICAN-JAPANESE BANK.

Messrs. Kaneko Kentaro and Sugiyama Shigemaro have not abandoned their project of establishing a big bank with the aid of foreign money, in order to supply the present dearth of floating capital. So, at least, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says. Mr. Sugiyama paid a visit to America last year to investigate the chance of enlisting cōoperation in the States. He was thoroughly successful, but he failed to convince the Tokyo statesmen that things were as favourable as he imagined. Finally he induced the Ministry to telegraph to the States for information. The answer confirmed his report in every respect, and the scheme seemed likely to become an accomplished fact when the political vicissitudes of the past eight months commenced. But the projectors think that what is deferred is not necessarily lost. The Hispano-American war has been a serious obstacle. It is drawing to a close now, however, and the talk of a bank is reviving.

PARTY PLATFORMS IN JAPAN.

The general election took place on Wednesday, but very small regard was at first paid to it by the vernacular press. The organs of the Constitutional Party were probably disposed to invite as little attention as possible to the struggle, and their opponents found only one criticism. It was, however, a pregnant criticism. Where, they ask, is another example to be found of a political party's going to the polls without any declared platform. It is certainly curious, when one comes to think of it. In Occidental countries a candidate for election takes a great deal of trouble to let his constituents know what they are to vote for. Very often he never discovers his own convictions, or knows that he has any particular convictions, until the moment for preparing his hustings' speech arrives, but he is exceedingly particular to convince the electors that he possesses most decided opinions and that their opinions are his. The Japanese, however, are a law unto themselves. Occidental precedents do not concern them. We are not aware that a single Constitutionalist has published an address to his constituency. At all events, if he has, no vernacular newspaper has noticed it. On the other hand, as to the assertion that no precedent exists for such reticence, we are disposed to say that there are as many precedents as there have been general elections in Japan. Writing these words with calm reflection and stretching our memory to its utmost limit, we can not give a clear sketch of any platform that was ever presented to the country by any political party in Japan. There have been platforms indeed: no lack of them. But nothing intelligible distinguished one from the other. A general interchange of principles might have been effected without entailing the slightest inconvenience to anybody. Therefore the Constitutionalists may claim that, though their complete silence on the present occasion is a new departure, they are not doing any practical violence to the precedents of the past five elections. The retort is not complete, however. Hitherto the constituencies have not felt any want of explicit information. A big fight was being waged before their eyes—the fight for party cabinets against clan ministries. They had a vague notion that tenure of power by the latter was connected with various abuses which would be redressed as soon as the former were victorious. They voted therefore to secure that victory, without making any importunate scrutiny into the nature of the abuses. The victory is now won, however, and the time has come to talk openly of the abuses. But that is exactly what the Constitutionalists do not want to do. They know that so soon as their opinions are applied to the touchstone of constructive statesmanship, a great many different colours will come out. Count Okuma, when he went out of office last year, said that what the country waited for, what he counted most desirable in the interests of representative government, was the appearance of some broad and easily intelligible issues, on either side of which the parties might range themselves definitely. But it is natural that neither Count Okuma nor his followers should chose the hustings as a place for shaping such issues. Undisturbed tenure of power is what they want at present—that and nothing else. Do what they may, the elections are destined to give a heavy shock to their cohesion, for it is evident that in several districts the candidates of the former Liberals and the former Progressists, ignoring the fact that they are now all Constitutionalists, intend to fight against each other with no stint of their old bitterness, and out of such contests there will grow something more than momentary estrangement. It would be expecting too much, therefore, to look for definite declarations of policy at this juncture. The fact is that the nation has reached only the threshold of party government. The so-called "parties" have obtained control of the administration, but have not yet obtained control of themselves. There must be another differentiation and another integration.

THE ELECTIONS.

The general elections took place on the 10th instant, and seem to have passed off without any rioting or deeds of violence. A few returns are to hand, but it would be useless to publish them as the fragmentary information they convey is practically meaningless. It appears to be universally believed that at least two-thirds of the constituencies will return the candidates of the Constitutional Party, and that the Cabinet will find itself supported in the next session of the Diet by an overwhelming majority in the Lower House.

Unquestionably the good order that has marked these elections must be partly placed to the credit of the Government. The Imperial Ordinance issued in the time of the Ito Cabinet, forbidding the carrying of weapons of any kind either when canvassing or during the polling, and providing penalties for intimidation in whatsoever form, was a useful measure, and its effects were distinctly felt in the elections last spring. The present Ministry has gone farther in the same direction, and may congratulate itself on the success that has attended its efforts to preserve the peace. At the same time, the absence of opposition must be remembered. With the exception of a few constituencies, the Constitutionalists have had the field to themselves, and under such circumstances there ought not to have been much reason for commotion.

But if tranquillity and good order have characterised the elections, there is not a little discontent about the operation of the recently issued regulations for the prevention of corrupt practices. The provisions of the new law are extraordinarily strict. No legislation of corresponding severity exists, or has ever existed, in an Occidental country, and if such regulations were put into operation in England, the number of malefactors at every election would be legion. But the discontent in Japan is directed not against the stringency of the law so much as against the manner of applying it. Unfortunately the offenders against its provisions have in almost every case been opponents of the Constitutional Party, and when such "coincidences" occur in a series, credulity is severely taxed. There has been one flagrant case in Tokyo. The candidates for the Kyobashi district were Mr. Yamada, Vice-Minister of Justice, and Mr. Nakazawa, an "Independent." The supporters of the former brought some charge of corrupt practices against the supporters of the latter in connexion with

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a "tea and talk" (*chawa-kai*), but the accusation could not be substantiated. By and by, two hundred of the "tea-and-talk" men sent a circular to the electors advising them to vote for Mr. Nakazawa. It was discovered that among the 200 names was included that of a Mr. Tsuchida, who declared that he had not agreed to be a party to the proceeding. He laid an information against the other 199, and the Procurator of the District Court instituted proceedings which appear to have been very ill-judged and severe, for they extended even to the searching of houses, and are said to have had the effect of preventing these 199 constituents from recording their votes. The officials of the police, it is asserted, were strongly opposed to such action, and of course the sufferers do not hesitate to say that the public procurator would never have exhibited this judicious zeal had he not been working in the interests of a Vice-Minister of Justice. Indeed, two or three journals bitterly attack the Constitutionalists, declaring that whereas in former years they loudly denounced Cabinet after Cabinet for improper interference in elections, they have now been themselves guilty of the worst form of interference since they have perverted an Imperial Ordinance into a party weapon. Of course these murmurs must be largely discounted, but it is probable that we shall hear a good deal about them. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, indeed, predicts that great troubles are in store and speaks in very pessimistic strains of the record of the election, and the *Chuo Shimbun* avers that instances of the arbitrary application of the new law to party purposes are reported from Osaka, Kyoto and no less than 19 prefectures.

Another severely criticised feature is that the efforts of the leaders of the Constitutional Party failed to prevent contests between candidates set up by the former Liberals and Progressists. It is not to be expected, say the *Shogyo Shimbun* and the *Nichi Nichi*, that men who stood opposed to each other at the polls will readily range themselves under the same banner in the Diet. In short, these election contests are the "little rift" which is destined to widen rapidly when the session opens. Besides, there is a wide-spread belief that many candidates, though standing in the nominal interests of the Constitutional Party, and obtaining their seats under its auspices, will break away from it whenever an opportunity offers. Possibly such ratiocinations are prompted mainly by the chagrin of defeat, but surely there is no denying the point made by the *Kokumin Shimbun*, namely, that the constituencies have returned the Constitutional candidates without knowing anything whatever of their principles; that these candidates, therefore, can not be said to represent public opinion, since they do not avowedly represent any opinion at all; that they can not even be trusted to support the Government, since neither does the Government know their views not do they know the Government's, and that it was very easy for any one to side with them at the polls seeing that he did not commit himself to anything by doing so.

Election day passed very quietly in Yokohama on Wednesday, none of the incidents of early election days—*soshi*, thronging crowds around the polling booth, and excitement generally—being present. The candidates were Mr. Shimada Saburo, editor of the *Mainichi Shimbun*, who has represented the constituency since the first session of the Diet, and Mr. Suzumoto Inanosuke, a wealthy tobacco merchant. Mr. Shimada is an old time *Kaishin to* man and Mr. Suzumoto belonged to the *Jiyu to*. Although both parties have amalgamated, the electors yesterday preferred to speak of their candidates as still ranged under the old banners, and acted accordingly. Voting began early and by noon day both parties were about equal, then Mr. Shimada Saburo began to forge ahead and by closing time it was an open secret that the old member had again been returned. The ballot boxes were opened this morning and the first count showed the following result:—

Mr. Shimada Saburo	347
Mr. Suzumoto Inanosuke	208
Majority for Shimada	139

PLAIN SPEAKING AND EXCELLENT SENSE.

Count Itagaki's circular instruction with reference to the operation of the Revised Treaties deserves to be strongly applauded. He reminds the people that the exercise of the rights recognised by the Treaties involves the discharge of corresponding duties, and that their attitude towards foreigners not only indicates the degree of the nation's development but also effects its reputation. The time is most opportune for the inculcation of such principles. Count Itagaki has had the happy inspiration which enormously enhances the value of a wise act—the inspiration of knowing the right moment to perform it.

Even more interesting and much more suggestive than this circular of the Home Minister's, is an article prompted by it in the *Kokumin Shimbun*. Not many years ago, a witty foreigner called the *Kokumin-no-tomo*—which is a magazine connected with the *Kokumin Shimbun*—the "cocky man at home." But times have changed. The *Kokumin Shimbun* is now a conspicuously well-balanced and liberal journal. Among its many excellent articles none, however, seems better conceived or sounder than this latest. Having expressed entire accord with the principles enunciated by Count Itagaki, and approval of his action in publishing them, it goes on to say that a solitary expression of sound views is not sufficient. The Government itself must set the example of displaying towards foreigners the disposition which it urges the people to cultivate. Can it be justly said that officials do act up to these principles? How is it that they hesitate to accord to foreigners the right of owning shares in Japanese railways, and to railway companies the privilege of hypothecating their lines as security for foreign loans? The people desire to have these rights officially recognised, but the Government stands irresolute. Looking back a little, we find that the principle laid down in the Second Article of the Civil Code—the principle that foreigners shall be entitled to enjoy in Japan all private rights not explicitly withheld by law or treaty—has been stoutly opposed by two leading officials of the present Government, Mr. Yamada, Vice-Minister of Justice, and Mr. Komuchi Tomotsune, Director of the Legislative Bureau, who distinguished themselves in the 12th session of the Diet by vehemently advocating that the Article should be amended in the sense of conceding to foreigners such private rights only as are definitively recognised by law or treaty. The people may well be pardoned if, despite such wise and liberal circulars as that of Count Itagaki, they feel dubious about the Government's real sentiments towards foreigners. Everyone understands, of course, that no question exists concerning the views of Counts Okuma and Itagaki, leaders of progress as they are. But there are other conservative, narrow-minded folks who have never disabused their minds of the notion that foreigners are barbarians. The Government has to educate its own followers before it undertakes to instruct the people. Could anything be more antiquated than the notion of certain officials who contend that to allow foreigners to hold shares in railways might deprive the latter of their strategical use in time of war? The railways are in Japan. The Government of Japan wields the powers of a Government. Presumably it can always act in accordance with the exigencies of the Japanese State within Japanese territory, whether it has to deal with foreigners or with its own nationals. More important still is the question of education. The system of education pursued now in Japan has the effect of inculcating a fanatical kind of patriotism. The Japanese child learns to regard all aliens as enemies *ab initio*. It was remarked recently that the histories used in American schools tended to represent England in a light which could not fail to nurture a spirit of antipathy towards her in the breasts of American youths. The same may be said of Japan's educational system with regard to all outside nations. This circular of Count Itagaki's, considered in conjunction with the teaching of the schools and the views openly enunciated by several officials, suggests that the Authorities are throwing water on the fire with one hand and feeding oil to it with the other. The effect of such a state of affairs with regard to mixed residence is as nothing compared with its effect upon the best interests of the nation.

We venture to call that "plain speaking and excellent sense." The particular kind of scholastic instruction referred to by our contemporary is not within our knowledge, but we have long thought that the schools are guilty of a serious sin of omission in not teaching children that a courteous and considerate demeanour towards strangers is an evidence of civilization, and that a rude and offensive demeanour disgraces the nation. Where do the children learn to cry out *Tojin bakka*, or *Neko papa* when a foreigner passes? Why are they never rebuked? If such a mood is sanctioned in the child, what reason have we to expect that he will be different as a man?

THE PORTRAIT OF MR. KEIL.

Mr. Fred. Yates has finished the portrait of Mr. Keil. We say "the" portrait, because we presume that our readers know all about this picture—how a hundred Free-masons of Yokohama and Tokyo, at the initiative of Dr. Eldridge, combined to have a portrait painted of a gentleman to whom Masonry in Japan owes a debt that can never be repaid. Tributes of such a nature are not easy to arrange in a community so mixed as that of Yokohama, but Masonry provides a bond to bind together many nationalities—unhappily not all—and it is thus that Yokohama will come into possession of a portrait which every member of the community will be glad to see handed down to future generations as a memento of an exceptionally generous, kind-hearted and loyal friend.

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Mr. Yates has make a remarkable success. The portrait shows Mr. Keil seated, the lower part of the legs not appearing. It is life size—38 inches by 44—; the face is in nearly full view, the hands rest lightly on the arms of the chair, and the general attitude is easy and unconstrained. The masonic character of the picture is indicated by two jewels, one of the 33° round the neck, the other—the decoration of the Court of Honour—on the left breast. The likeness seems to us quite perfect. Some of Mr. Yates' previous work suggested that his signal successes depend on the attributes of his subject to a greater degree than is usual with portrait-painters. Where there is a possibility of making a "picture," he is emphatically happy, but where the subject is incapable of being invested with an artistic halo, however dim, Mr. Yates does not deify it. After all, that fact, when one comes to analyse it, must be placed to the artist's credit rather than to his discredit, for it shows that even in drawing a likeness he introduces the subjective element without which every painting is a mere photograph. This portrait of Mr. Keil will delight everyone. It presents to us the genial, sympathetic face, not merely as we have known it in everyday intercourse, but as we have seen it in happy moments when brethren were "called from labour to refreshment," or when some special opportunity of doing a deed of charity had just been utilized. It is in the genius of the really gifted artist to create these moments merely by studying a face without any knowledge of the emotions reflected by it in the past. That is what Mr. Yates has done, and truly Yokohama will owe him gratitude for enriching it with a really fine work of art as well as with the perpetually living presence of a dear friend and much respected citizen.

With reference to our remarks on the subject of Mr. Keil's portrait, painted by Mr. Fred. Yates, we are asked to state that the list of subscribers is not limited to Yokohama and Tokyo, but will include Kobe and Nagasaki Masons also. It may further be advisable to explain, for the information of any Masons who have not yet been invited to cöoperate, that since obvious circumstances rendered the immediate execution of the work imperative, the picture was painted to the order of a small group of members of the fraternity who became personally responsible, pending the canvass of the Masonic community as a whole, which canvass is now in progress.

ETHNOLOGICAL POSITION OF JAPAN.

If we take the first personal pronoun as used by the Japanese to aid us in determining their ethnological position, we seem to challenge the earliest people of the race to tell us from their own consciousness to what race they belong. What can we learn from the common Japanese words for *I—ware* and *watakuski*? *Kushi* we reject. It is *ware* and *wata* that are of importance to us. They may be reasonably compared with the Korean *na*? Probably an initial ■ has been dropped. The Japanese reached their islands from Korea. The Koreans were the next stratum of population to occupy their peninsula. We naturally expect, therefore, that they are akin in language and in race. The unfortunate rejection of the useful initials *p* and *b* by the Japanese—who instead of *pi* prefer to say *hi*—hides many important words. *Hi*, fire in Japanese, is the Korean *par* (fire) but people do not notice it.

If we recognize the kinship of Koreans and Japanese, where are we to find, in other parts of Asia, clear traces of the same relationship? They appear in the Dravidian tongues. Here will be found the advantage that exists in making use of the first personal pronoun as a witness to early relationship.

In Sir William Hunter's lists of words, he notes for *I* that the Telugu word is *nenu*, the Tamil *nan*, Malayabin *nyan*, Carnatic *nanu*. In these words the resemblance to the Korean *na*, for *I*, is remarkable. For *I* the Chinese have *ngo*. The Tartar languages and the Indo-European languages have *me*; the Hebrew has *anoki*; the Koreans, Dravidians, and Japanese have *nat* or *nan* or *na*.

The use of pronouns may certainly be considered a fair mark of kinship. In the case of *midzukara*—self—what do we find? *Midzu* (self) is the Korean *mom* (self). *Mom* is *mi*, repeated: *me* in old Latin is *met*. When the Koreans took *na* for *I*, as the Japanese and Dravidians also did, it was not because *me* was not in their language. The personal equation was strongly in favour of *nat* or *nan*. As a first personal pronoun there was an agreement in the use of the root *me*, for self. This did not extend to Telugu. In Telugu, *I, myself*, is *nene*. The vowel is changed from *u* to *e* The resemblance to Telugu fails here. But Mongol has *uberon* (self) This is the Korean and Japanese word in a modified form. The root *kara* in *midzukara* (self) is the Chinese 己 *ki* (self). In the Tungus language *self* is *manakan*; plural, *manakar*. Here the two roots are combined, just as in Japanese. Judging by such instances there was ancient kinship existing between the Mongol and Tungus tribes and the Japanese. If then we would know by positive research and significant facts the ethnological position of the Japanese, we do well to follow the light of language. Every word is a heirloom several thousand years old. All words are really primæval. So old are words that the same root may be interrogative in one language while it is the sign of the first personal pronoun is another. *Me*, for example, is with us the accusative of the pronoun *I*. In Mongol it is the nominative for *I*. In Japanese it means *self*. In Chinese and Hebrew, with the vowel ■ or *o*, it means *what*, as an interrogative. All this striking variety of senses is caused by the very great length of time during which roots have lived and the perpetual friction to which demonstrative roots have been exposed in the endless intercourse of the market, the court house, and the home.

It is only in pronouns that such changes could occur. For such Japanese words as *hone* (bone), we are forced to claim kindred with English because the words are identical. This is within the primæval vocabulary. All we claim is not identity in grammar but only in a root. Roots are all older than grammar and have a vitality. Roots live while languages, as such, grow old and die. We can understand then why the Japanese word *meshi* and *food* are and must be identical. New words are never made. Everyone who tries to make a new word will fail. He can only repeat an old one in a new shape.

The Japanese *sakana* (fish) is the Mongol *dagas* and the Hebrew *dag*. The philosophy of language does not allow the appearance of new roots. It is impossible that they should occur. The existence of such identical words proves ancient kinship with the Mongol and Hebrew races. What this fact tells us is that the Japanese and Mongols are more nearly related than the Japanese and the Jews. The identity of *sakana* with *dagas* extends to two syllables; the identity of *sakana* with the Hebrew *dag* (fish) extends to only one. The ancient Japanese must have been akin to the ancient Mongols during a period later than the time when their kinship with Hebrew-speaking peoples was made plain by their possessing similar names of objects.

J. EDKINS.

Shanghai, July 6th, 1898.

JAPANESE COMPANIES.

This is emphatically a time of trial for Japanese joint-stock companies. The day of fat dividends and high-priced shares is past, for the present at all events. There is nothing novel or surprising in the experience. It is an old story that undue haste brings leisurely repentance. Things have moved too fast in Japan, especially since the war with China, and the reaction had to come sooner or later. Most of us were prepared for a much sharper and earlier crisis than that which has overtaken the country, but it must be confessed that if some classes of Japanese show slowness in appreciating the policy which, after all, works best for business interests, they display a very enviable faculty of stopping just short of the brink of excess in all their doings. An excellent give-and-take principle guides them safely past abysses into which more stiff-necked folk would inevitably fall. True, the power of tacking at the supreme moment is not altogether admirable. Too many compromises suggest a moral flabbiness that has obvious disadvantages, and we often think that if departures from the narrow path were allowed to entail their full measure of disaster in this country, men would learn to walk straighter. But the nation avoids a great deal of acute and concentrated suffering by agreeing to spread the pain in reduced doses over a wide area. It will emerge from its commercial and industrial troubles without many serious scars. Meanwhile some of the experiences that the crisis is teaching sound amusingly naïve. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, for example, has discovered that the destroyers of sound enterprise are speculators in shares; men who do not look upon a tradal or a manufacturing undertaking as an investment, but as an opportunity to gamble. It describes at some length how they inveigle simple-minded capitalists to start an enterprise; take shares in it; bull the market; sell out, and transfer their money and their knavery to some other sphere, leaving their dupes to enjoy the *debâcle*. One imagines that if this class of gentry has been so fully developed in Japan, the faculty of discounting their devices ought to have grown up *pari passú*. But that is not the *Mainichi's* notion.

Captain W. S. Moraes, Assistant Harbour Master at Macao, has been appointed Consul for Portugal at Osaka and Hyogo.

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FOREIGN PRISONERS IN JAPANESE JAILS.

It has been more than once pointed out in these columns that while no one thinks of asking for better treatment, theoretically, for foreigners imprisoned in Japanese jails than Japanese prisoners receive, there is an emphatic feeling that to treat both alike would be to greatly aggravate the punishment in the case of the foreigner. Japanese diet, Japanese modes of living, and Japanese garments are absolutely painful to the average foreigner, just as foreign diet, foreign modes of living, and foreign garments might be painful to the average Japanese. To satisfy the principles of justice the foreign criminal and the Japanese criminal should receive treatment which is absolutely equal when estimated by their respective standards. We have reason to know that leading Japanese statesmen have always recognised that argument, and the *Mainichi Shimbun* now tells us that it is recognised by the present Cabinet. Even in Western countries the old-time theory was that a criminal deserved no consideration. Hence the system of uniform treatment prevailed—old and young, adults and children, men and women being included in the same category. But modern reformers have radically changed all that, and Japan herself has for many years endeavoured to bring her prison practice into conformity with the enlightened method called the "individual system." It would be entirely contrary to that system to aggravate the punishment of a foreign criminal by adding to the penalty of hard labour and confinement, the pain of unaccustomed and unpalatable diet, uncomfortable clothes and restless nights.

THE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.

From American journals received by the last mail we learn that the fourth biennial convention of the Federation of Women's Clubs opened on June 22nd in Denver. The number of delegates attending the convention and of friends interested in it seems to have been enormous, and doubtless the hackneyed phrase "a great success" may be justly used to describe the affair. The *Denver Republican* devotes column after column in issue after issue to verbatim reports of the speeches delivered, and to portraits of the leading ladies among the delegates. We can not profess to have read all the speeches. It has been necessary to confine ourselves to partial indulgence in that pleasure. But even on the strength of our limited acquaintance with them, we venture to describe them as remarkable. They are for the most part of a somewhat essay-like character; rhetorical, slightly "hendecasyllabic," and framed with an evident tendency to picturesqueness and effect. Such feature, we suppose, are likely to be presented by ladies' speeches until the world is a good deal older. We quote one of the addresses that own readers may judge for themselves. It is the speech of Mrs. Frank Heller on "Education *per se*":—

"Upon America's decree, within the brief years, has sprung what we are pleased to call a great system of education. The primitive log school houses, from which the gigantic shadows of a Garfield, a Greeley and a Lincoln stretch away into infinity, gave place to the smart white house with modern equipments. The master has been replaced by the young mistress. In the cities great piles of brick accumulate; the rooms grow dingy and the children pale. They wear glasses and stoop in their walk. There are professors with a small p, and boards with very large B's; and sometimes a teacher with ungentle ways and bad grammar. A dark, ghostly, indefinable shape hoves near to see that these things are so. It sits on the front steps; prowls in the back yards, and is often in the basement with the janitor. We see pupils grow dull and apathetic, or bitter and hard, and are conscious that their risks as to ignorance and knowledge, to body and mind and soul, are tremendous.

"It has been a century of rapid transition. The changes in the educational world rightly understood are the very epitome of all the rest. For education is at once an effect and a cause. A strain from a grand instrument which is no sooner expressed than it in turn becomes creative and breathes forth new and varied harmonies. 'Twas a simple work the fathers had in mind when they thought to give each man his chance at schooling, but we have differentiated in such confusingly complexed ways since then. 'Twas once a simple thing to give the children a supper of bread and milk; but now, alas, who would dream of it; since Helen's milk must be sterilized, and Clarence's must be pepsinized, and Margaret's must be malted; the Borden brand only agrees with Frances, while the twins can digest nothing but Mellin's food and shredded wheat. The day has forever passed when the A, B, C, and multiplication table are to be dealt out in cold, hard, indiscriminate doses. They, too, must be malted, sterilized and pepsinized, or, perhaps, discarded for more wholesome substitutes.

We are puzzled over other matters than reading one's ballot and keeping clear of the poor house. Whole communities are beginning to turn their attention to their misfits. To look about is to understand. My neighbour on the left is a moral hunchback—injured from a fall in his ambition and natural aims in life. He draws a good salary as accountant, but in his breast beats a surgeon's heart that aches at the sight of every lame cur in the street, not more for the creature's pain than his own, that he cannot alleviate it. My right neighbour has a bad case of moral ticketts. Nature made him a mechanic, but his father's prosperity decreed him a lawyer. He has gained one qualification. In that handsome villa across the street dwells a monstrosity. Yes, he pays his bills promptly, but in the whole land there is, I think, no pauper who, from the community, takes so much and gives back so little, of joy, or love, or sunshine, as this strange citizen with his spotless commercial integrity. Few are the happy ones in a long list of acquaintances that are not going through life lame, halt or blind: wearily repressing the song their throats ache to sing; discouraged trying to deliver a message they only half understand; sick of seeming what they are not.

"In these inarticulate, unexpressed members of society that are the community's concern. That the name is legion, is the inevitable result of early schools which we have failed to perfect in season. Such results could not fail to invite the approach of the opposing principle. As early as 1750 came Rousseau's frantic wail for growth's experience as against passive conformity; then comes Pestalozzi's plea to culminate in Froebel's full clarion cry, "All that does not grow out of one's inner being, or that is not one's original feeling and thought, or at least awakens, that oppresses and defaces the individuality of man * * * shall we never cease to stamp human nature, even in childhood like coins, instead of letting it develop itself and grow into form according to the law of life implanted on it by God."

Conservative Englishmen will probably feel a thrill of something different from admiring enthusiasm when they hear of married ladies addressing monster meetings and having their portraits inserted in the public prints. But the times are changing and we have to change with them. It has been a blot upon our civilization that woman's intellectual life should so long have been confined to the narrow sphere out of which the ladies of America are now lifting it, and the conservatism in this matter of the generation that is passing away will doubtless be looked back to by the next with as much astonishment as we old folks feel to-day when we remember that, in the England of our youth, little boys had to climb through the soot of chimnies and nearly naked women were harnessed like beasts of burden to trucks in coal mines. We are bound to say, too, that among the six columns of these speeches which we have read, incomparably the most stilted, the most posture-striking, and the most frothy is that of one of the only two male orators that spoke, Governor Adams, who opened the convention. He set out by declaring that in the mountains of Central Africa Livingstone found a tribe who wrote over the door of every one of their huts, "she ruleth here," and he referred to the fact as a proof that "savage instinct and impulse grasped a principle of equality and justice which it had taken ages of Christian civilization to discover." That is an excellent specimen of the tinkling-cymbal style of rhetoric. Neither Governor Adams nor any one else could interpret its meaning. Then the Governor passed on to declare that mountain lands are the home of liberty; that "only in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming did the statutes recognise that the Creator made no mistake when he placed man and woman side by side in Eden;" that "westward the course of justice, as well as of empire, takes its way," and that "the influence of women's votes, and especially of the women's clubs can now mould—almost dictate—any new legislation?" Was ever such splendid foolishness talked before! Utah and the Mormons recognising woman's rights! The Creator, who put woman for ever under the rule of man after the exodus from Eden, cited as having decreed the equality of the sexes! "Justice" interpreted to mean the supremacy of woman in the home and in the legislature! If Governor Adams was a master of subtle sarcasm, and if his purpose had been to injure the cause he professed to promote, his oration would have been a masterpiece. But he is not that kind of person. He set out to be silver-tongued and Demosthenic, and he did the ladies the service of delivering an address by the side of which the emptiest and most affected of their utterances sounds solid and sagacious.

However, we have been led away to speak of the meeting in general whereas our purpose originally was to refer only to the part taken by the delegates from Japan—Miss Tsuda and Mrs. Watanabe. Our readers doubless remember the setting out of these ladies in May last. They went at the suggestion of Mrs. A. J. Breed, then on a visit to Japan, and by the assistance of Marquis Ito, Count Okuma and Professor Toyama. On the third day of the Convention, Miss Tsuda addressed it, and the incident is thus described by the *Denver Republican*:—

There was a flutter of excitement among the audience when two petite Japanese, dressed in native silks, were shown to the stage and introduced by Mrs. Breed as Miss Tsuda and Mrs. Watanabe. The latter could speak but a few words of English, but Miss Tsuda has mastered the English tongue and read a most interesting paper, in the sweetest of voices and with faultless enunciation. She said in part:—

"The tide of popular feeling in our country is at present greatly in favour of the progressive movement for women. Our gracious empress has been most earnest in her efforts in every way for the elevation and education of her sex in Japan. The very fact of our presence here shows the feeling regarding women's work, for we have come not only with the sanction and sympathy of some of our leading men, but with the cordial sympathy of the schools with which we are connected. As in so many things Japan has owed much to the warm friendship and sympathy of this country, so does she desire at this time to learn of good things for the women. All we have heard and seen in this

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most wonderful and beautiful country we shall remember and bear back to our country. We take your kindness to us, not as a personal matter, but as the reaching out of the women of the West towards those of the East."

Private letters from America say that Mrs. Watanabe and Miss Tsuda have made a signal success and have excited a great deal of public interest. One writer says, "are these the people we are keeping out of Hawaii?"; and another, "these women have opened our eyes to the fact that Japan is an ally worth cultivating." Here, too, is a tribute printed by the newspaper quoted above:—

Miss Alice R. Williard, of the Illinois Woman's Press Association, Chicago, is one of the newspaper women who are in attendance at the convention. She is connected with the *Railway Age*. It would have been a very remarkable thing even a decade ago for a young woman to be sent to a convention for the purpose of taking note of the manner in which the railroads, and especially the Western roads, would handle an excursion of 3,000 women. She has only praise and admiration for the manner in which the Loop excursion, with its seven trains of eager and enthusiastic women, was conducted. "It was a glorious time," she says. "The inspiring things to my mind have been the trip to-day, and the little Japanese lady's speech last night. To Mrs. Alice Ives Breed is due the gratitude of the women of the federation for the happy thought of bringing before them a woman so perfectly endowed, who delivered one of the best five-minute speeches of the biennial—best in composition, delivery, grace and voice.

Marquis Ito, Count Okuma and Professor Toyama have the satisfaction of knowing that their enlightened action in this matter has been of national value, and Miss Tsuda cannot be too heartily congratulated upon the courage, tact and ability she has displayed. We believe that a project is on foot to send Miss Tsuda and Mrs. Watanabe to Oxford, and that it has the hearty cooperation of Sir Ernest Satow. We hope that it will be carried out.

THE DEMAND FOR FLOATING CAPITAL.

Mr. Kawashima, President of the Industrial Bank, has delivered a speech which contains one item of interest to foreigners as well as to Japanese. He says that since the Bank commenced business less than a year ago, there have been 377 applications for loans, the total sum applied for being 16,676.348 *yen*. The details of the record stand thus:—

	Number.	Amount.
		Yen
Applications from Public Associations	22	988,213
Applications from Agriculturists	205	5 783.631
Applications from Manufacturers	150	9 924 504

The loans actually made by the Bank, or now in process of being made, are:—

	Number.	Amount.
		Yen
Public Associations	20	621.404
Agriculturists	48	1.061.400
Manufacturers	50	3.582 600
Totals	118	5,265 404

ANOTHER INVENTION.

We recently reproduced an account of a newly invented machine for firing, rolling and facing tea-leaves. We now find in the vernacular press notice of another invention, the machine on this occasion being for weaving purposes. The main point of difference between this new loom and the loom hitherto in use, is that the employment of the hands in throwing the shuttles is altogether avoided. Every operation in connexion with the weaving is effected by the action of the feet on two pedals, a purely mechanical movement. The inventor is said to be Mr. Fukuda Shibachiro, of Joshiu, and the machine is now at work in the factory of Mr. Otaka Jinshiro. One machine costs 30 *yen*, and the inventor claims for it not only that expert labour is dispensed with, but also that the work done in a given time is 2½ times as much as that accomplished with the old machine. A patent has been taken out.

FINANCE IN THE FEUDAL AGES.

The recent address by Baron Suyematsu on "Finance in the Feudal Ages," delivered before the members of the *Kokkagakkwai*, has been reported in the magazine of that association. The main points of his address are as follows:—According to the feudal system of the Tokugawa Shogunate—the most perfect feudal system in the East—the Shogun's Government was centred in Yedo, with many *daimyos*, having vast authority, scattered about the various provinces of Japan. These latter were divided into many classes, such as *fudai*, *tozama*, *kokushu*, and *ryōshu*, altogether making the so called "three hundred daimyos," though in fact they did not number more than two hundred and sixty. Their fiefs were each capable of yielding more than ten thousand *koku* of rice. There was also another class named the *kōtaiyoriaishu*, who were treated like *daimyo*, but whose fiefs yielded less than ten thousand *koku*. The domain of the *Shogun* was said to be worth eight million *koku*; and that of some of the *daimyo* seven hundred thousand *koku*, of others, five hundred thousand *koku*, and some, such as the lord of Kaga, held sway over districts yielding more than one million *koku*. Owing to the manner in which the tribute rice was assessed, the figures set opposite each territory do not show the net yearly income. The State valuations sometimes revealed an increase and at other times a decrease in the amount of the crop, for in some cases an increase of income arose from the opening up of cultivated land which was not at first notified to the Shogun's government. The *daimyo* received four-tenths of the agricultural produce, leaving the remaining six-tenths to the people; for example, four *tō* out of one *koku* (or ten *tō*) were taken by the former, and the remaining six *tō* were left to the latter. The tax was paid chiefly in kind, but some miscellaneous taxes, called *komononari*, were generally paid in money. The farmers were subjected to heavy taxes, but merchants escaped almost untaxed, though in some clans something like a licence-fee was imposed upon various classes of dealers. The brewing of *sake* was under the direct control of the *Shogun's* Government, which restricted the amount of the brew and issued brewing licenses, and no clan was entitled to impose a tax on sake brewing, though some clans imposed something very like a tax but under a different name.

The *Daimyo* expended their incomes on various things. Baron Suyematsu, for the purpose of his investigation on this point, turned to the documents of the Choshū clan only. He believes that similar results would be found in the records of other clans. The chief tax, that of rice (which was called *mononari*), was insufficient to pay the clan's expenses in Yedo (or Tokyo), and extraordinary means of raising revenue were resorted to when there was not enough to pay the bills incurred in the domain of the clan. Another item of expenditure which was a great source of trouble was the tributes and contributions demanded by the *Shogun's* Government under the names, *kōyakukin*, *waritate*, or *fuyaku*. In the early days of the Tokugawa rule, a supply of labourers was demanded for building castles or for repairing river banks. It is a well-known fact that Kato Kiyomasa and Fukushima Masanori were ordered to take part in the building of the Castle of Nagoya. But in later days tributes of money were substituted, under the pretence that the latter occassioned less expense to the *daimyō*. The total amount of such contributions was enormous. The most expensive item in a *daimyō's* budget, however, was that connected with the *sankin kotai*—the expenses incurred during compulsory residence in Yedo. When the lords of Choshū came to Yedo they usually took, in the early days, two or three thousand retainers with them, and even in later times one thousand followers was no uncommon feature of their procession.

The proceeds of taxes in those days—which, as stated above, were paid in kind not money—were generally sold to merchants, but as each clan generally owed money to the merchants of Osaka, the tax grain was transported to Osaka where it was sold to liquidate these liabilities. Some clans monopolized certain goods; for example, paper, wax, and on some occasions, indigo, were all in the hands of the Choshū clan. Small portions of these articles were sold to retainers of the clan, but the larger portion was transported to Osaka. Many rich people in those days lived in Osaka and they were the chief creditors of the *daimyo*, though money-lending was not limited to them. A document found in an old house in Osaka belonging to a person who was a *daimyo* creditor, shows how high interest ran in those days. Creditors were called *yotasshi* or *deiri-shonin* (both words mean an agent or merchant who supplies one with necessary articles), owing to the position of the borrower being far higher than that of the lender; and when a *daimyo* intended to borrow money an official of his clan used to be sent to order the *yotasshi* to supply it. In case of difficulty, the chief officials of the clan visited the lender to entreat for a loan. Much respect was paid to these money-lenders. Some of the richest, such as Konoike, Uyeda, or Hirooka, were *yotasshi*, or in fact creditors of many clans, so that in years of famine they were at one and the same time asked by several clans to supply money, which they were sometimes compelled to decline, but usually supplied after negotiation with other money lenders. Rice was generally given as security for these debts. No loans were raised without proper securities being deposited, either in bonds, or promissory notes on goods.

RICE.

A remarkable table is published by the *Tokyo Shūshi*, showing the price of rice during the past 24 years. Two columns of figures are given, the first showing the actual price per *koku*, the second the index number to which that price corresponds, taking 4.37 *yen* per *koku* (the price in 1888) as 100. It should be noted that the prices from 1875 to 1896 are the average figures for the whole empire, whereas the price for 1897 is the average of the Tokyo market on December 31st of that year, and the price for 1898 is the average of the Tokyo market on the 6th of May of this year:—

Year.	Actual Price, per koku. Yen.	Relative Number.
1875	4 95	113
1876	4 26	97
1877	4 22	96
1878	5 17	118
1879	7.00	160
1880	9 28	212
1881	9 09	208
1882	7 64	175
1883	5.49	126
1884	4 71	108
1885	5.86	134
1886	5 08	116
1887	4.71	108
1888	4 37	100
1889	5.56	127
1890	8.15	187
1891	6 86	157
1892	7 00	160
1893	7 08	162
1894	8 24	189
1895	8.21	188
1896	9.32	213
1897	13 48	308
1898	17 58	402

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JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS.

The general depression of the building trade since the latter half of last year has had the effect of considerably decreasing the demand for cement. Competition among the various companies has also led to a steady depreciation in prices. In March a meeting of the principal companies was held in Shimonoseki, with a view to discussing the best means of maintaining prices at a higher level, but no understanding was arrived at between them, and competition became keener than ever, threatening some companies with ruin. Another conference was then held, headed by the Hokkaido Cement Company, who were followed by nine other large corporations. These representatives met in Tokyo about the middle of last month. A provisional combination was concluded on the 3rd instant, and a scheme for organising a joint stock company was determined upon. The principal provisions agreed to are:—(1) The manufactures of the allied companies are to be sold by a new joint stock company which shall act as sole agent. (2) Cement entrusted to the allied joint stock company for sale shall undergo a certain examination similar to the tests adopted in Germany. (3) The allied joint stock company is to be officered by agents from the companies concerned. (4) Any member breaking these stipulations is to be treated as a revolter against whom resolute opposition shall be carried out by the combined companies. (5) The capital of the joint stock company is to be supplied by the allied corporations, the term of its maintenance being 20 years.

At a meeting of the United Spinning Companies held in May it was decided that delegates should visit the Specie Bank to seek a loan of 3 million *yen*. The Specie Bank having assented to the application, steps were taken to obtain the Government's sanction, and this too being secured, the following arrangements have been made:—The Specie Bank is to issue loans against yarns in stock at Shanghai and Hongkong. A sum of three million *yen* is to be issued by December, and another two million *yen* from January to June next year. Now that the original loan of three million *yen* has been increased to five millions, the spinning companies should be able to carry on their business without any serious inconvenience.

The *Shogyo* states that traffic on the new railway between Sorachifuto and Asahigawa, Hokkaido, a distance of 36 miles, commenced at the end of last month. The Asahigawa-Rauu line (18 miles) and another between Asahigawa and Miyei (20 miles) are now nearly completed, with the exception of some bridges which remain still unfinished. It is said that the two lines will be opened to traffic by the 20th of this month. Work on the lines east of Miyei is then to be commenced. In Rauu, immigrants are already engaged in cultivation, but west of this district the land still retains its aspect of wildness for several hundreds of miles. To the east of Miyei, however, speedy connection with Hitomai is considered necessary, as communication between that place and Obihiro is rendered impracticable by the ordinary roads. From Obihiro a tunnel is to be constructed to lead the line as far as the river Takatsu, so as to connect it with Asahigawa on the coast. Thus a complete junction may be effected between Sorachifuto and Takatsu, and greater facilities secured than are now enjoyed. The tunnel between Miyei and Obihiro is expected to be completed in two years, work having commenced last year.

Count Oki, in a recent interview with a representative of the *Tokyo Asahi*, is reported to have spoken as follows:—Two or three leading journals in Tokyo have represented me as communicating secretly with Count Okuma, being urged thereto by certain political ambitions. These allegations are erroneous. Count Okuma, as well as Count Soyejima, belonged to the same feudal clan as myself and I have occasion to correspond with them occasionally on ordinary matters. The error into which the above journals have fallen seems to have been based on a note of introduction given by me to a certain gentleman. Apart from these circumstances I am diametrically opposed to the present Ministry. When the question was raised in a former Cabinet as to the advisability of establishing a national assembly in the 23rd year of *Meiji*, I strongly protested against Marquis Ito's proposals, urging that the inauguration of such an institution should be deferred until the 30th or 35th year of *Meiji*. The late Prince Iwakura agreed with me, and he was supported by Prince Sanjo. But the majority carried their point, and the result of their precipitancy is seen to-day. Look at the fate of Marquis Ito! Was he not the leader of the movement for the establishment of a national assembly? Yet he has failed to exercise over the destiny of the nation that power which his keen penetration and abilities seemed to justify. Instead of contentment he has brought nothing but afflictions upon the nation. Being now fully sensible of his inability to maintain his position, he has transferred the reins of power to a political party composed of most dangerous elements. He has no one to blame but himself for these unfortunate results. As for the political views of Count Okuma, I have an many objections to urge against them, and these I intend to publish in a pamphlet in due course.

The regulations for the collection of local taxes in Formosa were gazetted on the 2nd inst. They comprise 15 articles with an Appendix. The taxes to be collected include the Supplementary Land Tax, the House Tax, the Trades Tax, and Miscellaneous Taxes. The revenue from these local imposts is to be spent on police, education, sanitation, relief, engineering, repairs, district offices, and other matters that affect the localities where they are collected.

The *Official Gazette* of the 2nd instant publishes Imperial Ordinance, No. 183, embodying regulations for the organization of the Salt Industry Council. The council is to consist of a chairman and 20 members, to be appointed by the Cabinet from among government officials or private individuals who have the requisite knowledge or experience. In cases of absolute necessity, the number of members may be increased at the discretion of the Government.

According to the *Yomiuri*, the scheme of adopting a silver standard in Formosa was determined upon from the time of the preceeding Cabinet, and the date of its enforcement was postponed only on account of changes in the Ministry. On the 26th ultimo a notification was issued to the effect that the silver standard should be enforced in the island from the 1st August this year. Holders of *yen* pieces, therefore, will sustain a loss of ten per cent., as the legal value of silver is likely to be fixed at 90 *sen*. The period of exchange expired on the 31st July, but as Formosa failed to complete the exchange in time, many of the inhabitants expect to incur serious losses. The *Yomiuri* disapproves of the Government's action.

Dysentery in Kanagawa Prefecture seems to have been pretty generally spread, the number of cases reported up to the 3rd instant being no less than 1,486. Classified according to towns and rural districts the figures stand thus:

	From beginning of outbreak.	Deaths.	Under treatment.
Yokohama	53	11	17
Kuraki	3	—	2
Tachibana	22	5	7
Tsuzuki	5	—	1
Miura	53	3	46
Kamakura	87	15	61
Takakura	617	93	364
Naka	192	26	106
Ashigara (upper)	55	6	44
Ashigara (lower)	132	25	32
Aiku	179	33	106
Tsukui	91	13	38
Total	1,486	230	824

New cases per diem throughout the prefecture number from 50 to 80. On the 2nd instant three new cases occurred in Hayama village. They came close to the Palace belonging to the Imperial Household, and special measures were taken to remove the patients to the hospital and to transfer their families to the detached station. Similar cases were also reported from Shimoura in the same district.

The leaf tobacco monopoly of the Government has been, remarks the *Yorodzu*, a complete failure from the outset. The Government raised the rates of profit to 100 per cent. since last month, and managed to increase the new tariff to 300 per cent. for the sole purpose of maintaining the system. But all kinds of illicit dealing and manufacturing are carried on in ways which are very difficult to detect, and on the other side excessive trouble attending the enforcement of the monopoly system has induced many producers to change their occupation. A serious reduction in output is, therefore, expected in the various leading districts. Investigations completed at the end of last month show the total diminution throughout the empire to be no less than 30 per cent. A manager of a certain tobacco company in America, possessing a capital of 300 million dollars, is reported to have lately arrived in Yokohama and declared that even after the operation of the revised tariff the leaf might still be imported into Japan at prices such as to place the American tobacco in easy competition with the domestic production. The Government is doomed, under these circumstances, to a still greater failure next year in connection with its monopoly.

The *Jiji* anticipates serious difficulty in regard to the introduction of foreign capital without the guarantee of the Government. A private company, it remarks, can hardly expect to secure success in borrowing foreign money unless the security of the Government is procured. That the rates of interest prevailing in the interior are no less than 20 per cent. is a fact well-known to intelligent foreigners. To talk of low interest is only to invite their laughter. A few days ago a certain influential merchant in Tokyo called upon a foreign firm in Yokohama and asked for a loan at 5 or 6 per cent. Pointing to a file on his desk, the head of the firm said:—"These are applications from native merchants for loans which altogether amount to 500 000 *yen*. Most of these were complied with at a little less than 10 per cent. Should you consent to this rate of interest, you can also have the amount you propose." The Tokyo merchant was taken by surprise, and hinted at the risks incident to such a high rate of interest. The foreigner smiled, and remarked that even fixed deposits in the Mitsui and Mitsubishi Banks would secure 7.5 per cent. interest per annum. A private loan from a foreigner at a low rate of interest, the *Jiji* adds, is a matter of impossibility in the present state of affairs.

In February of the 29th year of *Meiji* (1896), the Government prohibited foreigners from residing outside the settlements in Formosa, but two German firms continued to maintain establishments for the manufacture and sale of camphor on the plea that they had previously obtained special privileges to do so from the Chinese Government. Not only have they refused to comply with the prohibition of the Japanese Authorities, but have neglected to pay various taxes. Steps were therefore taken by the Formosan Government to seize the articles in the firms' possession. The Germans still persisted, however, alleging that as the rights they acquired from the Chinese Government were based on a special contract, the same must be enjoyed in perpetuity. On these grounds they subsequently opened negotiations for the recovery of damages sustained. The Government, having investigated the facts, declared that not only was it under no obligation to acknowledge the damages, but also that the German firms had no right to object to the Government's proceedings.

Another Notification issued by the Governor General of Formosa embodies the Regulations for various Law Courts in the island. They came into force on July 20th. Article

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II. provides that the administration of justice in Formosa shall be conducted by two distinct Courts—the Local Court and the Appeal Court. The Appeal Court is to be established in the district where the Governor-General's Office exists in order that judgments given by various Courts may be re-examined, and legal questions concerning their jurisdiction determined. In each local court a Judicial Police Bureau is to be established, subject to the direct control of the Governor-General. All Judges in Formosa are, during their tenure of office, not only prohibited from openly participating in political affairs, but also not allowed to join a political party or clique, to enter into public service for salary or any pecuniary profit, or to engage in any branches of trade. No Judge is to be dismissed from office save as the result of a criminal sentence or disciplinary punishment pronounced against him. Pensions will be awarded Judges released from office on account of bodily or mental debility.

A notification was lately issued by the Governor General of Formosa, for which he has obtained the Imperial sanction, in connection with the disciplinary punishment of Judges in the island, the most important provisions embodied in it being as follow :—

Art. I.—In case any Judge in the law courts of Formosa is found to have acted contrary to his official duties or committed a deed calculated to impair his official dignity, he shall be submitted to disciplinary punishment.

Art. II.—Disciplinary punishment shall be inflicted in the following forms :—(1) Reproof. (2) Confiscation of salary. (3) Dismissal from office.

Art. III.—The form of punishment shall be determined by a disciplinary council in accordance with the nature of the offence committed, but the former personal conduct of offenders is to be taken into consideration.

Art. IV.—When confiscation of salary is ordered, not more than one-third of the monthly amount received by the offender may be dealt with, for a term of not less than one month and not more than one year.

Art. V.—The disciplinary council shall consist of a chairman and four other members, together with three reserve councillors, appointed by the Governor-General from among the Judges in Formosa. The post of Chairman shall be occupied by the President of the Appeal Court.

Art. XII.—Whenever it is found that a case brought before the disciplinary council is without data sufficient to warrant the infliction of disciplinary punishment, a decision may be rendered for immediate acquittal.

Art. XX.—The present regulations are to be applied to offences committed prior to their promulgation.

The *Official Gazette* of the 8th instant publishes a note issued by the Minister for Home Affairs in regard to the operation of the revised treaties in July next year :—The Government having resolved upon putting the revised treaties into operation from July of the 32nd year of *Meiji* (1899) have notified the various Powers as prescribed by treaty. The problem of revising the treaties now in operation has been upon the *tapis* since the Restoration, both Government and people having desired their revision. The time has now come for giving notice of the operation of the new treaties and it is certain that Japan will be able to carry on intercourse with other Powers on an equal footing in less than one year. The exercise of these rights, however, necessitates the performance of corresponding duties. The attitude of Japanese towards foreigners not only indicates the degree of development they have attained, but also affects the honour of their country. In their dealings with foreigners, therefore, they ought to exercise liberality and magnanimity, and should treat them with friendly cordiality in order that they may succeed in promoting the reputation as well as the glory of their country.

Mr. Takata Sanai, Vice-Minister of Education, is said to have remarked, in the course of a speech delivered to the Imperial Educational Council, that among the various nations of the world the Japanese alone are characterized by lack of aptitude at public speaking. There were speech-makers in Japan, but no orators. Various causes may account for this defect. The existence of the old-world idea which regarded silence as the true characteristic of a hero was doubtless a proximate cause. It is for these reasons that no speeches worthy of attention have ever been delivered in the Diet. On the contrary, the speeches delivered in the English Parliament are distinguished, in most cases, by gravity and sublimity. Gladstone won a reputation for having spoken continuously from the previous evening till the following morning. Sir Robert Peel made himself famous by delivering 48 speeches on the Reform Bill. How is it possible to develop this power of public-speaking among the Japanese? First, the unification of the language, both spoken and written, is absolutely indispensable. Secondly, there must be an alteration in the style of expression, or literary construction.

The *Tokyo Asahi* devotes much space to the general election. In one article it says :—The present Cabinet has distinguished itself by refusing to interfere with the general elections. Nevertheless it is curious to observe how numerous and well selected are the pro-government candidates. Electoral districts in which no member of the Constitutional Party have presented themselves do not exceed 20, the rest are entirely under the control of the Constitutionalists. Some of the constituencies, though apparently supporting the Constitutional Party, are at variance with one another, and yet appear to have resolved upon returning Constitutional candidates. In short, it is expected that no less than two-thirds of the next House of Representatives will be supporters of the Government. This over-whelming majority evokes surprise. It is true that some of the candidates were only induced to enlist on the strict promise that they would be elected. These will exhibit their perfidy at the earliest opportunity. The present power of the Constitutionalists must therefore not be construed as a sign that they will succeed in carrying everything before them; rather must it be viewed as a misfortune likely to lead to their fall. The friction between the former Liberals and Progressists is already apparent, and threatens to bring about a split in the party ranks before long. The next general election will prove a prelude to a grand political drama which will mature in the second or third act.

Commenting upon the present situation of Japan, Mr. Oishi, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, is reported by the *Kokumin* to have spoken as follows :—The present era is an era of new personages. The destiny as well as the development of Japan are entirely in their hands The general course of events will be shaped by new influences and new principles. Any political movement based upon the support of the older statesmen has proved unfruitful; a new movement is now inaugurated. Abuses inherent in the Imperial Diet will now be speedily eradicated. The time has come for innumerable demagogues who have called themselves public spirited-men, without knowing what the term meant, to withdraw from the political field along with the older statesmen, and so enable the country to acquire new learning, new knowledge, new principles.

Under the caption, "The consequences of the revised treaties upon the financial community," the *Nichi Nichi* says the operation of the revised treaties so far as an amelioration of the financial situation is concerned, is likely to lead to disappointment. The privilege of mixed residence will not induce a large immigration of foreigners, unless the possibility of acquiring signal profits is guaranteed. The impression that mixed residence will lead to the introduction of foreign capital is utterly mistaken. The *Shogyo*, referring to the same question, alleges that the country under the present Ministry is comparable to Italy. The root of the malady by which the nation is at present tormented lies in financial disorganisation, therefore the scheme of increasing the land tax must at once be determined upon. The *Yiji* refers to the sale of public bonds. Despite the present depreciation, the tightness of the money market and the fall in rates of interest, hopes of making good sales can fairly be entertained. In order to satisfy the requirements of next year's budget it will be necessary to sell Government bonds in foreign markets; what matter if they are at a considerable discount, they bear a low rate of interest. The tone of the *Asahi* differs from that of other papers. It is opposed to the organisation of a special committee to evolve a scheme of financial adjustment, and urges the necessity of formulating a financial programme by the Prime Minister, so that the same may be submitted for Imperial sanction at once.

The development of warehousing enterprises in Kobe since the enforcement of the Bonded Warehouse Regulations last year has secured considerable facilities for merchants of all classes. Yokohama, however, has failed, for reasons unknown, to make much progress in this respect, few conveniences being afforded to outside private enterprise. The warehouses attached to the Custom House do not exceed 432 *tsubo* in area, and if each *tsubo* may be supposed to find room for three tons of goods, the capacity is limited to 13 000 tons. These godowns are at present filled with tobacco, yarns, iron, wire, and cement. The accumulation of imports in these godowns however, is nothing as compared with the amount stored privately.

SEVEN MONTHS' TRADE.

The trade of Yokohama, Kobe and Osaka during July, and also for the first six months of this year, is tabulated below :—

	July. Exports. *Yen.*	Imports. *Yen.*
Yokohama	5,544,143·47	9,634,952.07
Kobe	4,687 010.03	10,797,409.59
Osaka	190,471 65	340,869-00
Total	10,421,635 15	20,733,231.66
	January to June. *Yen*	
Three ports ...	69,617,069 00	154,240,805 00
Grand total...	80,068,694 00	175,374,036 00

Thus the aggregate of exports and imports reach 255,682,770 *yen* approximately, being an excess in favour of the latter of no less than 95,545 302 *yen*. A brisker export of silk in the autumn may improve affairs to a Certain extent, but the excess of imports may now reasonably be expected to exceed 100 million *yen* in the course of a few months. In regard to the import and export of gold and silver coins and bullion during the month under review, the figures stand thus :—

	Exports. *Yen.*	Imports. *Yen.*
Gold coins.....	317 900	6,361,530
Gold bullion	—	3,919,302
Stamped silver *yen*'.....	3 600 000	—
Silver bullion	26 071	1,153,271
Total	4,138,890	11,434 103
Grand total from January to June 61,275 764		4 677.353
Grand total 65,414.654		16,111,456
Excess of exports..... .....49 303.198		

During last month a sum of 3,919,000 *yen* in gold bullion and 6,320 000 *yen* in gold coins were brought from London on account of the Indemnity, the total in this respect showing an excess in imports of over seven million *yen*. Compared, however, with the gross total from January, the balance shows an outflow of specie of over 49 millions. The sum of 3 600,000 *yen* of stamped silver mentioned in the above table is said to have been exported to Formosa, Korea, and other places.

The rateable value of the whole colony of Hongkong is now $4,521,947, as compared with last year's assessment of $4,040,502—an increase of $481,445, or 11.91 per cent.

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OUR BOOK-SHELF.

The Making of a Saint; W. Somerset Maugham: London, Mr. Fisher Unwin's Colonial Library.

About a year ago, Mr. Maugham gave to the world a curious tale of London life, "Liza, of Lambeth." The critics were divided upon the merits of the book, for it dealt with a section of humanity that it was the habit, a year or so ago, to speak of as belonging to a class scarcely above "the submerged tenth." Mr. Maugham gave his characters a vivid personality and as a result his book was peculiarly sad reading—could such things really be, people queried, in the magnificent city of London at the close of one of the most progressive and enlightened eras the world had ever seen? Some who read the book blamed the author for creating Liza and her companions; others denied the possibility of her existence. Mr. Maugham, however, had written of the life of the Lambeth slums as he had seen it—his story was all too true. "Liza of Lambeth" achieved a certain success and more work on a similar line was naturally expected from its author's pen. But in the next story that he gives to the world—"The Making of a Saint"—Mr. Maugham forsakes the field of his first love altogether—forsakes the land, forsakes the country, conveying us in fancy to the south of Europe and transplanting us to Italy at a time when Lorenzo de Medici tyrannized Florence and Lodovico Storza ground Milan beneath his brazen heel.

Filippo Brandolini, who tells the story, is a young nobleman who found it convenient, for political reasons, to fly from his native city and seek protection and service under a more powerful captain's banner. He knocks about Italy for ten years, seeing much service under the Duke of Calabria in the Neapolitan armies. Then a desire to visit his old home again comes over him—the political sky having cleared a little—and he leaves the south of Italy and journies north. On the way he meets old companions in arms at Forli, and, accepting their invitation, stops there long enough to become deeply engaged in a conspiracy against the ruling Prince—Girolamo Riario, who had begun to tyrannize over the citizens after the approved Italian fashion of the Middle Ages. The plot succeeds in so far as the murder of Girolamo is concerned. But this prince had married Lodovico Sforza's bastard daughter, and when the terrible Duke of Milan comes to avenge his son in-law's treacherous murder, the game is up and the conspirators flee. Meanwhile Filippo, after several questionable amours—described in much detail—falls in love with a beautiful widow, Giulia dalle Aste. The pure flame of passionate love eventually springs up from what at first was an illicit dalliance, and when the assassins of Girolamo have to escape, Donna Giulia, by reason of her connection with some of the conspirators, finds she had better quit the town of Forli too. Filippo manages this for her and the two are afterwards married. All goes merrily for a year or so, when an old lover of Giulia turns up. Filippo discovers his wife is unfaithful and stabs the lover before her eyes. Then comes one of the most powerfully written scenes in the book. He tells his wife's father of the occurrence. Old Bartolomeo answers, "You have done well, Filippo."

The old man calls to his two sons and together they leave the room and proceed to Filippo's palace. The rest of the story of Giulia is brief.

"At last I heard the steps again, and Bartolomeo Maratini entered the room, followed by his sons; and all three were very grave.

'Sir,' he said, 'the stain on your honour and mine has been effaced.'

"I bowed more deeply than before.

'Sir, I am your very humble servant.'

'I thank you that you allowed me to do my duty as a father; and I regret that a member of my family should have shown herself unworthy of my name and yours. I will detain you no longer.'

"I bowed again, and left them."

But when the first heat of his passion had passed away and many hours of silent contemplation had exerted their mysterious but potent influence, the outraged husband found excuses for the erring woman—at least, he thought of all that had happened, he pondered over the woman's life from the day she left her convent school and the influences that had wrought upon her, and—"I tried to understand." Filippo then entered a monastery and in the after years distinguished himself in good works—so much so that the Pope granted him the title of Beatus not very long after his death.

"The Making of a Saint" is a tale brightly told, giving vivid pen-pictures of life and politics in an old Italian township in the closing years of the fourteenth century—as the author imagines them to have run. Plots, intrigues, illicit amours, assassinations, terrible deaths and horrible vengeances are woven into the warp and woof of the story, and never once does the interest flag. There is only one objection to be taken—and that is the curious jumble of ancient and modern phraseology that runs through it all, destroying the glamour of "atmosphere" that otherwise would make the scenes portrayed more realizable to the average layman's mind.

ENGLAND THE TRUEST REPUBLIC.

Where the American and French Constitutions Fail.

It is well for Englishmen in this momentary pause both in politics and the War, says the *Spectator*, to notice carefully how much better their own constitutional system works than either the French or the American. Our own has plenty of defects, the principal one, perhaps, being that it often makes it the interest of a party to protect an abuse or condone a failure; but it has at least this merit, that by confiding legislative power and the selection of the Executive to the same hands it enables the nation in any time of emergency to act with its whole force. When everything went wrong in 1855, and it really seemed for some weeks as if the greatness of England would perish of muddle, the country called for Lord Palmerston, the most vigorous man it had; Parliament placed him at the head of affairs; and as the Premier while supported by his majority was absolute, could appoint whom he pleased, dismiss whomsoever he distrusted, and spend whatever was necessary, everything went right. The American people have no power of doing this. The framers of the Constitution were possessed with two fears, that the Executive might become too strong, and they therefore deprived it of any place in Congress; and that it might become too weak, and they therefore made its Chief irremovable except by impeachment, vesting him at the same time with absolute power to appoint and to dismiss his advisers, and with the initiative in the nomination and removal of all officers, an initiative which, during the recess of Congress, becomes a right of appointment. The result of this arrangement is that in an emergency like a great war, an inefficient President means incurable inefficiency in all Departments. There is no power of removing him, there is no power of compelling him to trust the right men, there is no power of coercing him into a greater display of energy. He moves on his own path more uncontrolled than an Emperor of Russia, for the Army has in Russia an influence in emergencies which is never disregarded. This war with Spain for example, drags, money being spent in masses while little is accomplished. It is quite possible that it ought to drag, and is intended to drag, the Departments feeling that they must have time to create both a navy and an army, and fearing that unless they await cool weather, the losses from fever in the American army of invasion might be as terrible as they have been in the Spanish army of defence. The littoral of Cuba is, by all accounts, what the delta of Burmah was when we first entered it, a place which may be made perfectly healthy, but which, until it has been so made, has the dreadful power of burying whole brigades, all stricken and his Ministry were convinced that the with local fever. Why, if that is the case, the American Government has not said so openly in a proclamation to the people, it is difficult to understand; but still the delay may be perfectly right, and in accordance with the best advice of military experts. We rather think it is so, and that President McKinley will be recognised at the end of the campaign as a solid man of business who did the best he could with the means at hand, and feared nothing except a military failure. But suppose for a moment that it is otherwise, and that President McKinley, being, as he is, the sole source of executive energy in the Republic, is unequal to his position, does not feel clear what he ought to do, does not pick precisely the right men, exaggerates the chances of defeat, or—the commonest of errors—fails to perceive that in war "connection" is as important as it is in the management of railway traffic, where is the remedy? There is simply none. The United States might possess the greatest organiser alive; the American people might be boiling over with irritation; the Army and Navy might be almost mutinous in their despair at inaction; and still there would be nothing to be done. The President cannot be removed, he is no more bound to obey opinion than a Judge is; and as to the officers, what can they do except wait sullenly on till final orders are received? That "instinct of democracy" which has so often saved States is not allowed free play in the American Constitution, which was drawn up by men who intended to make democracy supreme, but who distrusted the supremacy of democracy. We suppose that in the last resort, if, for instance, during a war a President's incapacity brought the public patience to an end, the Houses could absolutely refuse supplies and so bring about a deadlock; but the remedy would be of the kill or cure kind, and if the President were as obstinate as most inefficient men are it might fail. The absolute power which is needful in great emergencies, and which in this country is lodged in the electors, is in America, so far as we can see, deposited nowhere, or rather is so divided that it cannot be exercised. Some day or other, probably many years hence, upon some dreadful occasion the American people will perceive that, and by a rapidly passed amendment on the Constitution will allow the House of Representatives to put the continuance in office of the President or any other executive officer before the people to be decided by "Referendum"—the vote of the entire electorate. Until that has been done they must remain as they are now, more dependent on the ability of the Head of the State than the people of any Monarchy.

The difficulty in France is of a different kind, though it springs from the same origin, the reluctance of the constitution-makers to deposit ultimate power in any hands which can use it. There it seems clear that the Assembly, *i.e.*, the Chamber and the Senate acting together, can compel an inefficient President to resign. This was not intended by the framers of the fundamental Law, who were, as they thought, preparing the way for a Restoration; but the power has developed itself in working. The Deputies and Senators cannot "dismiss" the President, but they can, by continuously rejecting the Ministers whom he appoints, compel him to resign. They resorted to this device in M. Grévy's case, and it is well understood that on sufficient provocation they would resort to it again. They are therefore secure while no *coup d'état* is struck against a corrupt, or imbecile, or factious President, and are as against him sovereign. But as against the Chambers the people have no remedy. They may be as inefficient, or corrupt, or factious as they please, and until the term of their mandate has expired there is nothing to be done. Neither the President nor the Ministry can dissolve them without the consent of the Senate, which, if that body were itself involved in the quarrel, would be refused. Suppose, for example, that the Assembly were determined to protect Spain, that the people were furious for Spain, and that the President

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war would be unwise. The war would nevertheless go on, for no power of dissolution exists, while the power of dissolving Cabinet after Cabinet does. Or suppose that the "groups" in the Chamber and Senate became a trifle more factious and shifty than they are now, so that no responsible Ministry could be formed likely to last a fortnight, where is the remedy? There is none, any more than in America, yet this contingency, at all events, is well within the scope of sober political calculations. It would be incorrect to say that in France the ultimate power, the true sovereignty, is deposited nowhere, for as the Constitution is now interpreted it is deposited in the electors, whose representatives can in practice remove even the President, and so bring all powers in the State into working harmony; but the electors cannot exercise their power unless consulted, and the right to compel such consultation, except at times divided by an interval of four years, does not exist. France, like America, in fact, has been lettered by a latent distrust of the democracy, which, strange to say, in our veiled Republic has never existed,—perhaps because the Lords, who are not elected, can always compel the electors to consider themselves, and say what they really mean. In none of the three countries is there any resistance to the dogma that the people ought to rule, but in two of them the Constitutions were drawn by men who were very much afraid of the people ruling.

THE CHINESE PROBLEM.

To the clamour for maintaining the integrity and independence of the Chinese Empire at all costs, says the *Spectator*, has succeeded a demand that we shall stiffen the back of China by reorganising for her her Army and her Navy,—by providing, that is, a supply of British Officers who shall make a new Sepoy Army in China. No doubt the proposal is, at first sight, very attractive, and would, if it could be carried out, solve successfully the problem of how China is to be made unassailable by Russia. If we could send Sir Herbert Kitchener to Pekin, and give him a free hand and the millions a year China now spends on her Army he would unquestionably produce in three years an army capable of giving an extremely good account of itself even when pitted against a Russian force. He and a good staff of English officers, say five to each regiment, would not take long to raise a hundred thousand men and to provide arsenals in which everything down to the newest machine-guns would be locally made at a cost which would astonish Woolwich and Enfield. But though this scheme is so attractive in theory, it is one which we trust no sensible person will dream of entertaining until he has seriously considered what it means. If he does so consider it, he will, we feel sure, realise that it is an impossible proposal, since it must in the end mean either failure, or the annexation, or at any rate control, of China by England. Unless we mean to rule in China as we do in India, we must abandon the idea of organising the military forces of China by means of British officers. The notion that an efficient civilised Power can organise the armed forces of an uncivilised and effete Power in order to secure the uncivilised Power's independence is a pure delusion. You can only successfully organise a permanent army for a "native State"—Gordon's Ever-Victorious Army fell to pieces when he left it, and made no permanent impression on China—if you make the native State dependent, *i.e.*, place it under control. The placing of English officers at the head of native troops, and keeping them there, is always the first step to English domination, and never can, or will, be anything else. Either the attempt is given up, and the army or navy falls back into the old state of confusion, or else the country becomes what Hyderabad is at this moment. In India in the eighteenth century we had plenty of experience in the matter of organising the forces of other "independent" native States. Look at Oudh, inevitably lead us to this dilemma,—the position of those States now. Every one of them is under complete British control.

The history of what happens in all such cases may be told in skeleton. The army of the native State is weak and in disorder, and it applies to us to organise its forces. In perfect good faith we allow certain of our officers to volunteer, and they begin to make a highly efficient army. But while doing this work they are sure to produce a large crop of jealousies, and to incur many hatreds. A period soon comes when pressure is put on the native Government either to dismiss or else to take all real power and authority, out of the British officers' hands. The British officers, who do not care to see the instrument they have so carefully constructed, and are so proud of and so loyal to, knocked to pieces by "a lot of incompetent niggers," naturally ask the Home Government whether they really mean to let five years' work be demolished in this way,—*i.e.*, whether, that is, British officers are to submit to native control in the matter of the army. Here is the crucial point. If the Home Government says, "It is no business of ours; you must resign if you cannot get on with your masters, or go if they dismiss you," the native army or navy comes to an end. The Chinese Navy was organised, and well organised, by an English sailor. He was dismissed, however, by the Chinese, who thought they had learnt the trick themselves, and had had enough of the "foreign devil" at the head of their ships. The result was that the Chinese Navy became in a couple of years as useless as if it had never been a properly organised force. The same sort of thing would have happened in Egypt if the Khedive had been allowed to treat the Sudar as he tried to treat him,—had he been allowed, that is, to make it impossible for British officers to remain in the Egyptian service. Here however, our Government—quite rightly—supported the British soldiers in their struggle with native authority, with the result that the Egyptian Army is now one of the best fighting machines in the world. But mark the political effect. From that day our rule has been firmly riveted on Egypt. Up till that time it still seemed possible that we might evacuate Egypt. After we had first organised the native Army—in the genuine hope, curiously enough, that it would help to secure Egyptian independence—and then insisted that it should not be destroyed by the will of the native ruler, it became clear to the world that we were in Egypt for good. It was the old story. By organising a military force and maintaining it against the influences which in the East always tend to the destruction of armies, we had unconsciously answered the question of evacuation or occupation. Take yet another example of the rule. We once lent a couple of infantry officers from the Gibraltar garrison to the Emperor of Morocco in order to organise a force which should secure his independence. But when the pinch came we did not insist that the officers should have a free hand—probably they did not even ask for it, as they knew beforehand what the answer must be—and, therefore, the Moorish Army remains a mere absurdity as a fighting force. With no political power behind it, the reorganisation of the Moorish Army became a perfect farce. These are the facts that we must bear in mind when we begin to talk about organising the military and naval forces of China through British officers. Either the whole thing will be an ignominious failure—*that is*, the British officers will be given no power, and will be put under Generals in pigtails who will sincerely believe that, after all, a bow and a shield with a fierce face on it are more reliable weapons than Maxims—or else we shall have to keep backing up our officers against the Pekin Government till at last the point of compulsion will be reached, and we shall have to control Pekin; the army officers treating the Home Government, as they do in Egypt, as their real superiors. But this, if it carried out, would mean the acquisition of all China. We have, then, to choose between dead failure at once or entering upon a course which

"Either let the whole of four or five years' hard work be sacrified, or coerce, and then control, the Government of China."

If we have stated the situation truly, and we believe we have, we do not see how any one who does not want to make China into a new India can possibly wish us to undertake officially, or semi-officially, the organisation of the military forces of China. Those, of course, who wish to take China will not object to the proposal, for they will be prepared to assume control of the Empire when the proper and necessary moment arrives. They should remember, however, that Russia will quite well understand the results of a military reorganisation of China's forces by British officers, and will do her best to prevent it. The first symptoms of the successful organising of the Chinese Army are pretty sure to make Russia resolve that she must either attack us, or else not only abandon all idea of obtaining great parts of China for herself, but be exposed to the risk of having a great army stationed on her flank. In other words, the semi-official organisation of the Chinese Army by British officers means the first step in the direction of war with Russia, and if we are successful, the virtual annexation or control of all China. Frankly, we do not like the prospect. Portugal in the sixteenth century was ruined by the withdrawal of all her best men in order to conquer and develop her great Empire. The same thing may happen to us if we try to hold all India, all China, and half Africa as dependencies. We are not Little Englanders, not afraid of Empire, and believe firmly that, in reason, the governing of the lower races is an excellent thing morally, politically and even economically, for the governing Power. But because a beef-steak is good we must not assume that it would be wise to eat the whole ox. Let us go prudently rather than jealously, and let us not be so foolish as to think that unless we always help ourselves again, when any one else helps himself, we shall be starved. That is a strange delusion. The way to find out whether we have got enough is not to watch others helping themselves, but to look at our own plate.

But though we are against forcing British officers on the Chinese—for that is what it comes to in the long-run—we have no objection to the plan of raising and drilling a small Chinese Sepoy army of our own at Hongkong and Wei-hai-wei. If we were to add ten regiments to our Imperial Army in this way we should probably be doing a wise thing. Ten thousand such troops might prove very useful in emergencies in many parts of the world. Another Malay campaign is not an impossibility. If the need came when we had Frontier troubles in India, the authorities would be delighted to get the necessary troops from Hongkong rather than from Madras.

CORRESPONDENCE.

RAILWAY QUESTIONS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Will you please allow me a little space in your valuable paper?

You have already pointed out many faults in the Revised Time Table of the Tokaido Railways, especially the Yokosuka section; but there is yet another very important drawback, which I have discovered yesterday afternoon. I asked for a ticket to Kamakura for the 6.30 train; the officer at the booking window told me that no ticket could be sold for less than 40 miles for this express train. I bought one for Yamakita (41 miles from Yokohama) and got down to Kamakura, thereby paying 3 times the ordinary fare (besides waiting 45 minutes at Ofuna for connexion).

As it is, under the present arrangement, there is no train between 4.27 and 8.30 (4 long hours) from Yokohama to Yokosuka or Kozu and all the way stations, just at the very hour when traffic is largest, unless a passenger is prepared to pay extra fare for 40 miles. This new arrangement is therefore, a great deal worse than

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the old schedule, when there were trains at 4.25, 5.52, and 7.20.

As regards the 40 mile rule, why cannot the Railway Authorities abolish it? I should think the more businesslike and practical way is that express trains should accommodate local passengers to all the stations at which they are to stop, without regard to distance.

Yours faithfully, "A TRAVELLER."

Yokohama, August 9th, 1898.

EDUCATING JAPANESE CHRISTIANS ABROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—"Impartial Observer" in his letter dated July 13th has reopened a very interesting subject that may be discussed at length with great profit. If he would favour the public not merely with his enlightened opinions, but with facts, figures, and items of actual experience he might hope to gain converts to his doctrine. The subject is discussed in the report of the Foreign Mission Boards 1893 pp. 15-22. a" a, July 25th, states that "several Missions have passed resolutions to encourage this policy." Would he please give details? Let us hear from some of the men who have been here for a generation?

Yours truly, KANWA.

CHINESE BUREAU OF RAILWAYS AND MINES.

The *North-China Daily News* says it understands that the Imperial Edict, given below, establishing a Railway and Mining Bureau for the Chinese Empire, is the outcome of the work that Mr. Pritchard-Morgan, M.P., has been doing at Peking, and the representations that he has made to the high authorities.

IMPERIAL EDICT OF 2ND AUGUST.

Railways and Mines are now-a-days the most important enterprises in this Empire. We have already had the Tientsin-Shanhaikuan and the Tientsin-Peking Railways built and in regular working order for some time, while steps are now being taken for raising funds to build the Shanhaikuan extension to the Taling River (Newchwang and vicinity). As for the Canton-Hankow and Hankow-Peking lines, full control had been granted the Head Commercial Company to find ways and means for the construction of these railway lines, and matters appear to be now taking definite shape in this connection. Then as to mines, we have the Kaiping Colliery and the Muhô (Amur) gold mines as the most successful, so far, amongst the many mining enterprises embarked upon, and we have already further commanded those in control to seize every opportunity to extend the works of the two mines above noted. We are, however, apprehensive, in view of the number of provinces in the Empire and the various conditions of men who will attempt to open mines of all sorts in the future, that a diversity of methods and ensuing confusion will be the result, which would of course be detrimental to the principal object we have of getting the fullest advantages obtainable out of each and every undertaking begun in this direction. It is therefore highly important that there should be a centre of control to direct, under a single system, the working and exploitation of mines and railways in the Empire, and we hereby command that a Bureau of Control for Railways and Mines be established in Peking, to the Chief Commissionerships of which we now specially appoint two Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamên, namely, Wang Wên-chao and Chang Yin-huan. The said Chief Commissioners shall, from henceforth, have special control over the opening of mines and construction of railways throughout the Empire, and companies formed for the above purposes will in future be required to apply to the said Commissioners for permission and guidance in their operations.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

The first train on the new Shanghai-Woosung railway was expected to run from Woosung to Shanghai on Saturday last, the 6th inst.

The *Foochow Echo* on the 16th July remarked that the rice harvest had been going on since the beginning of the week and the crop is reported to be good both in quality and quantity.

Mr. H. E. Fulford is transferred from the Shanghai Consulate-General to Peking as Chinese Secretary of the British Legation, and will be succeeded in Shanghai by Mr. W. P. Ker from Soochow.

According to a Shanghai contemporary, an Imperial edict of the 28th of July commands that Jung Lu and Chang Chih-tung, Viceroys of Chihli and the Hukwang provinces, respectively, be given supreme power to raise funds and construct the Lu-Han and other railways.

Says the *Peking* and *Tientsin Times*, apropos of Mr. Tennant's sad death:—We think we have remarked before, that Yokohama possesses the most unenviable record for suicides of any place in the East. It is a veritable Monte Carlo both for beauty and some secret malevolent influence which induces self-destruction.

Shanghai has had an unpleasant experience with a mad dog, several Europeans being bitten before the animal was destroyed. We understand that the son of Mr. H. C. Manning, as well as Mrs. Scott, and P. C. Richardson, all of whom were bitten in Hongkew, have come over to the Pasteur Institute at Nagasaki for treatment.

By special decree of the Emperor, the *Chinese Progress* has been made an official magazine, and its expenses are now to be guaranteed by the Board of Revenue which is also commanded to see that the journal is regularly supplied not only to his Majesty the Emperor himself, but also to all the high metropolitan and provincial authorities of the Empire, for the "enlightment and education in Western politics and affairs of the said officials."

Residents in Japan may be interested in the following note on Shanghai temperature, taken from the *N.-C. Daily News*:—The average minimum of the thermometer in the Settlement in July was 79°.17, the average maximum 94°.37, and the mean 86°.77, against 78°.7, 89°.1, and 82°.4, respectively, in July 1897. The rainfall in July was 3.34 inches, and rain fell measurably on 5 days, against 10.48 inches and 13 days in July, 1897, and an average of 5.77 inches and 10 days for the sixteen years 1882 1897.

A Peking dispatch to a Shanghai paper reports that in addition to his own appointment by Imperial edict to the Comptroller-Generalship of the proposed new Imperial University of Peking, H.E. Sun Chia-nai has recommended and received the Imperial consent to the appointment of H.E. Hsu Ching-ch'êng, now President of the Russo-Chinese Railway in Manchuria, at St. Petersburg, to the post of President of the Faculty of the University in question. Until the return home of the last-named official, his post will be administered by H.E. Sun Chia-nai himself.

The *Echo de Chine* explains that the institution at the back of the Belgian Syndicate which has contracted to build the Great Western Railway of China is the Société Générale pour Favoriser l'Industrie Nationale, of Brussels, a Bank with a capital of 350,000,000 francs (£14,000,000 sterling) with agencies in all the great financial markets of Europe. The Russo-Chinese Bank is merely acting as its agent in China, and the Syndicate, according to the *Echo de Chine*, is no more Russian than it would have been English if the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank had been appointed agent to the Belgian bank.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* on the 23rd ult. had a note on the damages caused by recent heavy rains in North China. It also remarked that the railway being under water in places, and the farmers having torn up a part of it in the hope of letting the water off their fields, communication with Peitaiho was carried on by towboats from Tangku. The heavy rains had caused the collapse of five houses at Peitaiho. "For the first time on record, the water has topped the line at the great Lanchou Bridge, the Tay Bridge of North China. It was considered phenomenal when the water rose at this point, some 22 feet in 24 hours, a year or two ago, but this year it is several feet higher."

Anti-foreign riots are of almost weekly occurrence in China: the Empire is so vast and its population so steeped in ignorance and prejudice that this is hardly to be wondered at, perhaps. The latest disturbance occurred in the subprefectural city of Lichou, Hunan, owing to the purchase of a house in that city by a foreign missionary—bearing, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, the Chinese name of Fang Lei-sze—from a native named Ming. The sub-prefect happened to be seriously ill at the time but fortunately Tang Taotai, of the Yochou Intendancy, heard of the riot and at once went in person to Lichou to restore order. By the prompt efforts of this official the mob was dispersed and Tang Taotai became the recipient of personal thanks tendered by the missionary for the assistance given. The deed of sale of the property in dispute was afterwards settled satisfactorily through the medium of Mr. Wang, district magistrate of Wuling-hsien, who was selected for the purpose owing to his close friendship with Mr. Fang, the missionary. The students assembled for the licentiate examinations at Lichou, who joined the mob in the demonstrations against the missionary, afterwards returned quietly to the examinations.

The *P. & T. Times* says:—There seems reason to believe that the fight Russia is making to prevent British capital being used for the completion of the Shanhaikuan-Newchwang line is not ended yet, in spite of former information to that effect. The Russian *Chargé d'Affaires* has renewed his protests, couching them in the strongest possible language; but we hope there will be no withdrawing. It is whispered that Russia, backed by France, has had the temerity also to renew her protests against the increase in the Customs pay, but we are unable to substantiate the report. We hope that it is only the echo of the occurrence of some weeks back, when Russia certainly did protest against the increase, and offered to "do the job" for China more cheaply than Great Britain. At the same time, the cool impertinence of Russia's attitude—unfortunately fostered by our spirit of tolerance, which she misconstrues as either weakness or fear—is such that no report, however startling, can safely be discredited until proved unfounded.

Writing on August 5th, the *N.-C. Daily News* said that it understood, in reference to the Ningpo Joss-House dispute, the French Consul-General, the Count de Bezaure, had not broken off negotiations with the Provincial Treasurer, H.E. Neih, though he refused to have any more communication with Tsai Taotai, after his ill-advised publication of a diplomatic document without the knowledge or consent of one of the parties to it. This document is, of course, of a very different character to the minutes of the French Council, which were previously published in our columns. The whole matter, however, is now referred to Peking. We have already mentioned that there is some reference to the agreement of 1878 in the minutes of the French Council. The French Minister, M. Brenier de Montmorand, who had come to see to the distribution of the indemnity paid by the Chinese, and the Tls. 7,000 repaid by the French, attended the Council meeting on the 12th of August, 1878, and mentioned three of the terms of the agreement, but nothing more. These were that the French were to desist from making roads through the Ningpo Guild's property, and were to charge no taxes [illegible] on their side the Chinese under-

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took to deposit no more coffins in the Ningpo Joss-House. The French have kept the two conditions affecting themselves, but the Chinese have entirely failed to observe their undertaking.

The wheel of progress has began to creak a little in China, and already some personages in high places have exhibited alarm lest it should gather too great a momentum. Still this does not discourage the reformers, and new proposals are constantly being sent forward by them to the Emperor. Quite recently, if we are to believe the *Daily Chinese Progress*, a vernacular magazine published in Shanghai, some high officials memorialised the Throne recommending the abolition of a number of *bureaux* which are now only sinecures. Others have gone even further and recommended the most radical reform of all, being nothing less than the abolition of the Six Boards—Boards of Civil Appointments, Revenue, Rites, War, Punishment, and Works—and the Nine Ministries or Courts—Courts of Censors, transmission of Decrees, Haulins (also called Haulin Academy) Supervisorate of Instruction, Sacrificial Worship, Imperial Stud, Imperial Entertainments, State Ceremonial, and Astronomy. This is a large order indeed. But the reformers are constructive, as well as destructive statesmen, and they suggest that the old boards should be replaced by twelve Departments, the senior of them all to be named the Department of Laws and Edicts. The idea is said to have been favourably considered by the Emperor, who commanded the Grand Council, the Board of Civil Appointments, and the Tsung-li Yamên to deliberate over the matter and report thereon. The reply was characteristic, but perhaps only natural, under the circumstance. They "considered the changes recommended to be too sweeping and such radical innovations could not therefore last long." His Majesty seemed unwilling to lay the matter on the table and replied:—"I am determined to effect some change, and you are all to reconsider your reply on this question." Surely this is too good to be true; the Peking romancist has allowed his pen and fancy too loose a rein! And can we believe also, the further assertion, that the Emperor is among the band of eager reformers who are anxious "to effect as sweeping a revolution as that which passed over Japan three and a half decades ago." In the misty twilight haze that seems ever to surround the innermost sanctuary of the whole broad Chinese Empire, it is difficult to gather a correct impression of its ruler's mental calibre. To most foreigners who have seen him, the boy Emperor has appeared as a pale phantom too soon grown weary of life, worn out by sensual indulgence before ambition has had time to attract him towards higher objects and desires. Yet of late, tales told by Chinese writers have worn a different complexion—or is it merely the Empress-Dowager masquerading in the Emperor's place? Reforms are doubtless in the air; whether at the Emperor's instigation or promoted by the masterful woman who has so long ruled China behind the veil, we can not say, for recently a joint circular, under instructions of the Emperor, was sent by the Boards of War and Revenue to the Tartar-Generals, Viceroys, and Governors of the Empire ordering them to do away entirely with spears, bows and arrows, etc., in the various branches of the provincial armies and to decide, after a general interchange of opinions amongst themselves, as to what sort of modern firearms, ammunition, and drills shall in future be used amongst the provincial forces. The importance of using but one system of drilling for the troops and one style of weapons and ammunition being recognised as the supreme principle in the future armies of the Empire, says this interesting document, the various high provincial authorities are ordered to memorialise the Throne as to the best way of applying this principle; and if any recommendation shall be found to be superior to that already decided for the organisation and arming of the Imperial levies—as apart from the provincial—the Emperor will, it is said, give due weight to such recommendation.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

It is a significant fact, says the *N. C. Daily News* that the Imperial Maritime Customs are about to re-establish the lights at Wei-hai-wei.

The Kobe Municipal Council have agreed that the agent of the O. & O. and P. M. Companies may erect a flagstaff at his office in Kobe on condition of paying 10 *yen* per month as rent.

A note in the *N.F. Maritime Register* says that "one of the boats of the Russian ship *Bay of Naples*, Capt. Cedar, from Port Natal for Tokyo, capsized off Noumea on the 22nd of June, and fourteen sailors were devoured by sharks."

On Sunday afternoon, says our Kobe midday contemporary, two young prisoners escaped from Osaka Jail by breaking down the cell where they were confined. The Jail authorities warned all police stations in the city by telephone and a search party was sent out to scour the city, but the fugitives were not captured.

The *Avenir du Tonkin* says:—Not for a long time have there been so many foreigners at Saigon as at present. Amongst these birds of passage are a number of Americans who are waiting, it appears, for the cessation of hostilities to go to Manila and seek their fortunes there.

During the examination of Mr. Moberly Bell, the Manager of the London *Times*, by the Chairman of the Select Committee appointed by Parliament to enquire into law of copyright, the fact was elicited that the large sum of £50,000 a year was spent by *The Times* on foreign telegrams.

The Spanish prize ships *Catalia*, *Miquel Jover*, *Buena Ventura* and *Guida*, captured during the early days of the war, were taken north by the gun-boat *Newport* on the 1st ult. The *Buena Ventura* and *Guida* have been brought at the United States Marshal's sale by the Government and will be made into armoured warships.

About 5 o'clock on Tuesday morning, a shoemaker named Hirata Shokichi, 34 years old, living at No. 4, Motomachi, 1-chome (Yatozaka) murdered his daughter named Sute (11 years of age), by cutting her down with a sword. He then committed suicide, cutting his throat with the same instrument. It is said that the murderer was temporarily insane.

The health of the American forces at Manila is excellent and beyond the highest expectations of the Generals. They seem to stand the heat, rains, and other conditions like veterans. Of course there are quite a number sick but not a large list. In fact, says a *Daily Press* correspondent, the California and Oregon regiments have not a dozen men in all incapacitated from duty.

Throughout Monday all the German business houses, the German Club, and the Consulate flew the German flag with mourning streamers attached, as a token of respect for the late Prince Bismarck. The Austrian cruiser now in harbour flew the German flag at half-mast. The memorial service at the Public Hall was largely attended, every member of the German community of Yokohama, and many from Tokyo, being present, besides representatives of other nationalities. Dr. Baelz's oration was very finely phrased and caused great satisfaction.

A correspondent writes to the *China Mail* from Cavite as follows:—On the 21st July, a sad fatality occurred in Manila Bay. A steward on board the British collier *Cyrus*, named George Archer, was playing with a live shell, rapping it against the bulwarks of the vessel, when the dangerous missile exploded, blowing off one of Archer's arms and part of his face, besides inflicting other serious injuries. The poor fellow lingered for about half-an-hour before succumbing. He picked up the shell while ashore at Cavite Point. There are many of these live shells lying about, and it will be a wonder if there are no further fatalities either among the natives, who regard anything without a visible owner as legitimate loot, or among the numerous parties searching for souvenirs of the great American victory and the occupation of the Philippines.

Late on Thursday afternoon Mr. E. Leopold—late of Messrs. Ahrens & Co., of this port—was arrested on a warrant issued by H.B.M. Court for Japan.

When Captain J. Turner Harrison of the British schooner *Esmeralda* was last at Guam, he was presented by Padre Jose' Palomo with a bottle that one Raphael de Leon Guerrero had picked up on the beach of Ilig, Guam, Marianas Islands on the 21st June, 1898. From a document found in the bottle it was discovered that the latter had been thrown overboard from the steamer *Zealandia*, then on a voyage from San Francisco to Apia, Auckland, and Sydney, in Lat. 8'20 N., Long. 163' W., on January 20th, 1897, by Mr. Clement Wragge, of the Brisbane Weather Bureau. Padre Jose' Palomo found a similar bottle on the beach of the island of Saipan in 1884, which had apparently been drifting for about two years. Captain Harrison has presented the document to the British Consul-General in Yokohama.

Ralph G. Forster, Esq. H.B.M. Acting Assistant-Judge, on Tuesday continued the hearing of the case in which William Reisenorck, a seaman on the British ship *Mooltan*, was charged with assaulting Edward Lindenberg, seaman belonging to the steamer *Prometheus* on the morning of the 7th inst. Dr. Gordon Munro having given evidence as to the nature of the wounds, and an A. B. of the *Mooltan* having testified that he saw no bottle used during the assault, only the flat of the hand, His Honour said that as it had not been proved that accused had used a bottle to strike the complainant with, the Court would give him the benefit of the doubt, but it was clear an assault had been committed by him and he would be sent to prison for fourteen days and have to pay the costs.

The French, says the *China Mail*, are evidently to have no end of trouble in connection with their concessions at Kwongchauwan. We hear on good authority that the French cruiser *Duguay Trouin* is tide-bound in the Bay. Several weeks ago the cruiser had some little difficulty in getting over the bar at the entrance to the Bay, and owing to the rapidly shifting nature of this natural barrier the *Duguay Trouin* is in the somewhat remarkable position of a prisoner in a newly-acquired harbour. The *Dugnay Trouin* is the vessel which had trouble with the natives some time ago regarding the purchase of provisions. The commander landed a small party of marines and bluejackets, took twenty Chinese on board as hostages till provisions were supplied and then flogged the prisoners before allowing them to go ashore.

Messrs. S. W. & Co., writing from Manchester, under date June 25th, say:—This has been a dull month in the Pig Iron trade. The volume of business has been small, and prices of both Scotch and Cleveland Iron have drooped steadily, though only slowly; the total fall during the month being some 3d. or 4d. per ton. At present there is very little trade being done, but producers in the Cleveland district are understood to be well provided with orders to keep them going for some weeks, and are not anxious about selling at present. The Manufactured Iron trade in the Midlands continues in a good position; producers are already well provided with orders, and a fair amount of new business is being transacted, values thus being well maintained. Copper has fallen steadily about 22s. 6d. per ton during the month, but is now a little firmer again. Tin has advanced strongly, about £2, and tends further upwards. Spelter has advanced 12s. 6d., and is steady. Lead has fallen about 7s. 6d., and is easy.

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THE "IRENE" AT MANILA.

An official despatch from the Board of Command of the Second Division of the German Asiatic Squadron has been sent from Tsintau (where the *Irene* is now stationed) to the German Consulate at Shanghai. The purpose of the despatch is to correct the erroneous statements published in the *China Gazette* of the 13th July and the *N.C. Daily News* of the 14th July concerning the sending of the *Irene* to Isla Grande in Subic Bay. It has been officially established that the *Irene* went to Isla Grande to bring away distressed Spanish women and children, and that she there accidentally encountered the insurgent steamer *Filipinas*. This steamer, without any demand on the part of the Germans, offered to allow herself to be searched, an offer of which the *Irene* did not, however, avail herself. The *Filipinas* then left of her own accord, and the *Irene* subsequently left the island, having taken on board the women and children. On her way back to Manila she passed outside the bay two American cruisers, neither of which communicated with her. According to this account we see that the *Irene* was engaged only in the cause of humanity, and did not in the slightest degree infringe the rules of neutrality. Any other interpretation of the facts can only be the result of an endeavour to sow the seeds of misunderstanding between the Germans and the Americans.

In the *Shanghai Daily Press* of July 21st a telegram from Hongkong was published, stating that at a picnic given by the officers of the *Irene* at which some of the higher Spanish officers were present as guests, the captain of the German warship delivered a political speech against the annexation of the Philippines by the United States. We are authorised to state that all the data of this telegram are purely fictitious. It is untrue that any picnic took place on board the *Irene* at which Spanish officers were present, and it is also untrue that the captain of the *Irene* made any speech in the presence of Spanish officers.—*Der Ostasiatische Lloyd.*

MOSQUITO YACHT CLUB.

On Saturday the Mosquito Yacht Club had a race to Tomioka for a prize presented by the late Commodore, Mr. W. W. Campbell, the course and conditions being as published last week. An excellent start was effected and the three boats ran to the harbour entrance, with spinnakers to starboard, in close company. When on the wind the *Kodesu* drew ahead and the Lightship was passed by her, the *Nandeska*, and the *Sodeska*, in the order named at half minute intervals. Beating down to Nagahama, the *Nandeska* and *Kodesu* kept passing and repassing each other as each was favoured by wind and sea, or found herself on her pet tack. The *Nandeska* prefers the port tack and the *Kodesu* the starboard. The *Sodeska* kept farther out to sea than the leaders and meeting more tide fell behind. Off Tomioka the wind was lighter and the sea smoother, and, as this state of affairs just suited the *Kodesu*, she was able to outsail the *Nandeska* and finished 2 min. 45 sec. ahead of her. The times, as taken by Mr. Blad, the officer of the day, were as under :—

	Start.	Light-ship.	Widow Buoy.	Nagahama Buoy.	Finish.
Nandeska.	3 05.09	3.31.34	4 36 00	5 36.30	5.44 45
Sodeska ...	3.05.07	3.32.10	4 40.00	5 46 02	5 54.10
Kodesu ...	3.05.07	3.31.00	4.36.10	5 34 00	5.42.00

The *Nandeska* was sailed by Mr. F. J. Hall, the *Sodeska* by Mr. Lefroy, and the *Kodesu* by Mr. Warming. At half-past seven, members and guests of the Club sat down to dinner in the pretty grounds of the Club House, and a pleasant time ensued. At 10.30 the launch set out for the return, taking the *Sodeska* and *Nandeska* in tow—the *Kodesu* had returned with Mr. Lefroy directly after the race. The *Aborigine* also came in for a tow before reaching home, and moorings were found shortly after midnight.

RAILWAY MEETINGS.

We take from the *Japan Times* the following railway reports :—

JAPAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

An ordinary general meeting of the Japan Railway Company was held on the 9th inst. at the Y. M. C. A. Hall in Kanda. The shareholders present numbered 580, representing 2,168 shares. Mr. Shibusawa, one of the Directors, presided. The business report and the financial accounts for the past half year were read and adopted as presented by the Directors, although there was some discussion concerning the distribution of bonuses. The profit and loss account was stated as follows :—

	Yen.
Net profits...	1,261,646
Proceeds from the disposal of superfluous estates	1,473
Brought forward from the preceding account	116,882
Total	1,380,001
To reserve...	63,082
Bonuses	25,269
Interest on loans	116,595
Expense of removal...	1,310
Depreciation of value of the War Loan Bonds	1,340
Interest for debentures and fund for the redemption of the same	13,750
Dividend (5½ per cent.)...	1,145,666
To be carried forward to next account	12,987

Subsequently a special general meeting was held for the election of Directors and Auditors, the term of the present officials having expired. The voting resulted as follows. Directors :—Viscount Yujun Soga, Messrs. Takeshi Arishima, Tetsunosuke Tomita, Akira Sakai, Jusuke Mori, Ryosaku Kume, Rinhei Tsunoda, Genchо Futabashi, Eiichi Shibusawa, Choshiro Kikuchi, Ikuzo Wakao, and Fukusaburo Watanabe. Auditors :—Messrs. Shigenari Yasukawa, Kentoku Hayashi, and Shoichi Kyuno.

Mr. Shibusawa, chairman, proposed that a certain amount in bonuses should be presented to those who retired from the Board of Directors in recognition of their services. The proposal was adopted without division. The meeting rose at 2.40 p.m.

HOKKAIDO RAILWAY AND COAL MINING COMPANY.

The Hokkaido Railway and Coal Mining Company held its regular general meeting at the Company's branch office, Tokyo, on the 7th inst. to settle the business account for the half year ended June last. The meeting was attended by 192 shareholders, altogether representing 158,767 shares. Mr. Kayemon Takashima occupied the Chair, and the business report was read by Mr. Kakugoro Inouye, one of the Directors of the Company. It was to the following effect :—

	Yen.
Net profit	704,651
Brought forward from previous account ..	84,334
To reserve...	36,000
Bonus	59,895
Dividend (12 per cent. per annum)	648,020
To next account	45,071

Director Inouye then addressed those present on the business done during the half year. In round figures the general profit during the first half year shows an increase of 107,000 *yen* over the corresponding period of last year, but a decrease of 107,000 *yen* against the second half year of the previous year. The profit realized by the Railway Section during the term totalled 285,000 *yen* and the amount of coal procured was only 245,000 tons owing to the fire at Yubari colliery this spring, while there was an increase of some 1 36 per cent. in passengers fares and of some 45 per cent. in freights. With regard to the Mining Section there was a total profit of 522,000 *yen* during the period, and had it not been for the recent explosion in the Yubari mine the profits would have been much greater. The direct loss from the fire at Yubari mines was 27,000 *yen*. There was further an indirect loss of some 170,000 *yen* owing to the diminution of output to the extent of about 53,000 tons during the past season; and but for occurrence of the fire some 200,000 *yen* would have been carried forward to next account instead of 45,071 *yen*.

On the question of the second half of this year the Director further stated that the Company at its general meeting to be convened in February next will be able to declare a dividend of 15 per cent. and some 85,000 *yen* may be carried to new account, even though some 173,000 *yen* are to be laid aside as special reserve. The Director concluded by saying that though the business prospects for coal cannot be said to be bright at present, the output from the Yubari, Sorachi, Horonai and other mines is scarcely sufficient to meet the demand.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL BURNT.

Information was received in Shanghai on August 3rd, says the *Mercury*, from the Roman Catholic Mission station at the Feng-wan-shan Hills that a riot took place on Tuesday last at Naizee, a village near the Hills largely inhabited by native Christians.

About 1,000 men marched in a body and attacked a Christian family who were believed to have a large quantity of rice stored up. The attack was quite unexpected and so far as we can learn was made upon innocent persons. Several were injured but no lives were lost.

The Roman Catholic chapel was burnt to the ground and the native Christians had to flee for their lives. The cause of the outbreak is traceable not to hostility to Christianity but against the hoarding of rice with the object of enhancing the price.

The chapel was largely built from votive offerings and was only used occasionally, there being no resident priest.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following statement, says the *Daily Press*, shows the dividends paid by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank during the past twenty years :—

	First 6 mos.	Second 6 mos.
1878	£1 0	£1 0
79	1 0	1 0
80	1 5	1 10
81	1 10	*2 0
82	1 10	*2 10
83	2 0	2 0
84	2 0	2 0
85	2 0	*2 10
86	2 0	1 10
87	1 10	1 10
88	1 10	1 10
89	1 10	*2 10
90	†2 10	†3 0
91	1 10	1 10
92	1 0	1 0
93	1 0	1 0
94	1 0	1 5
95	1 5	1 5
96	1 5	1 5
97	1 5	1 5
98	1 5	

* Includes bonus of 10s. † Includes bonus of £1

Includes bonus of £1 10s.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

The following notification was issued on the 27th instant above the signatures of the Premier and the Minister of Finance :—

LAW No. 22.

Special Regulations for dealing with taxes on land devastated by inundations.

Art. I.—These Regulations shall apply to land devastated by inundation from July to October of the 30th year of *Meiji*.

Art. II.—Land which, though not entirely laid waste, has not, owing to damage by flood, produced a harvest, shall be exempted from tax for the 30th year of *Meiji*.

Art. III.—The annual instalment of taxes in arrear in connection with land coming under the purview of the preceding Article shall not be collected for the 30th year of *Meiji*.

Art. IV.—The collection of land taxes shall be suspended during the period in which the extent of damages sustained is under investigation in accordance with these Regulations.

Art. V.—Taxes on such land collected prior to the enforcement of these Regulations shall be returned.

Art. VI.—No complaint or action in an administrative law court can be instituted with regard to the enforcement of these Regulations.

Art. VII.—Any person desiring to be dealt with according to the above Regulations is required to notify the fact up to August 31st of the 31s

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year of *Meiji*. If he fails to present the requisite notice within the prescribed period, he will not be entitled to relief in conformity with these Regulations.

Another Notification, issued over the signature of the Minister of War, embodies regulations for the control of surveying operations on land and sea. Some of the most important provisions are as follow :—

Art. I.—If any person desires to survey, sketch, paint, photograph or take note of the topographical features of land or sea within 5,750 *ken* of any fort or stronghold, he must previously obtain permission from the Commandant of the fort, and must comply with the instructions he receives from that officer.

Art. V.—Violation of Article I. shall subject the offender to major imprisonment for a term of from 11 days to 1 year, or to a fine of from 2 to 50 *yen*.

Art. VI.—Any person removing or destroying sign posts, whether stone, wood, or board, shall be liable to major imprisonment for a term ranging from 11 days to 2 months, or to a fine of from 2 to 20 *yen*. Offences of this nature committed through inadvertence shall be punished with a police fine ranging from 5 *sen* to 1.95 *yen*.

In addition to the above an Imperial Ordinance was issued embodying regulations for the organisation of public schools in Formosa. According to those regulations the schools are to be placed under the control of the Directors of the Benmusho or its branches, subject to the local governor or chief of the administration. In each district where a public school is established, an educational committee of two is to be appointed.

The *Official Gazette* publishes engravings of the new revenue stamps to be issued in accordance with Imperial Ordinance No. 140 of the 31st year of *Meiji*. They are of four different classes. The stamps of the 1st class differ in value from 10 *yen* to 100 *yen*; those of the 2nd from 50 *sen* to 5 *yen*; those of the 3rd from 1 *sen* to 10 *sen*; those of the 4th from 1 *rin* to 5 *rin*.

CRICKET.

THE FLEET VERSUS YOKOHAMA.

In blazing summer weather the fourteenth cricket match of the present season began on Saturday morning on the Yokohama Cricket ground, between a team from Her Majesty's Fleet now in Yokohama and an eleven of the Y.C. and A.C.: and on this occasion victory rested with the home eleven. Yokohama, though it won the toss, sent in the visitors first, soon after eleven o'clock. Fairie and Strong opened for the Fleet, facing the bowling of White and Clark. Scoring was slow at the beginning and the first man was dismissed for 11 runs. The fielding of the home side was a great improvement on previous exhibitions and this kept the visitors from getting many runs, so that when the adjournment was made for tiffin 38 was the score for three wickets. Resuming play at 2.45, the Fleet remained in till nearly four o'clock, by which time they had knocked up 129 Duff and Kilby went out first for Yokohama, and the former was dismissed after scoring 8 runs. Crawford then went in and took the figures up steadily, his partnership with Kilby resulting in 77 being telegraphed. Then White partnered Crawford and runs came quicker, and soon the visitors total was passed. Crawford's 78 was the feature of the match, his play being neat and good. Scores :—

FLEET.

Lieut. Fairie (*Centurion*), st. Duff, b. White	40
Lieut. Strong (*Victorious*), b. Clarke	5
Mr. Wall (*Powerful*), b. Kingdon...	8
Lieut. Barton (*Whiting*), c. H. W. Kilby, b. White	20
Mr. Peile (*Powerful*), c. Kingdon, b. White...	1
Mr. Bull (*Centurion*), l.b.w., b. Clarke ...	0
Lieut. Nicholas (*Powerful*), c. Clarke, White	0
Lieut. Egerton (*Powerful*), not out	29
Mr. Manisty (*Centurion*), c. White, b. Clarke	0
Mr. Shipway (*Centurion*), c. Clarke, b. White	18
Major Bishop (*Victorious*), c. Clarke, b. Murdoch	10
Extras	6
	129

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wks.
Mr. White	130	11	41	5
Mr. Clarke	90	5	30	3
Mr. Murdoch ...	61	7	16	1
Mr. Edwards... ...	50	4	16	—
Mr. Bughird	5	—	5	—
Mr. Kingdon... ...	40	2	15	1
Mr. Hunt ...				

YOKOHAMA.

Mr. Duff, b. Manisty	8
Mr. H. W. Kilby, b. Fairie	18
Mr. Crawford, c. Wall, b. Manisty	78
Mr. P. B. Clarke, c. Wall, b. Manisty ...	0
Mr. F. E White, c. Bishop, b. Peile	12
Mr. E. B. S. Edwards, c. Egerton, b. Wall...	2
Mr. Hunt, c. Fairie, b. Barton	29
Mr. Bughird, b. Wall	3
Mr. Kilby, not out	28
Mr. Murdoch, st. Egerton, b. Barton	0
Mr. Kingdon, not out	4
Extras	6
	188

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	M.	R.	W.
Mr. Wall	155	20	40	2
Mr. Manisty	115	5	59	3
Mr. Strong	50	1	21	—
Mr. Fairie	40	2	25	1
Mr. Nicholas	50	—	25	—
Mr. Peile	10	—	7	1
Mr. Barton	10	—	8	2

THE FLEET VERSUS YOKOHAMA.

The return match between the Fleet and the Y.C. & A.C., took place on Wednesday in piping hot weather. Play began shortly before two o'clock and continued till 6.30 o'clock, when Yokohama had still two wickets to fall. The game was therefore drawn, though, as a glance at the score will show, very much in favour of the Fleet. The visitors went in first and had the Yokohama bowlers at their mercy for the best part of the afternoon. Shortly after five the last Navy wickets fell, and 189 was the total of runs telegraphed. Lieut. Barton made top score, 50, being followed by Lieut. Fairie, 42. The head of the team was decidedly the strongest part of the combination, as will be seen when we state that the first wicket fell for 28, the second for 96, the third for 140, the fourth for 144, the fifth for 175 the sixth for 179, the seventh for 185, the eighth for 187, and the ninth and tenth for 189. Yokohama, after a hot afternoon's leather hunting, were scarcely in good trim for batting. Their only hope was to keep up the wickets and play against time. In this they succeded, and thus averted a bad defeat. Clarke was the only man to achieve anything worth chronicalling, his 32 being the result of some free hitting. The best stand was made when he was partnered with Johnson and H. W. Kilby. Yokohama were dismissed, first wicket for 2, second for 5, third for 16, fourth for 33, fifth for 62, sixth for 73, seventh for 74, eighth for 76—then stumps were drawn. Scores :—

THE FLEET.

Lieut. Fairie, *Centurion*, c. Stewart, b. Johnson	42
Lieut. Hall, *Victorious*, b. Kingdon	17
Lieut. Barton, *Whiting*, c. H. Kilby, b. Murdoch	50
Major Bishop, *Victorious*, c. H. Kilby, b. Kingdon	2
Lieut Compton, *Narcissus*, c. Crawford, b. Clarke	16
Mr. Gascoigne, *Narcissus*, run out	12
Mr. Gush, *Victorious*, c. and b. Clarke... ...	2
Sub. Lt. Marston, *Victorious*, l.b.w. Clarke...	7
Chapman, L. S *Centurion*, b. Bughird... ...	1
Mr. Brooke, *Narcissus*, c. and b. Clarke ...	2
Mr. McNeile, not out	0
b. 11, l.b. 3, w. 1...	15
	189

YOKOHAMA.

Mr. P. B. Clarke, c. Hall, b. Gascoigne ...	32
Mr. E. H. Bughird, b. Fairie	1
Mr. C. M. Duff, b. Hall	1
Mr. K F. Crawford, b. Fairie	2
Mr. R C. K. Johnson, c Barton, b. Hall ...	11
Mr. H. W. Kilby, c. Chapman, b. Bishop ...	11
Mr. E W. Kilby, not out	9
Mr. H. A. Stewart, b. Fairie	1
Mr. H. R. Main, c. & b. Fairie	0
Mr. J. Murdoch, not out	0
Mr. A Kingdon, did not bat	—
b. 10	10
	78

The Government of India is making extensive experiments in the Deccan with a theory evolved by one of its medical advisers that the growth of sunflowers in malarial soil is much more beneficial in the prevention of malaria than the eucalyptus tree. So far as can be judged, the results have been in every way satisfactory.

ALLEGED FRAUDS BY A YOUNG FOREIGNER.

Yesterday afternoon, says the *Kobe Chronicle* of Tuesday, the Japanese police placed under arrest a young foreigner who gave the name of C. Baines. There are various charges against him of obtaining goods by false pretences, and according to the statements of the police it appears that he made his appearance in Kobe in June last, and commenced work in Motomachi. Among other shops he visited was that of Mr. Y. Nakao of 287 Motomachi, 4-chome. There he was successful in obtaining a hat, coat, pipe, and a bottle of Florida water, valued altogether at *yen* 19 75, upon his statement that he was employed here, and upon his signature to an ordinary invoice of the goods. Other tradesmen were visited, but, as far as known, he had no further success. "Baines," as he styles himself, seems to have left Kobe after this, and nothing was heard of him until a week or so ago, when he reappeared and obtained accommodation in a house upon the hill. There he seems to have stated that he had "great expectations," and for a little while no suspicion was aroused as to his real position. On Saturday last the police state that he entered a jeweller's shop in Motomachi, and after looking at sundry articles selected a diamond ring valued at *yen* 60, which he said he would purchase if the shopkeeper would accept his "signature on a chit." That was not agreed to, and he left the shop to visit another. On Sunday he was in Motomachi again, and interviewed other jewellers and dealers, but without result. Suspicions having been aroused, he was asked by a police officer who had watched his movements to accompany him to the station. This was done, and he then stated that he was an American citizen. The United States Consul was seen, but as Mr. "Baines" had no papers of any kind to support his assertion, Mr. Lyon refused to recognise him. The police then allowed Mr. "Baines" to leave the station, but kept him in view, and at one o'clock yesterday arrested him upon information of other charges to be preferred against him. One of these is that of going to a hotel on the hill on Sunday night, and running up a little bill without any means of paying it. When seen at the station yesterday afternoon, Mr. "Baines" seemed disinclined to give a *Chronicle* representative any information on the subject of his arrest or his antecedents. He did, however, state that he had been "for some time a traveller for the Equitable Life Insurance Company, running up and down the Chinese ports." He informed the police, however, that he had only been in Japan a month, having just come up from Singapore. He is, he says, eighteen years of age, and persists that his arrest is illegal—that the police have taken the wrong man.

Mr. "Bains" is about 5 feet 3 in. in height, and of a fair complexion. He is said to be constantly dressed in light tweeds with a straw hat, but has not by any means an American accent.

In this connection it may be stated that a Yokohama contemporary recently published a paragraph relating to the doings of a young man named M. Edwards, who was alleged to have victimised several hotel keepers and commercial establishments in the northern port. The police were on the young gentleman's track, but while the question of his nationality was under consideration he disappeared. The local police are now in communication with Yokohama with a view of ascertaining whether Mr. "Baines" and Mr. Edwards" are one and the same person.

Since the above was in type, we learn that Mr. "Baines" was taken to the Municipal Police Station last evening pending inquiries as to his nationality.

MANILA AFFAIRS.

FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

SORTIE BY THE SPANISH GARRISON.

(From the "*China Mail.*")

U. S. Army Headquarters.
Cavite, July 21, 1898.

There can be only one construction placed upon the latest development of the native policy. Aguinaldo and his supporters evidently imagine that the United States Government will withdraw their troops as soon as Spain is conquered, leaving the Revolutionaries in possession. It is at least obvious that in the event of Spain being unable to indemnify the United States for the cost of the war —which is very likely—the Spanish Colonies will be held either permanently or temporarily until the United States have repaid themselves. A section of the native leaders has shown itself possessed

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of considerable ability, and doubtless the United States Government will avail itself of this material to assist in the administration of the country. But there can be no dual control, and the administration must be held by the conquerors of Spain. It is, therefore, premature to speak of a Revolutionary Government, President, and Cabinet. Aguinaldo and his chief supporters are here through the direct agency of the United States of America, and it would be well that these gentlemen should bear this in mind. As time goes on, it is becoming more clearly apparent that the United States officials who are responsible for the shipment of the insurgent leaders to Cavite may have made a grievous mistake, and whereas there was a tendency a few weeks ago to strive for the credit of this move, I expect there will soon be an equally fervent desire on the part of these same officials to wash their hands of all responsibility.

So much for the political aspect of the situation. It requires very delicate handling, and I have not said all I might have said. The trouble will begin when the Spaniards are dislodged from Manila.

The last of the 1st Californian Volunteers left this morning for the Bacoor shore, where the whole of the American forces are now concentrated with the exception of the 14th Regulars, the 2nd Oregon Volunteers, and the 300 men of the 23rd Regular Infantry commanded by Colonel French.

At the Insurgent Headquarters in Cavite, I have been able to glean some additional particulars of Sunday's fight. It appears that a general advance was made along the line. On the north side, General Pantaleon Garcia was in command; and here, in spite of the desperate bravery of the Spanish Garrisons, the insurgents succeeded in capturing three outposts. Skirmishing commenced at midnight on Saturday, the 16th inst., and fighting continued almost without cessation till 3 p.m. on Sunday. The Spaniards made their first rally in the Chinese cemetery at Loma, but were defeated with considerable loss, yielding up the entrenchments and a neighbouring blockhouse, and afterwards the posts of Pago and Kitas, where they had been strongly entrenched. This brings the insurgents close to the suburbs of Tondo. Before being forced back on Binondo and across the river into the walled city, the Spaniards are expected to make a strong fight. The American officers do not anticipate any further advance along this line; but the insurgents have been so successful in their rifle and hand-to-hand combats with the Spaniards that we need not be astonished at any advance. The Spanish soldiers must be thoroughly disheartened and worn out by fatigue; but the poor fellows, badly officered and badly fed, at least deserve great credit for the plucky manner in which they have fought under the most discouraging conditions. The insurgents admit having three men killed and many wounded on the north side. What the Spanish loss was is unknown. The dead are buried where they fell. A native who escaped from the city on Sunday night reports that the wounded were being carried into the walled city in large batches, and as the losing side it may be conjectured that they lost heavily before abandoning their entrenched position.

On the south side, the insurgents were not so successful. Here General Noriel has to operate against the pulveria, or powder magazine at Malate. This has been the centre of many fights since my arrival, and although driven from their trenches the Spaniards have made up their minds to make a desperate resistance in the fort. Sunday's fighting was severe. I have been informed that the rebels lost at least 50 men killed; but at Headquarters they admit only 11 killed and many wounded. I have seen many wounded men, Spanish and insurgents, but, as the wounds were dressed, cannot say from personal observation what the stopping effect of the Mauser bullet may be. The Americans, on the other side of the Bay, saw many wounded insurgents brought back from the front. When a man is picked off in the trenches, he is allowed to lie until the fire slackens; then he is thrown loosely over the shoulder of a comrade and carried, bleeding and groaning, to the rear to have his wounds dressed. It is wonderful to see the fortitude with which these young lads fight and suffer. One lad was brought into the insurgent hospital at Paranaque suffering from a wounded arm. The arm was completely shattered at the elbow joint, and the native doctor decided to amputate. This operation was performed without any anæsthetics. The limb was placed across the table, the surgeon struck two or three sharp blows with a native bolo, or hacking sword, and the injured part was thus roughly amputated! The insurgents, however, have many capable surgeons, who have done excellent work.

The rebels captured the Spanish outpost at Meutibig, but I am informed that the Spaniards made a sortie along the Malate line last night, driving out the insurgents, who fell back upon the American lines. The U.S. cruiser *Boston*, which had been moved over to the Bacoor shore to cover the landing of the American troops, signalled to the flagship that the Spaniards were forcing back the rebels on our camp. Brigadier-General Greene proceeded to the front at once, and the American troops advanced their lines slightly and prepared to resist attack. Fighting between the rebels and the Spaniards was carried on throughout the night as usual, with no serious results on either side. It would have given a new interest to camp life if the American troops had come into action. These slight repulses should have a good effect on the political situation. The Spaniards were content to re-occupy the entrenchments they had abandoned during the recent fighting, but subsequently withdrew 1,000 yards; but as the zone is swept by the Spanish quick-firing guns the rebels have not advanced.

On this side, the encampment wears a deserted aspect. Partially with the aid of natives, partially by their own efforts, but chiefly by utilising the Spanish prisoners from Guam, the American troops have cleaned and transformed the Arsenal and its immediate surroundings. The palm in this respect must be yielded to Captain Geary of the U.S. Artillery Volunteers and an ex-Regular who has completely changed the appearance of Fort St. Filipe. In the course of his operations, Capt. Geary unearthed two oubliettes in the massive masonry of the walls, and in another quarter brought to light two dark, dismal, narrow cells said by the natives to have been used by the Spaniards in former times as torture chambers.

I hear that steps are being taken to obtain khaki uniforms for the American troops here, and that a large sum of money has been sent to Hongkong to obtain the requisite amount of material. This is a wise step. If the American troops are to remain in these islands for any considerable length of time they must be clothed differently, and khaki is the most suitable material. As soon as Manila is taken, some of your local firms ought to come down here and open branch establishments. There is a fine field for enterprising firms content with a reasonable profit. Doubtless the Manila stores will supply the needs of the Americans, but they can do so only to a limited extent, and the officers and men will go where English is spoken, if they are not charged exorbitant prices for every luxury. The Volunteer Regiments are composed of men accustomed to a considerable degree of comfort. Their needs are many. Tailors and outfitters, wine merchants, and general retail dealers should do well. As it is, I know many orders are going by every steamer to Hongkong, but stores on the spot will obtain all the orders, as soon as a paymaster comes along. The American forces, officers and men, have arrears of pay coming to them, no payment having been made since they left San Francisco. Is there any enterprise in Hongkong to rise to the occasion?

Governor-General Merritt, it is stated has authority from the United States Government to re-enact the Spanish import and export duties in the Philippines.

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL MERRITT.

Cavite, July 25.

Major-General Merritt and staff arrived in Manila Bay to-day on board the transport steamer *Newport*. It is hoped the attack on Manila will be made. Rain has fallen heavily for three days.

ARREST OF THREE SUSPECTED SPIES

MORE FIGHTING AT MALATE.

U.S. Army Headquarters,
Cavite, July 22nd, 1868.

This weary period of inaction, the long-drawn-out suspense, is more wearing, more trying on the nerves than a continuous spell of fighting might be conceived to be, and we will all be pleased when the Commander-in-Chief gives the order to move upon Manila. When that will be no one knows. Presumably we are awaiting the arrival of Major-General Merritt, who, as Governor-General of the Philippines (*vice* Captain-General Augustin cooped up in Manila), has dictatorial powers to deal with the peculiar political situation now in course of development. It is also said we are awaiting the monitor *Monterey*, expected daily.

Two days ago, the British sailing ship *Fort Stuart* arrived from Australia heavily laden with a cargo of coal. As she sailed slowly up the Bay, she was met by the *Concord*. The *Fort Stuart* was supposed to have put in here in the hope that that she might be "captured" by the American Admiral, but coal is now plentiful. She left to-day.

The friction I have hinted at between the insurgent leader and the American authorities is slowly developing. All along the Cavite peninsula, Aguinaldo has registered the live stock of the natives and the ordinary means of transportation. When the American advance was made, there was difficulty on the score of transport, Aguinaldo having impressed on the natives that his consent was essential before any contract could be made with the American transport department. This was an act almost amounting to open hostility, although I do not suppose it was meant as such. General Anderson took prompt action. He sent a formal request for baggage animals and conveyances. Aguinaldo declined to furnish them, or to remove his embargo. General Anderson hesitated not at all. Having observed the conventionalities, he informed the Filipino leader that he meant to take just what he needed for the service of his forces, under the usual conditions of civilised warfare. Aguinaldo bowed before the inevitable. The ponies, bullocks, carts and other conveyances were soon forthcoming, and no delay of any consequence was experienced in pushing forward supplies from the shore to Dewey Camp at Tambo.

The despatch-boat *McCulloch* is now regularly engaged on patrol duty in the waters between the walled city and the neutral warships.

Yesterday there was another heavy engagement near Malate. Shortly before 6 p.m., there was an explosion as if a magazine had blown up, but details have not reached Cavite. These skirmishes are now so common that they attract little attention.

Much more exciting was the news circulated in Cavite yesterday that two German spies had been arrested in the American lines at Tambo. I visited them to-day in Fort San Filipe, where they had been handed over to the tender care of Capt. Geary. They stated that their names were E. Moll and Schaub, that they belong to the firm of Messrs Kuenzle and Streiff, and that they were of Swiss nationality, not German. For some reason which they would not inform me—but which I have since been informed was nothing more menacing than the purchase of Spanish bank notes at a discount of 25 per cent—they resolved to set out from Manila to visit the opposite lines. They carried passports from General Augustin, cheque books, letter of credit and papers from the German and Swiss Consuls. Getting pass the outposts at San Juan del Monte, they were alarmed to find themselves the target of one of the Spanish forts. They bolted precipitately and sought shelter in the scrub remaining there throughout the night of the 20th inst. Yesterday morning, they attracted the attention of the rebel outposts, who refrained from firing and allowed them to pass to the rear. They told me they were astonished to find themselves walking into an American camp, and yet more astonished when arrested as suspected spies and sent over to Cavite. The officer in command of the advanced battalion of the Colorado Regiment, Major, Moses, effected the arrest very diplomatically. After making their acquaintance he invited them to remain for lunch. Suspecting nothing they pleaded another engagement. The hospitable major was not to be denied. He persuaded them to stay and have the honour of tiffining with Brigadier Greene. The Brigadier then informed them that they would have to accompany Lieut. Allen, A.D.C., to Cavite. To-day they realised the gravity of the situation, but attempted to laugh it off as an unfortunate misunderstanding. As I write, they remain among Captain Geary's guests in the fort. There they will be safe from harm.

Another Manila resident, a German named Lenhoi, also came through the lines accompanied by two British subjects. He was arrested as a suspect, but subsequently released, and allowed to return to the city. A few more incarcerations in Fort San Felipe will check these excursions from Manila to the American lines.

This morning, on instructions from Admiral Dewey, a party of eight Spanish prisoners was released from Cavite and conveyed to Manila. They comprised four priests named Bruno Alberde, Lorenzo Macho, Miguel Hernandes, and Segundo Alonzo Gomes, and four civilians named Mario La Feta, Antonio Pneo, Manuel Gavay, and Juan de Juan. The latter is a reporter on the *Oceani Espagnola*. These eight men were among the prisoners who voluntarily surrendered to the Americans when the gunboat *Leyte* was forced down the Pampanga River by the rebels a few weeks ago. The transfer to Manila was made at the request of the prisoners, whose choice is remarkable when consideration is given to the comfort of the Spanish prisoners kept under direct American supervision. The negotiations were carried out by the Belgian Consul, M. Andre. There are now 33 Spanish military and naval officers and 10 or 80 men in durance in Fort San Felipe. Something has also

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been done to alleviate the conditions of the prisoners under the care of the insurgents in Cavite. The officers' wives and children, who had been kept in close captivity since the fall of Cavite, will be allowed greater freedom, and they will also receive better food and treatment. This desirable reformation has been brought about through the agency of General Anderson.

Last night, one of the Spanish prisoners died of anæmic poisoning. The body was buried at San Roque this afternoon. This is the first death ashore on the American side. The health of the troops is now excellent. There is a suspicion that a large proportion of the cases reported in previous letters was due to malingering. Some of the cases were said to be due to injudicious exposure to the sun. All the commissariat and transport work has to be done by the soldiers in the ranks. It is hard work, and it is not surprising that Volunteers unaccustomed to manual labour should suffer severely. Few of the cases now in hospital are climatic.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

SEVERE FIGHTING AT MANILA.
SUSPICIOUS CONDUCT OF AQUINALDO.
SPANIARDS REPULSED THRICE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Manila, August 6, via Shanghai, August 9.

The Spaniards attacked the American Camp near Malate on the night of the 31st July. They charged the American line repeatedly but were eventually driven off with heavy loss.

The Americans had eleven killed and thirty-seven wounded.

The rebels—Filipinos—withdrew at the first shot and it is firmly believed that Aguinaldo was aware of the Spanish intentions to attack and deliberately retired.

On the 1st and 2nd August there were renewed Spanish attacks, but these were all repulsed, the Americans losing one killed and having eleven wounded.

SHIP ON FIRE IN KOBE.
RUMOURS OF INCENDIARISM.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Kobe, Aug. 12, 8.40 a.m.

Fire broke out on the ship *Baring Brothers* at half-past twelve o'clock this morning and before the flames were extinguished the vessel was completely gutted. There are rumours of incendiarism circulating this morning, which gather about the crew, as the vessel was loaded ready for departure.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR CONFERS WITH PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

London, Aug. 5.

M. Cambon, French Ambassador at Washington, acting as Spanish plenipotentiary, had an hour's conference with President McKinley at the White House on Wednesday, but no statement has been given out by the authorities to the press. This silence and the length of the conference are unfavourably commented on. Meanwhile, the Hon. R. Alger, Secretary of War, has announced that the war plans remain unmodified.

HOSTILITIES ABOUT TO CEASE.

London, Aug. 6.

It is understood that Spain has practically agreed to the terms of peace. Hostilities are expected to cease by Sunday. The *New York Herald* states that President McKinley has decided to utilise the harbour of Pagopago, Samoa, as a naval coaling station. In consequence of a memorial from Shafter's leading officers that the army must perish of fever unless moved, the War Office is arranging to send the troops home.

SPAIN'S REPLY ON THE WAY.

QUEEN REGENT APPROVES.

London, Aug. 8.

The Queen-Regent has approved. Spain's reply to America, which will reach the White House by Tuesday at latest, after which date Spain expects hostilities will cease forthwith.

SPAIN ACCEPTS CONDITIONS.

HOME-COMING OF AMERICANS.

FRIENDLY WELCOME IN PUERTO RICO.

It is semi-officially stated in Madrid that Spain, in her reply to the United States, accepts the peace conditions, and merely stipulates a suspension of hostilities in order to avoid complicating the negotiations for definite peace.

The first transport with American troops from Santiago has arrived at New York.

The landing of troops on the south-east coast of Puerto Rico has been practically completed. The Americans are everywhere welcomed.

SPAIN'S REPLY RECEIVED.

TERMS NOT UNCONDITIONALLY ACCEPTED.

London, Aug. 10.

Spain's reply reached Washington on Monday. It is believed that it does not include an unqualified acceptance of the American terms, but renders possible the cessation of hostilities with the view of the initiation of regular negotiations.

GREAT BRITAIN'S INTERESTS IN CHINA.

MR. CURZON SPEAKS.

London, August 5.

In the course of a debate in the House of Commons on the estimates for the Foreign Office, Mr. Curzon said nothing could be more definite or more precise than the assurance of support given to China. He denied that the open door had ceased to exist either in Manchuria or elsewhere, or had been shut in Britain's face. The concessions secured in China during the last few months were far greater than those obtained by all Britain's rivals put together. This proved that she had maintained her ascendency in the political councils at Pekin.

PROSPECTS OF AN ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE.

NEW YORK PRESS ADVOCATES JOINT ACTION.

London, Aug. 8.

The Anglo-Russian relations in China are being followed with keen interest in America. Both the *New York Times* and *Sun* advocate prompt and joint action between the United States and Great Britain.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN RELATIONS CRITICAL.

The Powers regard the Anglo-Russian relations in China as critical. Complications are apprehended. The stock market is weak.

THE AMERICA CUP.

SIR T. LIPTON'S CHALLENGE.

London, Aug. 5.

Sir T. Lipton, the London tea merchant, has sent his challenge for the America Cup.

INDIANS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

RESTRICTION OF RESIDENCE.

The Pretoria High Court has decided that Indians engaged in trade in towns in the Transvaal must live in locations outside the townships, to be assigned by the government.

ILLNESS OF THE QUEEN OF DENMARK.

London, August 10.

The Queen of Denmark is reported to be seriously ill. The family is assembling at Copenhagen.

RUSSIA ON THE RED SEA.

A NAVAL BASE.

The *Novoe Vremya* announces that Russia has acquired the Sultanate of Raheita on the Red Sea, as a naval base.

(Received by the *Fiji*.)

ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN STEAMERS AT MANILA.

Hongkong, Aug. 10.

The American transports *Indiana, City of Para, Morgan City, Valentia* and *Ohio* arrived at Manila on the 31st of July.

Hongkong, Aug. 10.

The American monitor *Monterey* and the collier *Brutus* have been added to the U.S. Asiatic Squadron.

ENGAGEMENTS IN THE VICINITY OF MANILA.

Hongkong, Aug. 10.

On the 31st July at noon an engagement was fought in the neighbourhood of Manila lasting for about three hours. The Americans lost 11 soldiers, with 40 wounded, while about 300 Spaniards were killed, and 1,000 wounded. The loss suffered by the rebels was very slight.

ADOPTION OF GOLD STANDARD BY KOREA.

Söul, Aug. 5.

The Korean Government has decided to adopt the gold standard.

KOREA.

Mr. Li In-yu has been appointed Vice-Minister of Justice.

Mr. Yun Ung-yŏl, Chief of the Police Board, has been released from the post and Mr. Min Yŏn-kwi appointed in his place. The Police Board has ordered the Independence Club to stop public speeches on politics, and constables are strictly patrolling the neighbourhood of the Club.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 1	Su. Aug. [illegible]
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 2	M. Aug. 15
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India 3	M. Aug. [illegible]
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Glengyle 4	M. Aug. 15
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China 5	Th. Aug. 18
Hongkong	N. P. Co.	Olympia 6	M. Aug. 17
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. Aug. 22
America	P. M. Co.	Aztec 7	Tu. Aug. 23
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	—	W. Aug. 24
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Aug. 31

2 Left San Francisco on the 26th July.
3 Left Hongkong on the 5th inst.
3 Left Vancouver on the 2nd inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 5th inst.
5 Left Hongkong on the 10th inst.
6 Left Hongkong on the 7th inst
7 Left San Francisco on the 4th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Aug. 15
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Aug. 15
America	P. M. Co.	Glengyle	Tu. Aug. 16
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Aug. 19
Tacoma, Wash....	N. P. Co.	Olympia	F. Aug. 19
Europe, via S'hal.	M. M. Co.	Salazie	W. Aug. 17
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. Aug. 17
Hongkong	P. & O. Co	Rohilla	W. Aug. 24
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. Aug. 24
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Aztec	W. Aug. '24
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Sept. 5

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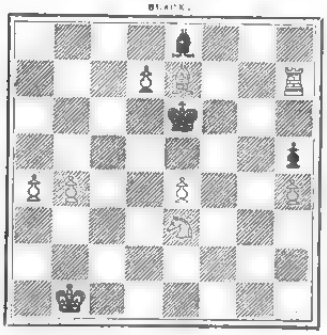
CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

Our problem-solvers are feeling the fatigues of the summer. One writes:—"Weather too hot, no energy left to tackle the prize 3-movers, 379, 380." Very well, we will wait another week before giving the solutions, that is all.

Problem No. 383.
By H. W. Sherrard, and H. F. L. Meyer.



White mates in three moves.

Game No. 414.
Played in the Vienna Tournament:—

IRREGULER DEFENCE.

White—H. N. Pillsbury.		Black—H. Caro.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P QB3(a)	16 P Q5	P QB4
2 P Q4	P Q4	17 Q K 5ch	K B q
3 Kt QB3	PxP	18 Castles, QR	Q B2(d)
4 KtxP	Bt B3	19 R Q3	R K5
5 KtxKtch	KPxKt	20 R B3	P QR3
6 Kt B3	B Q3	21 Q Q3	KQ Ksq
7 B Q3	B Kt5(b)	22 BxP(e)	K Q2
8 P KR3	B R4	23 B K3	Q R4
9 P KKt4	B K3	24 P R3	P QKt4(f)
10 Kt R4	Kt Q2	25 R B6	B B5
11 Kt B5	BxKt	26 K Ktsq	BxB
12 BxB	P KKt3(c)	27 PxB	RxKP
13 Q K2ch	Q K2	28 Q Q4(g)	R K8ch
14 BxKtch	KxB	29 K R2	RxR
15 B K3	QR Kt	30 Q R7ch	Resigns.

Notes from the *St. James's Budget*.

(a) Not to be recommended.

(b) As in the French Defence, which this position somewhat resembles, there is no virtue in this pinning of the Kt; there was R to K 3 followed by Q to B 2, with a view to Castling on the Q's side.

(c) The B did no harm there; a simple continuation would have been Q to K 2 ch, followed by Castling QR.

(d) Simpler would have been K to Kt sq.

(e) Very cleverly played. If, in reply, R takes B, then 23—P to Q 6 wins back the piece with advantage.

(f) This move further weakens his position.

(g) A neat combination; even if Black had prevented Q to R 7 ch, then White would win in any case by Q takes P.

Game No. 416.

A Queen's Pawn Opening vigorously and splendidly played by Pillsbury in the Vienna Tournament. It is, no doubt, one of the best games so far. We are indebted to the *Illustrated London News* for the score and notes:—

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING.

White—Halprin.		Black—Pillsbury.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	21 KtxKt	Kt B6ch
2 Kt KB3	Kt KB3	22 K Kt2	B Ktsq
3 P K3	P B4	23 R KRsq	P B4(e)
4 P QKt3(a)	PxP	24 Kt B3	P K5
5 PxP	Kt B3	25 B K2	R Ksq
6 P B4	B Kt5	26 Kt Kt5	P B5
7 B K2	P K3	27 Q R3	P K6
8 Castles	PxP	28 P Q6	Kt K4
9 PxP	R B q	29 BxKt	P B6ch
10 B Kt2	B K2	30 K R2	RxB
11 QKt Q2	Castles	31 B Q3	B Q2
12 Q Kt3	Q B2	32 PxP	Q Kt5
13 QR B q	KR Q q	33 B B q	R R4
14 Q K3	B Q3	34 R B2	RxKt
15 P Kt3(b)	Q R4	35 R Q2	R K4
16 B Q3	Q KR4	36 Q Kt2	KxKP
17 Kt Kt5	P K4	37 QxP	R B3
18 P Q5	Kt Q5(c)	38 Q Kt2	P B7(f)
19 P KR4(d)	P KR3		
20 Kt(Kt5) K4	KtxKt		

NOTES.

(a) This is not commendable, at least at this early stage. P to B 3 is far better, and is in accord with the character of this "stonewall" opening. But for some time, however, White has no apparent inferiority in position.

(b) Something must now be done in view of B to B 5, and no satisfactory result appears from either of the alternatives Kt to K 5 or Kt to K 4, but undoubtedly the move made opens the way to an attack on White's K later.

(c) Very effective, and owing to White's venture 17—Kt to Kt 5, the Kt cannot be taken without loss.

(d) If P to B 3, which looks attractive, Black ought to win by B to QB 4.

(e) Some clever play now ensues. It does not appear that White has any opportunity of getting out of the attack. Black's combinations are worthy of special praise.

(f) The mate by Q takes KtP cannot be avoided.

Game No. 417.

The encounter between Steinitz and Showalter produced another beautiful game, only equalled by Pillsbury's given above.

FRENCH DEFENCE.

White—Steinitz.		Black—Showalter.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K3	20 R K3	P Kt3
2 P Q4	P Q4	21 KR R3	R B2
3 P K5	P QB4	22 K R	K Kt2(d)
4 PxP	QKt B3	23 Kt B3	P KR3
5 KKt B3	BxP	24 R RKtsq	P R4
6 B Q3	KKt K2	25 Q Kt3	Q R q
7 Castles	Kt Kt3	26 Kt Kt5	KR B q
8 R K q	B Q2	27 Q R4(e)	Kt Ktsq
9 P B3	P QR4	28 P B4	PxP
10 P QR4		29 BxQBP	KR K q
(a)	Q Kt q	30 R Q3	R R2
11 Q K2	B K3	31 R Q6(f)	R Kt2
12 Kt R3(b)	Castles	32 QR Q q	B B q
13 QKt Kt5	Kt R2	33 KtxPch	BxKt
14 B K3	BxB	34 BxB	Q R2
15 QxB	KtxKt	35 R Q7ch	R K2
16 PxKt	P Kt3	36 RxKR	KtxR
17 Kt Q4	P B4	37 Q B6ch	K R3
18 P KB4	Kt K2	38 R Q8	R B2
19 Q B2	Q Q-q(c)	39 P R3	Resigns (g)

NOTES.

(a) This is seldom good.

(b) Naturally enough White seeks an entry for the Kt via Kt 5. P to QR 3 was requisite instead of P to QR 4.

(c) We should have preferred Q to K sq.

(d) Black is in a knot, and White proceeds in leisurely fashion as of old. Black might have tried R to Kt 2 with a view to P to Kt 4, to make room for the luckless Kt.

(e) Advancing with stealthy but sure step. Kt takes P ch was threatened.

(f) How smoothly all this works out. White can win the important KP, still is in no hurry and develops his other R first.

(g) White has only a P up, yet the hopelessness of Black forms telling testimony to the powerful play of the veteran.

Notes.

The score in the match between W. L. Jacobsen and W. H. Jonas for the chess championship of Australia on the 14th ult. stood:—Jacobsen 3 wins; Jonas nil; drawn one.

A pawn may generally be sacrificed in the opening with advantage when it accomplishes two objects, *i.e.*, when it brings an undeveloped piece into play, and at the same time keeps an opponent's piece out of play. This applies especially to Gambit attacks.

The *St. James's Budget* remarks:—Certain problem solvers, somewhat after the fashion of some people's love for flowers, admire the compositions which engage the attention for the time. They like a good problem, solve it, and after it is thus plucked, its interest fades away rapidly and disappears in a day or two to make room for a fresh specimen. They give little thought to aught but the difficulty of solution, and the manner in which the mate is effected. There are, however, other admirers of problems who judge each production from the point of view of problem art. These appreciate a fine creation, and look for the imaginativeness, originality of treatment, symmetry, and purity of construction with a critical eye, and with the same devotion, attention and interest which lovers of art bestow on the objects engaging their attention.

I have recently seen, remarks Black Bishop in the *China Mail*, in several magazine articles and newspaper paragraphs, a gratifying recognition that chess has attained a dignity and importance transcending that of a mere pastime, and a suggestion that the State should recognise it as a valuable part of intellectual training. It seems a fantastic idea, but, *me judice*, it would be quite as legitimate a test as many of those applied and far more discouraging to examinees. It would not be easy for the average coach to prepare a student for the following paper.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

June, 1918.

1. Solve the Problem given above.
2. Annotate the following game.
3. State and explain the general principles governing the development of Knights.
4. Discuss the contributions to chess literature of de Cessoliz, Lucena and Steinitz.
5. Compose a two move problem containing at least two mirror mates with a Knight.

N.B.—The practical test of play will be taken on Thursday afternoon from 4 to 8.

Though I yield to none in zeal for the spread of chess, continues Black Bishop, I am not prepared for such a reform as that indicated. Compulsory chess in youth would breed a dislike for it in later years and our educational curricula are for the most part overloaded already. An additional argument in that chess itself would be degraded by dragging it into the arena of results grants. Let chess retain its virgin glory as the only thing that is learned for love and practised for glory, and let avarice, and pedantry keep their hands off the noblest of mental exercises *procul absint profani*.

The Vienna Tournament.

On account of the withdrawal of Schwarz, one point was added to the score of each contestant. The 23rd round was begun and finished on July 4. The score follows:—

	WON.	LOST.		WON.	LOST.
Alapin	13	10	Pillsbury	17½	4½
Baird	6	17	Schiffers	11	12
Blackburne	11	11	Schlechter	12½	10½
Burn	13	10	Showalter	8	13
Caro	7	16	Steinitz	15½	7½
Halprin	9½	13½	Tarrasch	18½	4½
Janowski	15½	6½	Trenchard	4½	13½
Lipke	13	10	Tschigorin	14	9
Marco	10	13	Walbrodt	12½	10½
Maroczy	13	10			

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, C. Young, 4th Aug.,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Kobe, 3rd Aug., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, J. H. Rinder, 4th Aug.,—Hongkong via ports, 26th July, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Mooltan, British ship, 1,616, Kirk, 4th Aug.,—Antwerp, 26th Feb., Coke and Pig Iron.—Sale and Co.

Yarrowdale, British steamer, 1,908, W. G Geddes, 5th Aug.,—Norfolk via ports, Kobe, 3rd Aug., General.—Frazar and Co.

Chingtu, British steamer, 1,459, J. E. Williams, 5th Aug.,—Australia and New Zealand via ports, Hongkong, 30th July, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Handy (6), British Torpedo Boat Destroyer, 260, Lt.-Com. A. Gillespie, 5th Aug.,—Kobe, 3rd Aug.

Narcissus (12). British Cruiser, 5 600, Capt. K. King-Hall, 5th Aug.,—Kobe, 3rd Aug.

Centurion (14), British Flagship, 10,500, Capt. J. R. Jellicoe, 5th Aug.,—Kobe, 3rd Aug.

Victorious (16), British Battleship, 14,900, Capt. A. Schomberg, 5th Aug.,—Kobe, 3rd Aug.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, N. Ohno, 5th Aug.,—Shanghai via ports, 30th July, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,754, C. K. McIntosh, 7th Aug.,—Rangoon via Hongkong, 31st July, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Hothow, British steamer, 896, J. G. Carnaghan, 7th August,—Hongkong, 30th July, Sugar.—Butterfield & Swire.

Columbia, British steamer, 1,689, A. Gow, 7th August,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 20th July, Mails & General.—Dodwell Carlill & Co.

Borneo, British steamer, 2,943, A. W. Symes, 8th August,—London via ports and Kobe 6th Aug., Mails and General.—P. & O S.N. Co.

Arcadia, German steamer, 3 481, Burmeister, 8th August,—Hamburg via ports and Hongkong 1st August, General.—C. Illies & Co.

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Unison, Norwegian steamer, 760, A. Torbjoinsen, 9th Aug.,—Saghalien, Ballast.—Captain.

Handy (6), British Torpedo Boat Destroyer, 260, Lt.-Com. A. Gillespie, 10th Aug.,—Yokosuka, 10 Aug.

Salasie, French steamer, 2,089, Sellier, 11th Aug.,—Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 10th Aug., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Yinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, K. Nakajima, 8th Aug.,—Kobe, 6th Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shiganoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, S. Kakimi, 9th Aug.,—Kobe, 8th Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, K. Soyekawa, 9th Aug.,—Hakodate, 6th Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Muramatsu, 10th Aug.,—Bonin Islands, 4th Aug., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K Iwanaga, 10th Aug.,—Kobe, 9th Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Hohensollern, German steamer, 2,376, H. Bleeker, 5th Aug.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Indrapura, British steamer, 2,510, Horsfall, 5th Aug.,—New York via ports and Suez Canal, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Pactolus, American barque, 1,585, S. Watts, 5th Aug.,—New York via Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, J. H. Rinder, 6th Aug.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Handy (6), British Torpedo Boat Destroyer, 260, Lt.-Com. A. Gillespie, 6th August,—Yokosuka.

Powerful (14), British Cruiser, 14,200, Capt. Hon. Hedworth Lambton, 7th August,—Hongkong.

Clam, British steamer, 2,311, Black, 7th August, —Vladivostock, Oil and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Columbia, British steamer, 1,689, A. Gow, 8th Aug.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell Carlill & Co.

Glengarry, British steamer, 1,925, Ferguson, 9th Aug.,—Sydney via Moji, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Yarrowdale, British steamer, 1,908, W. G. Geddes, 9th Aug.—Batavia via Moji, Ballast.—Frazar and Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 10th —Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Chingtu, British steamer, 1,459, J. E. Williams, 10th Aug.,—Australia and New Zealand via Kobe and Hongkong, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Unison, Nowegian steamer, 760, A. Torbjoinsen, 10th Aug.,—Kobe, Ballast.—Captain.

Prometheus, British steamer, 3,583, Robt. Day, 12th Aug.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, C. Young, 11th Aug.,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, G. Ohno, 10th Aug.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Tennick, 8th Aug.,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higo, 7th August,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, H. Walter, 4th Aug.,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,797, Tremt, 6th Aug.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, F. W. Horton, 9th Aug.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Staff Surg. H. Carlton, R.N., Staff Engineer C. H. Hardcastle, R.N., Baron P. de Gunzburg, Miss E. Corner, Miss E. Reifsnyder, Rev. H. C. Hodges, Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. Everhardt, Miss Moller, Mr. Yun Hing and servant, Mrs. Lawless, Mr. E. Kellman, Mrs. G. R. Moore, Graham and 2 daughters, Mr. S. Strauss, Mr. H. Marcus, Mr. H. W. Lea, Mr. F. G. Sale, Mr. H. Houston, Mrs. Houston, Mrs. J. Liddell, infant and amah, Mr. C. H. Crosse and servant, Miss M. Rogers, Mr. A. E. Blake, Mr. J. Crowther, Dr. J. Fowler, Mr. J. G. Duel, Mrs. Duel, Capt. J. W. Lee, Mr. C. W. Dimock, Mr. G. Palliiz and servant, Mr. G. Gause, Mr. T. T. O. Nicholson, and Mr. J. Butler, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. H. K. C. Fisher, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Hom Shee and 4 children, Mr. W. T. Thacher, Mr. W. Hancock, Mr. F. Myers, Mr. J. S. Fearon, Rev. J. B. Frazier, U.S.N., and Mr. E. J. Cowan, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Chingtu*, from Australia and New Zealand:—Mr. R. Reid, Mr. R. Henderson, and Mr. J. H. R. Hance, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Rev. E. Perrin, Rev. Heinrich, Rev. Wolff, Mr. Guster Tappe, Mr. G. Roupen, Mr. S. Ogura, Mrs. F. Ogura, in cabin; Mr. Larun, Mr. Ah Wai, Mr. S. Okuda, and Mr. D. Komura, in second class; 45 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Borneo*, from London via ports:—Mr. H. G. George, Mr. Pilkington, Mr. Maurice McBain and native servant, Mr. Kay, Mr. J. W. Copmann, Mr. E. W. Tilden, Mrs. E. W. Tilden, Mr. H. J. Metz, Mr. F. W. Horne, Mr. M. Baggallay, Mr. W. C. Henderson, Mrs. Parmentier, Miss Irwin, and Mrs. Rosaki, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Columbia*, from Tacoma, Wash. and Victoria, B.C.:—Mrs. N. E. Eazell, Miss N. J. Lewis, Mr. Jas. Thobaud and the following officers and Engineers of the steamer *Arizona* viz.:—Mr. R. L. Stephen, Mr. A. L. Thompson, Mr. Geo. Campbell, and Mr. Wm. Aiken, in cabin; 44 Chinese, and 1 Japanese, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Hohensollern*, for Hongkong via ports:—Baroness W. Swaine, Mr. and Mrs. Hèritte and children, and Mr. E. Achilles, in cabin; Mr. H. Temme, Mr. J. E. Denham, and Mr. M. Sierta, in second class; 11 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kamakuru Maru*, for London via ports:—Commander J. Yajima, I.J.N, Chief Eng. J. Tsunuchi, I.J.N., Lieut. Y. Fujiwara, I.J.N., Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. J. Thompson, Capt. J. Arakawa, Mr. M. Kato, and Mr. A. Nishiyama, in cabin; Mr. K. Sano, Mr. I. Takeo, Mr. Y. Suzuki, Mr. S. Nakayama, Mr. Charles Karot, in second class; 20 Japanese, and 3 European, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. A. Adelsdorfer, Mr. R. D. Adamson, Mr. T. C. Aitken, Mr. E. J. Cowen, Dr. Clinton Cushing, Mrs. Clinton Cushing, Mr. M. Chiye, Hon. Chas. Denby, Mr. J. C. Dusel, Mrs. J. C. Dusel, Mr. A. M. Dell, Mr. J. S. Fearon, Mr. J. B. Frazier, U.S.N., Mr. H. K. C. Fisher, Mrs. H. K. C. Fisher, Mr. J. H. Fisher, Baron Pierre de Gunzburg, Mr. J. F. Hooper, Mr. W. Hancock, Mr. R. Ishii, Count Lambert, Mr. Wm. Lassueur, Mr. A. H. Myers, Mrs. T. Miyoshi, Mrs. T. Miyoshi, Mrs. Jas. R. Morse, Miss Morse, Rt. Rev. Bishop McKim, D.D., Miss McKim, Mr. H. Olsen, Mr. Jules Richard, Mr. Frank E. Simpson, Mr. G. Schweitzer, Mrs. Huon Shee and four children, Mr. W. J. Thacher, and Mr. F. Ziemessen, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. M. M. Trafford, infant and amah, Mr. I. Luneberg, Capt. Simmonds, Dr. Dow, Mr. E. R. Morriss, Lt. E. W. Browne, Lt. W. Loring, Mrs. Mansfield, Mrs. Covey, 2 infants and amah, Miss Parsons, Miss E. Cameron, Mr. W. C. Henderson, Bishop Earl Cranston, Mrs. Cranston, Misses Ethel and Flora Cranston, Miss Ruth Cranston, Mr. L. D. Abraham, Mr. Fritzsche, Mr. E. W. Tilden, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Tooker, in cabin; 4 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Colonel F. J. H. Nienstead, Mr. Goedknop, Mr. T. Doi, Mr. P. Chan, Capt. Hillcoat, Mr. and Mrs. Dabkjouski, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hauston, and Mr. V. L. Boeck, in cabin; Mr. E. Bush, Colonel and Mrs. Ramsaitseff, Mrs. and Master K. Arai, Mr. C. Yokota, Mr. Anton Citrian, and Mr. R. Oshiro, in second class; 110 Japanese, and 2 Chinese, in steerage.

CARGOES.

Raw and Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Hohensollern*:—

	RAW.			WASTE.		
	Opt.		Italy.		England.	
Otto, Reimers & Co.	56	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co.	14	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber Brennwald & Co	199	—	25	—	35	—
Nabholtz & Co.	121	—	—	—	—	—
C. Giussani	—	—	10	—	—	—
Vatenne & Co.	—	—	20	—	—	—
Bavier & Co.	—	—	20	—	—	—

Total—465 bales Raw Silk / 35 bales Waste Silk.

Following were silk shippers per O. & O. steamer *Belgic* which left for San Francisco on Aug. 6:—

	Bales.
Vivanti Bros.	176
Sieber, Brennwald & Co.	101
Ulysse, Pila & Co.	42
Bavier & Co.	21
Siber & Co.	12
Nabholz & Osenbrüggen	29
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	110
Kiito Shokai	48
Doshinsha	32
Total	571

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 925 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 44 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Business is still in the doldrums, few enquiries being afoot, and even these are all below home prices.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 14 inches	1.75 to 2.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3 75
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0 25 to 0.45

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.38 to 0.41
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 32 inches	0 15 to 0 17
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0 50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb. per lb.	0 50 to 0 60
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7 75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches,	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0 lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	0.25 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4 lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.	
Nos. 16/24, Singles	$15.50 to	38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to	41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to	45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to	43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to	50.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	61.00 to	63.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	75.00 to	76.50
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to	99 00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	69 50 to	70.50
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	85.00 to	90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	$114.00 to	124.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.	
American Middling	$19.50 to	—
Indian Broach	19.25	—
Chinese	21.00 to	21.50

METALS.

Dullness prevails in all departments, nothing being enquired for except tin plates and a few bundles of rod iron.

	PER PICUL.	
Round and square ½ inch. and upward	3.85 to	4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4 00 to	4.40
Sheet Iron	4 90 to	5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to	10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5 90 to	6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to	5 95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to	2.10
Hoop Iron (1 to 1½ inch)	5.00 to	5.15

KEROSENE.

The market is very quiet, only the usual steady summer business being transacted. Quotations are firm.

American	$2 05	—
Russian	1.95 to	2.00
Langkat	—	1.85

SUGAR.

The week has seen a steady business, with prices well-maintained despite the recent large arrivals from Hongkong.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.40 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.10 to 5.20
Brown Daitong	3.90 to 4.30
Brown Canton	4.20 to 5.85
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.15
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is active, demand being chiefly from Europe, the American silk-men evidently being away on holiday tours just now. The last P. & O. steamer took over 900 bales for Europe.

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QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	$920
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	920 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/13 deniers	865 to 875
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	845
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	880 to 890
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	85
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	830
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	810
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	850
Kakedas—No. 1	815
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	790
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is almost destitute of life; a few settlements were put through for the last English mail, P. & O. steamer *Rosetta*, which took 44 bales for Europe.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 105
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Nushi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	85 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 22½

TEA.

A good demand continues, common and medium grades being mostly in request. Despite the war-duty America is sending plenty of orders. Last year, from the beginning of the tea season up till the 8th August, 16,744,100 lbs. of tea were exported to America, valued at *yen* 4,603,215. This year during the same period 15 423 100 lbs. were exported, valued at *yen* 4,612,840. The decrease is thus only 1,321,000 lbs., valued at *yen* 80,371.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$35 & upwards
Choice	$33 to 34
Finest	31 to 32
Fine	29 to 30
Good Medium	27 to 28
Medium	25 to 26
Good Common	23 to 24
Common	21 to 22

EXCHANGE.

No change in silver from London, but sterling from China comes ½ higher and rates on China are accordingly lower: Gold rates show a hardening tendency.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅞ to 1/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 15/16
— — 4 months' sight	2 0⅛
— Private 4 months' sight	2 0⅛ to 1/16
— — 6 months' sight	2 0⅛ to 1/16
On Paris—Bank sight	2.55½
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.50 to ½
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49⅞
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06½
— Private 4 months' sight	2.10½
On Hongkong—Bank sight	4⅛% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	5⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	77½ to ⅝
— Private 10 days' sight	78½ to 79
On India—Bank sight	153
— Private 30 days' sight	156
On Silver (London)	27 1/16

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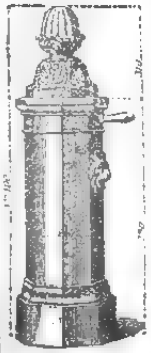

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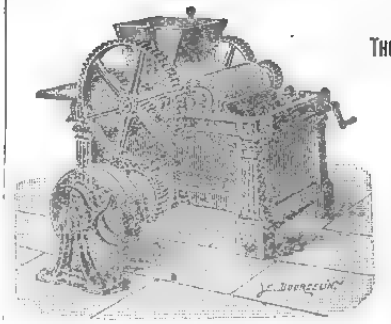

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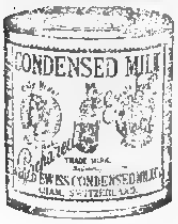

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"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, AUG. 20TH, 1898.

BIRTH.

At No. 12 C Tsukiji Settlement, Tokyo, on the 11th inst., the wife of CHARLES GUSSY CONINGHAM, of a daughter.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

H.I.H. PRINCE NASHIMOTO-NO-MIYA left for Hiroshima on the 13th inst.

MR. OTAKIBI, Japanese Consul at Shanghai, returned to Tokyo on the 12th inst.

MR. OISHI, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, is lying ill of consumption.

AN armistice between the United States and Spain now prevails on land and sea.

THE peace commissioners of Spain and the United States are to meet in Paris in October.

A TEAM of Tokyo baseballers were beaten by the Y.C. and A.C. in Yokohama last Saturday by 6 runs to 19.

To relieve sufferers from the recent typhoon at Taipeh, Formosa, His Majesty has made a donation of *yen* 1,000.

THE Hyogo Warehousing Association held an extraordinary general meeting on the 10th inst. Mr. Ando, the president, resigned the presidentship, and Mr. Kano filled the vacancy. A Committee, consisting of 13 persons, was appointed to settle the present troubles.

THE working of the corrupt practices ordinance during the last general election has proved particularly irksome.

THE warship *Akashi*, sister ship to the *Suma*, was recently completed at Yokosuka Dockyard, and will be launched shortly.

THE warship *Atago*, which had been at Shashi since the troubles there, arrived at Shanghai on the 18th inst. *en route* for home.

THE Hon. George Nathaniel Curzon, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has accepted the Vice-royalty of India.

IT is reported that the cruiser *Fuso*, which is undergoing repairs at Kure Dockyard, will be out of the workmen's hands within a few days.

PEACE protocols were signed in Washington on the 12th inst: on the 13th Manila fell after a combined assault by land and sea lasting two hours.

THE trouble in the Kyobashi electoral district of Tokyo grows more complicated every day: charges and counter-charges being made almost hourly.

THE construction of a railway line, 30 miles in length, between Kunohama and Kodaka, was recently completed. It will be opened for traffic on the 25th inst.

THE birthday of the Emperor Francis Joseph was celebrated in Yokohama on Thursday with high mass at the Catholic Church and salutes from the warships in harbour.

AT the recent meeting of the Directors of the Nippon Railway Company, it was decided that Viscount Soga Yujun should be appointed President, and Mr. Mori Jusuke Vice-President.

IT has become very apparent that the mercantile and industrial community generally held aloof from the last general election, leaving it entirely to the professional politicians.

THE Associated Chambers of Commerce have appointed Lord Charles Beresford to proceed to China to report on the prospects of British trade in China. He starts on the 24th inst.

THE swimming races in Yokohama harbour on Saturday last resulted in two wins for the Japanese challengers and one win for the English representative, Harold Y. Irwine, in the half-mile.

THE Anglo-Russian relations in China are being followed with keen interest in America. Both the *New York Times* and *Sun* advocate prompt and joint action between the United States and Great Britain.

IT is semi-officially stated in St. Petersburg that Russia is solely anxious to secure her recently gained advantages, and contemplates no fresh acquisitions, nor does she desire to injure the economic interests of Great Britain.

A PAWN-BROKER named Sasaki Yohei (65) living at Shoten yokocho, Asakusa, Tokyo, on the 12th inst., committed suicide by drinking some sulphuric acid. He is said to have despaired of the present condition of business.

AN accountant named Nagata Naokichi (43) of the Ajikawa Police Station, Osaka, on the 28th December last absconded with money amounting to over *yen* 1,000 belonging to the institution, and taking with him a girl from a brothel at Matsushima. He had since been living in Tokyo, where, on the 10th inst., he was arrested at a hotel in Shimbashi.

A WORKMAN named Sato Sankichi, employed by the War Department, was dangerously wounded on the head on the 11th inst. by a gunpowder explosion at the artillery workshops. He was sent to the Military Hospital at once, where he lies in a dangerous condition.

MR. HOSHI TORU returned from Washington on Monday. He has been interviewed by nearly every newspaper in the capital, which print his views on Hawaiian affairs, the much talked-of Anglo-American Alliance, and the future of the Philippines in detail.

DURING the week, H.B.M. Court at Yokohama has been occupied with hearing charges of fraudulent obtaining of money from the H. & S. Bank, preferred by Messrs Ahrens & Co. against a late employé, Emil Leopold. Some curious matters have been disclosed.

AT 3 p.m. on the 12th inst., fire broke out in a house occupied by a carpenter, in Umamichi, Asakusa, Tokyo, and destroyed the building in which it originated. On the 13th inst. another fire broke out in a godown belonging to a grocer at Minami Inari-machi. The building was destroyed.

PERMISSION for the construction of the Kawasaki Railway was granted on the 15th inst. The Railway Company immediately commenced work, and it is said the line will be completed within three months. It runs from Kawasaki Station to the famous Buddhist Temple at Daishi.

IT is said that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is intending to raise a foreign loan, amounting to *yen* 10,000,000, at 5 or 6 per cent. per annum. The 100th National Bank also purpose to raise a foreign loan of *yen* 100,000 000 in Germany. The President of the Bank, Mr. Ikeda Kenzo, is undertaking the arrangement.

MR. TAKAGI, who has been elected by the 12th Division in Tokyo, is suffering from bad eyes, and is nearly blind. According to the provisions of the Election Laws, a maimed man can not be elected as a parliamentary representative, and it is said that a question concerning his status will probably be asked in the Diet.

THE war expenditure of the United States is estimated at 150,000,000 dollars. Several leading American journals declare that the community of interests of Great Britain and the United States in China and the present situation constitute a pressing reason for America to lay a firm hold of the Philippines.

A SLIGHT revival in the cotton piece-goods trade is reported from the interior, but so far the ripple has not spread to Yokohama. Except in so far as a few enquiries for yarns and grey shirtings have been made, business in these lines during the week has been *nil*. As regards metals, transactions have been confined to tin plates and corrugated iron sheets. Kerosine trade is dull, only retail business moving, but prices are unchanged. Sugar is steady, as usual, supplies being about equal to demand. A very active trade has been done in raw silk, and all outgoing steamers took cargo. American enquiries are beginning to come in and a brisk demand for fine filatures is expected. In waste silk, little is doing and the stock mounts up. The third crop tea is turning out in fairly good quality and large supplies may be anticipated. Business has been very brisk in me-

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

There have been many references during the past week to the Far Eastern Question, which has now assumed in the eyes of the average Japanese the aspect of a triple alliance between Germany, Russia and France, on one side, for aggressive purposes, and America, England and Japan, on the other, to preserve the peace, maintain the balance of power in the Orient, and safeguard the integrity of Far Eastern empires. Some journals are perfectly outspoken on the subject. Others refrain from any explicit statement of the camp that Japan ought to enter, but with unmistakable significance declare that if they do not speak plainly, it is because no one can have any doubt on the subject. The *Yomiuri* contrasts British sentiment towards Japan, as described in a letter from Mr. Kadono, one of the Directors of the Keiogijuku, with Russian sentiment as set forth in the columns of the *Novosti*. The St. Petersburg journal says that Japan's voluntary evacuation of Weihaiwei in favour of Great Britain was an emphatic act of unfriendliness to Russia, and that as between England and Japan, Russia resents the latter's procedure rather than the former's. Mr. Kadono says that the Japanese are hail fellow-well-met wherever they go in England, and that it a common thing for an Englishman to take a Japanese by the hand and cry, "Japan, America and England against the world!' The *Tokyo Asahi* reiterates the hackneyed proposition that the interests of Japan in the Far East are identical with the interests of England and America, and that the sentiments of Japan towards Russia, Germany and France are perfectly well known even though no Philippines' problem had presented itself to emphasis them. It was in the days of the Ito Cabinet that Japan made her first approaches to Great Britain and America, but it is only now that a really definite attitude has been assumed. Not until to-day, indeed, did the occasion present itself imperatively, but when, in the very near future, the fate of the Philippines comes to be determined, the lines of international cleavage will have to be marked out with unmistakable clearness. The *Shogyo Shimpo*, without making any special reference to Japan's action, thinks that the Hispano-American war has been attended with three memorable and splendid results: first, that America now takes her stand among the great Powers of the World, her might being no longer confined to the continent of her dominion; secondly, that she has henceforth to be reckoned with as a strong naval State; and thirdly, that the bonds of union between her and England have been drawn very closely. There may not be a definite alliance between the two Anglo-Saxon Powers, but there will be an understanding rendering them invincible. The Triple Alliance can no longer issue fiats as to the fate of empires from Berlin, Paris, and St. Petersburg. London and Washington will be the centres of authority. It is a happy day for civilization.

* * *

There has been something of a lull in the generally breezy views of Japanese journalists about Korea. The question of the Philippines and all the complications connected with it, have monopolised attention. But the *Nippon* brings Korea once more upon the *tapis*. There is an appearance of calm, it says, in the world of Korean politics, but it is wholly superficial. If we look below the surface, immmerable elements of unrest are discernible. The Court can not be said to have exercised a wholesome influence at any time. But at least it was the depository of political power; a steady point in the welter of personal and family ambitions. Now, however, the Court has parted with a portion of its power to the people, and among the latter there is no party strong enough to accomplish anything in the way of reform. There are only a number of factions strong enough to squabble among themselves. One falls, to be succeeded by another, and the latter, in turn, has to give place speedily to a third. Russia is simply biding her time. The old story will surely be repeated: domestic turmoil, an appeal for foreign aid, and the re-fixing of the alien yoke, this time with rivets not to be again shaken loose. Is Japan to stand idly by with folded arms? Can no good policy be devised? It does not appear that the Japanese Representative in Sôul achieves much success. He recently presented an ultimatum about the Sôul-Fusan Railway, giving the Korean Government three days to reply. But no reply has yet been received. Either he went too far, or having gone so far, he stopped at a point that rendered his whole work abortive. Other Representatives get what they want, but the Japanese Representative fails.

* * *

The propriety of allowing administrative officials to become members of the Diet is beginning to be discussed with some warmth. There never has been any restriction with reference to this matter in Japan, but, on the other hand, instances of administrative officials' entering parliament have been so few as to deprive the question of any practical importance. Things have changed now, however. There are a number of candidates for seats in the Lower House who hold official positions, whether in the Central or in Local Governments. It is reasonably asked by some of our vernacular contemporaries how these men can be expected to discharge their duties in both capacities. While the Diet is sitting they will certainly neglect their official functions. There is also a curious feature in the Japanese system. An administrative official is forbidden to be a member of a political party. Yet he may be a member of the Diet, where, of course, he can play the rôle of a party politician without restraint. That is an evident anomaly. The *Nippon* strongly recommends that a law should be passed forbidding administrative officials to have seats in the Diet. Such a step, it thinks, would effectually cool the "fever for office."

* * *

There is no respite for the Cabinet. With untiring persistency its enemies attack it. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* criticises its policy towards America, contrasting its present attitude with that assumed by Count Okuma when the question of Hawaiian annexation first entered the field of practical problems last year. The position then taken was that the annexation of Hawaii by the United States would endanger the peace of the Orient and disturb the balance of power in the Pacific. To-day, the annexation is on the verge of being completed, yet no protest of any kind is made. Last year, when Count Okuma took what was called "a strong line" in his negotiations with Washington, the party politicians applauded him in the most outspoken manner. But these same politicians have not a word to say at present. They preserve careful silence about Hawaiian annexation, and even seek to divert public attention from that question by arguments about the Philippines, and by urging the advisability of an alliance between England, America and Japan. It does not appear that the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is opposed to the annexation of Hawaii, still less that it deprecates an Anglo-American-Japanese understanding. Its sole object, so far as we can discover, is to convict Count Okuma of having no fixed policy; no continuity of conviction; of being in fact, a mere opportunist. The *Chuo Shimbun* is even more condemnatory. It says that the three prime functions of a Cabinet are finance, administration and foreign politics, and that the present Cabinet vacillates about finance, does nothing in the way of administrative reform, and has no foreign policy. On those hypotheses it is not difficult to build up an imposing indictment. Clever as the *Chuo's* writings generally are, however, its denunciations are growing too reckless to be convincing, and too vague to be effective. The *Yiji Shimpo* is a much more puissant foe when it accuses the Cabinet of being hampered by its own ill-judged pledges of administrative economy. The men now in power have posed for such a long time as advocates of reduced expenditures that they shrink from devoting money even to purposes essential to the public welfare. Communications and education are objects on account of which the State is urgently required to make some liberal appropriations, but the Ministry will do nothing. On the other hand, they do not economise. They do nothing: simply stand still. It is difficult to distinguish any difference between the new men and the old, between the party politicians and the clan statesmen.

* * *

It is insisted by the *Yiji Shimpo* that Judicial officials ought to be more zealous in the discharge of their functions. Nominally the courts do not take a midsummer recess, but in practice the Judges and Public Procurators are careful not to do too much work in the hot weather, and the result is that unfortunate people are left sweltering in prison because it is too sultry for law officers to decide their cases. The *Yiji* indulges in some sarcasm. It says that the men in whose hands the direction of affairs rests at present ought to be sympathetic in these matters, for several of them have had practical experience of prison life.

* * *

An illustration of the essentially captious spirit that animates several of the vernacular journals at present in their criticism of the Cabinet is furnished by the *Tokyo Asahi*. Very soon after the Ministry came into power a committee was appointed to investigate the question of Administrative reform. Count Itagaki became President, and among the principal members were the Vice-Ministers of the various Departments. The *Asahi* now declares that to entrust to such men the duty of elaborating a scheme of reform is like telling a sick man to diagnose and treat his own malady. Fancy asking the Vice-Minister of Education to adjudicate upon the advisability of abolishing the Department of Education! Evidently the Committee is badly organized. Such is the *Asahi's* conclusion. But its arguments obviously apply to any officials that might be appointed members of the Committee, unless, indeed, the general scheme of reform were determined beforehand by some occult power and the Committee were constituted so as not to include any members of Departments or Bureaux affected by the programme.

* * *

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* throws cold water on the views of sanguine people who expect a large influx of foreigners and foreign capital after the Revised Treaties go into operation. There are no apparent inducements. India, with a native population of 280 millions, has only 100 000 English throughout the length and breadth of the land, and even in Italy there are but 50,000 foreign residents. Unfortunately the intercourse of foreigners and Japanese is not marked by mutual sympathy and confidence. If capital is to come in, it must be on a co-operative basis and the time is scarcely ripe for that as yet. In agriculture there is no room for foreign enterprise: the Japanese make the most of their opportunities. In commerce, considerable development may be anticipated, but it will be more or less checked at first by the new Tariff, and, under any circumstances, the grooves in which business moves at present are not likely to undergo any marked change for some time. As for industrial enterprise, there is doubtless a field for foreigners and Japanese to work together, but the character of the industry must be fully understood by the foreigner and he must learn to trust the Japanese with whom he shares large responsibilities. On the whole, the operation of the Revised Treaties will exercise very little perceptible effect at first.

The man Edwards, charged with victimising Japanese tradesmen in Yokohama and Kobe, and who was arrested at the latter place, was on the 13th inst. brought to Yokohama by the Japanese Police authorities, and has been sent to the District Court for its preliminary trial.

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THE ELECTION COMPLICATION IN TOKYO.

The complications that have occurred in connexion with the election in the Kyobashi district of Tokyo present quite a comical aspect. The candidates, as we have already stated, were Mr. Yamada, Vice-Minister of Justice, a Progressist, and Mr. Nakazawa, a Liberal. Of course both gentlemen represent the interests of the Constitutional Party. They ought not, therefore, to have opposed each other at the polls. But no principle of that kind applies. Tokyo is not the only place that has witnessed these internecine contests. The first trouble was that Mr. Nakazawa's supporters formed "a tea-and-talk" club and had a friendly *réunion*. Thereupon Mr. Yamada's supporters lodged information against them for "treating" electors. The information was laid with the police, whose chief is a Liberal. The police, considering the proof insufficient, declined to move in the matter. Then it was placed in the hands of a public procurator—a judicial official. Mr. Yamada, as we have seen, is Vice-Minister of Justice, and Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu, the Minister of Justice, used to belong to the Progressist Party. The public procurator acted upon the information, and adopted some strong measures—such as domiciliary searches and so on. At this stage there appeared upon the scene a certain Mr. Tsuchiya, who seems to have been a somewhat lukewarm supporter of Mr. Nakazawa. Alarmed at these inquisitions and menacing proceedings, he hastened off to the public procurator, carrying documentary proof that every member of the "tea-and-talk" club had paid his own bill and that there had been no "treating" whatever. But at the office of the procurator—this is Mr. Tsuchiya's story—he met the Vice-Minister, Mr. Yamada, who told him that a much worse trouble was in store for him, since his name had been appended with 199 other signatures to a circular inviting electors to vote for Mr. Nakazawa. There was nothing in the smallest degree unlawful about such a circular, but Tsuchiya, not having definitely sanctioned such a use of his name and being evidently a timid person, signed a declaration that his name had been forged and sent the document to a magistrate. Meanwhile, thinking that the privilege of exercising the franchise was becoming rather irksome, he retired to the country and did not return until the elections were over. On his return, he found that he had been unfortunately precipitate, for by hastening to exculpate himself in connexion with the "tea-and-talk" affair, then by getting into a trepidation and charging his friends with forging his name, and finally by rushing away to hide himself in the country, he had missed a letter of explanation which would have entirely satisfied him about the use of his name in the circular. He at once withdraw his charge of forgery, and now began to cry out that he had been intimidated and deceived by the Vice-Minister of Justice. Meanwhile—and this is the queerest feature of the affair—the supporters of Mr. Yamada, coming together on the 6th instant, had compiled and circulated a letter, bearing the name of a Mr. Sewaki Hisao, in which the electors wese invited to vote for Mr. Yamada. Mr. Sewaki, it seems, was not a direct party to this proceeding, and did not discover it until the 10th, whereupon he circulated a statement that his name had been taken in vain, and the electors of the district lodged an accusation of forgery against his fellow politicians by whom the canvassing letter had been compiled.

That is the whole, miserable, paltry story. We should not devote an inch of space to telling it for its own sake, but it undoubtedly acquires a peculiar interest from the fact that a veritable storm has been raised in connexion with it, and that journal after journal devotes leading articles to its discussion. It is suggested that the only way to remove the stain from the reputation of the Constitutional Party is for Mr. Yamada to resign. There is even talk of the association of Barristers removing his name from their roll. The *Tokyo Shimbun* cries not that there has been official interference in the elections. The *Kokumin Shimbun* declares there has been a disgraceful triple fight: a fight between the Liberals and Progressists; a fight between the metropolitian Police and the Judiciary; and a fight between the Cabinet and the Home Office. The *Nippon* finds that the elements of the Constitutional Party, from the very outset of their administrative career, are falling into the state of internecine strife which finally paralysed the strength of the Satsuma-Choshiu combination; that their quarrels have hitherto been prevented from becoming fatal only by the cō operative exertions of Counts Okuma and Itagaki, and that these two have now begun to fall out—for Count Itagaki, at the instance of the Chief of Police, is supposed to have hurried off to Oiso to lodge with Count Okuma a complaint against the public procurator and Mr. Yamada—, and so the ball of criticism and comment is tossed about until quite a bewildering impression of commotion is created. The only really sensible view is advanced by the *Hochi*: namely, that, when the Matsukata Cabinet was accused of interfering in the elections, and when complaints were lodged in the courts of law, the Judiciary conclusively proved its independence. Is it likely that the same Judiciary would now prostrate itself at the beck of a Vice-Minister of State, working in his own private interests?

We can easily predict what our readers will say about the matter. Their wonder will be that among educated citizens of Tokyo there could have been found two such persons as Messrs. Tsuchiya and Sewaki. What can exceed the fatuousness shown by these two gentlemen in preferring charges of forgery against the whole of their respective political friends? Nothing less than forgery, forsooth! They can not have believed that anything like forgery had been deliberately perpetrated. Even if they were sufficiently silly to entertain such a wild suspicion, their precipitancy in making the matter the basis of a criminal information suggests that they are either exceptionally malicious or slightly delirious. How, again, can any public procurator or magistrate have induced himself to pay serious attention to such a charge? It appears to us that there is great deal of hysterical electricity in the air with reference to electioneering affairs, and that the Government materially assisted to charge the battery when it issued its wonderful "Urgency Ordinance" for the prevention of corrupt practices.

What we have written above conveys only a partial idea of the excitement caused by this event. The vernacular journals of Saturday the 13th instant, on which our comments were chiefly based, contained numerous articles and notes on the subject, but their issues of Sunday the 14th, which we have subsequently examined, show even greater excitement. We should say that there is something very like a determination to convert the incident into a cause of rupture between the Liberals and Progressists. That journals opposed to the Cabinet should make much of the incident is not strange, but when we find the *Mainichi Shimbun*, a leading Progressist organ, applying to the Liberal electors of the Kyobashi district epithets which are not the less insulting because of the erudition they display, and when we find a strong disposition on the part of the Progressists to accuse the Liberals of disloyal plotting, it is difficult to think that a permanent breach will not ensue. We ought to explain, perhaps, that Mr. Nakajima, Chief of the Hokkaido Administration, was originally the Liberal candidate for the Kyobashi district. At the instance of the Constitutional Party, however, he consented to stand aside, in favour of Mr. Yamada, the Progressist candidate. It is now openly declared that, while pretending to refrain from opposition, Mr. Nakajima secretly instigated another Liberal, Mr. Nakazawa, to contest the election. Nautrally such a charge does not tend to throw oil on the troubled waters.

In our opinion the worst feature of the whole affair is that it led to the arrest of respectable citizens and the searching of their houses. The facts are not very plain, but, so far as we can discover, seven arrests were made on the 9th instant and three on the 10th, and four persons at least are still under detention. Was there any offence warranting such measures? Truly we fail to see that there was.

The trouble in connexion with the election in the Kyobashi district of Tokyo seems likely to be a nine-days' wonder. It is taken up in an excited, almost passionate, manner by several of the vernacular journals, some being honestly concerned lest an act of official interference should have been perpetrated; others, simply anxious to make a point against a member of the Government, or to create friction between the Liberals and the Progressists. It is decidedly unfortunate for the Vice-Minister of Justice that the machinery of the law courts should have been put in motion against his opponent's supporters at the polls. But to hold him responsible for the fact, or to infer that the Public Procurator showed excessive and unfair zeal because he knew that he was acting in the interests of the Vice-Minister, is to display the very spirit against which the critics cry out. Briefly stated, the allegations made are three, first, that the Municipal Police, having a member of the Liberal Party—Mr. Nishiyama—for their Chief, were reluctant to entertain the complaints preferred against the Liberal candidate for the Kyobashi District—Mr. Nakazawa—; secondly, that the Public Procurator and his assistants, influenced by the fact that the Minister of Justice—Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu—is a Progressist, were over-willing to entertain the accusations preferred by the Progressist candidate—Vice-Minister Yamada—against his Liberal opponent; and thirdly, that Mr.

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Yamada himself gave secret instructions to the Public Procurator. There has also been an attempt to drag Count Itagaki and Count Okuma into the quarrel, but unless we are mistaken, the excitement is not very sincere. The incident will engender some soreness, however, between the two sections of the Constitutional Party.

It is not true that the General Business Committee of the Constitutional Party have removed from the roll of the Party's members the name of Mr. Yamada, Vice-Minister of Justice, the principal figure in the Kyobashi election trouble. In mentioning the rumour we said that it was to be received with reserve. The Shiba section of the Party appear to have addressed to Mr. Yamada a letter announcing in the curtest possible terms that they have passed a resolution in favour of his resigning his office, and that they recommend him to abide by their advice. The general belief is that if Mr. Yamada ignores this very considerate counsel, he will be struck off the list of the Party. There is something really fine and independent in the manners and customs of the politicians calling themselves Progressists in Japan. Everybody remembers the very remarkable manifesto they issued at the outset of their alliance with the Matsukata Cabinet. They informed the public in almost as many words that the Ministers of the Crown were really very intolerable bunglers and reprehensible persons, but that the Progressists undertook to keep an eye on them, and that the first symptoms of a relapse into evil ways would be the signal for the Party to turn their backs on the cabinet and leave it helpless and hopeless. Everybody remembers, too, the absolutely tactless course they adopted on the eve of the rupture with the same Ministry, dictating to it in terms so peremptory that it seemed as though the portfolio-holders had received their mandate from the Progressists and not from the Palace. And now we have them undertaking to judge, off-hand, whether a high official shall remain in power; thrusting the Cabinet aside, in effect, and proclaiming that a man's fitness to continue in office and the propriety of his doing so shall be determined by them, quite independently of the Minister under whom he is serving and of the other heads of the administration to which he belongs. The doubt most prominently expressed by publicists discussing the feasibility of party cabinets in Japan is whether any one of the present parties commands sufficient trained ability to organise a ministry. That does not appear to us to be the chief source of solicitude. The main difficulty, we think, so far as the Progressists, at any rate, are concerned, is that they have not yet learned to distinguish between the responsibilities of power and arbitrary usurpations of it.

IRKSOME PRIVILEGES.

No less than three hundred electors in the Third District, of Tokyo—the Kyobashi district, where such a tea-pot gale has been raging—are said to have abstained from exercising the franchise in the recent elections. Three hundred votes do not suggest to English ears a large section of the franchise-holding population in a constituency, but they do constitute a very large section in Japan where the votes polled by a successful candidate in quite a considerable district are often not much more than that number. Vernacular newspapers says that the case of Kyobashi is typical, and that there has been an exceptional degree of abstention on the part of voters throughout the whole empire. One very simple explanation of the fact is that contested elections have been the exception. In 220 constituencies out of 300, the candidates of the Constitutional Party had a walk-over, and of course when electors know that the candidate they approve will be returned without any effort on their part, or that they can not have an opportunity of voting for a candidate of their own political complexion, they are very unlikely to take the trouble of going to the hustings. That appears to us to be a partly satisfactory explanation. But the *Jiji Shimpo* does not think so. It is persuaded that the very stringent regulations issued by the Government for the prevention of corrupt practices alarmed people so much that they thought it wiser to have nothing whatever to do with the elections. A man getting a present of a towel or a fan from a friend—common gifts in the dog-days,—or being hospitably treated to tea and *yokan* by a neighbour, might find himself "run in" for bribery and corruption. There is a good old proverb that if one keeps out of the gods' way they won't curse one, and prudent folk obeyed it at the elections on the 10th instant.

WORKING of the CORRUPT PRACTICES ORDINANCE.

Concerning the operation of the Urgency Ordinance for the prevention of corrupt practices at elections, it appears that the number of persons charged with offences under its provisions, distinguished according to their political complexion, stands thus:—

Government Supporters.	
Constitutionalists (not Liberals or Progressists	7
Liberals	12
Progressists	13
Total	32
Opposition.	
National Unionists	16
Business Men	2
Yamashita Club	4
Independents	13
Total	34

The totals are nearly equal. But it has to be remembered that out of the 300 constituencies, only 70 were contested by the Opposition. Hence in 70 constituencies the Ordinance appears at first sight to have has been put into operation against 34 opponents of the Cabinet—a rate of over 48 per cent.—whereas in 230 constituencies where the Constitutionalists had the field to themselves, there were only 32 persons prosecuted, or less than 14 per cent. There will be capital made out of these figures, of course, but do they warrant any suspicion of partiality on the part of officialdom? It appears to us that in constituencies where contested elections did not take place, there can not have been any temptations to violate the law, and probably there were no violations. To set up a just comparison we must find out, not rough totals such as those given above, but exactly in what constituencies the offences against the law occurred. If, as is more than probable, they all occurred in the contested constituencies, then the above figures serve to demonstrate, not the partiality of the police, but their impartiality.

RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS.

According to the returns received from the various constituencies up to the evening of the 13th instant, the result of the election stands thus:—

Government Supporters.	
Former Progressists	110
Former Liberals	92
Minor Parties supporting the Constitutional Party	50
Total Government Supporters	252
Government Opponents.	
National Unionists	20
Independents	17
Total Government Opponents	37
Grand Total	289

We take these figures from the *Jiji Shimpo*. Other journals vary considerably in their estimates of the relative strengths of the Progressists and Liberals, some making the Liberal figure more than 100. It will be observed that the National Unionists come out better than they expected. The idea was that they would not win more than 12 seats, and they have carried twenty up to the present.

What seems tolerably certain is that even though the Liberals sever their connexion with the Progressists, the latter will still remain with a working majority. The above list shows that the Progressists command about 160 votes without the Liberals. That is already a plurality of the whole House, and it is most improbable that a rupture between the two sections of the Constitutional Party would lead to the secession of the whole 92 Liberals. A portion of the latter would remain with the Progressists, still further swelling their majority.

As is usually the case, considerable discrepancies are shown in the election returns published by different journals, the political complexion of the newspaper being imparted to its estimates. There is remarkable agreement with regard to the Liberals' however. The seats carried by them are put at 96 by three leading journals and at 95 by two others. But the number of Progressist representatives varies in the returns of these five papers between 101 and 120. Taking the averages of the five statements, we obtain the following:—

	Present Elections.	Former Numbers.
Progressists	112	91
Liberals	96	98
Neutrals (supporting the Constitutionalists)	51	50
Total Government Supporters	259	
National Unionists	20	26
Independents	21	35
Total Government Opponents	41	
Grand Total	300	300

The Liberals, it will be seen, have lost 2 seats and the Progressists have gained 21, at the expense, chiefly, of the Independents and the National Unionists. The Independents are, for the most part, "business men," that is to say, representatives of the mercantile class. It is a feature of the recent elections that the trading and manufacturing communities stood conspicuously aloof.

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A SWEEPING MEASURE.

The Minister of State for Education has taken a step of almost heroic dimensions. Our readers remember, of course, the strong views recently expressed by Professor Toyama, the attempt made by one or two vernacular journals to convict him of having violated the regulations which forbid the intrusion of educationists into the domain of politics, and the reply made to his strictures by Mr. Ozaki Yukio, the present Minister of State for Justice. Immediately on the heels of that interesting series of incidents comes an announcement that the Minister of Education has rescinded, at one *coup*, no less than 23 measures, enacted and promulgated from time to time by his predecessors, for excluding teachers, students and educational officials from interference in politics, and for regulating the relations of teachers and taught. The broad result of this sweeping abolition—1 enactment, 4 notifications, 6 instructions & 12 injunctions—is that educational officials and students are apparently left to do pretty much as they like. But that is not the idea or intention of the Minister, as interpreted by Mr. Kashiwada, his lieutenant. His Excellency does not think that people engaged in the instruction of the young or in the direction of educational affairs should mix in politics, neither does he think that licence should take the place of law in the world of professorship and studentship. His notion is that these are matters of what may be called natural morality; that there are certain unwritten principles which ought to guide and are amply sufficient to guide, teachers, and taught in their attitude towards one another, and that all other affairs falling under the purview of the now extinct enactments, instructions, injunctions and what not, may be left to the control and direction of those officially concerned. We are not setting forth the Minister's views from any personal cognisance that we have of them, but only from the statements of vernacular newspapers which report the Vice-Minister's explanations. Apart from the aspect which Mr. Ozaki's action assumes as an answer to the critics who condemned Professor Toyama—and it is only fair to note that these same critics, while insisting that the regulations had been violated, took care to announce their dissent from the principle of such legislation,—the great point of interest for the Japanese public will be to see whether by the introduction of a system of self-government, the present highly unsatisfactory state of discipline in Japanese schools can be improved. Recently the Tokyo newspapers, in a two-line paragraph, reported the resignation of the Director of the High Commercial School. No one seems to have paid any attention to the incident. Yet this is the gentleman against whom the students rebelled two months ago; the gentleman whom the then Minister of Education, Professor Toyama, publicly took credit for having kept in office despite the students' objections. But the students won the day in the end. They simply boycotted the unfortunate Director, who has now been quietly snuffed out. It is always so: always the students win. Under the circumstances the new Minister's act is very courageous. Perhaps he knows his own countrymen, and is right in expecting that if a larger measure of trust be placed in the students, they will prove themselves worthier of trust.

COUNT OKUMA.

Count Okuma has been talking, it is said, to a member of the House of Peers who has communicated the conversation to the *Nippon*. The Count seems to be a little weary. He finds it impossible to eliminate the personal equation from the realm of the Administration, and he says that he can fully sympathise with the difficulties that the same problem presented to Marquis Ito. As to the duration of the present Cabinet's life, his Excellency evidently entertains no particularly strong hopes. A *debacle* may come at any moment. Having entered the boat, however, he has no intention of abandoning the helm, but will stick to his post until the craft runs ashore, whenever and wherever that may be.

We do not for our part appreciate the grounds of Count Okuma's pessimism. The danger to be apprehended at the moment is one and one only, namely, a rupture between the Liberals and the Progressists. But what then? Suppose that a rupture does occur, must it be followed by the fall of the Okuma Cabinet? We fail to see the necessity of any such sequence. The Progressists have a following of over 150 in the new House of Representatives. The members returned as actual and open Progressists aggregate at least 110, and there are certainly 50 "Neutrals" (*chiuritsu*), as they are called, who may be confidently expected to work hand in hand with the Progressists. Further, even if the Liberals do break away, the general opinion seems to be that they would not secede *en bloc*: a section, large or small, would remain in the Progressist camp. Without reckoning that contingency, however, Count Okuma's Party would have a plurality in the House, and there is no apparent reason, from a Parliamentary point of view, why the Cabinet should not remain in power *minus* its Liberal constituents. Many people will probably doubt whether the Progressists alone could form a Cabinet. We think that they could. They have many able men in their ranks—men at least as competent to discharge Ministerial functions as some of the present holders of portfolios. Six months ago it was not supposed that any party, or combination of parties, could construct a Cabinet, but that idea was based on a now obsolete estimate of a Cabinet's qualifications. Very few will be found to-day to deny that the Progressists alone could organise a Ministry fully as worthy of public confidence as the Ministry now in power. In our opinion the very best thing that could happen for the country would be a final rupture between the two parties. The trimmings and conciliations now required to hold them together are completely paralysing their usefulness, and it is evident that they shrink from the essential step of framing a platform lest the effort should lay bare fatal divergences of view. They are now a nondescript, unwieldy, colourless body, and it would be an immense gain to the nation as well as to themselves if they abandoned their irrational alliance and shook off the fetters that are now shackling their energies.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

The rumour that Mr. Ozaki Yukio would take the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, being succeeded at the Educational Department by Mr. Ebara Soroku, seems to have lost all credibility. But journals supposed to have a semi-official *cachet* continue to attack Mr. Hoshi Toru strenuously for leaving his post at such a juncture, and sacrificing the public interests to his own political ambition. One newspaper, never conspicuous for moderation, professes to have exact knowledge of the telegrams that passed between Mr. Hoshi and the Foreign Office, and endeavours to show that Mr. Hoshi obtained money for travelling expenses to recruit his health before intimating his intention of returning to Japan. We infer from all this that there is some apprehension as to the nature of the agitation which Mr. Hoshi may set on foot when he arrives in Japan, and that it is considered wise to discount his efforts beforehand. An amusing point in the criticism is that Count Okuma is blamed for allowing Mr. Hoshi to leave Washington. What is a Foreign Minister to do in such a case, we wonder. Receiving a telegram to the effect that the Japanese Minister in Washington is in a dangerous state of health, and has been medically recommended to seek change of air, is the Minister in Tokyo to say:—"No, I don't believe you and your medical advisers. I don't believe you are sick at all. Remain at your post." That would simply be another way of saying, "resign in disgrace," but of course journalistic Solons do not descend to such paltry details.

A QUIET THRUST.

Japanese writers often indulge in a kind of staid sarcasm that has the charm of seeming prefectly artless and innocent. The *Osaka Asahi*, for example, commenting on the recent wholesale abolition of regulations and instructions by the Minister of State for Education, says that since the principles inculcated in the rescinded instruments are altogether elementary, there is no need of such enactments, and, indeed, their existence is to some extent an insult to the intelligence of people imparting and people receiving education. But—and here comes the innocent stab—there is a measure of exceptional danger in opening the political arena—or seeming to open it—to the student class at present, for they are already sufficiently excited by observing that *Soshi* can attain, now-a-days, at one bound to important official positions, and they are consequently not unlikely to think that politics is the best profession an ardent youth can embrace. The "one-bound" business, so gently dovetailed into this context, has a special application and a general significance: the former because a gentleman, skilled in fence, who used formerly to act as bodyguard to a member of the present Cabinet, has been elevated to the headship of a bureau; and the latter because, from the point of view of certain toothless conservatives, the great majority of the present holders of portfolios made their political debut as *Soshi*. That is nothing new in Japan, however. Some of the greatest of the *Meiji* statesmen have openly confessed that they were once *Soshi* of the most lawless type.

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MR. HOSHI TORU.

Mr. Hoshi Toru has not brought back in his portmanteau an infernal machine to blow up the Cabinet. On the contrary, he comes home with the quietest and most pacific intentions possible. His resolution to resign, he says, was taken before such a thing as the *Kensei-to* (Constitutional Party) had any existence. It is quite erroneous to suppose that the former was a consequence of the latter. The fact is that two years' service in Washington was quite as much as he cared for—as much as his health would stand and as much as his interest in domestic politics permitted. He has not come home to demand a seat in the Cabinet. There is nothing particularly attractive about a Ministerial portfolio in his eyes. He hints that he could have one without great difficulty, but his principal sphere of usefulness is not in the Cabinet at present. The advent of party Government has been a little precipitate in Japan, especially when considered as an outcome of the Liberal-Progressist union. The time was not fully ripe for such a union. Cōoperation should have been the programme until the two parties understood each other better, and were ready to join hands, not merely for destructive purposes. However, the die is now cast, and the efforts of all friends of progress should be to prevent a reaction. It will not do to have foreigners conclude that Japan is not capable of living under a constitutional system. It will not do to have the question of suspending the Constitution forced into the realm of practical politics. Mr. Hoshi will exert his influence to avert catastrophes of that kind, and he thinks that he can exert it best outside the Cabinet. So the long and short of the matter is that the Ministry will find in him not a hostile agitator but a staunch supporter.

Judging from the columns of the vernacular journals it really seems as though Mr. Hoshi's whole time must have been devoted to interviews with newspaper representatives since his return. At least half a dozen independent interviews are published. They contain a great deal that is interesting. Mr. Hoshi speaks with evident satisfaction of his own share in bringing about the settlement of the Hawaiian complication. He gives full credit to Mr. Shimamura, Japan's *Chargé d'Affaires* in Honolulu, for his tact and assiduity in the early stages of the trouble, but says that it would have been impossible for him to conduct the negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion in the sequel of his previous proceedings. Mr. Hoshi, therefore, took the matter into his own hands, and was able to establish his case so thoroughly that, on the day after the joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress in favour of the annexation of Hawaii, the Secretary of State sent for Mr. Hoshi and the Hawaiian Representative, and told the latter in the former's presence that the United States Government desired to see a settlement effected with Japan by way of preliminary to the annexation of Hawaii. At the same time the Secretary of State asked Mr. Hoshi to cut down Japan's pecuniary demand to the lowest possible figure, and Mr. Hoshi, then and there, named 150,000 *yen* as the irreducible minimum. He had urged from the outset that this Hawaiian problem should be treated as a question not of right but of compensation, and, as the Tokyo Government had agreed to that view, he was in a position at the last to bring the thing to a speedy issue. In return, he obtained from the Washington Government distinct assurances that the Japanese in Hawaii should be placed on strictly the same footing as Occidental subjects or citizens, and thus, so far from immigration being checked under the new regimen, he anticipated that it would assume larger dimensions than ever.

Mr. Hoshi is persuaded that the United States will not annex the Philippines. The wisdom of a strictly self-contained mood is still recognised by the leaders of public opinion and the directors of the country's affairs. Annexation would mean a development of her military burdens for which America is not yet prepared. Still there is a pretty strong section of opinion in favour of an expansive policy, and when Congress meets in October some very interesting and vehement debates may be anticipated.

As to an Anglo-American alliance, Mr. Hoshi does not regard it as a contingency of the immediate future. The drift of American public opinion, he says is not to be gauged by the writing of papers like the *New York Herald* and the *Sun*. There is no doubt that events connected with the Hispano-American War have brought the old country and the new very close together, and that the chances of their occupying different camps in any international complications of the future have been greatly diminished. That is a result of the first importance to the world, but it is something very different from an alliance. So, too, in answer to those who urge the conclusion of a triple alliance between Japan, England, and the United States, Mr. Hoshi say that the thing is not possible at present. Such an alliance would involve complications which England does not care to take—leaving America altogether out of the question. There is too much tendency to magnify the importance of Far-Eastern affairs. England has such enormous interests and responsibilities in all parts of the world that the place which the Far East occupies in her scale of political measurements is very different from the place which the Far East occupies in its own estimation. Japan must bide her time and prepare to be a really valuable ally. Above all, she must not take the initiative in seeking an alliance. She may rest assured that neither Great Britain nor the United States will form any final decision about the Philippines without consulting her, and it will be time enough for her to step into the arena when she is invited to do so.

A COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION SCHOOL.

It is stated that when the Ito Cabinet was in power, a project had been almost carried to maturity for establishing a school at which persons intending to serve as officials in Formosa should receive special education. Viscount Yoshikawa, Minister of Home Affairs, and Mr. Nomura, Head of the Administrative Bureau in Formosa, were prominently interested in that most excellent reform, but the Ministry went out of office before the necessary preliminaries had been arranged. We read in vernacular newspapers that the matter has now been taken up by Count Itagaki, at the instance of Mr. Nomura, and that the School will probably be soon organized. The curriculum will include the languages of Formosa and China, colonial-administration and finance, the English language and Japanese law. Fifty students are to be admitted, graduates of Ordinary Middle Schools being eligible, and after two years at the School, those that have successfully passed will be appointed to official positions in Formosa, under obligation to serve there for at least five years. The State will contribute 50 *yen* annually towards the expenses of each student while at the School, and the total cost of maintaining the institution is estimated at 18,000 *yen* a year.

The Government seems to have wisely availed itself, and to be still availing itself, of the excellent advice given by Mr. Montague Kirkwood after his visit to Formosa last year. Mr. Kirkwood's views were set forth in epitome by some of the vernacular newspapers on his return to Tokyo, and they struck us as eminently sensible in every point. The journals publishing them were also very outspoken in their applause. Mr. Kirkwood, indeed, had special qualifications for the task entrusted to him, inasmuch as his already very considerable knowledge of such problems had been supplemented by actual study of the system pursued by the British Government in India and Ceylon, which countries he visited on purpose to make investigations. After all, England's colonial methods bear the *cachet* of unique success, and Japan, who owes so much of her modern progress and development to large-minded adoption of whatever seems good in the systems of other countries, only gives another example of shrewd liberalism when she follows British precedents in the administration of her new territories. Mr. Kirkwood laid great stress on the importance of educating officials so that they should be specially qualified for service in Formosa, and of introducing into the service itself changes such as might induce people to make it a life-long career. The School spoken of above appears to be a part of the machinery required for giving effect to his ideas, many of which were also traceable in the programme of reforms recently carried out in the Island.

THE TREASURY'S SILVER.

The Treasury appears to have been very fortunate in getting rid of its stock of silver—coins and ingots. A market was found in China, and it is stated that, since May 1st, nearly 20 million *yen* worth of ingots have been sold there. Ten millions have been used for the purposes of the subsidiary coinage, and the 17 millions recently lodged with the Bank of Japan as security for note issues will soon be sold, also in China. Thus only a small quantity—5 or 6 millions—will remain, and that can conveniently be kept for subsidiary coins. Our readers may remember that we always denied the probability of any serious inconvenience in connexion with an inflow of silver *yen* pieces for exchange against gold. The great point was that the term of exchangeability should not be unduly extended, not because *yen* coins were likely to come in, but because the sooner this element of uncertainty could be eliminated from the system, the better for the latter's reputation. We did not foresee, however, that the Treasury would find so little difficulty in disposing of its stock of silver. The fact is very satisfactory.

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RESURRECTED ERRORS.

We did not expect to be again confronted by that very stale *canard* about the withdrawal of British ships from Port Arthur in deference to Russia's representations. But error dies hard. The tale is "resurrected" in the columns of the *Japan Times*, which, in a list of England's blunders and pusillanimities, mentions "the hasty exit of British war-vessels from Port Arthur at Russia's instance." Of course, if the *Japan Times* bases its estimate of Great Britain's back-bone on such canards as that, we can not wonder that it is much misled. Does not our contemporary know that the story which it now reviews editorially was proved conclusively to be a gross falsehood? A British vessel was sent to Port Arthur in the ordinary course of naval routine as arranged by the Admiral on the China and Japan Station. She was in receipt of orders to proceed elsewhere before any reference whatever was made to the subject by the Russian Government, and she had left Port Arthur before Lord Salisbury addressed any question to the Admiralty. It was a piece of very objectionable impertinence on Russia's part to convey to Lord Salisbury any comment of the kind, and we can not but conjecture with regret the terms of the answer that St. Petersburg would have received from London had Lord Palmerston been at the Foreign Office. Be that as it may, however, the *Japan Times* is utterly wrong in saying that there was "a hasty exit of British war-vessels from Port Arthur at Russia's instance."

Another example of British discomfiture quoted by the same journal is "the Bear's triumph at the Lu-Hun Railway exploitation." The arrangement for the construction of the Lu-Hun Railway was concluded with a Belgian syndicate two years ago Its present form shows considerable modifications of the original contract, but the simple fact remains that a Belgian syndicate succeeded where various other syndicates, including a Russian, had failed. What would the *Japan Times* have had the English Government do? Suppose that instead of empty denunciations our contemporary descends to practical issues. Does it think that the British Government should have forbidden China, under menace, to grant a railway concession to any nationals other than British? We shall be answered perhaps, "there are ways." Yes, there are, but happily the British Government does not tread them. If its people can not succeed in open competition, it does not employ the forces of the State to promote their enterprises.

FOREIGN CAPITAL.

Our readers are probably as tired of reading about the introduction of foreign capital as we are of writing about it. However, there are two points made by the *Jiji Shimpo* which are worth brief notice. The first is that foreign capital will never come in until the ownership of land in Japan by foreigners becomes lawful. There is no occasion to discuss that proposition. We quote it merely as showing the growth of this particular conviction in the minds of the Japanese. The second point is that foreign capitalists are very ignorant of the state of Japanese finance, as they obtain their ideas of it from the residents at the Treaty Ports, who really know very little about the affairs of the country; or from correspondents of the London *Economist*, whose writings abound with errors and misapprehensions. Now there is a remark that we desire to make to the *Jiji Shimpo*. If it has such fault to find with the defective knowledge of the foreigners residing in the Treaty Ports, and with the articles and correspondence written by foreigners on the subject of Japanese finance, why does it not itself give us some enlightenment? Why does it not publish an article, or a series of articles, from which a really comprehensive view of the country's financial condition can be obtained? We are very constant and attentive readers of the Japanese press—have been constant and attentive readers for years—, and we venture to say that in no other civilized country do the public prints take so little trouble, or show so little competence, to present lucid and exhaustive *resumés* of the national finances, or of the empire's general economic conditions. If Japanese journalists themselves are conspicuous for the scanty information they give their readers on this subject, why does the *Jiji Shimpo* blame foreigners for not doing better? Where is the average foreigner to obtain really trustworthy and full *data*? We ourselves have spent weeks, nay months, endeavouring to find our way through the various figures presented to the Diet or procured from other sources. We believe that we have arrived at clear and correct results, and we are not claiming any undue credit when we say that there have appeared in the columns of the *Japan Mail* articles on Japanese finance far fuller and far more comprehensible than anything ever published by the vernacular press, so far as our knowledge of its contents goes. Frankly speaking, we can never be courageous enough to place reliance on the figures published by our vernacular contemporaries. Let us instance a case in point—a case that has just occurred. Writing last month on the subject of Japanese finance, we published a statement of the National Debt as it stood on March 31st 1898. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* now publishes a statement which it calls the "present state of the Debt." Here are the two tables:—

	"Present Amount" according to *Nichi Nichi*. Yen.	Amount on March 31 according to *Japan Mail*. Yen.
Consols	170,293,650	173 857,250
War Bonds	124 571,000	124 572,000
Public Undertakings Bonds	37,900 000	38,000,000
Pension Bonds	29 238,820	29,453 820
Railway Bonds	17,907,350	17,807,350
Naval Bonds	9 213 600	9,288,600
Hokkaido Railway Bonds	1,000 000	1,000,000
Old Loan	5 266,908	5,266 908
	395,401,328	399 245,928

It will be observed that only the last two items in the table—the Hokkaido Railway Bonds and the Old Loan—are the same in both lists. Moreover, if our readers take the trouble to add up the *Nichi Nichi's* figures, they will find that the total is 395,391,328, not 395,401,328, as stated by our contemporary. That is a perpetual source of bewilderment: the columns of figures given by Japanese newspapers hardly ever make the totals put under them. Of course, it may occur to our readers that the *Nichi Nichi's* table shows the state of the Debt in August, whereas ours' showed its state at the end of March. May we assume, then, that 3½ million *yen* worth of Consols have been redeemed since the beginning of April? Nothing has been heard of such a transaction, and moreover the amount of Consols to be redeemed this year stands at only 446,631 *yen* in the Treasury's Estimates. As for the War Bonds, they do not begin to be redeemable until 1900, yet our contemporary's figure shows a diminution of 1,000 *yen*; and similarly Public Undertakings Bonds, which do not become redeemable until 1901, have diminished by 100,000 *yen*. We need not pursue the analysis. Our object in referring to it is merely to show the *Jiji Shimpo* the immense difficulties that foreigners have to encounter in approaching the problem of Japanese finance, and to traverse its very unjust condemnation of their ignorance. We invite the *Jiji Shimpo* to enlighten us, and we promise it that if it does so, the fullest attention will be given by the foreign residents to its statements.

FOREIGNERS AND SHARES IN JAPANESE COMPANIES.

It is understood that the Department of Communications has decided in favour of allowing foreigners to become shareholders in Japanese railway companies, and that the opinion of the Cabinet has now to be expressed on the subject. So, at least, we interpret the matter, though, according to vernacular newspapers, the exact question propounded to the Department was whether certain companies might raise a foreign loan. The Department's decision, even if endorsed by the Cabinet, will scarcely bring the companies much nearer to their desired goal. Foreign capitalists are not likely to be greatly tempted by the privilege of holding shares in Japanese railways. They can do that now if they please, for whether the transaction be strictly legal or not, there is little difficulty in contriving it. Besides, the kind of security they require is not shares. Of what value is a share unless there is a reasonable certainty that the railway will continue to be a live concern and that its affairs will be efficiently managed? The shares of a badly, or fraudulently, managed line might fall at any moment to a merely nominal figure in the market. Of course there are debentures. Debentures carrying fixed interest, conferring a preference title and empowering their holders to sell up the Company's property in case of default, might tempt some foreign speculators or investors. But do the Japanese really imagine that they can obtain cheap money in that way? They are mistaken, if they do, we think. The credit of all Japanese enterprises will have to reach a point much higher than it has yet attained before they attract foreign capital. Under existing circumstances, there must be a certainty of a substantial return and there must also be a distinctly promising speculative element. Foreigners will buy debentures, first, if they can be well convinced as to the quality of the security, and secondly if they can see a reasonable prospect of selling out by-and-by at a good premium. As a mere investment most people would consider it far safer to lodge their money at 7 per cent. in the Mitsubishi or Mitsui Banks than to lend it to a railway company. There is only one way of obtaining cheap money at present, namely, to develop the national credit; and before

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attempting anything of that kind, the State's finances must be placed on a sound basis. So far as foreigners can see, Japan is now living in a veritable hand-to-mouth fashion. She is shirking the situation, and drawing upon the Indemnity when her accounts will not balance. On the day when she makes up her mind definitely to increase the Land Tax and the *Sake* Tax so as to secure an addition of 40 million *yen* at least to her annual income, on that day she will have no difficulty in getting money in England at 4 per cent.

HAWAII AND SHASI.

Almost simultaneously with the receipt of the news that the Hawaiian complication has been settled, comes intelligence that China has agreed to Japan's terms about the Shasi outrage. In the case of Hawaii there has been a compromise, as there always is in the monetary arrangements between two States. Japan asked for two hundred and fifty thousand *yen*—we are not sure of the figure—and she receives a hundred and fifty thousand. It may be mentioned here that some of the vernacular journals are casting about for an explanation of the fact that Hawaii has suddenly abandoned her obdurate mood and made due compensation to Japan. But surely the explanation is simple enough. The Government at Washington intimated to Hawaii that the settlement of Japan's claim was a desirable preliminary to annexation, and so it was settled. With regard to Shasi, although the affair is said to have been settled only two conditions appear to have been required by Japan—namely, a payment of 15,000 *yen* by way of compensation for property destroyed, and a pledge on China's part that she will defray half the cost of the new embankment, the construction of which is considered necessary for improving the water-front facilities of the place. It is said that some minor points are still under discussion, but there can be no doubt that Japan's terms have been as conspicuous for moderation as those of some other Powers have been remarkable for extravagance.

A COSTLY GRIEVANCE.

A correspondent, "British subject," suggests that the Government should prove its goodwill towards foreigners by allowing them to tender direct for State contracts. We presume that the original deterrent in this matter was a question of jurisdiction. The Government preferred to be able to sue for possible breaches of contract in its own courts. It is easy to recall two cases which must have helped greatly to suggest the present restrictions. A British subject was concerned in one of them; a German in the other. They were gory cases, however, not belonging to the category that occupies our correspondent's attention. He points out that ample security has to be given by persons undertaking contracts to supply goods for the State, and that the result of the existing system is simply to make the country pay a great deal more than it need for getting its business done. The matter is well worth considering, for our correspondent is a solid, sober, fair-minded merchant, not at all tinged with anti-Japanese prejudice, and thoroughly competent to speak authoritatively on such a topic.

COTTON SPINNING COMPANIES.

We have alluded more than once to the evil days that have overtaken the cotton-spinning companies. Until the beginning of the present year, their business was sufficiently prosperous, but the troublous state of affairs in the Far East injured their exports on commission, and whereas the rapid rise in the prices of commodities greatly increased their running expenses, there was, at the same time, a fall in the market quotations for their productions, so that a bale of No. 16 count sold for only 85.34 *yen* at the end of June against 96.23 *yen* at the corresponding period last year. The effect of these various causes acting conjointly is very plainly shown in the following table—which we take from the *Keisai Zasshi*—showing the dividends for the first half of the present year as compared with the dividends for the second half of last year:—

Name of Company.	Dividend—Second half of 1897.	Dividend—First half of 1898.
Osaka	15	7
Settsu	20	20
Naniwa	10	Loss
Hirano	40	30
Senshu	15	7
Asahi	10	Loss
Fukushima	—	Loss
Kishiwada	20	20
Sakai	1.8	.5
Kanakin	1.3	.8
Temma	10	Loss
Meiji	.8	—
Nippon	.3	—
Kashu	—	—
Kariyama	15	.3
Kasaoka	15	—
Bishu	1.5	1.0
Kyoto	5	.6½
Fushimi	12	Loss
Kanegafuchi	1.2	1.0
Tokyo	16	1.0
Shanghai	—	8
Owari	16	1.0
Toshima	1.4	8½
Miye	2.0	—
Kuwana	—	—
Fukuyama	20	.8
Himeji	20	—
Iyo	20	—
Matsuyama	1.5	1.0
Shimotsuke	1.0	.7
Awaji	1.0	.6

We recently reported that three cotton spinning companies, the Hirano, the Settsu and the Okayama, had appointed a committee to consider a scheme of amalgamation, and also to determine whether by closing the mills at night, or reducing the working hours, the output might not be diminished so as to affect the market advantageously. It is now stated that such expedients offer no hopeful prospect. The hard fact is that the price of cotton yarns for export is less than the cost of production. Three hundred and fifty catties of cotton, at 18.50 *yen* per picul, represent 66.60 *yen*, and the labour, etc., of converting that amount into yarn amounts to 18 *yen*. Deducting 2 *yen* on account of waste cotton, the final cost is 82.60 *yen*, whereas the price for export is only 82.50 *yen*. The margin is on the wrong side. Nothing seems to offer, therefore, except a struggle for the survival of the fittest. The enterprise has been overdone.

The companies themselves, however, do not take such a gloomy view of their prospects. The committee appointed by them has formulated its recommendations. They are that all the cotton-spinning factories throughout the empire should form a union, and agree to close their mills for four days in the month, instead of two days as at present. The calculation is that one spindle produces 110 *momme* of yarn in 24 hours, and as there are 1,100,000 spindles in the empire, their stoppage for twenty-four hours would mean a diminution of production to the extent of 121,000 *kwan* (1,009,333 lbs.) or 2,520 bales, and their stoppage for 48 hours would reduce the stock of cotton yarns coming into the market by 5,040 bales per month or over 60,000 bales a year. It is believed that such a diminution would suffice to restore the price to a paying figure. The Committee proposes that the change should come into operation from October 1st. It will be a difficult matter, we imagine, to get all the companies to join such a union.

FORMOSA.

There appears to be no doubt that the rebels in northern Formosa are making act of submission. On the 26th ultimo, a ceremony of swearing allegiance took place in the neighbourhood of Gilan. Three hundred having sued for pardon, the Governor-General entertained their application and sent Mr. Goto Shimpei, Chief of the Civil Administration, to receive their submission and their oath of allegiance. Their leaders are reported to have made a strange statement. They said that they had never been turbulent citizens while the island was under Chinese rule, but that when it passed into Japanese hands, they were falsely represented as insurgents or bandits, and thus found themselves driven to courses which they would never have adopted of their own choice. That story, it must be confessed, has not the disadvantage of being specious.

The example of the Gilan insurgents was followed by a still larger number at Naizan, on the 10th instant. Three leaders in that district having applied for pardon, they, together with 1,230 of their followers, were duly sworn back into respectability. The telegram announcing the latter event, adds that these acts of submission have produced an excellent feeling of security among the people. Our readers will understand that the "insurgents" (*dohi*) here spoken of are not the so-called "savages" (*seiban*) of Formosa. They are the lawless Chinese settlers who have been causing so much trouble.

It does really appear that the policy of the new Governor-General in Formosa has had an excellent effect. Another voluntary submission on the part of three insurgent leaders and their followers is telegraphically reported from Taipeh, under date of the 16th instant, and the telegram adds that all elements of insurrection in the northern portions of the Island are now completely disposed of. If that estimate be confirmed by events, Baron Kodama will deserve public thanks.

A NEW NEWSPAPER.

It is announced that a new daily journal will be published in Tokyo from the 1st prox., under the name *Kaikoku Shimbun*. The interesting point about this paper is that it will be the organ of Viscount Aoki, formerly Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and recently Japanese Representative in Berlin. We may therefore regard it as an addition to the very best class of Japanese journals.

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A DEATH AND A BIRTH.

The *Far East* will cease to exist at the end of the current month, and its able editor, Mr. Fukai, will devote himself to the charge of an English section which is to be added to the *Kokumin Shimbun*. This, indeed, is not the only change of programme announced by the proprietors of the *Kokumin Shimbun*. They are also about to give up the publication of the *Kokumin no Tomo* and the *Katei Zasshi*. Both of these are periodicals printed in the Japanese language, and both are monthly magazines brought out chiefly by the staff of the *Kokumin Shimbun*. The *Kokumin no Tomo* is essentially a publication for the highly educated classes; the *Katei Zasshi*, a domestic magazine for ladies. It is announced that the industry and research hitherto devoted to the three magazines will now be diverted to the improvement of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, which will have two columns daily of articles and notes in English, and will be greatly developed in other respects. We can not but regret the demise of the *Far East*. It was an excellently edited magazine, and it served to give the foreign public a good insight into the tendency of Japanese thought. But we always had our doubts about the possibility of its success from a financial point of view. It could not hope to find many readers outside the foreign communities at the open ports, and with such a limited *clientèle* the proprietors of a magazine can not afford to sell it for six-pence a number. When one reflects that the four communities of Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki support no less than eleven newspapers or periodicals printed in English, the wonder is, not that some difficulty is experienced in finding room for more, but that so many can eke out an existence, however meagre. They do it, of course, by charging prices largely in excess of the standard ruling in England. The *Far East* attempted to be more moderate, and found that ends would not meet. We have reason to think that the *Hansei Zasshi*, another very attractive English periodical edited by Japanese—not, indeed, standing on the same plane as the *Far East*, but still an interesting and instructive magazine—could not exist without the support it receives from a Buddhist source. The English-reading public will gain, in some respects, by the substitution of two columns daily in the *Kokumin Shimbun* for the monthly issues of the *Far East*. Current topics can thus be discussed while their interest is fresher. But of course there will be no space for the long, thoughtful essays that appeared in the pages of the *Far East*. We predict that this new venture will be something very different from the wonderful productions that now electrify us from time to time in the columns of the *Yorozu Choho*.

CHINA'S AMBASSADORS.

Some curiosity is naturally aroused by the announcement that China is about to despatch three ambassadors, one to Japan and America, one to England and France, and one to Germany and Russia. Some political prophets are disposed to attribute to the Peking Government an intention to seek new combinations, but the shrewder conjecture is that, in view of her financial troubles, China intends to approach the Powers with a proposal for the revision of her import tariff. Perhaps Japan's success in that direction has inspired hopes in her neighbour's breast. But China will have to buy every concession she obtains from the Continental Powers of Europe, and with what coin is she to effect the purchase?

THE CHINESE LEGATION IN TOKYO.

The period of service of the present Chinese Representative in Tokyo having terminated, Mr. Hoang Tsunshen has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Hoang was formerly nominated as Chinese Minister to Berlin, but Germany raised objections to receiving him, and he did not take up the post. There does not exist, we believe, any understanding between the Governments of Japan and China for reciprocal consultation with regard to the persons of Ministers, but, under any circumstances, Japan would doubtless welcome Mr. Hoang, as he is among the most prominent advocates of progress in China. He served formerly in Japan as Secretary of Legation and subsequently as Consul-General in America, and he is said to have an intimate knowledge of the English language.

THE KYOBASHI HOTCH-POTCH.

The curiosities growing out of the election complication in the Fourth District of Tokyo have not come to an end. Two citizens of the District are now said to have instituted proceedings against Mr. Yamada (the successful candidate) for the crime of using spurious documents, and Mr. Yamada has instituted proceedings against Mr. Tsuchida for false accusation. It is really worth while to draw up a little table of the suits and countersuits to which this affair has given rise:—

1. Followers of Mr. Yamada lodge information against followers of Mr. Nakazawa for violating the Urgency Ordinance by giving refreshments at the tea-and-talk *réunion*.

2. Mr. Tsuchida lodges information against 199 of his own political friends, Mr. Nakazawa's supporters, for making fraudulent use of his name.

3. Mr. Tsuchida withdraws his accusation, alleging that he made it under the influence of intimidation on the part of Mr. Yamada, and lays information against Mr. Yamada for violating the Urgency Ordinance by using threats to electors.

4. Citizens of the District, friends of Mr. Nakazawa, charge Mr. Yamada's supporters with forging the name of Mr. Sewaki.

5. Citizens of the District, friends of Mr. Nakazawa, lodge information against Mr. Yamada for making fraudulent use of names.

6. Mr. Yamada institutes proceedings against Mr. Tsuchida for false accusation.

It is tangled web, in truth, and if the law officers manage to unravel it without breaking something—their own reputation or Mr. Yamada's—they will deserve much credit.

THE "YAMATO" IN THE TYPHOON.

The *Yamato* seems to have had a rough time from the 6th to the 9th instant. She left Kelung on the 4th for Oshima, and on the 6th met the full force of the typhoon, which, instead of visiting us in Japan turned in its tracks from the Riukiu Islands, and, sweeping past the north-west of Formosa, invaded China somewhere in the neighbourhood of Ningpo. The *Yamato* is said to have drifted for three days, crossing the route of the storm, and finally, on the 9th instant, she made the entrance of the Min River, whence she returned to Kelung on the 11th. She suffered some damage, and will have to be docked at Sasebo for repairs. The *Yamato* is one of the small vessels of the Japanese Navy, being a composite sloop of 1,502 tons.

THE GERMANS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Probably we shall never know the precise facts of the recently reported German interference at the Philippines. Our own correspondent has been denounced for sending us incorrect news, and very explicit statements have been published to the effect that the German Admiral did not in the smallest degree overstep the bounds of strict neutrality. We ourselves are persuaded that he did not, but that he placed himself in circumstances calculated to create false impressions. At any rate, as much for the sake of vindicating the accuracy of our correspondent as because of the interest attaching to all the details, we reproduce the following, from *The Times* of July 14th:—

New York, July 13.

The special correspondent of the Associated Press with Rear-Admiral Dewey's squadron at Manila, in a despatch dated the 9th inst., says:—

"The Governor-General has issued a proclamation promising autonomy and offering inducements to the rebels to join the Spanish forces, but Aguinaldo replied that these overtures came too late.

"On Wednesday last the insurgents reported that the German cruiser *Irene* in Subig Bay refused to allow them to attack the Spaniards on Isla Grande. Rear-Admiral Dewey despatched the *Raleigh* and *Concord* thither to investigate the matter. On entering Subig Bay the *Raleigh* opened fire on the forts, whereupon the *Irene* slipped her cable and steamed out by the other channel.

"In response to the American fire, the Spanish force, numbering over 509, surrendered everything.

"On entering here the captain of the *Irene* explained that he had interfered in the cause of humanity, and offered to turn over to the Americans the refugees he had on board, but Rear-Admiral Dewey declined the offer."

LATER.

Rear-Admiral Dewey's report confirms the intelligence published here to-day that the German cruiser *Irene* prevented Aguinaldo from taking Isla Grande, after he had taken the rest of Subig Bay, and that the *Irene* retired when the *Raleigh* and *Concord* arrived.

MRS. HUGH FRASER.

Many in Japan read "Palladia," with great delight. It was a beautiful story daintily told, and to not a few who number among the privileges of their Far Eastern exile that of being on the list of Mrs. Hugh Fraser's intimate friends, the book possessed considerable attractions apart from its striking literary workmanship. We have not yet had the pleasure of perusing her latest work, "The Looms of Time," but we learn from *The Saturday Review* that it disappoints one who has read "Palladia," for it is said to have not one-tenth of "Palladia's" brilliancy or originality. "It is simply a good average novel, with a little shipboard flirtation, a little lover's misunderstanding of the ordinary kind, and, finally, a little buried treasure and a villain to supply a little violence. All this would do well enough, no doubt, for the skeleton of a fine novel if the treatment were strong. Here the treatment is commonplace, and it would show little appreciation of Mrs. Hugh Fraser to affect to class 'The Looms of Time' among her best work."

The *Bangkok Times* says that the cost of a modern mint has been conceded in Siam, and new machinery is to be ordered in London.

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ENGLAND IN THE FAR EAST.

MR. BALFOUR'S statement in the House of Commons in reply to an interpellation by Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT, has been taken by the *Japan Times* as the text of a leading article which, since it comes from a Japanese pen, invites comment. We are not aware by what process or under whose direction the headings of the telegrams published by the *Japan Times* are evolved, but they certainly tend to give a great deal of needless offence to foreigners residing in Japan. Thus the telegram containing Mr. BALFOUR'S statement is headed "Feeble defence by Mr. Balfour; a shop-keeping policy." It is an old and now rather hackneyed reproach to call the English "a nation of shop-keepers." The epithet is of course meant to be insulting, but the insult loses its sting when we observe that nearly all other nations are strenuously endeavouring to adopt the very methods which they have hitherto been pleased to regard as evidence of Englands' mercantile propensities. Still the intention to say an unpleasant thing remains, and is especially evident in the case to which we allude, for the term "a shop-keeping policy" does not in any way apply to Mr. BALFOUR'S statement of the British Government's views. Its use is therefore ungraceful and discourteous. However, grace and courtesy can not be exacted, and Englishmen do not feel seriously distressed because their critics lack those qualities.

What Mr. BALFOUR is reported to have said was this:—

> It could not be pretended that this Empire either alone or in alliance with another Empire could prevent the legitimate development of other commercial military empires. Though England may not anticipate maintaining her old relative superiority in China, it may be expected that the volume of trade will increase as rapidly in the future as it had done in the past. The question of trade was distinct from the question of concessions. No evidence, he added, existed of any intention to erect barriers against British goods. He saw no necessity to take a pessimist view with regard to Russia, and he would be surprised if English concessionaires did not obtain their full share.

The *Japan Times*, commenting on the above, says:—

> With our readers we can imagine what a tremendous wave of disgust and indignation must have dashed over the whole of England at this latest confession of the invertebrate policy to which Lord Salisbury's Government appears to have unalterably committed itself. We fancy the great London dailies * * * raging over what they consider the decadence of English diplomacy, which has apparently degenerated into the practice of a multi-milionaire who allows himself to be blackmailed, hookwinked, and made the butt of general intrigue and conspiracy, and who though occasionally assuming an attitude of protest, even of menace, relapses, the next moment into one of conciliation and explanation towards his domestic and outside foes, a policy only likely to beget discontent at home and distrust and contempt abroad, while forgetting that he is all the while hurrying along the road to moral suicide.

We are among the readers of the telegrams forwarded to Japan by REUTER'S agents, and we assure our Tokyo contemporary that our bosom was not inundated by any "tremendous wave of disgust and indignation" when we perused Mr. BALFOUR'S speech. Mr. BALFOUR made six assertions: first, that England, whether acting alone or in concert, could not prevent the legitimate development of other commercial military empires; secondly, that though England could not, perhaps, look forward to maintaining her old relative superiority in China, still the volume of trade might be expected to increase with undiminished rapidity; thirdly, that the question of trade was distinct from the question of concessions; fourthly, that no evidence existed of an intention to erect a barrier against British goods; fifthly, that he saw no reason to take a pessimist view with regard to Russia, and sixthly, that he should be surprised if English *concessionaires* did not obtain their full share. To which of these assertions does the *Japan Times* take exception? Let us look at them briefly in order. Does the *Japan Times* think that England should set herself to prevent the legitimate development of other commercial empires because they happen to be also military Powers? If she has any such right, then surely they have a corresponding right, and the result would be a perpetual struggle between the nations of the world to place obstacles in the way of each other's commerce. England, we are proud to think, has never followed any such policy. Her rule has always been, a fair field and no favour. A bad day would indeed dawn for civilization if England undertook to "prevent the legitimate commercial development" of other States. Illegitimate development would be another matter, but "legitimate development" is within the natural right of every nation, though unfortunately the fact seems to be too often lost sight of by Great Britain's critics in the East. What appears to have specially astonished the *Japan Times* is Mr. BALFOUR'S second proposition, namely, that England "may not anticipate maintaining her old relative superiority in China," but that the volume of trade may be expected to increase as rapidly as ever. Our contemporary italicises the words "*may not anticipate maintaining her old relative superiority in China*," and separating them altogether from their context, interprets them to indicate a voluntary abdication on England's part of the leading place she has hitherto occupied in the Far East. Now although the telegram is somewhat clumsily expanded, no intelligent reader can entertain the smallest doubt as to its meaning. What Mr. BALFOUR said was that although England's share in China's foreign trade could not be expected to retain always the same vastly preponderating dimensions as it has hitherto shown, there was no apparent reason to doubt that its volume would continue to grow as rapidly as ever. There are two methods of considering commercial statistics: there is the method of ratios and the method of realities. The former may often prove very misleading. For example, out of a total trade of 100 million dollars, *A* may be doing 90 millions, the remainder falling to his rivals' share. Now suppose that the total trade grows to 150 millions, and that *A* does 120 millions, his rivals doing 30 millions. In the former case, *A's* trade was nine times as large as that of his rivals; in the latter, it is only four times as large. Moreover, while *A's* trade has increased by only one-third, the trade of his rivals has trebled. That looks a very bad record for *A*. But if we turn to realities, we find that the actual growth of *A's* trade has been 30 million dollars, whereas the actual growth of his rivals' trade has been only 20 millions. That is pretty much what is happening in the case of England. Formerly she enjoyed almost a monopoly of Far-Eastern trade. But of late years many rivals have cut in, and their record makes a brave showing when judged by the method of ratios. But, in the meanwhile, British trade grows steadily, nor can there be the smallest doubt that Englishmen profit amply by every development resulting from the energy and enterprise of other Powers. Mr. BALFOUR reminded the House of those facts. His words do not, in our ears, possess any ring of pusillanimity or self-effacement. The "relative superiority" to which he alluded was obviously limited to the field of commerce lying entirely beyond the range of a wise and civilized government's interference.

It is perhaps unnecessary to make any detailed reference to the other propositions advanced by Mr. BALFOUR. Stated simply, as we have stated them, they are not open to criticism or misinterpretation. Mr. BALFOUR'S object was evidently to establish a necessary distinction between British trade, in the general sense of the term, and the special concessions for the construction of railways which now occupy such a prominent place in public attention. It has been the honorable rule of the British Government to abstain from employing the powers of the State in the interests of individuals. Anything like unfair differentiation against British subjects in general, is always resolutely resisted, and will never be tolerated so long as England's arm retains its strength. But when there is question of some special piece of work open to public competition, British diplomats and British Ministers do not exercise their influence to secure an advantage for this British subject or for that. Of late, that wholesome principle has not been observed by other Powers. They do not hesitate to employ the authority and prestige of the State in the cause of individual traders, individual manufacturers, and individual capitalists; their theory being that since the State's resources are strengthened by the aggregate of such enterprises, it is proper that official energy should be applied to promote them in detail. Without pausing to discuss the morality of such a doctrine or

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the results that it must inevitably entail if universally adopted, we desire to point out that its application to China's case by certain Powers has created a situation not only novel but also requiring the most delicate manipulation on Great Britain's part. It would be easy for her to enter the scramble, wielding the same weapons of diplomatic pressure and veiled menace that her rivals have begun to employ. There can be no doubt about the issue. England is incomparably the strongest Power in the Far East, and her strength, if applied in such a manner, would bear full fruit. But what would be the consequence for China? One of two things—either she would have to throw herself entirely into England's arms, giving to British subjects everything that she has to give in the way of industrial and commercial concessions; or she would have to submit to the partition of her empire into "spheres of foreign influence," each Western Power enjoying a monopoly within its own particular sphere. The second of these alternatives is the one to be certainly anticipated. But it is also exactly the issue which Great Britain desires to avert. She desires to avert the partition of China, and the partition of China would become virtually an accomplished fact from the moment that England entered the arena into which certain European Powers have allowed themselves to descend. Under the circumstances the British Government has adopted the only honorable and dignified course. It has officially intimated to China that she may count upon British protection against any attempts made by other Powers to coerce her into making tradal or industrial discriminations in their favour. In effect, Lord SALISBURY has informed China that the lists shall be held for her by British strength, and that the enjoyment of free trade is guaranteed to her by Great Britain. No one can be blind to the perils of the situation. The Powers seem to be gradually getting involved in the meshes of complications from which they will ultimately have to cut their way with the edge of the sword. But it will be possible for Englishmen in that day to say that no effort was spared by the QUEEN'S Government to prevent the calamity, and that from first to last England treated these complications with dignified patience and honorable impartiality, not resorting to the menaces which her strength forbids her to use lightly, or stooping to any of the manœuvres which would at once secure to her a lion's share of ill-gotten gains. It is because she pursues this straight, honest course that her people are entirely confident in the result, and not greatly concerned if hasty critics mistake her temperance for pusillanimity and her stern self-restraint for invertebrate hesitation.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

The *Shinseiki* reviews a "Commentary on Genesis," recently published by the Rev. T. M. MacNair. The work is issued by the Kyōbunkan, Ginza, Tōkyō. There are, says the *Shinseiki*, Mr. Takahashi Gorō's and Mr. Wadman's Commentaries on Genesis, and one or two others besides, but for minuteness there is no book in Japanese to be compared to Mr. MacNair's volume. The work is the result of several years investigation and study. The only cause for regret, continues the *Shinseiki*, is that Mr. MacNair has not adopted or discussed the views of the new school of critics as regards the literary and theological standpoint of Genesis and its authorship. In this respect the work is not up to date. Theology in Japan is neither ultra-conservative nor ultra-liberal. While holding fast to the essential truths of the Gospel, it is desirous of embodying the results of what is known as advanced criticism. Among scholarly critics those who still hold to the opinion that Moses was the author of Genesis are very few. It is not only the German school of critics that has rejected this view, but a large section of theologians in England as well. Then as regards the reconciliation of the cosmogony of Genesis with modern science, this is a subject on which modern commentators are called upon to express an opinion. The theory connected with the length of the creation day referred to at the beginning of the book needs discussing. The old idea that it embraced long periods of years is now no longer entertained and it is considered preferable to take the word "day" in its literal sense as referring to a 24-hour period. But this and similar questions are not discussed by Mr. MacNair. Mr. MacNair would doubtless say that, his object being to show what is the religious teaching of Genesis, he was not concerned with critical questions, but the *Shinseiki* thinks that in this critical age it is impossible to ignore such topics.

* * *

The *Asahi Shimbun*, a short time ago, published an interesting account of Bishop Nicolai, in which it is stated that the learned prelate has been labouring in Japan 35 years, first at Hakodate and subsequently in Tōkyō. He is said to be a man that enjoys the most perfect health and is able to work from 4 in the morning to 11 at night. There is no subject connected with Japanese life and thought that he has not studied. Shintō, Buddhism and Confucianism have all received minute attention. Three or four years ago he was offered a post which would have made him the head of the Greek Churches in Siberia, China and Japan, but he resolutely refused to accept any responsibility or honour which would involve separation from his Japanese flock. To be a Bishop of the church which he had laboured to found satisfied all his desires. The *Asahi* is full of admiration for the character of this devoted disciple of Christ.

* * *

The Rev. Dr. M. C. Harris, who for many years laboured as a Methodist Missionory in Hakodate and subsequently founded and took charge of a Japanese church in San Francisco, has been paying a visit to Japan and speaking and preaching in various parts. The Japanese papers speak of him as a venerable old gentleman who has nearly reached the limit of his days. But this is a mistake. Dr. Harris is certainly nearer 50 than 60. The *Kokumin Shimbun* furnishes a report of Dr. Harris' address at a Church situated at the top of Kudan, Tōkyō, from which we cull the following:—Dr. Harris said that though he would like to live in Japan, he felt that duty called him elsewhere. In Hawaii there were some 30,000 Japanese and on the Pacific Coast of America 10,000 more. Among these his labours were carried on. He then alluded to Mr. Gladstone and said that his greatness was principally derived from his religion. Without God men knew neither how to live nor how to die. . . He regarded Japan as one of the most beautiful of countries—the garden of the Lord. . . He first came to the country in 1873 and left it in 1886. In the 12 years during which he was absent Japan had made rapid strides. In his opinion the real cause of Japan's progress was the earnestness of her young men. Even before Commodore Perry arrived there existed a party of enthusiasts who were striving after a higher ideal. Perry did no more than create an opportunity for the realisation of the hopes of would-be reformers.

* * *

Mr. Nishimura Shigeki a short time ago delivered a lecture on "Concubinage" to the members of the Gakushikai-in, which attracted considerable attention. We give a short abstract of the lecture:—Polygamy and concubinage prevail throughout the East. As far as Japan is concerned the practice was controlled, though not originally introduced, by the observations bearing thereon to be found in the Chinese Classics. In the 禮記 Lei-Ki the conjugal arrangements allowed are as follows:—An Emperor is allowed to have 3 consorts (后 *Kō*), 9 maids of high rank called 夫人* *taifu*, 27 maids of lower rank called 正婦, *seifu*, and 81 females called 女妾, *joshō*, or concubines. The *taifu* and *seifu* were wives, ranking beneath the queens. In an old book we read of Tei-kok having 4 wives, of U having 9 wives, and of 39 being allowed in the Yan period, and 120 in the Tsun era [B.C. 203-221]. Concubinage and polygamy being thus sanctioned by the classics, it became an established custom in Japan. Even in the *Shinritsu-Kōryō*, a new digest of laws published in 1870, the concubine is ranked among relations of the second grade; she occupies a position next to the wife. The subject has attracted little general attention till recently, though it is true that Mr. Fukuzawa Yūkichi many years ago denounced the practice of concubinage. In Europe the objection to concubinage was principally derived from Christianity, though non-Christian philosophers are equally opposed to the practice. Oriental ethics are in every way inferior to Occidental ethics in the matter of concubinage and its attendant evils. In very early times intercourse between the sexes among human beings was in every case promiscuous and differed nothing from what we see among animals at present. The next stage was for the powerful among mankind to keep a num-

* It is doubtless true that the term *fu* indicates that the woman possessing this title was raised to a higher level than that of an ordinary concubine though we observe that certain writers translate it by "concubine." The *fu* was a wife, despite the fact that other wives existed.—(*Writer of the Summary*).

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ber of women for their exclusive use. But in certain Eastern countries ancestral worship and the importance attached to blood relationship gave a sanction to concubinage of an apparently unselfish type. The importance of continuing the family line was considered sufficient to warrant the begetting of children by means of other women when the wife was childless. In the case of marriage resulting in no issue, even now, says Mr. Nishimura, I see no objection to the practice of concubinage. But in all cases where no such excuse can be pleaded the practice should be abolished. In not a few instances the existence of concubines in the house is the real cause of the wife's bearing no children. Where there are children by both the wife and concubines, family relationships are in many cases anything but cordial. The excuses for the practice are idle excuses. Its attendant evils enormously outweigh any benefit derived therefrom. As regards the continuance of the family line and name and ancestral worship, brothers or even nephews can perform this office in the absence of offspring.

* * *

The *Fukuin Shimpō* complains of the persistency with which the majority of Japanese place the responsibilty of living moral lives on the shoulders of religious professors. In the old fendal days anything that went wrong in the country was ascribed to government neglect. The mass of the people took no interest in the conduct of public affairs. In the matter of morality, this is precisely the position now. A Christian's strictness of behaviour is deemed right and proper, but non-Christians and men professing no religion whatever consider it their right to act as they please.

* * *

At the Nihon Kirisutokyō Seinen Gakusei Dōmei-daikai, held at Hayama, Sōshū, Mr. Uemura Masahisa, delivered an address the purport of which we give below:—One of the leading characteristics of Japanese Christianity at the present time is its shallowness. Religious feeling and religious thought of any depth are very rare. There are those who lay stress on experience alone, and think it matters little whether religious devotees are able to argue or not. But in my opinion there is great need for persons who are able to state the reasons for their belief. The constant shifting from one stage of belief to another witnessed to-day is caused by the extreme superficiality of the religious views of many Japanese Christians. It is desirable to take a broad and comprehensive view of religion and not to concentrate attention on one or two points or doctrines. The Bible must be studied as it stands, and students should not approach it as idea-hunters. There are facts on which stress is to be laid which are quite independent of the ideas attached to them. Such is sin, the atonement and the character of Christ. The shallowness of our Christianity reveals itself in the hymns used in our churches What Christian experience has been embodied in verse that will bear comparison with the standard hymns used in Western Churches? Our leading Christians, such men as Messrs. Honda, and Ishikawa dwell more on the benefits to be derived from the spread of Christianity than on the superiority of the Christian life. Christianity is represented by them as a great reforming machine, as a military weapon wherewith they hope to slay their enemies or as an asylum for the poor, the oppressed, and the bereaved. They dwell rather on the uses to which Christianity is to be put than on its inherent power and claims to acceptance. As Christians we are only children playing on the shore in sight of the ocean of boundless truth.

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From information published in the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun* bearing on the Dōshisha affair, we gather that no decisive action beyond protest can be taken by the large number of Christians who disapprove of the conduct of the Trustees. The dissentients are represented by Messrs. Ibuka, Honda, Tagawa, Tsuda, Uyemura, Motoda, and Serata. These gentlemen, acting on instructions received at a large gathering of Christians held on March 26th, denounced the action of the Trustees as a breach of faith, and as contrary to reason and morality. But this expression of opinion had no effect and there the matter has had to drop.

* * *

The organ quoted above reports an address delivered to the Kōjimachi Ichibanchō Church by Mr. Tokutomi Iichirō on "Woman's Virtue," in which he says that humility, delicacy, and common sense are the most important qualities to be cultivated in women. He regards women as the peacemakers of the world. Mr. Gladstone is quoted as saying "woman's heart is the temple of peace." Mr. Tokutomi is of opinion that the production of a number of forward girls, known in Japan as *otemba*, is a natural result of the line pursued by educationists in recent years, and he argues that the teaching of the *Onna Daigaku*, needs to be reintroduced in female society. The world is full of strife and friction; woman's mission is to pour oil on the troubled waters, to comfort and to soothe, and in order to do this effectually, she needs to possess the traits mentioned above.

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It is stated by Mr. Katayama Hisomu that the American contributors to the Dōshisha intend bringing an action against the Trustees for misappropriation of money entrusted to them. In a court of law the Japanese, led by Mr. Miyoshi, the late President of the Supreme Court, are likely to win, but the expenses involved will be considerable and the case if brought on will cause great odium and seriously disturb the relations of Japanese with foreigners. In one or two other publications there are allusions to the subject, but the excitement shows signs of dying away. There is no indication of any disposition to relent on the part of the trustees, and in the absence of legal action it is considered useless to discuss the subject further.

* * *

In Mr. Hara Kei's book on the "Operation of the New Treaties," noticed in the last Summary of Japanese Current Literature published in these columns, the effect of the new treaties on missionary work is discussed. The author says that in some quarters it is recommended that the rules now applied to Buddhist and Shintō priests should be enforced in the case of Christian Missionaries. Mr. Hara hopes that no such course will be adopted. Many of these rules are needlessly irksome. The Constitution grants freedom of belief and every effort should be made to make this provision something more than a dead letter. As long as Christian Missionaries obey the laws of the land, they should not be interfered with in their work. Many of the rules concerning Buddhism and Shintō are utterly useless and fail to prevent the weaknesses and shortcomings of the teachers of these creeds from being felt. The principle of non-interference should be strictly adhered to by the Government. The law that the fittest survives will work itself out in the matter of religion if only allowed free scope.

* * *

The *Shinseiki* has articles on "Theology and Faith," by Mr. Kosaki; "The Present position of Japan," by Mr. Tagawa; "Past and Present Theories on the Atonement," by Mr. Motoda; "The Present State of New Testament Criticism," by Rev. Geo. E. Albrecht; and "How far is Science Authoritative?" by Mr. Imaizumi.

The following item is quoted by the *Shinseiki* from the *Jiji Shimpō*:—During the past few months a large increase of applications for admission to mission schools are reported. This is supposed to be caused by the near approach of mixed residence.

The *Shinri* has celebrated the appearance of its hundredth number, says the *Shinseiki*. The magazine has undoubtedly benefited, certain classes of Christians, but we regret that its policy is negative. In the establishment of the kingdom of Christ in Japan positive teaching is absolutely necessary.

It is alleged that the action of the Dōshisha and the similar action of a body of Christians in Kumamoto have so alienated the minds of Christians in America that considerable reluctance to send missionaries to Japan is felt in certain quarters. This is greatly to be regretted from all points of view, says the *Shinseiki*.

* * *

Among a number of useful articles published in the *Rikugō Zasshi*, one on "Partisanship and Sectarianism," by the Editor, contains some wholesome truths. After tracing the evils of partisanship in politics the writer proceeds to remark that party spirit is greatly intensified in religious sects. The malice they bear to each other in many instances exceeds anything witnessed in the political world. While proclaiming from their pulpits brotherly love and universal charity, members of the orthodox party treat Confucianists with greater consideration than they display towards Christians who deny miracles, the Divinity of Christ, and the doctrine of the Trinity. It is quite plain that true Christian sentiment is not in their midst. The unsectarian spirit shown by the Kumiai churches and Nihon Kirisuto-Kyōkai has done much, and will, if it continues, do more to spread Christianity than any other influence. The combination of political parties which has taken place recently should be followed by a movement in favour of closer union among Christians.

* * *

Another editorial in the magazine quoted above deals with methods of preaching Christianity and with the state of Christian Churches. The writer complains of the great worldliness that characterises so many Christian bodies. He says that too frequently wealth and worldly influence rather than loyalty to

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the Christian cause are sought after, and that numbers are rated above quality. There is too much preaching of doctrines and dogmas and too little display of the inner life and moral superiority of the creed.

A third editorial takes up the subject of the attitude of religion to art and literature. The conclusion that the writer reaches is that in the Christian Church there is a widespread indifference to both. The missionaries are, according to this authority, responsible for this state of things, many of whom are either men of little education or mere priests who repeat prayers and go through services with all the perfunctoriness of a man in Buddhist orders who thinks that he has no concern with either art or literature. In Europe and America religous leaders invariably endeavour to permeate both art and literature with their ideas. In Japan, Christians occupy a little world of their own. They voluntarily cut themselves off from channels of influence which are utilised with great effect in other countries.

* * *

The *Nichiyō Sōshi* quotes from a report drawn up by the Rev. Henry Loomis, of Yokohama some statistics bearing upon missions that are of interest. According to this statement, the number of foreign Protestant missionsboards having missions in Japan are 34. The male missionaries connected with these societies are 232, and the female, 223, Reckoning the wives of missionaries, the number of workers is 652. Last year's report shows a decrease of 28 missionaries as compared with the report of the previous year. The number of sects represented is put at 22, and the churches established amount to 384. Of these, 72 are independent of foreign aid. The total number of converts is 40,578, being an increase of 2,216 over the previous year. The total amount of money subscribed for religious purposes was 81,551 *yen* 72 *sen*, being an increase of 10,947 *yen* 16 *sen*, over the previous year. The above statistics refer to the Protestant Churches only. The Roman Catholic report is as follows:—1 Archbishop; 3 Bishops, 98 Priests, 25 Friars; 88 Sisters; 244 Churches; 52,776 Christians. The Greek Church has one Bishop, 2 Priests, 168 Churches, 23,856 Christians, who subscribed during the year the sum of 5,658 *yen*.

* * *

The *Seikyō Shimpō* (Greek Church) dwells on the importance of Sunday schools in this country. The children of Christian parents who are baptised in infancy every year are growing to be more numerous. The parents or other sponsors promise that these children shall be taught religion and brought up in a Christian manner. But the parents are not always in a position to carry out this resolve, and the children, in the midst of non-Christian influences, are apt to grow up like unbaptised children. The instruction they receive at government schools is anti-Christian to a large extent. Hence, unless some attempt be made on the Sunday to bring Christianity to bear on them, their baptism will become a mere empty name. There are some who regard the establishment of Sunday schools as a mere device for filling up time, but it is rather to be viewed as one of the most important of the Church's duties.

The *Seikyō Shimpō* has something to say about the attempts of socialists and others to show that [illegible] preached by Christianity are unnecessary and even injurious. The argument used by the socialists is that with the establishment of communism there would be no more poor and hence no need of charity. According to their notion, the thousands who are now pinched by poverty have the right to demand a share of the property held by the rich, and to speak of anything given to them as charity is a misnomer. Economists take a different line of argument, but reach the some conclusion, namely that charity does more harm than good. Their reasoning is that in as far as men are helped so far do they become incapable of helping themselves; that charity destroys that spirit of independence which is so necessary to the development of character.† While admitting that taken in the abstract there may be some truth in these statements, the *Seikyō Shimpō* thinks that those who make them overlook certain facts connected with the human race, and that as a working theory the universal benevolence preached by Christ and exemplified by His life has not been surpassed. There is, after all, nothing to be compared to an all-embracing love, says this organ.

* * *

The *Shakai Zasshi* quotes from the *Osaka Mainichi Shimbun* the reproduction of an article contributed to an English Magazine by Dr. Maurice Eden Paul, of Nagasaki, on Japanese Social Development and its bearing on Western popular theories on the laws of development. We epitomise Dr. Paul's argument as given in the *Shakai Zasshi*:—European writers seem unconscious of the fact that in adopting Western civilisation Japan's mode of procedure has effectually exploded certain popular sociological theories. The place that Japan fills among progressive countries was not fully realised in Europe till after the China-Japan war. The easy victory which Japan obtained naturally drew the attention of thoughtful persons to the differences between the two nations. Leaving out of consideration for the moment Japan's adoption of Western civilisation, the two nations may be thus compared. In ethical notions and learning both bow to the teaching of Confucius, and there is little disagreement between them. In the idea of duty and obligation the Japanese are far ahead of the Chinese, but as to the notion of business and family independence, with the Chinese this is far more developed than with the Japanese. These two qualities may be set over against each other, the result being equality. Where the Chinese are inferior to the Japanese is in spirit, mental energy and enterprise. In the power of imitation the two nations are alike. The three qualities—spirit, enterprise, and power of imitation are second to none in importance in social development. The usual theory is that mental energy and enterprise are engendered by religion; and yet the Japanese are not religious. Comparing the Japanese with the English, the latter have a strong religious sense, have a great regard for truth for its own sake, and are extremely benevolent. In these qualities the Japanese are deficient, but they have the feeling of loyalty and filial piety very strongly developed. But what is remarkable is that without the three above-named qualities the Japanese have succeeded in adopting our civilisation. The idea of the equality of various classes and ranks of people is not developed in Japan.‡ Commenting on the above, the *Shakai Zasshi* says that there is nothing remarkably original about Dr. Paul's views, but that doubtless they represent the opinions of a certain section of foreigners.

† Mr. Leslie Stephen elaborates this argument in his lectures on "Social Rights and Duties."

* * *

The *Yuitsu*, the organ of the Jikkōkyō, or Practical Religion Shintoists, has in No. 48 an interesting article on the necessity of the sect's establishing a school of its own. The writer says that from very early times the sect founded by Kakugyō relied for its success on none of the forms, ceremonies, or appendages of other sects, but on the practical piety and force of character of its numerous adherents. From his 18th year, till he reached the extraordinary age of 108, did this leader of men devote himself unreservedly to good works and the teaching of religion thereby. Not a single line did he leave to be handed down to posterity. For four generations the sect possessed no sacred writings, but in the 5th generation a collection of 70 hymns on moral topics was published. But the principle of the sect, the non-reliance on sacred writings remained the same. In accordance with this principle, says the writer we are quoting, we have not thought it necessary to establish schools. But the Home Office has lately issued orders to the effect that each sect is to send in a full report of the schools under its care and that in the case of sects that have no schools they must explain by what methods their adherents are taught. At first I thought of explaining that we gloried in being different from other sects in having no schools, but on second thoughts, and guided by a number of considerations, I decided that we had better recognise the changed situation and so conform to the times as to found schools and take other steps to make our doctrines better known. The renown of our sect has already reached western lands, and not a few are the inquiries that I have received as to the written history of our career as a body. These queries are natural and should lead us to take some steps to make our teaching better known. The establishment of schools will be one step in this direction.

* * *

The Buddhists have recently been sustaining heavy losses by the burning of temples. Not long ago the chief temple of the Sōtō Sect was destroyed. This was followed on May 23rd by the total loss of the Dainembutsu-ji, the chief temple of the Yūzūnembutsu Sect. Out of 80 buildings connected with the temple no less than 67 were burnt, the total area covered by the fire being 2,400 *tsubo*. The chief temple was about 200 years old and it contained a number of valuable heirlooms. At the time of its erection the Yūzūnembutsu-shū was at the zenith of its fame, there being no less than 808 subordinate temples connected with the Dainembutsuji at that time. The fortunes of the sect have for a long time past steadily declined, and of late years the task of keeping the great central temple in repair has proved too much for the resources of its adherents. Hence it is not at all probable that any

‡ Dr. Paul's article suffers, we fear, from the abbreviated form in which it is reproduced in the *Osaka Mainichi Shimbun*. The original was published in the *Cornhill Magazine* a few months ago, but has not been seen by us.—(*Writer of the Summary.*)

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worthy successor to the old structure will be erected.

Another sacred building to be added to the doleful list is the Yenkyō-ji in Shoshazan, Harima; a very old and renowned edifice, containing numbers of valuable articles and relics which had taken 900 years to collect. It is not long ago that the Governor of Hyōgo visited this temple and expressed great astonishment at the rarity of the collection of heirlooms treasured therein and advised the priests to store these articles in some more secure place. They were all destroyed in the late fire. Well may the *Bukkyō* ask, "Does this wholesale destruction portend the steady downfall of the Buddhist faith?"

* * *

The *Bukkyō* reports that the Hongwanji purpose despatching four priests to America to labour among the Japanese residing there. The project has been talked about for some time, says the *Bukkyō*, but seems to have hung fire somewhat. That the maintenance of priests in foreign countries is a worthy way of spending money is not open to doubt, and if there is any body that can afford to launch out in this class of work it is the great Otani-ha. The sect has large sums of money at its disposal, says the *Bukkyō*. There is a surplus derived from various sources amounting to 552,557 *yen*. Then there is a capital of 1,444,493, the interest of which is available for various purposes.

The *Bukkyō* (No. 140) publishes the first of an important series of articles, entitled, "Two aspects of modern Buddhism and Future Propagandism," of which we give the gist below:—(1) Buddhism must assume a new attitude. Hitherto she has preached pessimism, and has separated herself from the world. Henceforth she must preach optimism, must enter into the spirit of the times, and occupy a position among the foremost ranks of mankind. Her future destiny will depend entirely on her ability to accomplish this task. (2) There is wide discrepancy between the language and the methods employed by priests as teachers of religion and those employed by them as scholars. Within the Buddhist pale as elsewhere the world of learning and the world of religion are very much at loggerheads. The youths who at school become acquainted with all the latest scientific theories and methods directly they become priests are called upon to follow the most antiquated methods and to preach doctrines that suited people in the middle ages but are out of date now. There is no attempt to harmonise faith and knowledge. Is it any wonder that the work of propagandism does not go on apace under these conditions? Can a religion be taught to any purpose without any attempt to adjust the teaching to the present state of knowledge? Briefly stated, the young Buddhist priests of the present day belong to one of four classes:—(1) They are of low birth and little intellect and know of no other way of getting a living. (2) Or they were forced into the priesthood by bigoted relations, and having been drilled in religious ways for years, have not the strength of character to throw up the profession against the wishes of their teachers and benefactors. (3) Or they are priests whose faith has been entirely shaken by modern influences and who are about to give up the priesthood and obtain a living in some other way. (4) Or, lastly, they are men who have determined to reconcile their faith and their knowledge, to revise their creed to the extent of finding a new basis for belief. Such priests are usually men of exceptional talent and strength of purpose, but we are obliged to confess that they are lamentally few in number. There are those who regard modern Buddhist education as an instrument of death to the creed. They say there is no surer way of extinguishing the last remaining embers of Buddhist fire than by teaching candidates for holy orders modern science. But we, says the *Bukkyō*, are not of this opinion. As nothing can stop the advance of knowledge, and as it is reasonable to expect that educated priests should be versed in this knowledge, the only course open is to adapt the old faith to the new knowledge. To confess that Buddhism has been superseded by the advance of learning, that the creed is out of date, and so on, is to underrate the capabilities and elasticity of the Buddhist faith. Let old beliefs be consigned to oblivion if they are out of joint with the spirit of the times. Let Buddhism no longer turn her back on the world and refuse to see any good in it. In increased optimism lies the secret of success.

Our readers will be interested in observing how similar in many respects are these remarks to those of Mr. Minami, one of the representatives of liberal Christianity, given in our last summary. The problem of all times and all countries, how to reconcile faith and knowledge, is engaging the attention of all deeply earnest minds in the Buddhist as well as in the Christian world.

GERMAN NEWS.

The Social Democrats succeeded in returning five out the six Berlin representatives in the last Diet, but could not carry more than three seats at the recent elections. The Berlin correspondent of *The Times* comments thus upon the fact:—

The results involve many consequences. In the first place, they inflict a serious blow on the prestige of the Social Democrats, who have lost their predominant position in the capital of the Empire. Nor can the Socialists maintain that their defeat is solely due to the combination of the divers opponents in support of the Radicals. For, as a matter of fact, their own poll on the second ballots is less by something like 3,620 votes as compared with 1893. I say roughly 3,620 vote, since corrected results, which do not appear to alter the material issue in any case, are coming in, as usual, while I write my despatch at 11 50 p.m. The Socialists are issuing statements to the effect that they have won the second division, but the official declaration of the poll gives it to the Radical by a majority of 15, as I have telegraphed.

The second consequence of the Berlin result is that the advantages of co-operation of the parties of civil order against the Socialists are triumphantly demonstrated. An example was set to the various supporters of the Government by Prince Hohenlohe himself, who to-day appeared at the polling-booth of his district to record his vote for the Radical. And if the parties of civil order can continue to combine against the party of revolution, not only will the latter yet suffer many a signal defeat, but, what is far more important, the whole tone of political life in Germany may undergo a change for the better. It may at last dawn upon the reactionaries that they are the worst foes of true Conservatism as well as of true progress, and that they cannot hope to baffle the party of pure negation save by encouraging a liberal and far-minded interpretation of the rights of the Crown and of the Executive. Above all, they may eventually—if this be not too much to hope—realize that the constant attempt to pass class legislation and to obstruct legislation which is intended to benefit the whole community is a fatal policy which can only lead to a Parliamentary *impasse*. The Radicals of Herr Richter's following may also in time learn that an inflexible doctrinaire attitude will deprive them of allies among moderate politicians, and that they must reckon with Germany as it is, with its foreign as well as its domestic problems.

The tone of the German press with reference to the Philippines shows more temper than judgment. A telegram published by the *New York Post* having stated that an agreement had been arrived at between the German Ambassador and the American Secretary of State with regard to the mission of Vice-Admiral von Diederichs to Manila, these journalistic comments were evoked:—

Admiral von Diederichs requires no instructions from Washington as to what he is to do or leave undone. So long as he does not interfere so as to promote the enterprises of the two belligerents, neither Admiral Dewey nor Secretary of State Sherman (*sic*) is competent to give him any directions whatever. In like manner the German Government will not concern itself with the measures which Spain or America may adopt for the maintenance of their interests in the Philippines. The phantoms of the American imagination are beginning to be positively ridiculous. We have not the slightest intention of exciting ourselves over the perfidious insinuations against Germany which the New York and Washington Press unfortunately adopt from London. We leave it to the course of events to make the Americans ashamed of themselves and to bring them to reason.—(*Cologne Gazette.*)

A German Admiral knows quite well in what fashion he has to maintain and protect the interests of his countrymen. He would most energetically repel any impertinent attempt to meddle in his affairs. This is the proper answer to the presumptuous Yankee Press.—(*Berliner Lokalanzeiger.*)

Referring to these perfervid paragraphs, it was noted in England that the Berlin Liberal organ had apparently forgotten one little fact, namely, that the "insinuations" about German designs on the Philippines were originally formulated by a German news agency and were welcomed and prominently published by the *Cologne Gazette* itself. Moreover, the Berlin correspondent of *The Times*, writing under date of July 1st, says:—"One has only to ask intelligent and independent advocates as well as opponents of German colonial expansion here in every class of the community, and the answer invariably is that it may be regarded as quite certain that Germany will do her best to obtain a footing on the islands."

The German Colonial Society at Danzig has adopted a proposal that "in all the German protectorates German residents should be allowed to perform their obligatory military service in the local forces of the colony, and that, in the interests of colonial prosperity, there should be certain modifications in the length of their term of service and in the nature of their military duties."

The Social Democrats in Germany claim to have polled 2,125,000 votes in the recent elections, against a total of 1,786,738 in 1893. But careful analysts point out that the figures, if taken alone, would be misleading in this case, since the Socialists adopted the tactics of setting up a candidate in each of the 397 constituencies without any regard to his chances of success.

The following letter appears in *The Times* on the subject of "British *v.* German Commercial Interests in the Philippines":—

Sir,—So much has been written lately as to the importance of the German commercial houses in the Philippine Islands, while nothing has appeared as to British interests, that I feel it my duty as a resident of about 20 years in those islands to bring the matter before the public. Your Madrid Correspondent, in his article of the 19th inst., mentions the number of German commercial houses in Manila as 150, and remarks that this

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astonishing piece of news comes from a German official source, and certainly the said official must have gone out into the by-ways and hedges to have found them. There is no doubt that of late years—since the tariff on imports has been so much increased—a number of small German importers have opened at Manila, and, not being too fastidious in their relations with Custom-house officials, only too ready to do themselves a good turn at the expense of the Government, have gained a considerable amount of the import business. These import houses—a tobacco factory or two, and a number of shopkeepers—about constitute German commercial interests in these islands. On the other hand, the export business, which is of considerably more importance than the import trade, is almost entirely in the hands of British houses, while the importation of petroleum, coal, sugar-cane crushing machinery, and the greater portion of Manchester goods is also in their hands. British capital built the one railway, and two out of three banks established in the islands are British, the remaining one being Spanish.

I may mention that for many years a good deal of dissatisfaction has been felt by the British residents in the Philippines at the apathy displayed by our Government as to their interests, culminating lately in the tardy despatch of a man-of-war on the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Spain; while those of Germany were invariably shelped by their Government. The tendency to do a mere retail trade in many articles, the disinclination of the larger British houses to deal in goods of only small consumption, cheap Continental freights, and the dealings in the Custom house, already referred to, are some of the causes which have helped the growth of German houses; but to compare their interests in these islands to the British is quite out of the question.

I am, Sir, &c., VERDAD.

There appears to be no doubt that the Emperor of Germany intends to visit Turkey, Egypt, and Jerusalem. According to the present programme, his Majesty will arrive in Constantinople on October 17th; will remain there five days; will thence pass to Asia Minor, finally crossing to Egypt, where he will spend ten days and will go up the Nile as far as Assuan. November 15th is mentioned as the date of arrival in Cairo. It may well be imagined that this very exceptional trip excites a deal of surprise and conjecture. The *Novosti* thinks that his Majesty wishes to make himself acquainted with Asia Minor as a field for German emigration. It writes:—

German policy has done all it can of late years to direct emigration towards Asia Minor. This is an important matter for Europe, since it indicates an intention on the part of Germany to decide the Eastern question in accordance with her own interests. The German Emperor wishes, through the medium of the Roman Curia, to obtain a protectorate over the Turkish Catholics similar to that already acquired in China at the expense of France. A new epoch of the Eastern question is inaugurated with the Emperor's journey.

Whatever be the Emperor's real motive, it can not be denied that he is remarkably successful in keeping the eyes of Europe fixed on him. The Imperial theatre is equipped with an infinity of shifting scenes.

A British naval training squadron, consisting of the *Raleigh*, the *Volage*, the *Champion*, and the *Cleopatra*, is cruising in European waters. At Molde on July 14th, the Emperor of Germany invited some twenty officers of the Squadron to visit him on the *Hohenzollern*. "When the officers arrived on board, the Imperial yacht was decked with bunting, and the band played British national airs. The visitors and the members of the Imperial suite entered into very friendly conversation, and the Emperor presented the commander of the squadron with his portrait. The departure of the squadron was attended by great ceremony. The vessels, with the crews manning ship, circled in procession round the *Hohenzollern*. As the *Raleigh*, *Volage*, *Champion* and *Cleopatra* passed the *Hohenzollern* their crews gave three hearty cheers for the Emperor, to which the men of the *Hohenzollern* responded with three hurrahs for Queen Victoria, the band of the Imperial yacht playing 'God save the Queen.'"

As bearing on a subject which will soon be the burning question of the hour and is probably destined to prove a live shell in the Far-Eastern magazine, we quote the following from *The Times'* Berlin correspondence:—

Berlin, July 13.

The ultimate policy to be adopted by the United States in the settlement of the Philippine Islands—for that the Spanish flag must soon cease to wave over them is regarded here as certain—affords abundant material in the German Press for predictions as to their future. The difficulties arising out of the present state of things, of which it is asserted that the Americans hardly take sufficient account, may soon assume alarming proportions, such, indeed, as may finally necessitate the intervention of those Powers whose commercial interests in the islands are affected. The *Kreuz Zeitung*, in connexion with this subject, points out that the annexation of these islands by America is not yet a *fait accompli*, and that, if probable, it is by no means a necessary action. Their annexation would mark a new era in the policy of the United States necessitating, as any further aggrandisement of their colonial possessions must do, a complete change in their present military and naval system. "Already the first step in this direction has been taken by the annexation of the islands of Hawaii; America must now play her part in Asiatic affairs." The Monroe doctrine has fallen to the ground, and although the Philippines have not yet come into the possession of the United States, it is evident that a new policy—a policy of Imperialism—has begun and that the Stars and Stripes may very shortly wave over Manila.

The *Post* is somewhat more reserved in its utterances, being content with criticizing an article by Mr. John Foreman in the *Contemporary Review*. Aguinaldo, who is at the same time a good general and a skilful diplomatist, is considered unlikely to suffer any attempt by America to oust him from the position of military governor of the islands. Even if the islands are annexed, it may be a long time before the Americans will be able to restore order should the natives, headed by their able chief, refuse to acknowledge the United States Government as their own.

The German army is to have special telegraph battalions. Three is the number named. It has been found that the business of military telegraphy has now assumed dimensions which forbid its being entrusted to the engineer corps as a subordinate function.

Germany seems determined to go ahead at Kiaochou. It is stated on good authority, we read, that the German Government intends to construct a first-class harbour there, and that a town is planned with every modern improvement. The seat of the German administration is now at Tsin-tau, which is not considered suitable and would not be near the new harbour. Land is not to be finally allotted to private individuals until the plans for the proposed town are completed. Who is to build the town, however? Of that somewhat essential point we hear nothing.

If we, at this end of the world, were astounded at the utterly insignificant damage inflicted by the Spanish squadron on the American ships at Santiago, the surprise was not less signal in Europe. The *National Zeitung* gives interesting expression to German opinion in the subject:—

It was the first occasion since the transformation of wooden ships into iron ones in which it can in all fairness be said that the rival fleets of two hostile nations were engaged in deadly conflict. The war between Japan and China in 1894 was too unequal to admit of any logical deductions being drawn therefrom; but the battle off Santiago was a different thing. There the Spanish ships were—ships of the newest construction and fitted out with all the latest improvements—were face to face with American ships, and yet the entire Spanish fleet was destroyed, while, on the other hand, the American ships were apparently unscathed. How is this to be accounted for? There was no ramming as at Lissa, when Tegetthoff rammed the Italian Admiral's ship; there was no trace of any daring attempt by the Spaniards by sudden flank movements to outwit their adversaries; there was, apparently, but little attempt made on either side to circumvent the other; the heavy guns of the Spaniards were useless; a dogged determination on the part of the Spaniards to stick to their guns forms the dominating note of this naval battle. It is evident from this that the importance of "machinery" has now been fully demonstrated. The Spaniards were decimated by the superior quick-firing guns of the Americans; neither their guns nor their indomitable courage availed them anything. The critic then goes on to say that at Abukir in 1798 some of Nelson's ships were old and worn out and that his fleet was numerically inferior to that of the French; his genius, however, overcame all difficulties; the battle was won by the superior handling of his fleet. Then at Trafalgar the action of the *Royal Sovereign* in breaking through the united French and Spanish ships and only opening fire when alongside between the *Fougaut* and the *Santa Anna* is described as being impossible nowadays. The stories so frequent in the days of wooden ships of individual acts of heroism are now things of the past. Santiago has shown us that only machine guns and accurate shooting are of any account in modern naval warfare.

In conclusion, the writer is of opinion that all nations will at once set to work to increase their naval forces and that special attention will be devoted to the perfecting of machine guns, which constitute, he says, "the most important factor of modern warfare." He adds:—"Another irrefutable proof has been given to the world that a nation, however strong on land, if she be not provided with a powerful and adequate fleet, is *ipso facto* of no account as a Power in the future history of the world."

We should like to know exactly what the *National Zeitung* means by saying that the war between China and Japan was too unequal to allow of any logical deductions being drawn from it. The truth is that it was incomparably more equal than the struggle at Santiago. In the battle of the Yalu the superiority in armour and weight of armament was actually with the Chinese. The day was won by the operation of exactly the same factors that gave scathless victory to the Americans at Santiago—quick-firing guns well served. But what were the quick-firers of the Spaniards doing?

The very unfriendly feeling shown by the German Press towards the United States appears to have undergone a change. We have hitherto refrained from quoting the bitter and ungenerous language used by several of the leading German journals, and we are now glad to be able to take the following from *The Times'* correspondence:—

Berlin, July 10th.

In the temporary lull following on the fiercely contested battles round Santiago and the destruction of Admiral Cervera's fleet, German war criticism has assumed a more moderate character, though here and there certains organ cannot refrain from making the most of the "egregious blunders" of the American army, while at the same time ignoring, or feigning to ignore, the equally egregious blunders of the Spaniards. On the whole, however, and no doubt in great part owing to the recent speech of the American Ambassador to Berlin, Mr. White, at Leipzig on the 4th inst., the German Press has distinctly moderated the somewhat anti-American attitude it had adopted ever since the outbreak of hostilities. As I pointed out in my telegram of Friday morning, the prevailing feeling in Germany is that an army recruited on the spur of the moment from raw levies has not and never can have that indomitable *esprit de corps* peculiar to the great armies of Napoleon, and in more recent times to the armies of 1866 and of 1870-71, which alone constitutes the "quintessence" of a great army. This feeling, innate in the German mind, has, doubtless, accentuated, if not indirectly provoked, the invectives of the German Press which

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have gone forth against the "amateur handling of the American army by its wholly incompetent officers." Then again, the verbosity of the American Press, its acrimonious tone towards the Spaniards, its "untrustworthy" reports with regard to the war, which are described as being both mendacious and puerile, and finally, the alleged attacks of its organs upon Germany—all these things have contributed to the ungenerous tone adopted by the German Press towards America. Now that the "militia" of America has proved itself not only valiant, but capable of fighting and defeating the army of a nation upon which the sun once never set and whose soldiers knew no equals, the German Press will, no doubt, adopt a more becoming tone towards the Americans.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung*, alluding to the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands by America, considers that the importance of the act lies in the fact that it denotes the inauguration in America of a new policy; that it is an unmistakable sign that a policy of Imperialism has begun and that as such it marks a new era in the history of the United States. "The islands of Hawaii have not been annexed for the purpose of prosecuting the cultivation of sugar and of furthering commercial interests, but chiefly because, since they lie on the route traversed by ships going from Vancouver to Australia, from San Francisco to Hongkong, and from Panama to Japan, they will afford valuable coaling and naval stations for America."

The Social Democrats commanded the largest number of votes at the recent elections in Germany. The following approximate return is given, the figures in brackets being those for 1893:—

The total number of qualified electors in the Empire was 11,200,000 (10,630,000). There voted 7,600,000 (7,700,000), or about 67 (72·4) per cent. The votes cast for the leading parties were:—Social Democrats, 2 120,000 (1,786,000); Clericals, 1,333,000 (1,468,000); National Liberals, 1,160,000 (997,000); Conservatives, 900,000 (1,038,300); Radical Left, 500,000 (666,400); Free Conservatives, 220,000 (438,400); Anti-Semites, 310,000 (263 900); Moderate Radicals, 230,000 (258,500); Poles, 180,000 (229 500); South German Democrats, 120,000 (166,800).

FRENCH NEWS.

It is curious to note that French financiers are only now talking seriously of abolishing the taxes on windows and doors and introducing an income tax "based on external evidences of means." The repeal of the greatly detested window tax and the imposition of an income tax are measures now half a century old in England.

The formation of a colonial army is evidently becoming a very practical programme in France. But it is not quite easy to follow the reasoning of M. Brisson in proposing this reform. "The conquests of France," he said, "must not be a sterile glory. We must summon to this fresh domain the energies lying idle at home, and encourage that emigration of intelligence and capital which will permit the development of the, as yet, almost untouched resources with which our colonies abound." It would seem that, according to M. Brisson's view, the failure hitherto made by France to develop the material resources of her colonies has been due to the want of a colonial army.

The new French Ministry has given a kind of pledge in the Chamber to be more open with the country in matters relating to foreign affairs than the Méline Cabinet was when M. Hanotaux presided at the Foreign Office. Frenchmen used to complain that they had to seek information from British Blue Books.

The Brisson Ministry is supported in office by the Republicans—for the most part Radicals,—by the Socialists and by the Anti-Semites. Fifty-two socialists and thirty-one Anti-Semites voted with M. Brisson in the first parliamentary battle on June 30th.

The Paris correspondent of *The Times* gives the following account of the personnel of the Brisson Cabinet:—

M. Brisson	Premier and Minister of the Interior
M. Delcassé	Minister for Foreign Affairs
M. Peytral	Minister of Finance
M. Sarrien	Minister of Justice
M. Léon Bourgeois	Minister of Education and Public Worship
M. Cavaignac	Minister of War
M. Lockroy	Minister of Marine
M. Trouillot	Minister of the Colonies
M. Marnéjouls	Minister of Commerce
M. Viger	Minister of Agriculture
M. Tillaye	Minister of Public Works

The Premier, M. Brisson, the son of a barrister, was born at Bourges in 1835, joined the Paris Bar, became a Freemason, and contributed to Republican journals. In 1866 he was an unsuccessful candidate for one of the Paris divisions. On the fall of the Empire he was appointed a deputy mayor of Paris, but resigned on the refusal of the Provisional Government to create a municipal council. In February, 1871, he became one of the Paris Deputies and voted with the Extreme Left. In 1879 he was elected one of the Vice-Presidents of the Chamber, and in 1881 he succeeded Gambetta in the Presidency. That post then seemed a stepping stone to the Chief Magistracy, and on Gambetta's death M. Brisson had a good prospect of attaining that position. Grévy, however, intent on re election, adroitly forced him in 1885 into the Premiership, rightly judging that this was the way to "use up" eventual rivals. At the elections of 1885 the Reactionaries won a large number of seats. This was largely attributed to the apathy of the Minister of the Interior, M. Allain Targe, who had fancied that the time had come for Government non-intervention in elections. The Brisson Cabinet consequently met the new Chamber in a weakened condition, and, though it began the series of enactments against pretenders, it fell at the end of the year. From 1886 till his return to the Presidency of the Chamber in 1896 M. Brisson, as a private member, was a Radical spokesman and was chairman of the Panama Inquiry Committee. For a time he figured as a naval critic, though not generally credited with any personal knowledge of the subject. He also, as chairman of the Budget Committee, devised a scheme of taxing conventual institutions out of existence, for he has a horror of mortmain, but that scheme, though enacted, has not been rigorously enforced. As President of the Chamber he was seldom betrayed into partisanship or loss of temper.

M. Delcassé, who has unexpectedly taken charge of the Foreign Office, was born at Pamiers in 1852 and was a journalist until elected to the Chamber in 1889. In 1893 he became Under-Secretary for the Colonies, then a subdepartment of the Ministry of Marine. He pressed for the elevation of the colonies into a distinct department, and to show that he aimed at no personal aggrandizement pledged himself to resign his post on this being done. After five months' interval he became Colonial Minister in the Dupuy Cabinet of May, 1894. A zealous advocate of colonial expansion, he advocated the formation of chartered companies on the English model. M Delcassé was till recently classed as a Moderate, but in the last Chamber he began voting against the Méline Cabinet. Of the 11 Ministers he is certainly the one most competent for the Foreign Office.

M. Peytral, born at Marseilles in 1842, was a chemist, in that city and represented it in the Chamber from 1881 to 1894, when he entered the Senate. Under Secretary for Finance under Carnot in the Freycinet Cabinet of 1886, he became Minister of Finance in the Floquet Cabinet of 1888, when, reviving Gambetta's idea of 1880, he proposed an income-tax, but failed in carry it. He returned to office in 1894 in the Dupuy Cabinet.

M. Bourgeois, a native of Paris, and 47 years of age, read for the Bar, entered the Chamber in 1888, was Floquet's Under-Secretary of the Interior in the same year, and was Minister of Education in the Freycinet and Loubet Cabinets. In 1892 he became Minister of Justice in the Ribot Cabinet. In 1895, failing to form a mixed Cabinet, he constituted the first purely Radical Ministry, himself taking the portfolio of the Interior and later that of the Foreign Office. His quarrels with the Senate eventually compelled him to resign. He now returns to the Education Department, the work of which he carried out with credit.

M. Sarrien, who was born at Bourbon Lancy in 1840, is a barrister. He was Minister of Posts in the Brisson Cabinet, Minister of the Interior in the Freycinet Cabinet, Minister of Justice under M. Goblet, and again Minister of the Interior under M. Tirard.

M. Cavaignac, son of General Cavaignac, was born in 1853. He refused at a Paris college to receive a prize from the Prince Imperial. He became a civil engineer, entered the Chamber in 1882, was Under-Secretary for War in the Brisson Cabinet, Minister of Marine in 1892, and Minister of War in the Bourgeois Ministry. He is the author of a book on Prussian history. He owes his new post to the stand made by him against the Dreyfus revision.

M. Lockroy, born in 1840, was Renan's secretary in Syria, became a Paris journalist, married Victor Hugo's daughter-in-law, and has been a Deputy, first for Aix and then for Paris, since 1876. Minister of Commerce in 1885, of Education in 1888, and of Marine in 1895, he has been a strenuous advocate for a powerful navy, and is now bound to propose lavish naval expenditure.

M. Viger, a physician, born in 1843, was Minister of Agriculture in the Dupuy (Casimir-Perier) Cabinet, and again in the second Dupuy Cabinet.

Mr. Trouillot, who, to the general surprise, has become Colonial Minister, is a barrister. He was born in the Jura in 1851, entered the Chamber in 1889, and first became prominent a fortnight ago in the discussion which led to the crisis.

M. Marnéjouls, a barrister, born in Aveyron in 1847, entered the Chamber in 1889 and has interested himself in labour questions. Multitudes of Frenchmen, however, will now hear his name for the first time. So also with M. Tillaye, a Caen barrister, who was elected a Senator in 1896.

The Méline Ministry had the longest tenure of office of any Cabinet under the Third Republic, namely, 26 months.

With regard to the alleged confession of Dreyfus, M. Dupuy affirms that immediately after the ceremony of Dreyfus' degradation, Captain Lebrun-Renault reported the confession to his superior officers who made a note of it, and that in October or November, 1897, Captain Lebrun-Renault, at the request of General Billot, made a written attestation of the confession.

THE SURRENDER OF MANILA.

An official telegram received in Tokyo from Hongkong, under date of August 16th, gives fuller particulars of the fall of Manila than were contained in our own correspondent's telegram. It runs:—On the 13th inst. the Americans attacked Manila both by land and sea, the battle lasting for about two hours. The Spanish were unable to repulse the attack, and the city was occupied by the Americans. The Governor-General of the Philippines arrived at Hongkong yesterday by the German man-of-war, *Kaiserin Augusta*.

Governor-General Augustin left Manila before the last engagement, having been superseded.

MR. DETRING AND CHINA'S MINES.

Mr. Detring has arrived here, writes the Peking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, and placed before the Tsung-li Yamên an application for a concession to work coal mines within a certain specified area, on the same basis as the Kaiping colliery, in the province of Chihli. It is said, and I have every reason to believe it to be true, that he is acting in the interests of a German syndicate, who have offered to lend a sum equivalent to about £250,000 sterling. The general impression seems to be that the request will be granted, in which case it will somewhat interfere with the prospects of the Peking Syndicate in Shasi, as the latter province cannot hope to compete with mines with coal equal in quality and so much nearer the seaboard.

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LIFE IN EAST LONDON.

Mr. Percy Alden, who is at present travelling for his health in this country, is the Warden of Mansfield House, one of the University Settlements of London. The University, or Social, Settlement is of comparatively recent origin, but already there are in London alone over a dozen, while the United States boasts of 50 or 60, formed during the past 8 years. The Settlements both in England, and America are beginning to play a very large part in the religious, social, and educational life of the working classes. In some cases, as *e.g.* at Toynbee Hall in Whitechapel, and Hale House in Chicago, there is no definite religious teaching, but the contention is, first, that the conditions are unfavourable, and, second, that there is such a thing as religious work apart from religious teaching. Mansfield House, which has from 8 to 12 men in residence from the universities of England, claims that it touches in its operations all the many-sided life of the people. Nothing is called common or unclean. Whether it be the formation of a workinginen's club, the instruction given in class or lecture, or free legal and medical advice—all are regarded as being of importance. The contention, in fact, of the leaders of this Settlement is, that all work done in the religious spirit is religious work. Mr. Alden, who started the work, has been living in East London over 7 years, during which time he has been aided by a band of young men who not only had ideals but knew how to realize them in actual practice. The great German poet has said, "it is ever true that he who does nothing for others, does nothing for himself." The effort put forth has been the effort of self-realization in the lives of other men, and in this spirit all such work will succeed. That it has succeeded in this case is evidenced by the fact that over 2,000 men belong to its various societies, whose branches ramify over the whole area of Canning Town. The district is a labouring and artizan district in the extreme East. Ironworkers, gasworkers, dockers, stevedores, and factory hands all jostle one another for a living. The population is increasing with the utmost rapidity, something like 10,000 people a year being added to the already large number. It must of course be remembered that Canning Town is only a very small portion of East London, which contains 1¼ millions of people, but new districts are springing up everywhere and the final outcome of this mushroom growth it is almost impossible to foretell.

Apart from its religious and educational work, Mansfield House claims pre-eminence in two things. 1. Civic and municipal work—that is to say the work of local administration. 2. Influence on the labour movement. It is impossible to do more than mention the former point, but there can be no doubt that a great deal of the success of the Settlement is due to its persistent attempt to educate the "civic conscience." The House has asserted itself for some years past as the exponent of what Prof. Bryce has called "pure politics," and Mr. Alden on the Town Council of West Ham, of which he is at the present time Deputy Mayor, has been able with the assistance of his colleagues to obtain public baths, free libraries, recreation grounds and parks, picture exhibitions, better sanitation and higher wages for the council's employées.

In the same way upon the School Board, which regulates the educational work of the district, Newland, Reason and now Crichton, the present sub-warden, have been attempting to provide "a ladder of learning," up which even the child of a casual docker may climb to the University.

In addition to a large workingmen club, with 500 members, and a lad's club with 300 members, both of which clubs have their separate and private premises, the Settlement possesses a Lodging House with 130 beds. This house provides accommodation for the very poorest, the charge being 8 cents a night. The place is almost always full and is regarded as the best and cleanest lodging-house in East London. It is greatly used by sailors, many of whom regard it as their home.

One other interesting institution is that of the Poor Man's Friend and Lawyer—a society which gives free legal advice to any workingman. In this way over 3 000 clients are aided every year, and a link of friendship and brotherhood is established between the men who have had many opportunities in life and the East Ender who has had very few.

As to religious work, it is sufficient to say that the meetings are held in the largest Hall in the district, which seats 1,200 people, and that frequently at its two meetings on the Sunday no vacant seat can be found. The workingmen are beginning to show that they understand the meaning of Christianity by the way in which they help one another in all difficult and troublous times, and by the new spirit which is growing up in the Trades Union. Many people would look upon this as a sign for evil rather than for good, but Christianity must be regarded "not as a thing of the *stars* but a thing of the *streets*," and believing this, Mansfield House uniformly assists every just and righteous effort which workingmen are making for the amelioration of their social conditions.

JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS.

The *Tokyo Shimbun* alludes to a scheme for the formation of a political party devoted to the abolition of the Constitution. Immediately before the dissolution of the previous Cabinet, steps were taken, our contemporary alleges, by a section of the clan statesmen to organise a clique with a view to bringing about the partial suspension of the Constitution. The movement proved ineffectual. Now, strange to say, the question is again upon the *tapis*, and advocates of the movement are reported to have determined upon "raising their banner" openly in a few days. The new coterie consists of Marquis Yamagata, Count Inouye, Baron Sonoda, and several distinguished personages, Mr. Furuzawa Shigeru being enlisted as chief councillor. Secret meetings have been frequently held at the residence of the last mentioned politician, and a manifesto of considerable length is said to have been drafted. It will contain a statement that constitutional government has, in all respects, been a complete failure everywhere except in England, where alone it is a brilliant success owing, probably, to the peculiar political training of her people. All other countries have failed to reap any benefit, and all are disgusted with their constitutions. Experience attests the truth of this statement in regard to the Japanese constitution, which has been in operation for the past few years, and which, instead of securing benefits for the nation, has instead created innumerable abuses. The constitution for these reasons should speedily be rescinded. It is said that this manifesto will shortly be published and distributed to the public.

We (*Japan Mail*) do not hesitate to pronounce this statement, if not totally untrue, certainly a great exaggeration. Baron Sonoda, Chief of the Metropolitan Police under the Ito Cabinet, may entertain the views attributed to him by the *Tokyo Shimbun*. We can not say anything definite about him. But to pretend that Marquis Yamagata and Count Inouye advocate the abolition, or even the suspension, of the Constitution is quite absurd. No one acquainted with these statesmen can believe anything of the kind for a moment.

On the evening of the 9th instant, Mr. Matsuda, Minister of Finance, received the *Kokumin's* representative at his official residence, and gave forth the following views on the financial situation:—The proposed increase of the land tax is not at all feasible; the deficiency in the revenue can be supplied without recourse to such a measure. The imposition of a tax on sugar can be undertaken without the consent of the treaty powers, and special trade taxes can also be imposed upon dealers in this commodity. As indirect taxes are preferable to direct taxes, steps will be taken to fix imposts upon articles which constitute the luxuries of the rich. As for the *saké* tax, the question is to what extent the impost can be further raised, remains still unsettled, but considering the waste that accompanies the use of *saké* at public and private entertainments, it follows that an increased tax will meet with little objection from consumers. The abolition of export duties is absolutely necessary. The purchase by the Government of public bonds has continued up to the present time in accordance with the programme formulated by the preceeding Cabinet. But nothing really beneficial can be expected from the experiment. The step had to be undertaken to relieve the industrial community by restoring funds which had been squeezed from it by the Government at the time of the war. As for the introduction of foreign capital, no temporising schemes can ever prove successful. A path must be opened for the mutual utilization of both domestic and foreign funds, and the latter ought to be directly introduced so as to supply the deficiency in capital now so very apparent in Japan. The question of the State ownership of railways deserves strong condemnation. The Government should allow foreigners the privilege of acquiring shares in railways and public companies generally. No justification exists for withholding these rights from aliens—unless the old *joi* spirit still overshadows the Government and the people. The fear that foreigners will buy up the whole of the railways of Japan is very childish. To my way of thinking, the opposite will prove the case. Foreigners seeing the illiberality of the Government's ways of dealing with them will abstain from investing money in the country, and the nation will have only itself to blame. I would also concede the right of working mines, under their own supervision, to aliens, for nothing is more absurd than the idea that the domestic enterprises of Japan should be developed exclusively by Japanese, and by Japanese funds. The opening up of the rich mining districts of China in the near future will attract foreign capital to that country in increasing quantities, and one day Japan, unless she changes her policy, will wake up and find she has let her chance of obtaining foreign capital slip by without prospect of recovery. Now is the time for Japan to come boldly forward to invite the co operation of foreign capitalists. Unfortunately the action of the last Government in selling War Bonds abroad has prevented the nation from obtaining money from foreign markets at less than 4 per cent. This will be the price it will have to pay as soon as the Indemnity is exhausted and Japan has to go abroad for money. And it might have been so different.

Vernacular papers are busily engaged in critising the proposed scheme for increasing the *saké* tax. Some interesting articles on the subject have been reproduced in our columns from time to time. The *Osaka Asahi* again takes up the parable, alleging that the rates of increase now under contemplation are of three different grades, namely, 10, 12, and 15 *yen* per *koku*. The following comparative table shows the gross revenue from the *saké* tax during the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue. Yen.	Increase. Yen.
1894	16,637,435	824,548
1895	16 130,253	507,182
1896	17,747,028	1,616 775
1897	18,407,867	660 839
1898	29 823.852	11,415 985

Thus, compared with the revenue in 1897, the figures for 1898 show an increase of only 11,415 *yen*, though the impost was raised from 4 to 7 *yen* that year. Supposing the average brewing to amount to 4 million *koku* annually, an increase to 10 *yen* per *koku* in the tax would secure a revenue of 12 million *yen*, whereas 20 million could be realized by raising the rate to 12 *yen*, and 32 millions by fixing it at 15. The authorities appear to anticipate an increase of a million *koku* in the brew after the brewing for domestic consumption has been prohibited. This anticipation, is too vague however. Nevertheless, Count Okuma seems to place great hopes on the *saké* tax and is reported by the *Osaka Asahi* to have declared that the

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new impost must be made to defray the expenditures on the Army and Navy. The Treasury estimates that the revenue to be derived from the *saké* tax in the next fiscal year should not fall short of 50 million *yen*. But how is the *saké* tax to be increased next year? A suggestion was put forward as to the advisability of altering the present fiscal year, hitherto reckoned from April 1st to March 31st. This is now to be changed to a period running from December 1st to November 30th.

The *Shogyo* is surprised at the Korean Government's adopting gold monometallism. The coinage system of Korea, our contemporary remarks, has not yet emerged from the rudimentary stages, and it is very doubtful whether gold monometallism can ever be enforced in a country that is without the necessary reserves of gold. The attempt must surely end in failure. Korea, being still unable to undertake the coinage of silver, is not in a position to adopt the gold standard. Her currency consists entirely of silver *yen* and Japanese notes; her customs duties on imports from this country are collected in Japanese paper money, and imports from China and other countries of the Orient are taxed in silver corresponding in value to Japanese convertible notes. In short, Japanese currency virtually constitutes the media of exchange in the whole of the little empire. The adoption of a gold standard under these circumstances is simply farcical.

The discourtesy of government railway officials toward foreign and Japanese passengers has passed into a proverb, remarks the *Tokyo Asahi*. In view of this fact the Superintendent of the Railway Construction Bureau recently issued the following note to various stations on the Government lines:—Despite instructions, frequently issued, in regard to the treatment of railway passengers, it is to be regretted that the authorities still fail to satisfy public criticism, the feelings of passengers in most cases being seldom considered by railway servants. This condition of affairs tends to impair the general credit of the Government railways. Persons employed at railway stations should always be careful in their language as well as in their deportment towards passengers; and should also endeavour to give all necessary information to travellers, old and young, women, as well as men, when it is sought by those apparently not accustomed to railway matters; and in cases where accommodation is found to be insufficient on account of pressure of passengers, or suspension of trains, the cause should be explained with urbanity and courtesy. Overseers are required, simultaneously with the enforcement of these instructions, to report when subordinates are known to have acted contrary to their directions.

On the afternoon of the 9th instant, the Naniwa Spinning Company held an extraordinary meeting at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce, with regard to the decision previously arrived at, that the company's affairs be wound up. Over forty shareholders were in attendance, the rest being represented by proxies. The question of dissolution was unanimously determined upon, and the agents of the Sumitomo and Yasuda Banks and four others were nominated as appraisers under the direction of Mr Tanaka, who is to act as chairman. The properties of the Company, including the buildings, plant, cotton, and yarns, are valued at 720,000 *yen*, out of which loans of all descriptions to the amount of 530,000 *yen* have to be met, leaving a balance of 190,000 *yen*. The company suspended work on the 1st instant, having dismissed its operatives, with the exception of 300, who are still employed. It is said that the buildings, which originally cost the Company 300,000 *yen*, have depreciated in value very much and are not now worth more than 125,000 *yen*.

The *Jiji's* correspondent makes the following remarks upon the Japan Railway Company:—Not infrequently has the Company been accused of having made an unnecessary expansion of its business, and the reduction in the rates of dividend was ascribed to the steady decline of its transactions. But the accusers appear to have failed to verify their charges by arithmetic. According to the statements made by the principal officials of the Company, the gross capital at the end of the 1st half of the 26th year of *Meiji* amounted to 19 199,000 *yen*, the total train mileage run during that period being 1,056,000 miles, realizing 1.26 *yen* per mile. In the corresponding period of the 31st year the figures are represented to have reached 41,469,940 *yen* and 2,610 000 miles, the average receipts being 1 33 *yen* per mile, while the increase, in capital was 116 per cent and in mileage 124 per cent. The Iwaki line is in process of construction, and a portion of the working capital employed on it is as yet unproductive. The two lines—Tsushima and Iwaki—cover a distance of over 200 miles, and had not the work on them been undertaken by the Japan Railway Company, it might have been entered on by another company. The recent appreciation of Iwaki coal and the steady growth of the fisheries along the railways fully attest the ultimate value of the undertakings. In the 1st half of the 26th year of *Meiji*, the Company owned 591 miles of railway, securing 2,209 *yen* per mile. The mileage increased in the 31st year to 811, the traffic receipts then being 4 299 *yen* per mile. As to the question of staff, it may be noted that whereas the aggregate number of employes in the 26 h year was only 4,277, it had risen in the 31st year to 10,895. From what has been said, it may be inferred that the expansion of the general programme of the Company was undertaken, not with speculative motives, but in face of absolute necessity. The reduction in the rates of dividends was simply attributable to the increase of expenditures caused by extraordinary changes in the financial market. If the Company is to be blamed for the timely extension of its undertaking, no enterprising corporation, the writer adds, can escape similar censure.

Two schemes for the introduction of foreign capital are about to be inaugurated, says the *Yorozu*. The one involves an amount of 10 million *yen*, to be borrowed by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. According to the Company's calculations, the rate of its own dividend is to be fixed at 8 per cent., and the interest on the foreign capital at 2 or 3 per cent. Negotiations have already been opened between the President and a certain foreign capitalist. The other scheme aims at securing 100 millions from Germany through the 100th National Bank, with the idea of distributing it as loans to various railway and commercial and industrial companies. Mr. Ikeda Kenzo is said to be the prime mover in this project, which is considered not to have so good a prospect of success as the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's scheme.

The weekly return of the Bank of Japan, published in the *Tokyo Asahi*, shows an unabated tendency to reduce the issue of loans and discounted bills. The total reduction in these two items during last week is reported to have reached two million *yen*, and it was attended with a corresponding decrease in the ordinary convertible notes, as well as those above the legal limit, to the amount of 171,792,732 *yen* and 12,614,627 *yen* respectively. The specie reserves against these notes totalled 76,161,994 *yen*. The amount of loans and discounted bills issued at the Head Office up to the 13th instant was 17 258,048 and 13,430,331 *yen* respectively making a total of 30 688,579 *yen*. These figures, together with the amounts reported from Osaka and other branches and agencies, indicate an aggregate total of something less than 60 millions. Repayments are still continuously flowing in.

Taking as its text social changes in the empire during the past few years, the *Mainichi* says the era of commonalty has just come in, and clan Government has been superseded by a democratic form of administration. Questions of no ordinary character will surely present themselves in the near future, one of the most important being the problem of pauperism. Japan has been so far indifferent to the question of pauperism, apparently for two reasons, first the distinction between poor and rich was not so great as in other countries; secondly, the people were engrossed in the task of destroying the aristocracy which lorded it over them. Now, however, pauperism is a problem which is forcing itself on their attention. The miserable condition into which the poor have fallen is astonishing. In Tokyo the streets of Shinami in Shiba, Choja machi in Shitaya, and Samegashi in Yotsuya are notorious as slums where hunger and vice reign supreme. The inhabitants of these streets are mostly beggars, or outcasts who have been convicted of theft or armed robbery. Even a great many of the honest poor are fast sinking into this wretched condition in consequence of their inability to pay the local and national taxes, and the resulting seizure and sale of their property. It is said that people in this melancholy situation number millions. As for defaulters in connection with the House Tax, the average number is reported to exceed 32,000 annually. Supposing each of them to have a family of five, the aggregate total of paupers will be no less than 1,600,000. It is curious to observe that the amount of taxes on account of which these people are subjected to legal procedure scarcely exceeds an average of 20 *sen* per head. Yet, falling once into the clutches of law, they are deprived of a house to live in, food to eat, and are eventually compelled to wander through the streets begging. On the other hand, luxury has greatly increased, among the rich and the middle classes. Indeed, social inequality has almost reached its climax. Unless attention is paid to it there will be some day a desperate struggle between the wealthy and the sans culottes.

The *Kokumin* gives the following bird's eye view of the political situation:—The Liberals and Progressists, who together compose the Constitutional Party, were while they figured as distinct parties, numerically represented in the Diet by 98 and 91 respectively. The result of the recent election shows the number of Progressists to have increased to 103, while that of the Liberals has fallen to 96—a complete victory on the part of the Progressists. It is said that the total strength of the Progressists, when combined with other politicians in sympathy with them, will be 110, against a possible 100 Liberals and their adherents. The whole Constitutional Party numbers at present 229 members, as against 71 of other minor parties, whose sympathy the Progressists and Liberals alike endeavour to secure. The alliance of the Satsuma clique, consisting of 12 members supported more or less loosely by eight others, is a particular object of desire. It may be noted that the Progressists have secured the whole of the Northeast, including Toyama, Niigata, Fukushima, Akita, Aomori, and Iwate, together with Ibaraki and Tokyo in Kwanto, whence their ascendency extends to Tokaido as far as Shizuoka and Mie. In Shikoku the two prefectures, Tokushima and Kagawa, constitute their most important posts; in Chugoku their sway extends over Okayama, and in Kiushiu over Oita and Saga. Classified according to territorial divisions or provinces, the figures for the Progressist members stand thus:—In Tohoku (Yechigo and Ou), 29; in Kwanto (including Shinshiu), 24; in Tokaido (including Shiga and Gifu), 15; Hokuroku (Fukui, Ishikawa, and Toyama), 6; Kinki (Kinai and Wakayama), 10; Shikoku, 6; Chugoku, 4; Kiushiu, 7. The Liberals have their headquarters in Kwanto and Kwansai, and their sphere of influence sweeps Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa, Nagano, Yamanashi, Aichi, Gifu, Fukui, Ishikawa, Kochi and Yehime, Hiogo, Wakayama, Tottori, Shimane Fukuoka and Nagasaki. Classified according to divisions they show the following result:—In Kwanto, 19; Tokoku, 1; Tokaido, 14; Hokuroku, 8; Kinki, 12; Shikoku, 11; Chugoku, 10; Kiushiu, 11. As for the National Unionists the figures are:—7 from Yamaguchi, 6 Kumamoto, 9 Kiushiu, 8 Chugoku, 2

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Tokaido, and 1 Kinki. The Independents are —2 from Kwanto, 1 Tohoku, 3 Tokaido, 10 Kinki, 2 Shikoku, 3 each Chugoku and Kiushiu.

The latest investigations, according to the *Nippon*, show the number of banking institutions in Osaka to have reached 91 in all. Of these 6 are chartered as National Banks, 58 are carried on under the system of joint stock companies, 14 take the form of joint capital corporations, 1 that of private partnership, and 12 those of individual private banks. Corporations which have a paid-up capital of over 500,000 *yen*, do not exceed 14 in number, the aggregate total of their capital being stated at 23,798,000 *yen*, of which 15,259,942 *yen* only is paid up. Besides the corporations above mentioned, 90 branches exist. Thus the machinery of banking business is almost in a state of perfection, but at the same time a true banker is not be found in Osaka. Any extraordinary changes in the economic market will frighten the Osaka bankers to such an extent that they find no alternative but to appeal to the Bank of Japan or government officials for aid. The bounty once secured, they devote but little attention to discharging their legitimate functions as bankers, but are frequently induced to undertake speculative enterprises. Even big banks well known to the public on account of the large amount of their capital canhardly escape the imputation of having undertaken donbtful speculations The Nippon Chiuritsu Ginko's recent speculative purchase of land in Formosa may be cited as an instance in proof of the above assertion, and the Osaka banks' indifference to the Municipal Harbour bonds offered for sale last year may be taken as another.

That the machinery of communications is hampered by innumerable defects has been recognised alike by Government and people It is, says the *Jiji*, of paramount importance that funds sufficient for efficiency should be provided and stricter control over the officials be instituted. To attain this end the accounts of the Communications Department should be kept on an independent footing, and not included in the general budget. Separate funds should be set apart for the improvement and development of enterprises undertaken by the Department. The latest investigations show the net profit of the postal services to be no less than 1,530,000 *yen*, and the telegraphs and telephones are reported to have secured 800,000 *yen*, and the railways 3,980 000 *yen*, making a total of nearly 6,300,000 *yen*. Yet with these great profits the authorities have failed to do anything palpable in the way of reform, inasmuch as the profits of the department are transferred to the general account. So long as this mode of dealing with the accounts is suffered to remain in operation, we can not look forward to the needed reforms with any degree of certainty.

ANOHER N.Y.K. STEAMER ASHORE.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha seems to be very unfortunate lately in regard to its coasting vessels. News of the third case of stranding within a few weeks comes to us by telegram this morning. The *Mikawa Maru*, a steamer of 2,000 tons, from Yokohama for western ports, went on a rock at 3 p.m. on the 17th instant off Asaumihara-mura, Iyo Prefecture. A hole nine feet long was torn in her starboard side, and another five feet long on the port side, the damage in both cases being amidships. Efforts were at once made to remove her cargo, a great deal of which has been transferred to the *Toto Maru* for transportation to Nagasaki. Hopes are entertained that the *Mikawa*, which was under the command of Captain Kitano, will be eventually got off. Extensive salvage plant has been already brought to the scene of the disaster, and Superintendent Captain Ewata has been despatched to supervise the operations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE GOVERNMENT'S FEELINGS TOWARDS FOREIGNERS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Referring to the Leader in your to-day's issue as to the attitude of the Government towards Foreigners, may I suggest that they could give a practical proof of their favourable attitude to us, by allowing Foreigners to compete with their own nationality in the matter of Government Tenders. These are amply safeguarded by bargain money and as a matter of fact some of them are taken by Foreigners through Japanese agents, but no Foreigners are allowed to take contracts direct. This adds to the cost of nearly everything the Government buys, either by a commission to a Japanese agent, or more generally by keeping the Government business in the hands of a few Contractors, who have made enormous profits on the business by the absence of competition.

Yours faithfully,

A BRITISH SUBJECT.

Yokohama, 12th August, 1898.

PIOUS IMPIETY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I do not know what explanation, if any, the editor of the Tokyo magazine called *The Shepherd's Voice* has ever made with regard to the name he applies to it; but, in the absence of any other explanation, the fact that it distinctly claims to be a Christian publication almost forces one to think that by "The Shepherd," is meant that One who, when He was on earth, spoke of Himself as "the good shepherd."—(John x., 11.)

As one of many of your readers who regret to see dishonour done (even though unintentionally) to the name of Christ, I ask leave to speak, through your columns, a word to those who are responsible for this very serious mistake.

The editor of *The Shepherd's Voice* would not be likely to dispute, I am glad to believe, the fact that the honour and reverence due to Almighty God are due also to Jesus Christ.—(John v., 23)

In view of this fact, does it not seem monstrous to give to any magazine, no matter how well conducted it may be, such a name as the one here in question? There may have been, there very likely was, some sort of pious intention in selecting this title; but I daresay that to most people, unbelievers as well as believers, it seems to show either a strange presumptiousness or a degree of callousness hardly less strange.

Again: This magazine seems to be for the most part polemic. Now, the Lord Jesus, in His manifold characters as prophet, priest, king, Son of Man, Son of God, etc., spoke as was fitting in each case. When He cleansed the Temple, or when He rebuked and denounced Parisees and hypocrites, was it as the Shepherd that He spoke? The voice of the Good Shepherd is known and loved by each and every member of His redeemed flock—(John x.4,5,27) and it is uttered to and for His own sheep. It does not seem to expect recognition by others than the sheep.—(John x., 25.)

The advertised tables of contents must be supposed to give a fair idea, even though an incomplete one, of what the magazine itself is. This being so, would it not be well if these tables were to give clearer indications than they do, of principles and motives and methods that are different from those of worldly partisans, as they must be if they are really those of Christ?

For Christians to oppose sectarianism and worldliness is well, no doubt,—(1., Cor., i, 10; Rom., xii, 2); but genuine opposition to these things will of course show its genuineness by itself avoiding the errors which it condemns. Such genuine opposition is not possible to unconverted men (Gal, v, 20, with Rom. viii. 7,8, and 1 Cor., ii, 14), nor is it possible to Christian men except in so far as they "walk in the Spirit" (Gal, v, 16 & 25). For the flesh in all of us is both worldly and partisan (1 Cor., iii. 3) though it may be religious too. Man is a religious animal.

Even though the editor of the *The Shepherd's Voice* may never before this have thought of the possibility of any one's supposing that by "The Shepherd" he might mean the Lord Jesus, may we not hope that he will now seriously consider the question of finding some other name for his magazine? A name less open than this to the charge of impiety would perhaps be more respected even by unbelievers; and certainly it would be less painful to not a few of the editor's fellow-Christians.

Thanking you for inserting this, and enclosing my card,

I am, Sir, yours faithfully, ELTEKON.

Aug. 14, 1898.

EDUCATING JAPANESE CHRISTIANS ABROAD.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—On reading your foot-note to ***'s last letter, I understood thereby that with his communication and that of another signed E. Snodgrass, the subject under discussion was to be considered as closed. But as you have admitted a letter signed "Kunwa" upon a slightly different phase of the same subject, you will perhaps allow me space for these final words of reply to all three correspondents, after which I willingly resign further discussion to abler pens than mine. Referring to ***'s letters, I may remind him that whatever may have been my previously formed opinions on the attitude of missionaries towards the Japanese, I did not commence this correspondence by advancing my individual views on the question, but took for my text the words of a Japanese, to whose opinions you must have attached some weight, or you would not have translated them from the vernacular religious press; and it was only because the Japanese writer's words, from which I made ample quotations, agreed so completely, not only with my own views, but with those of deeply thinking people who have studied the missionary question not only in Japan, but also in India and China, that I thought them worthy of bringing under special notice, I would therefore suggest to *** that it is on the Japanese writer he should expend his evident animus—a display of which he makes in anything but a Christian spirit, ill calculated to increase the respect of out-siders for men of his profession—for, as I before remarked, surely the Japanese know their own wants and feelings on religious as well as secular subjects, better than foreigners can possibly hope to do.

E. Snodgrass proposes an amendment to my suggestion that, so far from "wishing to constitute myself a final tribunal" (as unjustly and erroneously attributed to me by ***) I am ready to abide by the verdict of a consensus of public opinion outside of missionaries—his amendment being that, an assembly of educated listeners being called, one or two should speak for "Christianity" and the same number for "Infidelity." I would remind him that something of this kind was done not very long ago—in Tokyo, if I'm not mistaken—with the result of leaving the question exactly where it was before, as is always the case in such discussions.

Also, that the question between us is not one of "Christianity" versus "Infidelity," but simply, so far as my judgment goes, of the advisability or otherwise of insisting on presenting "Supernatural Christianity" to a people like the Japanese, who show no disinclination to adopt all that is good and practical in Christianity if only are eliminated therefrom certain doctrines of belief which they, in common with the greatest thinkers of the age, are agreed in considering non-essential to the progress of humanity at the present day. For why should they be compelled to accept certain dogmas which have been rejected by the highest intellects of England, France, and Germany?

The term "Christianity" is a wide and comprehensive one, and I should much like to know whether the statement quoted by *** (from hearsay only) of a Governor of a certain pro-

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vince in Japan, that "Japan at the present needed Christianity more than anything else" was meant by him to refer (if he did use the words) to Christianity as presented to his nationals by the American missionaries, or to the advanced movements that always follow in its wake, as the higher education and superior social position of woman, the abolition of concubinage, the attempt at suppression of prostitution, etc., etc.,—all of which are movements for the good of the human race generally, as can be seen by any one of ordinary intelligence, whether he be heathen or Christian. E. Snodgrass asks, "who would have opened Churches to save the Japanese people from their sins, who would have established industrial schools for orphans, asylums for the poor, hospitals for the sick and diseased, published tracts against intemperance, narcotics, prostitution, etc, etc., if the missionaries had not done so? I answer—all this and more, would the Japanese people have done in their own good time, as soon as they saw it was for the good of their nation.

These things and many more, came only comparatively recently, within the memory of some of our elders yet living, to countries that had been professing Christianity for centuries! For instance, what was the condition of English prisons until John Howard and Elizabeth Fry exposed their horrors? And yet we are now crying out against the present state of prisons in Japan! What was the state of the Yorkshire schools in which were put away helpless orphaned or illegitimate children, before Charles Dickens wrote his "Nicholas Nickleby"? The history of all reforms is—first the reformer arises and exposes the abuse—then the reformation spreads and flourishes with a nation's growth, and nothing is gained by premature forcing, any more than in pursuing the same course with a hot-house plant.

I never heard that the foreign missionaries had aught to do in establishing the Red Cross Society throughout the length and breadth of Japan—an institution which may be pronounced almost perfect in its operations—as evidenced during the China-Japan war, in its impartial devotion to the sick and wounded of the enemy, as well as to its own countrymen. I fail to see whether that Society could have acted more nobly and devotedly had all its members been Christians, which most assuredly they were not!

In reply to "Kanwa's" request that "Impartial Observer" should favour him, "not only with many enlightened opinions, but with facts, figures, and items of actual experience" regarding Japanese Christians studying abroad, I respectfully refer him to *** for information on those points, as it was he, and not I, who asserted that he had found Japanese students studying Christian theology in most of the colleges in the United States! I, as well as "Kanwa" would be glad to know from *** whether these Japanese students were studying at their own expense, or whether they had been placed there at the expense of Mission Boards, for that is the real question at issue, not whether or no Japanese young men are studying theology in America, but whether they are are so placed by Mission funds?

For my part, I only made the suggestion that such a course of action on the part of Mission Boards would not only be of immense advantage to the Japanese, whose spiritual welfare they profess to have so much more at heart than that of the benighted ones in their own land, but would certainly do away with the cumbrous machinery at present needed to keep up foreign missions in Japan, where, after the preliminaries of salaries for the workers are adjusted—shipping companies have to be requested to abate a third of the regular passenger tariff to transport the missionaries to Japan, where thousands of dollars must be expended in building houses for them.—where additional money grants to their incomes are made for every new child born into a missionary family—where grants for travelling expenses must be forthcoming—where arrangements must be made for providing a year's holiday for every five year's work on not less than half-pay, it is understood—with doubtless many other monetary arrangements of which outsiders are never made cognisant, all of which outlay of mission funds could be avoided by the simple expedient of bringing Mahomet to the mountain, instead of the mountain going to Mahomet, and which should be certainly brought under the notice of Mission boards, as it is a course of action which appears to have hitherto been overlooked by them.

In conclusion, I beg to assure you and your readers that no one will be more glad than myself to assure both that you have heard the last from and of "IMPARTIAL OBSERVER."

August 8th.

[It is a mistake to infer that we attach importance to, or in any way endorse, an expression of opinion quoted as part of a Summary of the Religious Press.—ED. *J.M.*]

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

On the 12th inst., the Government granted an exequatur to Mr. Aluizio Azevedo as Vice-Consul for the Brazilian Republic, to reside at Yokohama.

An Imperial Ordinance will be issued about the middle of October—says a vernacular journal—stating that the new Tariff will come into force on the 1st January next year.

The Railway Authorities have given courteous attention to the complaint of the public by putting on a 4.50 p.m. train from Tokyo to Yokosuka. This train leaves Yokohama at 5.55 p.m., which is presumably the most convenient hour for business men desiring to proceed to their sea-side villas at Zushi or Kamakura.

On Wednesday night, about 8.40 a fire broke out in a house occupied by a curio dealer named Nagai, 52, Honcho, 3 chome. Supt. Morgin and members of the Yokohama Fire Brigade were soon on the spot, and with the assistance of the police the fire was extinguished in half an hour. Four houses were destroyed. The cause of the fire is unknown.

The *Takasago* reached Yokosuka safely on the 14th instant at 6.40 p.m. Her voyage had been somewhat protracted owing to heavy weather encountered in the neighbourhood of Japan. We have already given the dimensions of this fine second-class cruiser, and explained that she was built at Lord Armstrong & Co.'s yard, and that she left Newcastle, bound for Japan, on the 6th of June.

The *Hawaiian Gazette*, just to hand by the *Gaelic*, contains the following note:—S. Hirai, Acting-Consul for Japan, called at the Foreign Office yesterday morning and received from Minister Cooper a warrant on the Hawaiian Treasury for the sum of $75,000, being the amount voted by the Council of State in full settlement of the immigration dispute between Japan and this country. The money will be forwarded in the shape of bank exchange by the *Gaelic* to day to the Government at Tokyo.

The Marine Court of Inquiry which has been investigating the circumstances connected with the wreck of the steamer *Amarapoora* gave its finding on the 9th instant at Shanghai. The Court found that the vessel was lost through the negligence of William Daniel Cameron, the master commanding her, and they therefore suspended his certificate for six months, with a recommendation that a first mate's "ticket" be given to him during the period of suspension. The Court also found, *inter alia*, that the ship was not provided with proper charts for the voyage, and that the mate of the vessel, William de Caullieu Wetherell, did not give his evidence in an altogether satisfactory manner.

Mr. E. H. Rawson-Walker, F.R.G.S., H.B.M.'s Consul at Manila, has died of dysentery. The late Mr. Rawson-Walker was first in charge of the Consulate at Massowah in 1862. From there he was appointed Vice Consul at Tripoli, being from time to time Acting Consul-General. In 1867 he was appointed Consul at Cagliari, and in 1876 was transferred to Pernambuco. Thence he was transferred in 1879 to Cormona, and from there to Charleston, U.S.A., in 1893, and to his late post in 1895. He was the father of Mrs. Galloway, the wife of the Captain of H.M.S. *Daphne*. The Consulate at Manila is now in charge of Mr. Rumsden.

An employée of Messrs. Binhl Brothers, No. 24, Yokohama, named Kubo Sangoro, 16 years old, is alleged to have stolen a number of gold, and silver watches and chains valued at over *yen* 3,000. It is stated that he sold them to the watch dealers Matsumura Kwansuke in Matsugaicho, Saito Tomekichi in Motomachi, 5-chome, and Nagano Sankichi in Maganecho, 1 chome, for a little over *yen* 1,400. The thief spent the money thus gained at Hakone and other places. He and some of the dealers have been arrested.

The armoured cruiser *Tokiwa*, built for the Japanese navy, was launched at Elswick on 6th July. The ceremony was performed by Mme. Kato, wife of the Japanese Minister, and was witnessed by a distinguished company, including Lord Rendel and Sir Andrew Noble. The particulars of special interest in relation to the vessel are the following:—Principal dimensions—Length 408ft., breadth 67ft., draft, mean, 24ft. 4in., displacement in tons, 9 700; armament, four 8in. b.l. guns, 14 6in. q.-f. guns, 12 12-pounder q.-f. guns, seven 2½ pounder q.-f. guns, and five torpedo-tubes; armour—complete belt 7in. to 3½in., citadel 5in., casemates 6 in., barbettes 6in., conning tower 14in.; speed—24½ knots with 18 000 i.h.p. forced draft, 20 knots with 13 000 i.h.p. open stokeholds; coal supply, normal, 600 tons, full, 12,000 tons.

FIRE IN KOBE HARBOUR.

THE "BARING BROTHERS" DESTROYED.

RUMOURS OF INCENDIARISM.

Says the *Kobe Chronicle* of Friday last:—The full-rigged American ship *Baring Bros.*, which arrived here a fortnight or so ago from Yokohama to load a cargo for New York, is now a complete wreck. She was loading a general cargo for Messrs. Delacamp & Co., and about three thousand tons of matting, rugs, &c., had been already shipped for the voyage. It was expected that she would be ready to sail for her destination either to-morrow or Monday. At about half-past twelve this morning smoke was observing issuing from the forward hatch, and according to the statement of two of the crew who were sleeping under the forecastle head, they were awakened by fumes coming up from the chain locker. An alarm was at once raised, and the entire crew, numbering twenty-five men, including the Captain, came on deck. It was already evident that the fire had a good hold forward, and any effort to prevent it spreading could only be made on the after side of the forward hatch, but even that could not be done with the weak appliances on the vessel, and there was nothing left but to endeavour to save what personal effects were on board, and secure the ship's papers and nautical instruments.

It was not long after the alarm that the foremast went by the board, and for two hours the flames, spreading rapidly aft, licked round the mainmast till that fell on the fore side with a terrible crash. The crew could do nothing, and when all seemed hopeless they left the ship and took refuge on board the steamer *Patroclus*. The officers were the last to leave.

Throughout the whole of yesterday—we are quoting the *Kobe Chronicle* of Saturday—the fire on the American ship *Baring Brothers* continued unchecked, as it was impossible to bring any fire-extinguishing appliances to play on the burning mass. Fifteen hundred tons of curios alone were stored in the holds, and 17,000 rolls of matting were on board as well as several hundred tons of rags. The whole cargo is insured, except, so the local agents inform us, that of a Japanese shipper who had several tons of curios on board, and who had intended to effect his insurance yesterday. Messrs. Nicke

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& Co. have made arrangements to tow the burning vessel into shallow water and there scuttle her, in the hope of saving some portion of the ship's fittings, but the task will be an extremely risky one, for it is considered by those best able to judge that nothing but the bare hulk can possibly be saved. The United States Consul held a formal inquiry at the Consulate yesterday morning at which the statements of some of the crew were taken down. Nothing definite can be gathered as to the origin of the fire, and notwithstanding that every possible step has been taken to glean some clue, the whole thing is wrapped in mystery. That it originated in the fore part of the vessel there is not the slightest doubt, and what makes the mystery more complete is that the forward hatch was locked the whole of Thursday, and not a single coolie had access to that part of the hold on that day. The only way access could be obtained was by way of the chain locker, from whence the smoke was first observed. The ill-fated vessel is owned by Mr. E. E. O'Brien of Thomaston, Maine, who also owns the *Alexander Gibson* and the *Y. B. Walker*, both of which trade regularly to the Far East. The *Baring Brothers* was estimated to be worth at least U.S. $250,000, although she has been sailing for over twenty years. Captain Smalley says he does not believe she is insured at all, for her owner has had other vessels lost in a similar manner, and they had not been covered by insurance. This is the second time the Captain has been burnt out, for in the *Mary O'Brien* some time ago his cargo of coal became ignited, and resulted in the complete loss of the vessel.

The Captain feels his loss acutely and yesterday afternoon said it had been a severe blow to him. Besides losing his interest in the vessel, he has to suffer the additional loss of a large quantity of sailors' clothing and other things which make it extremely unfortunate for him.

The principal shippers of the cargo are Messrs. Vautine & Co., and Heyn, Brockelmann & Co., who, as we have already stated, are fully covered by insurance.

H.B.M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

(Before R. G. E. FORSTER, E-q, Acting Assistant Judge.)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12TH.

THE LEOPOLD CASE.

Yesterday morning, Charles E Leopold, who had been arrested on Thursday afternoon on a warrant issued by the Court, was brought upon the following charge and information:—

To George Kircher, usher of this Court and to the keeper of Her Britannic Majesty's Consular prison at Kanagawa.

Charles Emil Leopold of Yokohama has been charged on oath before this Court for that he did unlawfully knowingly and designedly obtain by false pretences from the manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation certain sums of money the particulars of which and of the pretences by which the said monies were obtained are fully set out in the charge hereto annexed.

In Her Britannic Majesty's Court for Japan,

Kanagawa, the 11th day of August, 1898.

The Queen (on the prosecution of Emil Wismer) v. Charles Emil Leopold.

Emil Wismer being first duly sworn charges that Charles Emil Leopold on the 31st day of December, 1897, unlawfully knowingly and designedly by producing and delivering to the manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama a certain Bill of Lading, stating that ten cases of furs had been shipped by him on board the German steamship *Hohenzollern* to be carried to London and at the same time and place by producing and delivering to the said officer of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation an invoice of the said ten cases of furs and a policy of marine insurancewhere by the said ten cases of furs were stated to have been insured against loss, did falsely pretend to the said manager of the said Bank that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* ten cases of furs of the alleged value of twelve hundred and fifty pounds sterling, by means of which false pretences he did then unlawfully obtain from the said Bank twelve thousand one hundred and eighty-two *yen* and seventy-four *sen* to be paid to his credit with the said Bank for the use and benefit of him the said Charles Emil Leopold with intent to defraud, whereas in truth and in fact, the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* the said ten cases of furs or any cases of furs, or any part thereof, as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the peace of our Lady the Queen her Crown and dignity.

And the said Emil Wismer doth further charge that the said Charles Emil Leopold afterwards, namely on the said 31st day of December, 1897, by a like false pretence to that before mentioned, in respect to another Bill of Lading, invoice and policy of insurance, did by falsely pretending that he had shipped forty other cases of furs by the said steamship, obtain a further sum of twenty nine thousand two hundred and thirty-five *yen* and fifty-five *sen* of the moneys of the said Bank to be paid to his credit with the said Bank with intent to defraud, whereas in truth and in fact, he had not then shipped on board the said steamship the said forty cases of furs or any of them, or any part of them as he then well knew.

And the said Emil Wismer further charges that afterwards by like false pretences as are hereinbefore mentioned, the said Charles Emil Leopold obtained from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation further sums of money of the said Bank to be paid to his credit with the said Bank for his use and benefit with intent to defraud. That is to say: That on the 19th day of January 1898 by falsely pretending that he had shipped on board the steamship *Hohenzollern* ten bales of furs he obtained seven thousand three hundred and nine *yen* and sixty five *sen*. And on the 14th day of February, 1898, by falsely pretending that he had shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* sixteen packages of furs he obtained twenty eight thousand and ninety one *yen* and sixty-one *sen*: And on the 15th day of February 1898, by falsely pretending that he had shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* four cases of furs he obtained nine thousand seven hundred and seventy *yen* and ninety-seven *sen*: And on the 21st day of February 1898, by falsely pretending that he had shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern*, ten packages of furs, he obtained nineteen thousand five hundred and forty one *yen* and ninety-nine *sen*. And on the 7th day of April, 1898, by falsely pretending that he had shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* nine packages of furs he obtained seventeen thousand and twelve *yen* and sixty six *sen*: And on the said 7th day of April 1898, by falsely pretending that he had shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* ten other packages of furs he obtained a further sum of seventeen thousand and twelve *yen* sixty-six *sen*, whereas in truth and in fact, the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* at the respective times above mentioned or at any time the cases and packages of furs before mentioned or any of them, as he the said Charles Emil Leopold at the times when he made the false pretences respectively above mentioned well knew, contrary to the statue in such cases made and provided and against the peace of Our Lady the Queen, her Crown and dignity.

(Signed) EMIL WISMER.

INFORMATION.

In Her Britannic Majesty's Court for Japan.

The Queen (on the prosecution of Emil Wismer) v Charles Emil Leopold.

I, Emil Wismer, merchant, a German subject of Yokohama, make oath and say that Charles Emil Leopold on the 31st day of December, 1897 having unlawfully procured the signature of H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf. to a Bill of Lading and policy of insurance, unlawfully, knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to the Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama that he had shipped ten cases of furs per steamship *Hohenzollern* to the port of London, by which false pretence the said Charles Emil Leopold did then unlawfully obtain from the said manager of the said Bank *yen* 12,182 74, the money of the said Bank with intent to defraud. Whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not then shipped on board the steamship *Hohenzollern* the said ten cases of furs or any of them as he then well knew.

2—And I further say that by like false pretences that he had shipped other furs to London, the said Charles Emil Leopold from the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation farther large sums of money, that is to say: on the said 31st December 1897 by falsely pretending that he had shipped 40 other cases of furs obtained a further sum of *yen* 29,235.55; and on the 10th January 1898, by falsely pretending that he had shipped 10 other bales of furs obtained *yen* 7,309 65; and on the 14th February, 1898, by falsely pretending that he had shipped 16 packages of furs obtained *yen* 28,091.06; and on the 15th day of February, 1898, by falsely pretending that he had shipped 4 cases of furs obtained *yen* 9,770.97. And on the 21st day of February, 1898, by falsely pretending that he had shipped 10 packages of furs obtained *yen* 19,541.99. And on the 7th April, 1898, by falsely pretending that he had shipped 9 packages of furs obtained *yen* 17,012.66; and on the said 7th of April by falsely pretending that he had shipped 10 other packages of furs obtained a further sum of *yen* 17,012.66 of the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation with intent to defraud.

(signed) EMIL WISMER.

Sworn at Yokohama this eleventh day of August 1898, before me

(signed) RALPH G. E. FORSTER,
Acting Assistant Judge,
H.B.M. Court for Japan.

Mr. Litchfield, Crown Prosecutor in Japan, appeared for the prosecution.

His Honour, to Accused—Have you any counsel?—Yes, your Honour. Professor Terry; but he has not yet returned from Karuizawa. I have telegraphed to him and expect him back to-morrow. I beg to apply to the Court for a postponement of the hearing until Mr. Terry returns.

His Honour—Have you any objection, Mr. Litchfield?

Mr. Litchfield—If accused wants time to prepare his defence I have no objection to a postponement. At the same time, I am ready to go on if necessary.

After a brief consultation between all parties, it was decided to remand the case until Tuesday next, the 16th instant.

Accused said he begged to apply to the Court for bail.

His Honour—Any application for bail will be heard in chambers.

The Court then rose.

(TUESDAY, August 16th.)

Charles Emil Leopold appeared on a charge of obtaining moneys on false pretences from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Mr. H. C. Litchfield prosecuted, having with him Mr. J. F. Lowder; Professor Terry appeared for the defence, and Mr. A. B. Walford watched the case on behalf of the Bank.

Mr. Litchfield applied for an amendment of some clerical errors which had crept into the charge. The sum of *yen* 29,235 55 should be *yen* 29,938.58; the sum of *yen* 9,770 97, alleged to have been obtained on February 15th, 1898, should be *yen* 9,770 99; the sum alleged to have been obtained on February 21st should be, instead of *yen* 19,541 99, two sums of *yen* 10,992.36 and *yen* 8,549 63, the latter sum having been applied for on the 21st, but not paid over till the 24th. Further, the two sums of *yen* 17,012.66, alleged to have been received on April 7th, should in each case be *yen* 17,055 82.

In opening for the prosecution, Mr. Litchfield said the statute which regulated the case was 24th and 25th Victoria, chapter 96, sections 88 and 89. The accused was in the employ of Messrs. Ahrens & Co., or rather the successors of Messrs. Ahrens & Co., a firm which carried on a large import, but no export trade; they were also agents for the Norddeutscher Lloyd and the London Insurance Company, which he should for the purposes of that enquiry treat as a Marine Insurance Company. Leopold had been for the last twelve years chief of the shipping department of the firm and of the Marine Insurance work. In fact, much confidence had been reposed in him, and he might be said to have managed the shipping and insurance business of the firm. At the end of last year Leopold announced that he was making shipments of furs to London, and as the firm was not an export firm he was allowed to do this export business on his own account with the sanction and knowledge of the firm. The first item of the charge was that Leopold obtained on the 31st December *yen* 12,182 by false pretences, this sum being put to his credit by the bank on his representation to the manager that he had by the steamer *Hohenzollern* shipped ten cases of furs, and on his presenting a bill of lading and a marine insurance policy purporting that the goods were actually shipped. He should show them that Leopold under a letter of credit from a London firm trading as C. M. Lampson and Co., was authorised to sell to the bank bills of exchange on consignments of furs and skins shipped to Messrs. Lampson and Co. Under this arrangement the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank paid Mr. Leopold's trading bills, and put the proceeds in Japanese money to the credit of

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his account. The conditions under which he was allowed to draw were that he should hand to the bank complete documents such as bills of lading, &c., showing that the goods were actually shipped. On the 31st December, Leopold drew a bill of exchange for £1,250, and on the same day wrote the Bank a letter in which he enclosed complete details of the bills of lading, described the marks and numbers on the packages, and gave the name of the consignees. The applications to the bank on subsequent occasions were always accompanied by letters in almost identical terms, except in the matter of numbers, the amounts applied for, &c. The letter and the bill of exchange were accompanied by the bill of lading, the marks and numbers on which corresponded with those in the letter and the invoice which represented that the furs were shipped. There also followed a policy of insurance for £2,000 in the London Insurance Company. Mr. Leopold, in fact, fulfilled all the conditions under which he was entitled to draw on Lampson & Co.—who he was informed were a most respectable firm. Only one thing seemed to have been neglected, and that was that he did not send the furs on board the *Hohenzollern*. These bills of lading purported to show that the goods were shipped, and they bore the signature of one of the partners of Ahrens & Co., and the prosecution had to prove that though the documents were correct they did not represent, as they were alleged to represent, the fact that these furs had been shipped to London. It would be necessary to explain the system of shipping adopted at Messrs. Ahrens and Co.'s. The firm had an agreement with the Pier Landing and Lighter Company, a firm of Japanese contractors, through which all cargo entitled to be sent by the steamers of the N. D. Lloyd was handled and passed on to the steamer, with the exception only of treasure shipments. The custom pursued was this. The intending shipper makes application for a shipping order for goods. He is given forms on blue paper in duplicate which describe the marks and numbers of the goods he wishes to ship. He is also supplied at the same time with blank forms of bills of lading. With those two forms in blue he takes his goods to the Pier Company. The Pier Company takes the goods, keeps one of the blue forms, and returns to the shipper the duplicate —signed by the Pier Company. The shipper then fills up the bills of lading, returns both to Messrs. Ahrens & Co., and the bill of lading is signed. It is first of all checked in the shipping office with the blue form, and then if it is correct it is passed in to the private office of the partners and is signed by them. Sometimes these bills of lading come in large numbers for signature, and the partners are naturally in the habit of trusting to the clerks that the details are accurate, it being of course impossible to check each of these bills before signing. The Pier Company are provided by Ahrens and Co. with books of forms in white paper. One of these forms is filled in by the Pier Company to correspond with the blue form, and this with the cargo is forwarded to the ship. The officer on duty on receiving the cargo signs the form and returns it to the company, and the company eventually delivers the form to Messrs. Ahrens & Co. with the officer's signature. These forms not returning, however, until after the steamer has left, the manifest for the steamer is made up from the blue forms and bills of lading. After the steamer has left the white forms come in and these are checked with the copies of the manifest remaining in the hands of Ahrens and Co. If these shipments of which Mr. Leopold's letter spoke were genuine shipments there should be found in the hands of Ahrens and Co. or of the Pier Company these forms of shipment. There were found in a drawer of the office which Mr. Leopold indicated to another clerk copies of the bills of lading which in the case of genuine shipments should not have been in Yokohama at all. On receipt of a telegram from Bremen concerning the matter one of the partners, Mr. Hofmann, had an interview with Leopold and informed him of the purport of the message and asked for an explanation. His Honour would be informed by Mr. Hofmann what statements were made in reply. When he had laid before his Honour in evidence the inducements by which the bank had made these advances he should ask for an order for the trial of the accused before a higher court.

George Kircher, Constable of the British Consulate, was then called. He said Leopold was of British nationality. He served a warrant on Leopold at No. 59.

Henry William Fraser described himself as chief clerk, looking after the outward business of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. He meant by that that he attended to outward business in bills of exchange. In the case of a documentary bill his custom was to [illegible] that the bill was duly signed, that the date was right, and that the documents attached were as represented; also, if the bill were drawn under a letter of credit, he would see that it corresponded with the terms of credit, and (should exchange be settled) that it was paid for at the proper rate of exchange. He knew Leopold. He was one of the clients of the Bank. Witness knew his signature. Witness had been in Yokohama almost three years. In December last Leopold presented a letter of credit from Messrs. C. M. Lampson and Company, of London. It authorised Mr. Leopold to draw bills of exchange, with the shipping documents, attached, for furs as directed by them. On 31st December he received a letter from Mr. Leopold on the subject of the letter of credit (the letter put in). He also received a bill of exchange signed by Leopold (produced). He marked the letter with blue pencil to show that the figures corresponded with the documents annexed, and the equivalent of the sum of £1,250 in *yen* for ten cases of furs was placed to Leopold's credit in the bank books. Witness identified the endorsement of the bill of lading (produced) as in the handwriting of Leopold, and also the invoices and insurance forms, the marks and figures in which corresponded. By these documents he understood that the goods had been shipped by the steamer. The bank was induced to purchase the bill, drawn by Leopold, because everything appeared in order, including the letter of credit.

At this point Professor Terry suggested that to shorten this examination, he might admit the documents, and they might be put in. He suggested this merely with a view of shortening the examination; of course he said nothing as to the trial.

Mr. Lowder said he did not think they could take admissions of counsel in a criminal case. He was afraid that they would have to go through each item, tedious as the process was.

Mr. Forster—You see the other party does not want it.

Professor Terry—Very well. Let us go on.

Mr. Litchfield then put before witness the documents referring to transactions on the same date, 31st December, referring to 40 other cases of fur and involving *yen* 29,238; 8th January, *yen* 7,309; 9th February, *yen* 28,091; 15th February, *yen* 9,770; 19th February, *yen* 10,992 and *yen* 8,549; 7th April, *yen* 17,055 and *yen* 17,055. Prior to the 31st December Leopold's banking account was overdrawn. He was allowed to overdraw on the condition that the bills of exchange came to the bank.

Witness continued that these eight bills of lading had been sent back to Yokohama from London. With regard to the transaction of February 19th, credit was not given to Leopold for the sum immediately, as his credit was overdrawn, by the latter sum of *yen* 8,549 but a day or two after his credit was extended by wire from London from £5,000 to £10,000; and consequently the other sums were placed to his credit.

The Court then adjourned. On resuming, witness said there was a change in the system of keeping Leopold's accounts after the 31st December. Up to the 31st December the account was overdrawn before the bills came in to the bank, but subsequently this was not so; he meant that the cheques were not passed until the bills were delivered to the bank.

By Professor Terry—It was not witness who decided whether the bills should be bought. The manager (Mr. Bevis) decided that. The first of the credits of Lampson and Co. was by wire, as well as the second increasing it to £10,000. Those telegrams he presumed were in the bank; they came in code and were translated; the originals were filed away, the others were put in the safe. The bank had not received any advice that the bills had not been paid; they were not all due yet. No notice had been received this end at all. The bills were in three parts, the first went forward immediately by the first mail to the London office, and the second by the next mail; the third was retained by the Bank here. The first and second parts had not returned to Japan, and in the ordinary course it should be now in London.

By Mr. Lowder—The manager decided whether to purchase a bill, and then it was sent into witness's office. He recognised the contract produced as one entered into between Leopold and the bank, through a Mr. Parsons, broker. He identified another similar contract with Messrs. St. John and Daniel as brokers, for £3,000, and another with the name of Mr. Blad as broker.

By Mr. Terry—All the negotiations were not through brokers, but he never remembered Mr. Leopold coming to the office personally; when the bills did not come through brokers they were sent in Ahrens' chit-book.

Albert Hofman, a German subject and a partner in H. Ahrens and Co., Nachf., said besides their business as merchants they were agents for the Norddeutscher Lloyd and the London Assurance Corporation—a marine, fire, and life company. He was here with Mr. Wismer conducting the business of the firm last December, and he remained till the 20th January, when he went down to Kobe to take charge there. Mr. Leopold was controller of the shipping and insurance departments at Yokohama. Witness had known him since 1886. The firm signed bills of lading as agents for the N. Lloyd; they did not sign for the master. The firm signed for the Insurance Company on their own authority as agents. He identified his signature for the firm on the bills of lading and the insurance policies produced. He did not remember the circumstances under which he signed these documents; there were very many such papers to sign, and he could not take very great notice of any particular one. Bills of lading came into the private office for signature after they had been checked in the clerks' office; principals trusted to everything being in order when they attached their signatures. Witness went down to Kobe in January, and returned to Yokohama about the end of April. He then saw Leopold at the German Hospital, and showed him a telegram the firm had received from London asking explanations concerning certain packages of furs not come to hand. These telegrams were from the head office of the N. D. Lloyd at Bremen. Leopold admitted that the goods has not been shipped, but promised to do everything to satisfy the firm, so that they wouldn't lose anything. He produced an account of other transactions and also gave witness an approximate account of his assets. The paper (produced) was written at Leopold's dictation by a Mr. Harmssen, another clerk. Witness took the letter produced (in Leopold's hand writing) from the hospital with him. It stated Leopold undertook to keep his assets for Mr. Wismer's account, and that they would be more than sufficient to pay off the money. Leopold was very sick at the time, and conversation was very difficult. He gave no reasons for his course of action. He gave them his ideas as to what answer to telegraph to Bremen. His idea was that they should wire that the goods were detained at shippers' request, that the matter had been settled there, that things had been arranged between Leopold and Lampson, that the goods had been resold in Yokohama, and explanations would follow by mail. This telegram, however, was not sent by the firm, as it did not correspond with the truth. He had not heard from Leopold any explanation as to the statements made in the suggested telegram. Another telegram was, however, sent afterwards.

At this point the Court adjourned till this morning, an application for bail being heard in chambers.

Wednesday, August 17th.

The hearing of the charges against Charles Emil Leopold was continued this morning. Mr. Litchfield and Mr. Lowder again appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Terry defended; and Mr. A. B. Walford watched the case for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Fukushima Cheichi, a Japanese employé of Ahrens and Co., Nachf., was called and examined by Mr. Lowder. Shown the documents already placed before the Court he pointed out the portions which were in his handwriting, viz., several letters to the bank, bills of lading, and invoices. He wrote them by the instructions of Leopold, and after writing them he gave them to Leopold.

Ogata Buekichi, also employed as a clerk in Ahrens and Co.'s, identified several documents—marine insurance policies, letters to the bank, bills of lading, and invoices—as in his handwriting. He wrote them by instructions of Mr. Leopold. He handed them when they were finished sometimes to Mr. Leopold and sometimes to Mr. Harmssen. They were all written in copying ink.

Emil Wismer, partner in the firm of Ahrens & Co., Nachf., said the accused was in his employ in the month of December last, and he continued in his employ up to the 9th or 10th of May, 1898. He had been more than twenty years in the employ of the new firm and of the old firm. The present firm was formed in January, 1887. Leopold was the manager of the shipping office and the insurance department. When bills of lading and such documents came in for witness's signature he signed them trusting that the details were correct. It would be impossible for him to examine into each document before signing it. He identified his signature for the firm on a number of documents—bills of lading and insurance polices—produced. On April 9th the firm received a telegram from the head office of the Norddeutscher Lloyd at Bremen. He identified

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Lampson London claim 133 packages furs shipped by Leopold Yokohama December January. Do you know their whereabouts? Immediate answer required.

In answer to that this telegram was eventually despatched:—

Shipments postponed. Leopold wiring Lampson. Suspend claims.

This answer was sent on the suggestion of Leopold, who was seen in the hospital by Mr. Harmssen. On the form of bill of exchange (produced) he saw the words "Ahrens and Co., London and Japan." This was the style of the old firm and the forms were not now in use. He did not know before that these forms had been used by anyone in the office. Leopold had no right to use them in his private business. About the beginning of May witness went to see Leopold at the hospital. Witness spoke to him about the goods not having gone forward. He did not give witness any satisfactory explanation; he simply said that everything would be settled later on, and that the firm would not lose a cent. He admitted that the goods referred to in the telegram had not been forwarded. Soon after witness had seen Leopold he received a letter (produced) from him. The first part was a letter from another party to Leopold, and read as follows:—

Phœnix Saw Mills, Nakamura.

Dear Mr. LEOPOLD,—The following telegram has just arrived from Lampson. "Ship goods or send remittance to cover goods."

A. G. DOUGLAS LLOYD.

Then in accused's handwriting was the following:—

Dear Mr. WISMER,—Above wire arrived just after you left. From my knowledge of the people I believe them to be satisfied. They only want to push me. I shall wire tomorrow noon as follows, by which time you may have heard something from London; "Deliveries will be completed within (?) ten days; therefore kindly allow me this time."

LEOPOLD.

P.S.—I know the people, and am perfectly certain that the matter is in order.

Witness received a second letter about the same time as follows:—

Dear Mr. WISMER,—I thank you for wiring the £5 000, which will, I am sure, satisfy Lampson's for the present. I have several drafts due on the 2nd May with my brother in London. I think about £3 500, of which he has sold £2,000, leaving a balance of £1,500, which should be paid on Monday. I shall esteem it a great favour if you will instruct London to pay him, goods or warrants to be handed to London office. This will prevent my credit being entirely spoiled at the Chartered Bank. It is bad enough now. I assure you that I shall do everything to get out of the mess as quickly as possible.

Yours truly, LEOPOLD.

The witness explained, as to the reference to wiring the £5 000, for which Leopold expressed his thanks, that it was done at the verbal request of Leopold to Mr. Hofmann. The money was wired to their London office to pay Lampson. Leopold told Mr. Hofmann that about that amount was due on the 2nd or 3rd of May against shipments of furs not made. The firm agreed to this because they as agents of the Nordderd-cher Lloyd were the finally responsible parties owing to their signature to the bills of lading. Besides, Mr. Leopold promised Mr. Hofmann verbally to refund them this amount in about a week or so by selling the Phœnix Saw Mill, which, believing his statements, the firm thought was his own property. He told them he could sell the mill for that amount in a week or two. About the same time, the beginning of May, witness received another letter from the accused. It read as follows:—

"Will the Bank make the renewal Monday due? Bank refuses to make the loan if not guaranteed. Moseley declines without definite instructions. Remit all you can £1500."

Dear Mr. WISMER and HOFMANN.—Above is a wire I have received from my brother. The bank will apparently make the loan if guaranteed by you. The best way out of the trouble is to remit, which I trust you will be able to do.

Yours, E. LEOPOLD

Witness (in reply to Mr. Lowder):—The brother referred to must have been representing the accused's firm in London. Moseley is Ahrens and Co.'s Manager in London. The telegram produced is a copy of a telegram sent by Ahrens & Co., Yokohama, to Ahrens and Co., London.

Mr. Lowder read the telegram as follows:—

We have Digitized by Google with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation—£1500

Pay Leopold against warrants. We have opened credit in your favour with Chartered Bank £5,000 Lampson.—Ahrens.

The witness explained that the word "Lampson" meant "to be paid to Lampson." This telegram was sent to meet the urgent wishes of the accused. The following reply was received from their London branch:—

Leopold's warrants consist entirely of wall paper, on which no careful persons would advance money. What shall we do with the £1,500? Telegraph immediately.

The Yokohama office thereupon replied:—

£1,500 do not pay, wait further instructions.

The following letter, undated, was received by witness from the accused about the beginning of May:—

Dear Mr. WISMER,—My brother just wires me that he can manage with £800, therefore please do wire this amount to London, so that I can square off the bills. I thought the matter was in order and told the bank so. By wiring above I can settle with them here easier.

Yours, E. LEOPOLD.

Mr. Lowder:—Did you wire £800 as requested?

Witness:—No.

Mr. Lowder then proposed to put in another letter from Leopold of a date about the 9th or 10th May, but Mr. Terry objected that it was immaterial. His Honour, however, held that it was admissible, and the letter was read as follows:—

Dear Mr. WISMER,—Kindly keep back the advertisement till to-morrow if possible, as I wish to inform some of my friends personally. I trust you will word the advertisement so that I shall not be entirely ruined before the Yokohama community, as I am trying to raise mortgages on the Saw Mills and other property.

Yours, E. LEOPOLD.

Mr. Lowder—What was this advertisement?

Witness explained that it was an advertisement the firm were thinking of publishing announcing Leopold's dismissal from their employ. The advertisement, however, was never published.

At this point an adjournment was made.

On resuming, witness stated that in the early part of May he called on accused for a list of his assets. Witness received the letter produced and the list of assets.

Mr. Lowder read them as follows:—

Dear Mr. WISMER,—I beg to hand you the list required. The original list which I handed to Mr. Hofmann was a complete one of my assets and I told him at the time that I owed the Chartered Bank *yen* 54,000 (or 64 000—the first figure being very indistinct). I have therefore made out a new list for the Chartered and have used for them the goods or properties which will take longest to realise. You need not tell them that. I have used the Nakamura and Sugamo-cho properties, which are very difficult to sell with the lease to you. I could get any price for the lot provided they were empty. The lighters in course of construction will be two months before we can deliver, also other work. I will get you the title deeds as quickly as possible. I hope to sell the saw mills outright. They will bring at least yen 100,000 as a going concern. The land is also well in hand.

E. LEOPOLD.

Attached to this letter was a list of accused's assets, which he stated that he assigned to Ahrens & Co. The list was as follows:—

	Yen.
Phœnix Saw Mills	80,000
Yoshihama-cho shed and lease	1,000
House and Godown in Japanese Town ...	2 500
Land in Kanazawa	1,100
Paper manufactory in Tokyo.....	4,000
(These are all in Mr. Uyeda's name).	
Yoshida Shinden land, outlay on loans ...	37.000
(In Messrs. Uyeda's and Gisa's name).	
Claim London Assurance Company.....	30,000
Various unsold stocks in London	30,000
Sundry amounts owing to me	3 000
Shares	12,000
Skins, coal, wood, and other goods unsold.	36,000
No. 59 furniture, dwelling house, and offices	3 500
Total	240,100

Besides this he (the accused) assigned all profits made on the above businesses, estimated to amount to between *yen* 60,000 and *yen* 70,000.

By Professor Terry—The telegrams he had produced were press copies; they had the originals in their possession.

Witness, on having his evidence read over, made a correction as to the use of the old forms marked, "Ahrens and Co., Japan and London." He said he had since found that these forms were occasionally used, but only now and then, and then the word "Nachf." was always added to "Ahrens and Company."

Johann Andreas Harmssen, a German subject, and clerk in the employ of Ahrens and Co., Nachf., said he was assistant to Leopold in both shipping and insurance departments. With regard to the shipping business of the N. D. Lloyd the firm had a contract with a Japanese firm called the Pier Traffic and Lighter Company. The Pier Company had to receive cargo and forward it to the steamers in port. Under exceptional circumstances shippers shipped cargo direct; but generally speaking it went through the Pier Company. When a shipper wished to put cargo on board he received a blue form from Ahrens and Co. The form was in three parts. One was filed in the office and the others handed to the shipper, and taken to the Pier Company. One of them was afterwards returned to the firm by the shipper, with the Pier Company's signature attached to it. At the time they gave the shipper the blue forms they also gave him bills of lading. The bills of lading were generally filled up by the shipper. The bills of lading were in sets of four. The blue form bearing the Pier Company's signature was looked upon as a receipt for the cargo by the Pier Company. Before the bills of lading were taken to the partners for signature they were checked by the blue forms either by himself or Leopold—generally by himself. Three parts of the four of which the bill of lading was composed were generally signed, and the fourth was called the Captain's copy and was kept in the office until the departure of the steamer. Before the steamer left they had to prepare a manifest of the cargo. It was made up from the Captain's copy of the bill of lading—generally by a Japanese clerk. They supplied the Pier Company with a book of forms on white paper, one of which, after the cargo had been signed for on board by the second officer, was returned to the office of Ahrens and Co. This was called the mate's receipt. The copy of the manifest kept in the office was checked by the blue and white receipts after the departure of the steamer. At the end of April witness went to see Leopold at the hospital. It was in consequence of a telegram from Bremen. He informed accused of the contents of the telegram. He visited him on another occasion in company with Mr. Hofmann, and they had a general conversation about the non-shipping of the furs and the best means of getting out of the difficulty. Leopold proposed to send a telegram which witness took down on the wish of Mr. Hofmann at Leopold's dictation. The paper produced was in witness's handwriting, with the exception of the first line, which was written by Leopold, who was, however, too ill to continue. When they heard at the office that these furs were missing they immediately tried to trace them.

A huge pile of ship's manifests was here produced ranging over the dates covered by the charge, and the witness examined them, with the result that he found no mention of furs with Leopold as the shipper or with the mark of Lampson's, an L and an I in a diamond. He also examined the counterfoils of the books of blue forms given to shippers with the same result.

The Court had not nearly got through this when an adjournment was made till this morning.

BAIL.

Application for a renewal of bail was made in chambers during the afternoon and the sureties offered were accepted. They were Messrs. J. W. Cam and Binting and Captain Forbes in the sum of *yen* 10,000 each, and the accused himself in the sum of *yen* 40,000.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18.

The hearing of the charge against Charles Emil Leopold was resumed this morning, counsel appearing as before—Mr. H. C. Litchfield and Mr. J. F. Lowder for the prosecution, Professor Terry for the defence, and Mr. A. B. Walford for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Johann Andreas Harmssen was recalled, and examined further as to shipping documents—bills of lading and ship's manifests—during the term covered by the charge. There were many shipments in the name of Leopold, but he could only trace two referring to furs, one of April 14th regarding the shipment of eight bales and thirteen packages, and a further shipment of six cases. For these there was the mate's receipt. He had been unable to find traces in the firm's books of the other bills of lading which had been supplied to the bank.

The whole of the morning was taken up with Original documents. In the afternoon the witness described the method of issuing assurance policies.

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He said they had application forms which the person who desired to be insured had to fill up. Sometimes, however, applications were made in an ordinary letter, or even verbally to any European in the shipping office, in which case the particulars were put down on a piece of paper, and the policy was afterwards written out in accordance with the particulars by a Japanese employe. They were then copied. After they had been written out by a Japanese clerk they were checked by himself or Mr. Leopold, and if in order initialled by the party checking them. Witness was then taken through a number of policies already laid before the Court and questioned as to the initialling and checking of them. Some of them he recognised as having checked himself; others he believed to be checked by Mr. Leopold. He believed, though he was not quite sure, that no premium had been paid on all these policies. Bills had been made out and presented to Mr. Leopold for these premia. Bills had not been made out for the freight with regard to the bills of lading produced. Bills of freight were made out immediately after the departure of the ship, and unless the goods were on the manifest Ahrens and Co. would have no official notice of the goods having been shipped. Witness wished to correct a statement made the previous day respecting the blue forms issued to shippers. The blue forms of shipping orders and the blank sets of bills of lading were taken back by the shipper to the shipping office, and they had no particular notice of the time when the goods were sent to the Pier Company.

Mr. Terry had no questions to ask.

Yamaguchi Toshisuge, clerk in the employ of Ahrens & Co., Nachf., identified certain insurance policies as in his handwriting. He wrote them in accordance with instructions from Leopold.

Tanaka Tamejiro, another clerk, identified several bills of exchange as in his handwriting. He had been ordered to write them by Mr. Leopold.

Mr. Lowder intimated that there were three more witnesses for the prosecution, but they were not in attendance, and he suggested that their evidence should be taken next day.

The case was therefore again adjourned to 11 a.m. to-day.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

FALL OF MANILA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Manila, Aug. 13, via Shanghai, Aug. 16.

General Merritt of the U. S. Army, took Manila on the thirteenth inst.

(From the "Japan Times.")

BRITISH AND GERMAN INTERESTS IN CHINA.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, Aug 11.

Mr. Curzon, replying to questions in the House of Commons on China, expressed his gratitude for the support of the House in the matter, adding that no aggression had been threatened. Sir Claude MacDonald cabled on the 2nd February that the German Minister at Peking opposed the concession for the trunk-line from Chinkiang, on the ground that no railway must be constructed in Shantung without previous arrangement with Germany. Great Britain then lodged a protest at Pekin and Berlin. To this Germany replied that the facts had been misrepresented. It was only demanded that, if China required assistance in Shantung, she should first offer the work to Germans. Germany did not claim any exclusive privileges in China, and had made no attempt to exclude other nations from free competition in Shantung. Instructions to resist any preferential treatment of foreign subjects in trade, Mr. Curzon added, had been sent to Sir Claude Macdonald in March last, and renewed particular instructions with regard to railway concessions had been forwarded on the 13th July.

BRITISH TRADE IN CHINA.

MISSION OF LORD CHARLES BERESFORD.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce have appointed Lord Charles Beresford to proceed to China to report on the prospects of British trade in China. He starts on the 24th inst.

NEW VICEROY FOR INDIA.

MR. CURZON APPOINTED.

The Hon. George Nathaniel Curzon, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has accepted the Vice-royalty of India.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

START FOR THE FRONT.

The whole Nile expedition has started for the front.

SIRDAR OFF TO THE FRONT.

London, Aug. 16.

Sir Herbert Kitchener, with the Warwick and Lincolnshire regiments and Seaforth Highlanders, left Atbara for the front. The cavalry and artillery start to-day.

LIVELY DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CHINA AFFAIRS.

London, Aug. 12.

In the House of Commons, Sir Charles Dilke raised a China debate. He complained that France, Russia and Germany were closing their spheres, while Britain had expected an open door for everybody. Sir William Harcourt said the real difficulty was to ascertain the policy of the Government. He complained of its reticence. Mr. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury, in reply said it could not be pretended that this Empire either alone or in alliance with another Empire could prevent the legitimate development of other commercial and military empires. Though England may not anticipate maintaining her old relative superiority in China, it may be expected that the volume of trade will increase as rapidly in the future as it had done in the past. The question of trade was distinct from the question of concessions. No evidence, he added, existed of any intention to erect barriers against British goods. He saw no necessity to take a pessimist view with regard to Russia, and he would be surprised if English concessionaires did not obtain their full share.

LORD BERESFORD'S COMMERCIAL MISSION.

Lord Beresford goes to Hongkong and thence to Pekin.

LORD SALISBURY.

Lord Salisbury has gone to Contrexeville.

THE NEWCHWANG RAILWAY.

MR. BALFOUR'S ADMISSIONS.

Mr. Balfour, on being questioned in the House of Commons, with reference to the statement of *The Times'* Pekin correspondent that China had agreed to all the Russian conditions in connection with the railway extension to Newchwang, said the facts were substantially as stated. He added that the matter was engaging the serious attention of the Government.

ROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

Parliament has been prorogued.

RUSSIA IN CHINA.

London, Aug. 7.

It is semi-officially stated in St. Petersburg that Russia is solely anxious to secure her recently gained advantages, and contemplates no fresh acquisitions, nor does she desire to injure the economic interests of Great Britain.

SPAIN'S REPLY NOT DECISIVE.

London, Aug. 11.

It is believed that Spain's reply is not wholly satisfactory, and that it will necessitate a further interchange of notes.

THE PEACE CONDITIONS.

London, Aug. 13.

The *New York Herald* says the peace protocol is expected to be signed to-day. The formal proclamation of an armistice will immediately follow.

Later.

SUSPENSION OF HOSTILITIES.

M. Cambon, acting as Spanish peace plenipotentiary, signed the peace protocol at Washington on Friday afternoon. Instructions were immediately cabled to all commanders to suspend hostilities.

UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

COST OF THE WAR.

London, August 15.

Admirals Dewey and Sampson have been ordered to raise the blockades. The peace protocol provides that Spain shall immediately evacuate Puerto Rico and Cuba.

The war expenditure of the United States is estimated at 150,000,000 dollars. Several leading American journals declare that the community of interests of Great Britain and the United States in China and the present situation constitute a pressing reason for America to lay a firm hold of the Philippines.

UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.

NO MORE TROOPS TO BE SENT.

America will send no more troops to the Philippines unless General Merritt requests it.

SPANIARDS RESIGNED TO THE FORTUNE OF WAR.

London, Aug. 17.

The Madrid press discusses the loss of Spain's colonial empire in a tone of philosophic resignation.

ANARCHY IN CRETE.

MURDER AND LAWLESSNESS.

London, Aug. 18.

Anarchy reigns supreme in the interior of Crete; 1,506 outlaws are at large, and murders are being perpetrated daily in increasing numbers.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES IN AMERICA.

MR. SECRETARY DAY RESIGNS.

Mr. Day, United States Secretary of State, has resigned. Mr. Hay, American Ambassador in London, succeeds him.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 1	M. Aug. 22
America	P. M. Co.	Aztec 2	Tu. Aug. 23
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Indus 3	W. Aug. 24
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. Aug. 29
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Aug. 31
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 4	Th. Sept. 1
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan	M. Sept. 5
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. Sept. 8

1 Leaves Nagasaki on the 19th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 4th inst.
3 Left Shanghai on the 18th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 13th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Aug. 19
Tacoma, Wash....	N. P. Co.	Olympia	F. Aug. 19
Hongkong	P. & O. Co	Rohilla	W. Aug. 24
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. Aug. 24
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Aug. 24
Honolulu	P. M. Co.	Aztec	W. Aug. 24
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Sept. 2
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	F. Sept. 2
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Sept. 5

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

Solution of Problem No. 379.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to K 8	
2—Kt to Q 3 ch	1—K takes R
3—B to Q 5 mate	2—K to B 6 must
	1—K takes P
2—Q to QKt 8	2—K to Q 3
3—B to B 8 mate	if 2—Any other
3—Q to Kt 6 mate	
	1—R to ■ 6
2—Q to K 6	2—K takes R
3—Kt to Q 3 mate	if 2—K takes P
3—Q to Kt 6 mate	if 2—R takes R
3—Q to Q 5 mate	
	1—P to B 5
2—Q to B 6	2—P takes R
3—Q to Q 5 mate	if 2—K takes R
3—Kt to Kt 4 mate	

Correct solution received from D.D.

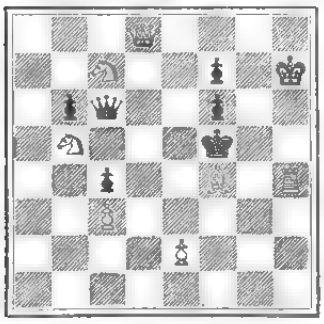
Solution of Problem No. 380.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to QB 3	1—K to K 5
2—Kt to ■ 5 ch	2—K moves
3—B to ■ 5 mate	
	1—K to B 5
2—Kt to B 4 ch	2—K takes P must
3—Q to B 5 mate	
	1—K takes P
2—Kt to Q 8 ch	2—K to Q 2 must
3—B to K 6 mate	
	1—Q takes BP
2—Kt takes KtP ch	2—Q to K 3 must
3—Q to B 5 mate	
	1—Q takes RP
2—Kt to B 5 ch	2—K takes P must
3—Q to R 6 mate	
	1—Kt to Q 2
2—Kt to B 4	2—K to K 5
3—B to Q 5 mate	

Correct solutions received from D.D. and "Marco."

Problem No. 384.

By M. Frigl.



White mates in two moves.

Game No. 418.

Pillsbury beats England's Champion.

FALKBEER GAMBIT.

White—Blackburne.		Black—Pillsbury.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	22 R B5	KR Q q
2 P KB4	P Q4	23 P K5	PxP
3 Kt KB3(a)	PxKP	24 P K6(g)	PxP
4 KtxP	B Q3	25 Kt R5ch	K R-q
5 ■ B4(b)	Kt KR3	26 R B6	Kt B7
6 P Q4	PxP e.p.	27 B K4	Kt K6(h)
7 QxP	B KB4	28 RxP	RxK P
8 Q K2	Castles	29 B Q3	R Kt7ch
9 Castles	Kt B3	30 K R-q	R Q7
10 ■ K3(c)	BxKt	31 RxKt	R(Q7)xB
11 PxB	Kt Q5	32 R K5	R Q7
12 Q Q2(d)	KtxP	33 R K7	RxP
13 BxKt	PxB	34 R K-q	P B4
14 RxB	QxQ	35 P R4(i)	P B5
15 KtxQ	KtxR	36 PxP	P B6
16 Kt K4	QR Q-q	37 P K16	PxP
17 Kt B6ch	K B-q	38 Kt B4	P B7
18 R R5	K Kt2	39 R KKt5q	R Q8
19 P KKt4	R Q5	40 Kt K2	RxRch
20 B K2	R Q7	41 KtxR(k)	R R8
21 B B3	R KR-q(f)	Resigns.	

Notes by Gunsberg.

(a) The counter gambit is met best by 3—P takes P, P to K 5; 4—P to Q 3; and if 4....., K Kt to B 3; 5—P takes P, Kt takes P; 6—Q to Kt 2.

(b) Not favourable as the sequel shows. He should play at once P to Q 4, and if ..... P takes P, retake with the Bishop.

(c) White, being behind in development, has already a bad game. To exchange the threatening Queen's Knight would not mend matters, as after 10....., P takes Kt, he has to guard against 11....., B to ■ 4, ch, following by ....., Kt to Kt 5, as well as against the loss of QBP by 12....., R to K sq.

(d) If 12—B takes Kt, Q takes B ch; 13—K to R sq, B to Kt 5; 14—Q to Q 3, Q takes KP. White, therefore, gives up the exchange for an attack, which, however, is but short-lived.

(e) Black defends himself with consummate skill. With the displacing of the Bishop, the back-bone of the attack is broken, and the Rook reaches the seventh rank, having gained a whole move.

(f) In order to take the KtP, should it advance.

(g) Cutting of the King from escaping via B sq.

(h) With the advent of this knight, the battle is decided. White evidently has no time for R to B 7 because of ....., R to Q 8 ch and R to B 8 ch.

(i) Most players would resign. Blackburne, however, sees a spark of hope.

(k) The secret plan is now revealed. If 41....., P Queens, White is stalemated. Mr. Blackburne has become very unsophisticated to spring such traps in a tournament game, or did he imagine himself playing skittles at the Divan, one shilling apiece?

Game No. 419.

Walbrodt wins from Burn.

KIESSRITZKY GAMBIT.

White—Walbrodt.		Black—Burn.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	16 B Q6	Q Q q
2 P KB4(a)	PxP	17 PxP	R K q
3 Kt KB3	P KKt4	18 P Q5	B Q2
4 P KR4	P K5	19 Kt B3	Kt R3
5 Kt K5	B Kt2	20 Castles (KR)	■ QBsq
6 P Q4	Kt KB3	21 R B2	P B3
7 KtxKtP	KtxP	22 QR KB sq	K R-q
8 BxP	Q K2	23 P R5	Kt B4
9 Q R2	P Q3	24 P R6	BxP
10 K K3	B K3	25 RxP	B Kt2
11 P B2	Castles	26 R B7	B Q5
12 Q B3 !	P Q4	27 RxPch	Resigns(b)
13 B Q3	P QB4		
14 BxKt	PxB		
15 Q Kt3	PxP		

Comment by Miron in the *New York Clipper*.

(a) Bravo! Walbrodt. Here is a man after our own heart. Amusing, isn't it, to compare the condemnation so many writers are fond of hurling at the gambits with the number of victories they win.

(b) It will amuse our readers to work out the mate in this position; and it would be instructive to know where and how the powerful English master would vary his play if he had it to do over again.

Game No. 420

One of the Games Pillsbury Lost.

Comments by Reichelm in *The Times*, Philadelphia.

Pillsbury. WHITE.	Maroczy. BLACK.
1—P to K4	1—P to QB 4
2—KKt to B 3	2—P to K 3
3—P to Q 4	3—P takes P
4—Kt takes P	4—KKt to B 3
5—B to Q 3	5—QKt to B 3
6—B to K 3	6—P to QR 3
7—Castles	7—B to K 2
8—QKt to B 3	8—Q to B 2
9—Q to K 2	9—P to Q 3
10—QR to Q sq	10—Castles

This is well to remember as a trap position. White makes a good surface move and loses the exchange.

11—P to KB 4

Homer nods. P to KR 3 first was necessary.

	11—Kt takes Kt
12—B takes Kt	12—P to K 4
13—P takes P	13—P takes P
14—R takes Kt	

Relatively best. Maroczy threatened B to KKt 5.

	14—B takes R
15—Kt to Q 5	15—Q to Q 3
16—B to B 3	16—B to Q sq

Well played, anticipating White's manœuvre. If the latter now moves B to Kt 4, then B to Kt 3 ch, and B to Q 4, holding on to the material gained.

17—Q to B 2	17—R to K sq
18—B to Kt 4	18—Q to KKt 3
19—P to B 4	19—B to K 3
20—B to B 5	20—P to QR 4
21—B to B 2	21—B to Q 2
22—R to K sq	22—R to R 3
23—B to K 3	23—P to Kt 4
24—P to B 5	24—B to B 3
25—R to Q sq	25—R to R 2
26—B to Q 3	26—Q to Kt 5
27—R to Q 2	27—P to B 4
28—P takes P	28—R to Q 2

If B takes Kt, White answers with B to K 2 with an improved game.

29—B to K 2	29—Q to KR 5
30—Kt to B 3	30—R takes R
31—B takes R	31—Q takes Q ch
32—K takes Q	32—B to K 2
33—B to K 3	33—R to QB sq
34—Kt takes P	34—B takes Kt
35—B takes B	35—B takes P
36—B to B 4 ch	36—K to B sq
37—P to QKt 3	37—K to K 2
38—B takes B	38—R takes B
39—K to K 3	39—P to R 4
40—P to Kt 3	40—K to B 3
41—K to K 4	41—P to R 5

A fine touch. If White takes Pawn his Rook's Pawns fall in detail.

42—P to QR 4	42—P to R 6
43—K to Q 3	

If 43—B to B sq, R to ■ 7, 44—B takes P, R takes RP, followed by R to QKt 7.

	43—K takes P
44—K to B 3	44—K to K 5
45—P to Kt 4	45—P takes P
46—K takes P	46—K to Q 5
47—B to B sq	47—R to B 7
48—B takes P	48—R takes P
49—B to B sq	49—R to Kt 7 ch
50—K to R 3	50—R to KB 7
51—B to Kt 5	51—R to B 6 ch
52—K to Kt 4	52—R takes P
53—P to R 5	53—R to KB 6
54—P to R 6	54—P to K 5
55—B to K 2	55—K to KB sq
56—K to Kt 3	56—K to K 6
57—B to B 4	57—K to Q 7
58—P to R 7	58—P to K 6, wins.

Notes.

The Chess Editor of the Hongkong Press suggests giving his readers two or three problems weekly in future instead of the usual one. We ourselves find that one problem is too much for our solvers, whose enthusiasm seems to vanish with the heat. We notice similar complaints in other Chess columns, notably the *Literary Digest's* from which we cull many problems.

The absence of the names of very many of our solvers has been very noticeable lately, says that paper. The war, the hot weather, and other disturbing conditions may in some instances account for this; but we *know* that the character of the problems has a great deal to do with the state of affairs. When we published problems that were not very difficult, then many found the solution and condemned the problems as "too easy"; "give us something harder," etc. Now, when we give more difficult compositions, there isn't a word heard along the whole line.

One of our solvers writes:—"*The Digest's* 3-ers are too difficult under atmospheric conditions." Several correspondents, who have not been able to solve some of the problems, declare that they are unsound. It has been, and is, the purpose of this Department to select the best problems we can get. Best problems are not always difficult, but if this feature is lacking they have other characteristics of excellence. "Miron," in the New York *Clipper*, calls attention to the "startling low stand American problem art has taken in the B.C.M's. recent tourney." He discovered that "there were 10 American entrants, with 20 problems—nearly one fifth of the whole." He tells us that 9 were disqualified, 8 received less than 40 per cent. of merit-marks, while only *one* received 50 per cent. and over. He says that the very low standard of American problems is "the fruit (better, punishment) of those editors who have so long and persistently insisted on feeding their readers out of Caissa's nursing-bottle, through fear of weak heads and tender stomachs."

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The thirty-seventh round in the Vienna Tourney closed as follows:—

	WON.	LOST.		WON.	LOST.
Alapin*	18	17	Pillsbury*	27½	7½
Baird	9	27	Schiffers*	16½	18½
Blackburne	18	18	Schlechter	22½	14½
Burn*	19	16	Showalter	16½	19½
Caro	12½	23½	Steinitz	24	12
Halprin	14½	21½	Tarrasch	27½	8½
Janowski	25½	10½	Trenchard	6	30
Lipke	20	16	Tschigorin	20½	15½
Marco	17	19	Walbrodt	15½	20½
Maroczy	20	16			

* Adjourned games.

Meanwhile, however, we have been advised of the final result of the Tourney, viz:—1st prize, $1,500—being won by Tarrasch, 2nd prize, $1,000—by Pillsbury. The two masters had to engage in a final match to decide the tie, and the score reads: Tarrasch, 2½, Pillsbury, 1½.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

John McDonald, American ship, 2,172, T. A Store, 12th Aug.,—New York, 28th March, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 12th Aug.,—Shanghai viâ ports, 6th Aug., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Elphinstone, British steamer, 1,146, Abbott, 14th August,—Rangoon via Singapore, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 14th August,—San Francisco, via Honolulu, 26th July, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, J. F Allen, 14th August,—Seattle, Wash., 28th July, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 15th August,—Vancouver, B.C., 1st August, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Futroclus, British steamer, 3,323, Dickens, 15th August,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe 14th August, General.—Butterfield & Swire

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, F. Brown, 16th August,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe 15th August, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Marco Polo, Italian cruiser, 4,583, Captain Incononato, 16th August,—Hakodate 14th August.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 16th Aug.,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe 15th Aug., Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Glendoon, British ship, 1,824, Morrison, 16th Aug.,—New York, 9th April, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Lyndhurst, British ship, 2,249, R. Beatty, 16th Aug.,—New York, 24th March, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Stronsa, British ship, 1,939, Henning, 16th Aug.,—Middlesbrough, 29th March, Coke and Pig Iron.—Flint Kilby and Co.

Glengyle, British steamer, 2,244, H. Hill, 17th Aug.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 15th Aug.,—Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, R. Nunome, 17th Aug.,—Bombay viâ ports, Kobe, 16th Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Olympia, British steamer, 1,691, T. H. Dobson, 18th Aug.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 16th Aug., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Sarnia, German steamer, 2,052, Ehlers, 18th Aug.,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong 12th Aug., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Siam, German ship, 1,691, A. Garlichs, 18th Aug.,—Hamburg, 20th March, Salt.—Otto, Reimers & Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R Archibald, 18th Aug.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 17th Aug., Mails and General.—C. P.R. Co.

Nereus, German ship, 1,714, Schulte, 18th Aug.,—Hamburg, 9th April, Salt.—Otto Reimers & Co

DEPARTURES.

Hoihow, British steamer, 896, J. G Cornaghan, 12th Aug.,—Mororan, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Arcadia, German steamer, 3,481, Burmeister, 13th August,—London, Hamburg, and Antwerp, via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 15th August,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 16th August,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Elphinstone, British steamer, 1,146, Abbott, 16th August,—Niigata, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Salasie, French steamer, 2,089, Sellier, 17th Aug.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General—M. M. S.S. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 17th Aug.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, J. F. 17th Aug.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hougomont, British ship, 2,290, Charles Lowe, 18th Aug.,—Astoria, Oregon, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Beulomond, British steamer, 1,654, C. K. McIntosh, 18th Aug.,—Moji via Kobe, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Glengyle, British steamer, 2,244, H. Hill, 18th Aug.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General,—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kiushu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, F. Brown, 18th Aug.,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Consul and Mrs. M. Odagiri, Lieut. T. Niino, Paymaster K. Muramatsu, Mr. K. Kamaka, Mr. T. Sagara, Mr. Y. Kashiwabara, Mr. G. Hidaka, Capt. Going, Miss Relv, Mrs. and Master L. L. Laughlin and son, Mr. F. Rode, Mr. T. B. Glover, and Miss M. Stanleigh, in cabin; Mr. J. Takeizumi, Mr. Y. Yasuda, Mr. N. Yamamoto, Mrs. Y. Yamamato, Miss K. Yamamoto, Mr. R. Koshima, Mrs. C. Koshima, Mr. K. Ikeda, Mrs. S. Takemonchi, Mr. K. Mitsuhashi, Mr. T. Mitsuhashi, Miss K. Mitsuhashi, and 2 children, Mrs. T Muramatsu, Mr. I. Muramatsu, Mrs. K. Muramatsu, 1st Engineer G. Nakamura, Mr. U. Uyeno, Mrs. K. Uyeno, and Miss K. Uyeno, in second class; 48, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, via Honolulu:—Mr. and Mrs. V. Marsh, Miss Allbutt, Mrs. M. C. Coswell, Mr. L. van Rensselaer, Dr. and Mrs. T. C. Allbutt, Lieut. S. Hirata, Mrs. C. F. Gowey, Mr. K. Isouye, and Mr. T. Ishizuka in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. A. de Rettich in cabin. For Hongkong:—Archdeacon J. R. Wolfe, Miss A. Wolfe, Mrs. W. J. Russell, Miss F. Thornton, Miss Wolfe, Mr. A. Young, Mr. Jos. W. Bolles, and Miss B. Allen in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. and Miss L. Anderson, Mr. M. Abe, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Wm. Reynolds Brown, Mrs. Byron W. Clarke, Miss Clarke, Mr. M. Y. Chong, Mr. W. B. Du Pre, Mr. C. H. Du Pre, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Foote, Mr. Ernest G. Fellows, Dr. and Mrs. Greiison, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Gillette, Mr. and Mrs. Gowland, Mrs. Sydney Haywood, Mr. Hoshi Tora and servant, Mr. Higgins, Mr. P. J. Somerville Large, Mr. M. N. McKinnon, Rev. D. McRae, Mr. B. M. Stiebel, Mr. John W. Slater, Mr. V. Schilkowitsch, Miss E. R. Scidmore, Miss Harriet Sherman, Mr. P. B. Steinmetzine, Mr. H. W. Vaughan, Miss Veazey, Mr. R. S. Warner, Mr. A. E. Wileman, Rev. and Mrs. Thos. C. Winn and Miss Winn, and Mr. Robert Walker in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Dr. and Mrs. Atkinson, Miss Watkins, Miss J. Padin, Mr. J. Hooper, Mr. Brunkoff, Mr. C. Crowther, and Mr. J. Thorne in cabin; Mr. J. J. Watt, Mr. Pow Yau San, and Mr. C. Bent in second class.

Per British steamer *Glengyle*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Frantz Dumas, Mrs. Frantz Dumas, E. M. Butler, Miss. H. Noyes, Mr. A. McKillop, Mr. T. Kinneff, and Mrs. T. Kinneff, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Olympia*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. C. F. Kuhn, Mrs. S. L. Gill, Miss M. A. Williams, and Mr. D. McDougall, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. J. Kyles, Mrs. Ewing and child, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Heywood and child, Mr. E. Von Stromch, Dr. and Mrs. Lyall, Mr. R. M. Moses, Mr. S. Groundwater, Mrs. Groundwater, Mr. F. W. Koch, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Jolly, Mr. E. H. Barrows, Mr. W. Cartwright, Mrs. Neuvert, Mr. J. F Seaman, Dr. H. R. Macaulay, Mr. W. S. Clayton Greene, Mr. G. M. Woolsey, Mr. F. B. Abenheim, Miss H. M. Lansing, Mr. M. Goldman, Count Bernstoff, Mr. W. H. Gill, Mr. F. G. Sale, Mr. H. J. Acland, Mr. R. M. Stirling, Mr. Wm. Reid, Baron d'Anethan, Mr. Chan Tzekai, Mr. J. Cunder, Lieut. R. Domjowski, Dr. E. H. Horsey, Mr. H. McBain, Mr. W. E. Dunn, Mr. B. Matsuki, Mrs Sasaki, and Mr. M. de Michreaux in cabin; Messrs. Hayashi and S. Miyaji and Mrs. Y. Miyaji in second class, and Mr. K. Waki in third class.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. M. Croswell, Baron G. de Gunsburg, Mr. Jos. Thebaud, Mr. L. L. Bailey, Mr. S. C. Higgins, Mr. John Doe, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gibbs and two children, Miss M. Young, Dr. and Mrs. Allbutt, Miss Allbutt, Mr. M. L. Ellis, Mr. A. de Rettich, Archdeacon J. R. Wolfe, Misses Wolfe (2), Mr. A. Young, Mrs. W. J. Russell, Mr. J. W. Bolles, Miss F. Thornton, and Miss B. Allen in cabin.

Per French steamer *Salasie*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. C. Ogikaw, Mr. J S. Lee, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. W. Blaynay, Mr. A. T. Wilson, Dr. E. D. Dixon, Mrs. M. E. Vanderpool, Mrs. M. A. Duggan, and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Devaux, Mr. and Mrs. Pulhod, Mrs. and Miss Ackers, Mrs. Malon, Mrs. Bemardi, Miss Toms, Mr. L Hay, Mr. Wong Shing Lee, Mr. K. P. Mohamed, Mr. P. Frentzel, Mr. Wehning, Mr. Sylva and boy, Mr. Hesemer, Dr. Arimond, Chevalier de Wouters, Mr. E. Rockstioh, Mr. J. Butler, Mr. Joseph Heger, Mr. Hajime Seki, Mr. J. Shimidzu, Mr. Adolphe May and boy, Mr. A. Seux, Mr. Carst, Mr. Bard, Mr. L. Mottet, Mr. H Marcus, and Mr. J. S. Scott, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Native traders report a slightly better feeling in yarns and grey shirtings, but European firms have so far not experienced its influence. In fancy woollens and cottons no business is doing. Prices are nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8⅛ lb, 38½ yds, 39 inches	$2.55 to 2.85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 4.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.75 to 2.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2.00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.15 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.50 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.48 to 0.41
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15 to 0.17
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.15 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 2.75
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb. per lb	0.50 to 0.60

	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 32 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.25 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16, 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 1 60, Plain	61 00 to 63.00
Nos. 2 80, Plain	75.00 to 76.50
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99 00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	69 50 to 70.50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	114.00 to 124.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$19.50 to —
Indian Broach	19.25 —
Chinese	21.00 to 21.50

METALS.

Transactions have been confined to tin plates and corrugated iron sheets. Other metals are entirely neglected.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch, and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4 00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4 90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5 90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5 95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (¾ to 4¼ inch)	3.00 to 3.25

KEROSENE.

Market still of a retail character; prices unchanged.

American	$2 05 —
Russian	1.95 to 1 00
Langkat	— 1.85

SUGAR.

The market is steady. Arrivals of Manila have been large; no fresh consignments have been received from Formosa. White refined shows an improved demand; prices at last week's level.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.40 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.10 to 6.20
Brown Daitong	3.90 to 4.30
Brown Canton	4.20 to 5.85
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.25
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

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EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market continues active and prices show a tendency to advance. There is more movement among American buyers, and a brisk demand for fine filatures.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	$955 to 960
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	905 to 915
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	920 to 930
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	860 to 870
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	900 to 910
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	880
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	855
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	830
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	880 to 890
Kakedas—No. 1 / No. 1½	850 to 860
Kakedas—No. 2 / No. 2½	810 to 820

WASTE SILK.

Nothing is doing, and quotations are nominal. The present stock is estimated at 5,050 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 103
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	85 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 22½

TEA.

The demand continues steady, and prices have been maintained. The qualities from *yen* 23 to *yen* 27 per picul are most enquired for. There is still a large stock on offer. The third crop begins to arrive, and so far appears to be fairly good in quality. A large crop is anticipated.

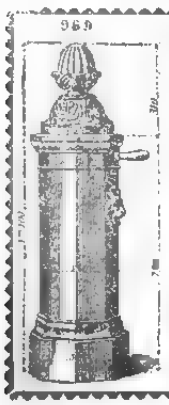
QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$35 & upwards
Choice	$33 to 34
Finest	31 to 32
Fine	29 to 30
Good Medium	27 to 28
Medium	25 to 26
Good Common	23 to 24
Common	21 to 22

EXCHANGE.

No changes at all reported from abroad and rates all close for the mail per steamer *Empress of China* as under.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/4 10 5/8 d
— — Bills on demand	2/0 5/8
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 1/4
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 3/8 to 2/0 1/2
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 3/8 10 3/8
On Paris—Bank sight	2.55 1/2
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.59 to 2.59 1/2
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49 3/4
— Private 4 months' sight	50 1/4
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	2.10 1/2
On Hongkong—Bank sight	4% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	5% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	76 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	78
On India—Bank sight	153
— Private 30 days' sight	156
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/2



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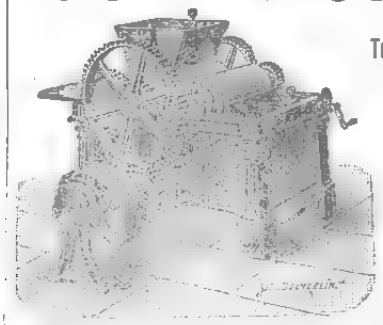

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, AUG. 27TH, 1898.

BIRTHS.

At No. 12 C Tsukiji Settlement, Tokyo, on the 11th inst., the wife of CHARLES GUSSY CONINGHAM, of a daughter.

On the 20th inst., at 5 B Tsukiji, Tokyo, the wife of PAUL VAUTIER of a SON.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MARQUIS ITO has reached Söul on his journey westward to Peking.

MR. J. E. BEALE is the new Secretary of the Nippon Race Club.

THE Sirdar's army has arrived within forty-five miles of Omdurman.

EMIGRANTS numbering 252 left for Honolulu by the steamer *Coptic* on Wednesday.

LIGHTNING set fire to a building in Nagoya on the 24th, and 30 houses were destroyed.

ADMIRAL SAMPSON'S fleet has arrived at New York, and met with a splendid reception.

VERY heavy rain fell in Yokohama and neighbourhood on Wednesday and Thursday, flooding all the lower districts of the town.

MR. SAITO has been appointed Consul to Honolulu.

THE Constitutional party intends to build an office at an estimated cost of *yen* 120,000.

THE British warships *Victorious*, *Centurion*, *Narcissus*, and *Whiting* have left Nagasaki for Wei-hai-wei.

OWING to troubles having broken out in Galicia, trial by jury has been suspended in several districts.

REPORTS from Central Japan go to show that, good weather prevailing, a very heavy crop of rice may be expected.

THE six cement manufacturing associations have amalgamated, and will apply to the authorities for legal powers.

MR. YAMADA, Vice-Minister of Justice, who figured so prominently in the Kyobashi election scandal, has resigned.

THE Chugoku Railway Company, at its recent general meeting, decided to purchase the Kibi Railway for *yen* 600,000.

MR. HOSHI TORU has been wined and dined in the capital several times this week. He is still giving interviews to journalists.

THE construction of the fortifications at Hakodate has made great progress. The roads leading to the fort have been completed.

THE Cape Elections are going against Cecil Rhodes' party. It is anticipated that the Afrikander Bond will secure a majority of five.

THE Russo-Chinese Bank has secured commanding premises in Main Street, Yokohama, into which they will move in January next.

THE Spaniards are raising the contention that the surrender of Manila was invalid, because it took place subsequent to the signature of peace.

THE Imperial Commercial Steamship Company, Osaka, on the 18th inst. held a general meeting at which it was decided to raise *yen* 5 per share.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY is said to favour the retention of Luzon, but the whole question of the future of the Philippines has yet to be thoroughly debated.

THE silver reserve in the Nippon Ginko has been estimated at about *yen* 15,000,000 On the 17th the Government drew out bar silver amounting to *yen* 3 000 000

LAWLESSNESS prevails among the American troops occupying Santiago, and is disquieting the Authorities at Washington, who have ordered more regiments to proceed thither.

A SÖUL despatch dated the 16th inst. reports that the Korean Government has almost agreed to the construction of the railway between Söul and Fusan by Japanese.

THE new warship *Takasago* has been attached to the Standing Squadron. After the painting of her hull is completed, she will proceed to Shinagawa, and thence to the Hokkaido coast.

H.I.H. PRINCE KOMATSU on the 8th proximo will proceed to Kyoto. He will pay visits to Otsu, Maitsuru, Maiko, and other places, and will return to Tokyo about the middle of October.

THE Kwanto Club intends to erect a new building, and will exceed a million pounds.

ing, and to enlarge its political sphere of action, setting up branches throughout the provinces. It is said that Mr. Hoshi, the ex-Minister to Washington, will lead the body.

IT is reported that the Japanese concession at Hankow has been agreed to. The Japanese Government has instructed the Acting Minister at Peking to obtain the signature of the authorities of the Tsung-li Yamên.

THE Jubilee Cup, presented by the British residents of Yokohama as a memorial of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, has been won outright by Mr. Laffin's yacht *Mary*. Mr. Laffin is a New Englander and built his yacht in Japan.

ON the 18th inst. the Directors of the Kyushin Railway Company held a conference at Osaka to discuss the question of buying out the Kibi Railway Company, of raising debentures of *yen* 600,0000, and of constructing a line between Okayama and Tsuyama. The proposals were agreed to in principle.

THE business of the Russo-Chinese Bank for the past year shows a clear profit of 855,645 roubles, the share of the Chinese Government amounting to 307,760 roubles. A sum of 360,000 roubles is available for the payment of dividends equal to 7½ roubles per share nominal value.

WHEN the old P.M. liner *China* left Manila on the 19th July, all was quiet there and business was being resumed. Several American soldiers had been killed by the insurgents during some street fights. The insurgents were being disarmed on entering the city, and all looting was repressed.

THE *saké* brewers of the provinces intend holding a general meeting to protest against the proposed increase of the tax. The brewers in the province of Kyushu recently held a general meeting at Kumamoto, and decided to elect a committee to take steps in Tokyo to defeat the proposal.

RUSSIA has demanded China's assurance to the effect that even when English capital is to be employed in constructing the Shanghai-kwan to Newchang Railway, the line will never be used as security, nor that any supervision of whatsoever character shall be invested in aliens. China has acquiesced to this demand. It is supposed in London that England will not consent to furnish the loan under such conditions.

THE *Novoe Vremya* and *Novosti* have adopted a friendly tone towards Great Britain. The latter urges the removal of the discussion on the China questions from the heated atmosphere of Peking to London or St. Petersburg, with the view of arriving at an agreement inspired by mutual concessions. M. de Staal, Russian Ambassador, is returning unexpectedly to London.

ST GNATION continues to characterise the import trade, and there are no present indications of improvement. Both in textiles and in metals there is an absolute want of movement. In kerosene there is still only a summer demand; in sugar the usual steady trade is being done. As regards exports the raw silk market retains its character of activity, and American buyers appear to be more inclined for business. Waste silk, on the other hand, shows no tendency to move off; the market is absolutely lifeless, and there is a large stock on hand. Tea is in active demand at prices from $22 to $35, according to quality. The third crop leaf is arriving in large quantities, and the stock in Yokohama at pre-

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

There is some excitement about the settlement of the Hawaiian affair, and it seems not improbable that there will be more. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has taken up the subject with much vehemence. It considers that Japan has been humiliated and that the Government would be most reprehensible if it failed to take some further action. Our contemporary's point is that, though Hawaii has paid a certain sum to Japan apparently by way of compensation, she has accompanied the payment with declarations that it is made, not at all in recognition of Japan's right to receive money or of Hawaii's obligation to pay money, but simply in deference to the clearly, almost peremptorily, expressed wishes of the United States. In voting the appropriation to make the payment, the Hawaiian Council of State read a declaration of the Cabinet to the effect that, "in view of the expressed desire of the United States that we (the Hawaiian Government) should dispose of the issue between this country and Japan, and in view of Japan's offer to compromise the matter for $75 000 (gold), the offer be accepted as a compromise * * * without any admission of liability or wrongful act on the part of Hawaii, and without the waiving of any principle hitherto contended for in the matter." The *Nichi Nichi* further alludes to the following statements made at the meeting of the Hawaiian Council of State on July 19th:—

President Dole made a brief statement. He said this course was adopted in accordance with the express request made to Minister Hatch by the administration at Washington that the matter be disposed of finally before the sovereignty of this country went to the control of the United States. The American Minister resident here had made the same request in a more definite manner. The Cabinet here felt that the President of the United States and his advisers had strong, good, and sufficient reasons upon which the request to Hawaii was based. These reasons were not fully known to Mr. Dole and his Ministers. There had been repugnance to the thought of making a cash settlement with Japan for the reason that it was felt Hawaii had been right, had acted in good faith, and had been fully justified in every way in each step taken. The Cabinet had agreed that it was best and proper to listen to the United States, and that probably a wrong would be done and a mistake made, if there was failure to do this. The settlement will be accomplished with a full and proper recognition of the principles contended for by Hawaii. In fine, it is purely a matter of compromise at the request of the United States and made in order that the United States may not inherit the dispute.

Minister Hatch said that he had been requested to call at the State Department at Washington the day after the joint resolution of annexation passed by the Senate. Here it was the earnest desire of President McKinley that this matter be settled or compromised. Details were not entered into, but it was apparent that there were important reasons of State behind the request. There had been no intimation that the Government here was wrong in the premises. On the contrary, there had been informal assurance that it was believed Hawaii was right as to the legal side of the question. It was pointed out that Hawaii did not or need not admit or concede liability and that nothing in the settlement could be so construed. Mr. Hatch felt that serious considerations had moved President McKinley to make the request, and that it was understood to be the wish of the administration at Washington that the question of right or wrong in the case itself should be set aside entirely in making the compromise settlement. Later the same day both the Hawaiian and Japanese Ministers at the same time were addressed by the Secretary of State upon the affair and a clear understanding reached. Mr. Hatch had been requested to present the matter to his government and had done so upon his arrival here. This correspondence was next read:—

Legation of the United States,
Honolulu, H I., July 26 h, 1898

Honorable HENRY E. COOPER,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honolulu.

SIR:—I have the honour to inform you that I have received instructions from my Government expressing anxiety to secure an immediate solution of the question at issue between Hawaii and Japan whereby the approaching transfer of Hawaiian territory would be freed from any ultimate questions tending to embarrass it in its dealings with a third power.

The instructions assume that to this end and as the only means of accomplishing it your Government will close the incident by the payment to Japan of a reasonable indemnity.

It is not to be understood that this course of action is urged by the Government of the United States on any other grounds than as a necessary preliminary to the formal transfer of sovereignty which is now awaited.

The instructions make it clear that until this action is taken by Hawaii a serious obstacle will exist to the execution of the instructions which Rear Admiral Miller may bring to me at any time. I do not need to point out to you how unfortunate from every point of view would be further delay in effecting the consummation which both our Governments so earnestly wish.

My instructions are imperative to do all I can to bring about as speedily as possible this desired adjustment.

Under all the circumstances, and having regard to common interests, I venture to express the hope that you will lose no time in securing the compliance of the Hawaiian Executive with the view of the Government at Washington.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Sig.) HAROLD M. SEWALL.
Honolulu, 29th July, 1898.

SIR:—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant.

The matter of effecting a settlement of the pending controversy between Hawaii and Japan which arose through the action of this Government in refusing to allow certain Japanese subjects to land in this country, has had the serious consideration of the Executive Council.

In view of the urgent request made in your letter and actuated by a sincere desire to comply with the wishes of the Government of the United States in the matter, it has been decided to accept the offer of the Japanese Government to compromise by the payment of seventy-five thousand dollars.

The Council of State at its meeting to-morrow will be requested to appropriate the money for that purpose.

Allow me to say, however, in closing that it is not without regret that my Government finds itself in this position, believing that the action of refusing admission to the Japanese subjects was a matter of political and economic necessity, authorized by our laws, which have been carefully and correctly administered and for which, under ordinary circumstances, no compensation is due to Japan, payment being made by this Government solely at the instance of the Government you represent.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

(Sig.) HENRY E. COOPER,
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Harold M. Sewall,
U.S. Envoy Extraordinary, etc.,
Honolulu.

The Tokyo Journal strenuously contends that a payment accompanied by such declarations can not be regarded as a compensation for an injury inflicted, but is simply a *douceur* handed over from motives of benevolence. Japan can not accept such "charity money" without a serious loss of dignity. She contended for a principle, not for the receipt of a few paltry dollars. The Cabinet of the time took action of a most pronounced character. It sent a man-of-war to Honolulu and it created the impression that no measures would be shrunk from in order to redress the wrong done to subjects of this empire. Yet now a wretched sum of hush-money is to be received and Japan is to be told, as she pockets it, that no wrong whatever was suffered by her. What emphasizes the humiliation and places her foreign policy in a doubly grotesque light, is that her Government vehemently protested against the annexation of Hawaii by the United States when that project first came upon the *tapis*, and did not hesitate to proclaim that the balance of power would be disturbed in the Pacific and the tranquillity of the Orient threatened if the annexation were carried out. And now, within little more than a year of the public formulation of those grave statements, the same Japanese Government allows the annexation project to be used by the United States as a lever for inducing Hawaii to settle a just claim of Japan's. In short, Japan is made a vicarious factor in promoting annexation, since she accepts a sum of money which Hawaii pays with the avowed object of facilitating annexation, and which America required Hawaii to pay as a necessary preliminary to annexation. Out of these materials the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* constructs a strong indictment. It declares that the world will deduce from this object lesson a clear estimate of the quality of Japan's foreign policy, and that the weak vacillation of her statesmen will be a subject of general ridicule. There is but one way to deal with the situation—return the money at once with an intimation that Japan can not accept any payment unless it is acknowledged to be her due, and that she declines to tacitly waive the rights for which she has contended, in consideration of a few dollars handed over to her with the reservation that they are paid as a matter of independent expediency, and not as a point of justice. The *Nichi Nichi* trusts that the Privy Council will not endorse this procedure.

* * *

Our readers will be prepared to hear that the above argument has provoked much discussion. The elements of sentiment that it contains are precisely calculated to appeal to the romantic side of the Japanese mind. But although, as we have said, there is some excitement, it is not by any means in proportion to the subject. The *Chiuo Shimbun*, indeed, continues to strike sledge-hammer blows at the Foreign Office and especially at Count Okuma, whom it satirically calls *kusen no gaikokka* (the peerless foreign politician), denouncing him in the same breath as wholly lacking in ability, and considerately inviting him to vacate the Foreign Office and make way for a person of competence. But the *Chiuo* is now a prey to the "swearing-at-large" mood. It simply rails in general terms, seldom attempting to establish its accusations by definite evidence. On the other hand, the *Mainichi Shimbun* is the only journal that seems to address itself to rebutting the *Nichi Nichi's* charges. We say "seems to address itself," for although a reader of the former journal's articles can scarcely fail to recognise that they are evoked by the latter's assaults there is no direct reference made to the *Nichi Nichi*, neither are its arguments about Hawaii explicitly traversed. The line taken by the *Mainichi* is general condemnation of persons whom it describes as "the coterie of aggressists." These individuals, it says, are the victims of a semi-insane "jingoism," which tends to check national progress and to disturb the minds of the rising generation. Now, they are for striking at Korea; anon, they advocate Japan's territorial expansion; yesterday, they agitated for enterprise in the direction of Siam, and the re-establishment of a Japanese city there; to-day, they urge the necessity of fighting Russia. They are more mischievous than thieves and pickpockets, and equally careless of the dictates of right. The *Mainichi Shimbun* experiences a certain embarrassment in adopting this line, because, prior to the accession of the present Cabinet, it was itself a prominent exponent of the so called "strong foreign policy," and its denunciations of the Foreign Office's invertebrate methods were conspicuously vehement. But it extricates itself from the shackles of its record by explaining that it is always in favour of a strong foreign policy whenever a question of right is at stake, and that what it objects to is reckless aggressiveness and truculence inspired chiefly in the interest of party politics without any regard to right and wrong, or to the empire's real benefit.

* * *

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* appears to have laid out for itself a definite route which it follows with almost monotonous persistency, its goal being to divert attention from domestic politics to foreign. Our readers are familiar with the arguments recently adduced by it, from time to time, in favour of an alliance between this country, America, and England. Nothing has been added to them of late, but we notice a decided change in the general character of the *Yomiuri's* policy. Hitherto its contention has been that Japan must insist on having a voice in the settlement of the Philippines question,

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and that her cooperation would be essential to the United States in that matter. But it now says that unless Japan throws in her lot with some of the Great Powers she will be left out in the cold, and that the time has come for her to make up her mind. There is a marked difference in the two lines of argument. We need not enter into details.

* * *

The persistent tendency of the *Jiji Shimpo's* writing at present is to discredit the Cabinet. The leading journal does not, indeed, devote its columns to specific attacks. Its method is rather to censure the Ministry's powerlessness for good than to arraign their sins of commission. Ten days ago, it published a remarkable article which may be said to have inaugurated this crusade of contempt. Party Cabinets, it said, are not an achievement standing to the credit of the parties themselves: they are the natural outcome of political progress. The Constitutionalists, therefore, can not pretend to have established any claim on the country's gratitude. The wave of progress has carried them into a port which would have been entered by others if not by them. What has been their record since they reached the haven? From the time when the organization of the Cabinet commenced, office-seeking seemed to become the whole business of the Constitutionalists. Naturally people who have been fasting throughout a long voyage want to eat when they come ashore. But the Constitutionalists did not land like Robinson Crusoe on an uninhabited island. They found an organized community ready to hold them responsible for their acts. Everybody knows, of course, that their pretext of overthrowing clan cabinets was only conch-blowing. They can not rely on it any more. They have now to prove their capacity. If they accomplish even a fraction of what they have promised, it will be much. But in truth little can be expected of them, for they are a heterogeneous and ill-cemented body. The encouragement given to them by the press has been prompted by the motive that induces us to speak words of solace to a sick man. Nobody ever thought much of them as administrators, and if they continue in their present path, the country will conclude that clan partizans have merely been exchanged for party partizans. The men they have put into the highest offices of the State are not worth talking about. They are inferior to the men they have replaced. In one respect the situation is greatly altered for the worse, inasmuch as the Constitutionalists are making a mere plaything of the administrative machine. There was a time when the nation had just cause to complain of the clan statesmen. But thereafter things changed greatly, and now the party politicians are much more objectionable. They had better mind their ways. Otherwise we (*Jiji Shimpo*) will deal them a fatal stroke. Nothing could be easier than to overthrow such a Cabinet. If we hold our hand, it is not because they have our approval, but because we pity them. But it is time that their appetite for office was appeased and that they turned to their duty. Unless they give practical recognition to that fact, they shall be prostrated by our pen.

* * *

In the sequel of the above somewhat bombastic menaces, came three other articles that can not have afforded very pleasant reading to the Constitutionalists. The first attacked them on the subject of the portfolio of Foreign Affairs. They seem to think, said the *Jiji*, that the only question at issue in allotting the portfolio was to preserve the good relations between their own factions. Anybody will do for the post in their opinion provided that he is personally acceptable to this coterie of politicians or to that. They forget that they are dealing with the foreign policy of the empire of Japan, not with a mere party plaything. The Minister of Foreign Affairs in Japan must not merely be a man of wide experience and proved capacity, but must also possess prestige abroad and influence at home. Count Mutsu was an excellent Minister. Marquis Ito or Count Inouye could fill the post well. But, for the rest, public opinion points unmistakably to Count Okuma. If, however, Count Okuma can not continue to serve, then let him nominate his successor—Baron Hayashi, or Mr. Kato, or any one whom he judges suitable.

* * *

Then, in the two other articles, the *Jiji* reverts to its minatory tone. Under the heading of "advice to the Constitutionalists," it says that they pretend to have toiled in the interests of the country during twenty years, but they are now shown to have been toiling all the time in their own interests. The people have been deceived by them, and the people will resent the deception unless measures are speedily taken to remove its unsightliness. "Settle domestic affairs at once and turn your attention elsewhere." The last Cabinet left plenty to be done in the field of foreign affairs. It left large problems to be solved in connection with Korea, with China, and with the Philippines. But the party politicians seem to have no conception of their duties as administrators of the empire's affairs. There is, in truth, little to be done at home. Reduce the number of officials and increase the taxes—that is the whole programme; short and simple. If there is any more idle dallying, the country will turn irrevocably against the *Kensei to*.

* * *

The *Yorozu Choho* laments that the reign of morality is disappearing in Japan and the sway of money is taking its place. The good men are stepping down from the political stage in disgust, and the bad are coming to the front. Pelf is omnipotent. There is no objection to the use of money by statesmen, but that they should be used by it is miserable. The political world at present is simply a big gambling saloon.

"EVELYN INNES."

Evelyn Innes, by George Moore,—London: T. Fisher Unwin's Colonial Library.

In "Evelyn Innes" Mr. George Moore has given us a striking and powerful example of the modern analysis-novel. Whatever may be said of the merits of this class of literature as a whole—certainly most of the specimens which afflict the public are deadly dull and not particularly edifying—it must be admitted that Mr. Moore's study of the chief character in "Evelyn Innes" is at once convincing and interesting. The literary treatment, too, is excellent, and the book is altogether the best which the author has hitherto produced.

Evelyn Innes is introduced to the reader in her father's dull suburban home in Dulwich. She is the daughter of a Catholic musician dreamily wrapped up in the pursuit of mediæval music, and with the self-appointed mission of introducing into the services of his church the ancient melodies he considers so superior to modern ideas of harmony. Evelyn inherits her father's artistic temperament, the voice of her mother, a famous operatic singer, and a fuller and more vivid nature than either of them. The girl—a woman in her appetite for life and her yearnings for a wider and more interesting career than that which lies apparently before her as a suburban music teacher—submissively accommodates herself to the musical faddism of her father; and between the two a real affection, partly natural and partly from artistic sympathies, exists. At this stage there enters into the calm current of the girl's life a new personality destined to determine her future. Sir Owen Asher meets her by chance at her father's house, and makes his taste for music an excuse for improving the acquaintance. He is an aristocrat with ideas, the chief of which is that he shall extract as much pleasure from life as he possibly can. Frank Hedonism, in fact, is his creed. At the same time honourable according to his own code, a gentleman in feeling and conduct, and with more brains than generally fall to the lot of £20,000 a year, he is an interesting type; and, despite his forty years, he makes a deep impression on the girl's imagination. She, on her part—fresh, pretty, and with a mind in which the Baronet finds an ever-new source of interest—arouses an insatiable desire for possession in the *blasé*, consistently selfish seeker of pleasure and the hero of a score of intrigues. Events march to their logical conclusion. The Baronet proposes that Evelyn shall go with him to Paris—to develop her voice and seek her future as a great singer. She, fully understanding that this means that she is to live with Asher as his mistress, follows her inclinations after the show of a struggle proffered as an excuse to her conscience. Asher sets her up in an establishment on the Champs Elysées, a visit to a great operatic trainer places her future as a prima donna beyond a doubt, and a year or two after Evelyn Innes, after starring the Continental towns, has taken London by storm.

Asher's early infatuation for her has by this time ripened into a constant affection, and he wishes to marry her. But he is approaching middle age; the barren agnosticism of his ideas, which in the early days of their connection the young girl absorbed in order to stifle the sting of conscience, now chills her imagination, and her mind goes back to the doctrines of her Catholic childhood; she meets a fantastic youth, one Ulick Deane, who strikes her fancy, and with whom she falls in love; and in fact, she feels, altogether, that she cannot marry the Baronet. At this time a chance visit to a convent familiar to her early days brings back with stronger force the religious influence; she realises that a life of pleasure alone cannot satisfy her; her intrigue with Deane shows her the danger of her life, unregulated by high principle, becoming a succession of *liaisons*,—a future from which her more serious side shrinks. She is, too, weary of the stage; bored by her very success; impressed by the futility of life; and the added miseries of insomnia tend to awaken in her the yearning for a return to the old faith and a pure life. She decides to go once more to confession. There she falls under the influence of a Monsignior whose narrow, clear, decisive character, undisturbed by a single doubt, and inexorable in the logic of his creed conquers her. In his hands she is as wax; at his advice she goes into a convent for a few weeks' rest; and there, under the influence of the simple surroundings and the quiet, sexless lives of the nuns, her career ends for the present in peace. But Mr. Moore promises a sequel, and we shall be interested to see whether the barenness of a convent life will long satisfy his heroine. These last scenes—with the little touches showing the difficulties of a prima donna, used to an endless wardrobe and an elaborate dressing case, accommodating herself to the cramped conditions of a nun—are admirably described. The Reverend Mother and other inmates are charming portraits, and their characters and simple life form an effective background for the introduction of the great singer turned penitent.

In other parts the novel would be greatly improved by a process of intelligent sub-editing. The long descriptions and conversations about music, full of irritating technicalities, are insufferably tedious to any but a musician. Asher, too, stops the progress of the story for a score of pages with an essay on Balzac which would make a good-sized magazine article; and Ulick Deane, who talks in fantastic language for hours together on things that never were on land or sea, is a bore of the first water. With these exceptions the novel is an excellent one, and its literary merits are of the highest order.

Another of Kobe's oldest residents has passed away, says the *Hiogo News*, in the person of Mr. M. Voisey, who has been resident in Kobe since the opening of the port, just thirty years ago. Mr. Voisey was formerly connected with the firm of Messrs. G. H. Whymark & Co., provision merchants, but disposed of his interest in the business many years ago. During his residence here Mr. Voisey acquired a considerable amount of property, but a sad affliction of the eyes rendered him unable to enjoy to the full that amount of comfort in his rest and retirement which would otherwise have been the reward of his enterprise and energy while in the heyday of his life.

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THE HAWAIIAN AFFAIR.

We can not but think that the criticisms published by some of our vernacular contemporaries with regard to the Hawaiian affair are far-fetched and inconsiderate. It will scarcely be denied that the Hawaiian Government have shown a remarkable and lamentable want of tact. President Dole's statement that the settlement was "purely a matter of compromise at the request of the United States and made in order that the United States might not inherit the dispute;" Mr. Hatch's assertion that "there had been informal assurance (at the State Department in Washington) that it was believed Hawaii was right as to the legal side of the question;" the sentence in Mr. Cooper's letter to the United States Representative in Honolulu that "the payment was made solely at the instance of the United States Government;" and, finally, Mr. Hatch's allegation that "it was apparent there were important reasons of State behind the request of the United States"—all these things were in the worst possible taste, and can only be described as tactless blunders. If the Honolulu Cabinet believed that it was making a concession, it should have been careful not to destroy the effect of its act by robbing it of all grace. However, what we wish to point out is that the above utterances have no concern for Japan. Her business is with the official written declaration made to her by the Hawaiian Government in connexion with the handing over of the money. The words of that document—we translate from the *Nippon*—are:—"There being no time to have recourse to the services of a mediator prior to the incorporation of Hawaii into the Republic of the United States, the Government of the latter has addressed to the Empire of Japan and to the Hawaiian Republic a friendly suggestion that the two countries should come to an amicable understanding without further inquiry into the rights and wrongs of the matter under dispute, &c." An arrangement concluded on that basis need not be at all hurtful to Japan's self-respect, nor has she any occasion to distress herself about diplomatic solecisms perpetrated by the statesmen of Honolulu in their own Council Chamber or in their despatches to the United States Representative. Besides, whatever may be said by President Dole, Mr. Cooper, or Mr. Hatch, the world knows perfectly well that the United States Government would never have urged upon Hawaii the advisability of making a monetary payment to Japan unless they had been fully assured of the justice of Japan's claim, nor would Hawaii have acceded to the suggestion had she not known that her case would not bear legal scrutiny. The victory is with Japan, and she may congratulate herself on it. She has come out of this affair with flying colours, for not only has she carried her point about compensation, but she has contrived that the field of Hawaiian enterprise shall remain open to her subjects on better terms than ever. In consideration of the latter achievement, she could well have afforded to waive the whole of her claim for compensation, even though it had been ten or twenty times as large.

Another point urged by the critics is that Japan has "lost face" by making a large abatement of her original demand, and that the money she receives is not nearly sufficient to meet the losses incurred. At to the former objection, the truth is that Japan never indicated any definite sum to the Hawaiian Government. Her reticence was not, indeed, a matter of deliberate policy, but it has certainly proved convenient. As to the second criticism, it does not appear to us that the sum paid by Hawaii is so much under the mark. Here, for example, is a simple calculation:—

		Yen.
Passage of 1200 men to and from Hawaii, at 15 *yen* for the outward voyage and 8 *yen* for the return voyage (the sums actually charged, we believe)		27,600
Compensation for enforced idleness (60 days at 50 *sen* per man)		36,000
Payment of 10 *yen* per emigrant made to the Emigration Companies		12,000
Claims made by the owners of—		
Shinshiu Maru	35,000	
Kinai Maru	12,000	
Sakura Maru	10,000	57,000
Total		132,000

We do not see that any other claims present themselves, unless some twelve thousand *yen* be allowed on account of expenses incurred by the emigrants in travelling to and from their homes to the places of embarkation, and four or five *yen* per head for hotel outlays while awaiting the sailing of the steamer. We strongly suspect that the folks who declare 150,000 *yen* to be so very much below the mark have never made any serious attempt to calculate what the actual outlays were. Of course, the expenses of sending a man-of-war to Honolulu and some other costs defrayed by the Japanese Government might be included, but the omission of those items constitutes the compromise, as we understand.

The arrangement effected with Hawaii continues to receive the severest criticism from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, and Mr. Hoshi Toru, not being at all the kind of man to take a beating lying down, has replied very stoutly to his critics, with the natural result of provoking them to bitter rejoinder. Speaking at a welcome banquet given in his honour on the 22nd instant, Mr. Hoshi—evidently referring to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*—expressed surprise that a journal possessing public confidence should be betrayed into sweeping declarations about a subject which it had not taken the trouble to investigate fully. The points made by him were virtually those noted in our own columns on the 22nd instant; namely, that Japan could not be charged with having abated her monetary demand, inasmuch as she had never named any definite sum from the beginning to the end of negotiations; that the amount actually paid by Hawaii was by no means insufficient; and that, whatever the members of the Hawaiian Government may have said to each other or to the United States, they never spoke or wrote to the Japanese Government a word that could be construed as an intimation that the payment made by them was simply a matter of graciousness. They called it a compromise, and that is what it was, let the critics say what they pleased. Of course the *Nichi Nichi* makes a vehement reply, and asks contemptuously whether the Government agreeing to such a settlement is really composed of the self-called "strong-foreign-policy" statesmen about whom the world used to hear so much.

The question which the critics of the Hawaiian settlement appear to consider most unanswerable is:—"Granted that the arrangement was a compromise, does not a compromise mean that both sides makes some concession? What concession, pray, has Hawaii made"? A strange question surely. It would be more appropriate to ask, what concession has Japan made? Japan asked for a payment by way of compensation for Hawaii's arbitrary rejection of certain Japanese emigrants, and Hawaii has made a payment. We don't quite see what Japan has conceded, unless, indeed, she took a little less than some folks think she was entitled to. But, inasmuch as she never formulated any fixed sum, she is not in the position of having abated a *sen* of her demand. Hawaii's concession is that she paid up—a pretty solid concession, seeing that she was not asked to do anything more. She may pretend that she did it solely for the sake of America's pretty eyes, but, before she gets the world to believe that, human nature will have to undergo a radical change.

THE JUDICIARY.

The chief of the Confidential Secretariat in the Ministry of Justice has addressed to the *Japan Times* a letter protesting against an extraordinary story, credited and commented on by the *Kobe Chronicle*, to the effect that the present Minister of Justice thinks there may be as many as a thousand judicial officials disabled by age from continuing in the service, but that since to dismiss such a large number at once might interfere with the administration of justice, he proposes to remove only 500 at present and appoint barristers in their stead. The Chief Secretary says:—

> It is on this basis of gross misrepresentation that the *Chronicle* proceeds to criticise the Minister of Justice in a very flippant and contemptuous tone. The whole of the above-quoted statement is absolutely without foundation. The judicial officials in Japan are generally competent men and those to whom they owe their appointments are equally competent.
>
> We did not think any man of intelligence would assume that there is such a large proportion of incompetent judges amongst the existing eighteen hundred or so judicial officials, including public procurators, as one thousand persons, of whom the Minister "proposes," as the *Chronicle* says, "to dismiss only five hundred at present."

It would be indeed inexplicable that any "man of intelligence" should believe such wild stories, but if the chief of the Confidential Secretariat were familiar with the habits of the anti-Japanese section of the local foreign press, he would know that "intelligence" is not brought to bear upon rumours injurious to the reputation of this country. Were there question of a statement calculated to create a good impression—were it asserted, for example, that the records of a thousand Japanese Judicial officials showed them to be men educated according to modern standards of jurisprudence—then indeed the most searching scrutiny would be exercised, and credence would be withheld until the last moment. But if the tale is mischievous, if it represents the Japanese or any of their institutions in a bad light, then it is eagerly and unhesitatingly swallowed. When we speak of an "anti-Japanese section" of the local foreign press, we ought to add that the section now consists of the *Kobe Chronicle* alone. All its contemporaries have laid aside their old bias and are to-day moderate and fair in tone. The *Kobe Chronicle* has an honorable monopoly.

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OPERATION OF THE REVISED TREATIES.

Extraordinarily confused assertions and perplexed conjectures have been published from time to time about the operation of the new Tariff, and it now appears probable that the public will have a similar experience with regard to the operation of the Revised Treaties. Probably our readers have some curiosity about the facts of the case, and we shall, therefore, state them simply.

The main source of doubt is evidently the Austro-Hungarian Treaty. Some people appear to think that it has not even been signed, and others are of opinion that the Austro-Hungarian Government, in view of the serious domestic perplexities with which it has to deal, can not be confidently expected to adopt any decided measure with regard to the Treaty. As a matter of fact the Treaty was not only concluded and signed more than a year ago, but it has also been ratified by the Hungarian Reichstag. Its ratification by the Austrian Reichsrath alone remains to be accomplished, and, should that consummation seem likely to be much longer deferred, the Government in Vienna has pledged itself to find a way out of the deadlock, merely stipulating that the new Tariff shall not go into force until January 1st, so that Austro-Hungarian subjects may have a reasonable interval after the promulgation of the Treaty. Concerning the alternative which the Austrian Cabinet will adopt in the event of the Reichsrath's timely action becoming hopeless, we can not, of course, speak with confidence, but evidently a very simple plan would be for the Emperor to declare the operation of the present Treaty suspended after a certain date. His Majesty has power to take that step, inasmuch as the Treaty was ratified independently of either Reichstag or Reichsrath. At all events, the Government in Vienna, a few days ago, formally announced its agreement to the operation of the Treaties from July next, so there is an end of the matter.

The next point of perplexity is the French Treaty. Owing to an oversight for which the Japanese negotiator in Paris is said to have been responsible, the French Treaty can not go into operation before August 4th, 1899, whereas all the other Treaties are to become operative on July 17th. There is thus a difference of 18 days. The interval is insignificant. But it might possibly give rise to inconvenient consequences, for reasons that will be patent to any one who considers the effect of the most-favoured-nation clause. The late French Cabinet regarded the matter as a bagatelle, and the Japanese Government has never been disposed to attach much importance to it. We may conclude, therefore, that some arrangement will be effected without difficulty. It will probably occur to our readers that the easiest plan would be to postpone the operation of all the Treaties until August 4th. That is certainly what the Japanese Government would do did it not happen that three of the Treaties—those with the United States, Portugal, and Peru—have the date of their operation textually fixed, independently of any preliminary notice or other condition. In the case of the British, German, Italian, etc., Treaties, the earliest date—July 17th—is alone indicated, and there would consequently be no difficulty in postponing their operation so as to make it synchronise with that of the French Treaty. But the three Treaties above alluded to stand in the way of that solution. It is a small matter at any rate, and no difficulty need be experienced in effecting an adjustment.

TIMID REFORMERS.

The history of reform shows one identical feature wherever the scene is laid: each new step is greeted with trembling and apprehension by a conservative section of the population, and never once are the doubters justified. Of no country is that truer than of England. When we recall the prophecies of disaster that every progressive measure evoked in Great Britain, and their unfailing contradiction by the course of events, we do not know which is the more surprising—that reformers could venture to defy such vaticinations, or that Cassandras were invariably found to iterate them. The Japanese, on the whole, have been remarkably courageous. They have taken innumerable leaps in the dark with very little show of trepidation, and hitherto they have always lit on their feet. Of course they have had the great encouragement derivable from the successful example of others. None of their departures has been absolutely novel: all were imitations. Still no small endowment of pluck was needed to hold them steadily on their route, and if it fell to our task to write the story of their *Meiji* radicalism, we should credit them with boldness as a conspicuous attribute. The *Mainichi Shimbun* does not take that view, however. It writes as though all innovations and progressive steps in Japan were accompanied by loud forecasts of evil, and in proof of its assertions it refers to the opening of the country, the abolition of torture, the inauguration of constitutional Government, and the granting of free speech. Does our contemporary really think that those sweeping changes, accomplished as they were with extraordinary rapidity, can be said to have encountered much opposition or inspired much alarm? Our notion is very different. As to the recent wholesale abolition of regulations and admonitions imposing restrictions upon the intrusion of teachers and students into the field of politics—which abolition forms the text of our contemporary's article—it appears to us that the *Mainichi* begs the question when it assumes that the Educational Department's act must be classed as a reform. In principle, Mr. Ozaki will have thinking men on his side. The control of lads in colleges and schools ought to be left to the faculties of those institutions instead of being undertaken by a Department of the Administration. But the question is, are the teachers, directors, and presidents of Japanese scholastic institutions competent to exercise efficient control? They certainly have not shown that they are. We have not the slightest doubt that plenty of thoroughly competent men could be found, but the educational profession can not be expected to attract them so long as the present scale of pitifully meagre emoluments is continued.

MARQUIS ITO.

Marquis Ito talked very frankly to one person or another on the eve of his departure from Kobe. It is natural that as he leaves his country under the peculiar circumstances of the time—"turns his back on Japan," some people say—he should recall the beginnings of his brilliant career and let his memory rest again on the comrades with whom he worked at the moulding of modern Japan. Few indeed of that band of statesmen and soldiers survive today. If Marquis Ito lives until next year, though he will still be a young man from the point of view of English politicians, he will have attained a greater age than any of the Restoration leaders reached. Of course the colossal figure of the elder Saigo stands out prominently in such a retrospect. Saigo, says the Marquis, never had any idea of disloyalty to the Emperor. He raised his standard solely against the politicians with whom he could not agree. The time in which he lived, not his own wish or judgment, put arms into his hands. Were he alive now, and had he to deal with such a situation as that which recently confronted Marquis Ito, he would have confined himself to legitimate and peaceful expedients instead of making a miserable and fruitless end.

Marquis Ito did not invoke the shade of Saigo for any idle purpose. It is evident that he intended to summon the well remembered hero as a witness against hot-headed folks who imagine that the aid of force may still be employed to stem the current of unwelcome political changes. So far as fighting is concerned, Marquis Ito was prepared to fight, but with constitutional weapons. Now for the first time we have from his own lips the story of what happened last June. When he dissolved the House of Representatives, his intention, he says, was to form a great political party in opposition to the Progressists. But he found himself the sole advocate of that programme among the elder statesmen. They would not join him. He gave up the idea in disgust and resolved to take a trip to China.

As for China, the Marquis takes little stock in the reforms lately inaugurated by her. He compares them to clouds in a time of drought from which no rain descends—clouds in another part of the firmament. He intends to be useful if he possibly can, and he says that if he discovers any reasonable prospect of doing good, he will not stop at trifles (*zuibun omoikitta koto wo yarō*).

The Marquis made an interesting reference to the late Baron Inouye Ki, Minister of Education, and to Baron Suyematsu Kencho, his own son-in-law, recently Minister of Communications. These two distinguished men both owed their emergence from obscurity to the discernment of the Marquis. Many years ago, he said, an official report reached him over the signature of Mr. Kishida, a Judge of the Supreme Court. When the Marquis (not then a Marquis but plain Mr. Ito) read it, he was at once struck by the style, which he knew to be far above Judge Kishida's literary strength. He made inquiries about the writer, found him to be a humble clerk, Inouye Ki, and immediately secured the services of the youth who afterwards distinguished himself so highly, and died when his career of greatness had just become assured. Baron

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Suyematsu's case was somewhat similar. He was an obscure lad in the office of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* when one or two paragraphs written by him attracted Mr. Ito's attention. Curious to see the writer, Marquis Ito sent for him, and found a new *protegé* on whose account he may fairly claim to have placed the country under a debt of gratitude.

FIELD MARSHAL'S DECORATION.

It has hitherto been the custom to translate the Japanese term *taishō* as "field-marshal." Thus when Counts Yamagata and Oyama—now Marquises—commanded the Korean and Liaotung *Corps d'armée*, they were usually spoken of as Field Marshal Yamagata and Field Marshal Oyama. The nomenclature was inconvenient, because, taking the ranks in their regular order of sequence, a *taishō* in the Army was simply a full general, and in the Navy, an Admiral of the Fleet. Since these days the difficulty has been solved by the creation of another rank, *gensui*, which may be considered as the true equivalent of "Field Marshal." The Emperor is the *Dai-gensui*, or "Field Marshal Commanding in Chief," and Marquis Yamagata, Marquis Oyama, &c., are *Gensui*, or Field Marshals.

We are reminded of the subject by a specimen of the decoration to be worn by the *Gensui*. It is a very beautiful specimen of work in translucid enamels, the manipulation of which for purposes of artistic decoration has been carried to a point of very high proficiency by the modern Japanese craftsman. The design is composed of crossed flags disposed so as to form an oval, and grasping at the upper ends of the staves a sixteen-petalled chrysanthemum. Beneath the chrysanthemum is a band of paulowina blossoms in purple enamel, surmounting a triplet of paulowina leaves in green. The suns and rays on the flags are red, the petals of the chrysanthemums are yellow, and the field is silver hammered in fish-roe diaper. Mr. Asada Sashichi, the maker of this beautiful bit of work, will gain much credit by it.

THE ARMY AND THE NAVY.

It would appear that the Cabinet has decided not merely to make no changes in the sense of equalizing the yearly expenditures on account of military and naval expansion, but also that the two services are to have considerably increased appropriations. We have no information of our own on the subject, but we find the statement in the *Shogyo Shimpo*, which seldom makes errors of fact. Count Inouye, as our readers remember, while not altering the expansion programme as a whole, proposed to cut down the very marked discrepancies in the outlays for the various years, so that while the programme would be completed at the originally fixed time, the strain on the finances of the State would be more equally distributed over the whole period. But even that apparently judicious modification is not favoured by the present Cabinet. The *Shogyo*, in somewhat vague terms, implies that the Emperor has made his wishes felt in this matter, and, at the same time hints that the Cabinet would do well to avail itself more liberally of the Sovereign's enlightened directions.

STATE PURCHASE OF PRIVATE RAILWAYS.

This question is assuming a very interesting aspect. Certain publicists insist that it has been brought upon the tapis solely for the purpose of creating a split in the Cabinet. They allege that a little band of conspirators, nicknamed the "Twelve Society of Azabu," whose chief is Viscount Takashima, with Mr. Oi Kentaro—the celebrated Mr. Oi Kentaro—for his lieutenant, are busily devising means to bring about a rupture between the Liberals and the Progressists. The Yamada affair was largely of their contrivance, and it was principally at the instance of Mr. Oi that the Tokyo Section of the Constitutional Party recently called upon Mr. Yamada to resign. Another and a more serious scheme is this railway question. It is well known that Count Itagaki favours the State ownership of railways and that Count Okuma opposes it. In other words, the Liberals advocate it and the Progressists denounce it. If then it can be forced into the field of discussion, the two parties must break away from each other. The political opponents of the Cabinet look at the problem from that point of view. On the other hand, it is whispered that the Liberals themselves, regarding their secession from the Constitutional Party as a mere question of time, are anxious to secure the allegiance of the "Business Men" by openly associating themselves with the State purchase problem, while the Progressists also, anticipating the same result, are disposed to coquet with the question in order to retain the support of the "Business Men." Finally, there are the speculators in shares, who see their way to a big job if the Government can be committed to the problem, and there are the brokers who would pick up some fat crumbs from the feast. All these forces are combined to push the project.

As to Counts Okuma and Itagaki, the interviewer has naturally been busy with them. Count Itagaki expresses himself in the plainest terms. The backbone of his contention is military strategy. He does not believe that a State can be certain of fully utilizing its means of communication unless it has complete and entire control of the main lines of railway, and he thinks that the present is the time for the Government to get possession of the roads before railway syndicates and railway kings come into existence, and before the problem is complicated by "mixed residence," for Count Itagaki is persuaded that no precautions could secure the State against risks of inconvenience if, in time of war, when patriotic sentiment was keenly roused, foreign shareholders had a controlling voice in the affairs of an important railway. He further holds that it is among the chief duties of a Government to provide the best and cheapest facilities of communication for the people, and that railways should therefore be under State direction, just as posts and telegraphs are. Finally he thinks that only by using the Government's credit can foreign capital be procured cheaply, and that the best and simplest form of security Japan can offer to foreign capitalists is her railways. The country is in urgent need of cheap capital and the shares of the railways now rule very low in the market. From every point of view the time is excellently suited to the project. Count Itagaki has not brought up the matter for discussion since he became a member of the Cabinet, but he says that Mr. Hayashi, the Minister of Communications, has been conducting preliminary investigations, and he adds that Count Okuma, although originally unfavorable to the scheme, is not likely to let the present unique opportunity escape—a somewhat inconsequential statement.

The above interview with Count Itagaki is taken from the columns of the *Jiji Shimpo*, which journal is radically opposed to the idea of State purchase. The *Jiji* has interviewed Count Okuma also, but failed to obtain from him an equally explicit statement of views. What the Count said, in effect, was that the Government had too many pressing problems on hand to pay any attention to such a matter as the State purchase of railways. There were the problem of administrative reform, the problem of finance, the duty of preparing bills for submission to the Diet, the business of getting ready for the operation of the Revised Treaties, and so on. Great difficulty was experienced in making satisfactory arrangements for the conduct of the ordinary business of communications; the posts, the telegraphs, and the telephones, as every one knew, stood in urgent need of reform, and it was quite out of the question to give immediate attention to a project like the State purchase of railways. "As for me," the Count said in conclusion, "I have always been in favour of the private ownership of railways. At all events, the question is not before the Cabinet now. If we disposed of the pressing business that now occupies our attention, we might have to consider the railway problem, but speculators in shares are chiefly concerned about it now. You can easily guess whence its renewed discussion emanated."

To round off the subject, we may mention that an anonymous official, supposed be an authority, has informed the *Yomiuri Shimbun* that, whereas the price which the Government is advised to pay for the four railways in question—namely, the Nippon, the Sanyo, the Kiushiu, and the Kobu—is 200 million *yen*, which, at 5 per cent., involves an annual payment of 10 million *yen* in the form of interest, the net earnings of the four lines do not exceed 4 million *yen*, so that there would be a loss of 6 million *yen* to the State. But how the estimate of 200 million *yen* is arrived at we are quite unable to understand. Supposing that the lines were purchased at 50,000 *yen* a mile—which is certainly more than they are worth—200 million *yen* would represent the cost of 4,000 miles of road, which is a third more than the total mileage of all the lines in Japan, public and private included.

No. 23 TORPEDO BOAT.

Torpedo Boat No. 23, which recently ran on a rock off Hokkaido, is found to have had her hull so much injured that all idea of raising her has been abandoned. Her engines, armament, etc., have been taken out, and she will be abandoned to her fate.

From Australian papers we learn that the steamer *Taiyuan* was towed into Melbourne recently with her shaft broken.

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"THE CONDITION OF FOREIGNERS UNDER THE NEW TREATIES."

The International Committee of Yokohama has taken a step which can not fail to prove of the greatest service to foreigners. It has caused a brochure to be compiled for the purpose of affording to foreigners full information concerning the laws of Japan in so far as the latter bear upon the conduct of their business or on their everyday life, with explanations of the points in which Japanese law differs from English. This statement of the contents of the brochure sounds formidable, but in truth the whole story is told clearly and briefly within the short compass of 53 pages. The author of the work is Dr. L. Lönholm, Professor of German Law in the Imperial University of Japan. He deserves to be highly congratulated on the perspicacity and thoroughness of his explanations, as well as on their complete freedom from technicalities calculated to perplex the lay mind.

The first feeling inspired by a perusal of the book will, we venture to predict, be one of satisfaction. The foreigner, naturally apprehensive about changes which he does not comprehend, will learn that there is absolutely no cause for uneasiness, and that, so far as the written law is concerned, his status under the Revised Treaties will be in almost every respect satisfactory. We shall not attempt, of course, to follow Dr. Lönholm in detail, but a few references will be useful in order to enable our readers to understand what a boon this brochure confers on the community by lifting it from the fog-land of doubt and uncertainty into the clear atmosphere of knowledge and assurance. The author sets out by discussing the question of land tenure. Our readers must be already pretty weary of the subject, and we need not go further than to say that Dr. Lönholm again describes explicitly the two forms of lease under which foreigners will be able to acquire land, namely, the long building lease, or *chijō ken*, as to the period of which the law leaves the parties entirely free; and the ordinary lease, *chintaishaku*, whose duration is limited to 20 years. We observe that Dr. Lönholm now seems to regret the use of the term "superficies" as a translation for *chijō-ken*, because the Japanese right is not exactly the same as the Roman right to which "superficies" originally applied. In our opinion it is regrettable chiefly for another reason, namely, that since there is nothing in English law corresponding exactly to *chijō-ken*, many Englishmen in Japan, with that fine old spirit of conservatism that has so happily blocked the path of reform from time to time in the "tight little island," regard this *chijō ken* as a new-fangled, nondescript kind of animal which, not being already familiar, must necessarily be incomprehensible, and which, on the whole, they would prefer not to understand. If the story of the discussion that has taken place in the local English press about this marvel, "superficies" were dispassionately set down, it would certainly be a splendid monument of human intelligence. Told in a sentence the case is this:—"Because Japanese legislators, while fixing the maximum term for an ordinary lease at 20 years, and that for an emphyteutical lease at 50 years, did not fix any limit in the case of the building lease, but left the lessor and the lessee absolutely free to make their own arrangements as to period, therefore the building lease must be regarded as an apocryphal, deceptive kind of affair, having no practical interest for the sturdy Briton." In short, these extremely sensible journalists laid down the principle that a privilege to be genuine must be restricted, and that untrammelled liberty is not liberty at all. They remind us of the Japanese student who, when a tender beefsteak was served to him at a restaurant, bade the waiter to take the thing away, for he didn't recognise a beefsteak as genuine unless his teeth got some real exercise in eating it. There is, however, a special point to be noted here, a point of considerable importance which, though of course known to all students of the new Civil Code, is now for the first time set forth publicly for the information of foreigners. It is that any commercial company or partnership, created in Japan under the Japanese law and duly registered, has the right to own land, even though all its members are foreigners. This rule does not apply, however, to a partnership or company organized in a foreign country under foreign law, although it has established a branch office in Japan. For example:—If *A* and *B* are carrying on business in Japan, it will be possible for them, after July 17th, 1889, to register themselves under Japanese law as the firm of *A* and *B*, and, thus becoming a juridical person, they may purchase and own as much land as they please in the name of their firm. This interesting point is fully explained by Dr. Lönholm.

It need scarcely be said that the foreigner's right to carry on business in Japan occupies a good deal of Dr. Lönholm's attention. The treaties confer on him the right of engaging in all operations of lawful commerce, but say nothing about professions, such as law, medicine, teaching, journalism, and so forth. As to the profession of barrister, there is a regulation restricting its pursuit to Japanese subjects, but of course a due arrangement will be made to meet that case; and with regard to medicine, teaching, and drug-selling, the situation is very simple. But journalism calls for brief comment. It was assumed at first by several foreign critics, ourselves among the number, that without some special enabling legislation on the part of the Japanese Government foreigners would not be competent to publish newspapers in Japan after the Revised Treaties went into operation. Subsequently, when the French Treaty appeared and was found to confer on foreigners the right of carrying on a *métier*, it was inferred that the difficulty had been met, since journalism is a *métier*. Dr. Lönholm, however, does not take the latter view. He defines *métier* as a "handicraft or mechanical occupation," and declares it "doubtful whether the work of an editor can be classed as a trade or *métier* at all." Of course that view is strictly accurate. *Métier*, according to Littré, is the *exercise d'un art méchanique*. Consequently the French Treaty does not cover journalism, and Dr. Lönholm says that "the Government has now under consideration a change of the law so as to permit foreigners to engage in journalism." But Dr. Lönholm omits to note a fact which disposes completely of this question. In the new Commercial Code, which has already passed the House of Peers, and which will certainly be in operation soon, we find (Book III. Chap. I., Arts 263 and 264) an exact list of the various operations constituting "acts of commerce," and among them are specified "acts relating to the operations of editors, printers, and photographers," when such acts enter into the exercise of a profession. That is a very marked departure from the theory hitherto maintained in Japan, namely, that the editing and publishing of newspapers are acts having a *quasi* public character and ought to be subject to special regulations in the interests of good order and morality. However, the fact alone concerns us here, and the fact is that when the new Commercial Code goes into operation, journalism will be an act of lawful commerce, and as such will be covered by the Treaties.

The books which firms will be obliged to keep is a subject that has inspired some anxiety, but Dr. Lönholm explains that "books may be kept in any language," and that "such books as are now usually kept by foreign merchants are quite sufficient to comply with the requirements of law." We shall not attempt to follow Dr. Lönholm's exposition of the taxes to which foreigners will be liable, of public and criminal procedure, of domiciliary visits and so forth, especially as these subjects have already been treated from time to time in our own columns. But we venture to recommend every foreign resident to provide himself with a copy of this excellent book, unless, indeed, he prefers a state of ignorance, and is unwilling to lose the opportunities for grumbling that it affords.

JAPANESE TRAVELLERS TO AMERICA.

The Chief of the Metropolitan Police issues a notification with reference to the choice of a route by persons crossing to America *viâ* Canada. He says that if they travel by the Canadian Pacific steamers they will have no difficulty in gaining admittance to the States, since a special arrangement exists empowering the local authorities at Vancouver or Victoria to grant passes, after due examination, to persons arriving by the Canadian Pacific Company's vessels. No such arrangement exists, however, with regard to the Northern Pacific Company or the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and persons travelling in their steamers with the intention of proceeding to the States are liable to disappointment. Such a notification will not conduce to the interests of the Northern Pacific or the Japanese Company.

RAILWAYS IN KOREA.

A telegram from Söul, dated 2.30 p.m. on the 17th instant, says that the German Consul recently applied, on behalf of a German firm in Chemulpo, for a charter to build a line of railway between Söul and Yensan (on the north-eastern coast), but the Korean Government replied, on the 15th instant, in the sense that as it was about to organise a railway bureau and undertake the building of its own lines, it had resolved not to grant any charters to foreigners with the exception of those already promised. That is disappointing. The chance of Korea's doing the work herself is very remote, we imagine, and in the meanwhile she has apparently arrived at the very short-sighted resolve not to let any one else do it for her.

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A MAGAZINE SUSPENDED.

It has fallen to the unhappy lot of the Home Department under Count Itagaki's direction to have to suspend another magazine, the *Futsu-kyoiku*. This periodical, as its name implies, is an educational publication. It therefore pays no security, and has not the legal right of inserting political matter. Despite that fact, it inserted in its last number the speech delivered by Professor Toyama on the 3rd instant at the meeting of the Meikeikai. We alluded to the speech at some length in a previous issue, and of course there can not be any doubt as to its political character. Moreover it contained the works *kokon tozai mizoyu no daiseijika daikyoikuka-taru Okuma-haku* (Count Okuma, the great statesman, the great educationalist, whose like was never seen of old or of late, in the Orient or in the Occident)—words obviously used in a satirical sense—and in permitting the speech to be printed, Professor Toyama prepared it thus:—"My object in putting this lecture into type is to present it, with all due respect, to Count Okuma, for whom I have so much respect." The editor of the magazine adds at the end of the lecture a note showing that he fully understood the responsibility he incurred in publishing it. Doubtless we shall hear a good deal about the matter, for certainly fate is very unkind when she condemns the first party Cabinet to be responsible for the suspension of two periodicals before it has been two months in office. But the fact is that the law is quite behind the time. It is altogether a grandmotherly precaution to forbid the publication of political matter by educational journals or periodicals, and for our own part we think that the officials of the Home Dpartment might very well allow the law to remain a dead letter.

COUNT OKUMA & THE LAND TAX.

Count Okuma has been telling a representative of the *Jiji Shimpo* that although he opposes the project of making any addition to the tax on arable lands, he is strongly in favour of exacting a larger contribution from the owners of urban lands. He bases his view on the familiar principle of the unearned increment. The market value of building lands is several hundred times greater to-day than it was twenty-five years ago, and the increment is due not to the enterprise and industry of the holders of the land, but to the operation of factors by which the public have a right to benefit. That is unquestionably true, but we do not see why the same reasoning should not apply, though with reduced force, to the case of rural lands also. The price of farm produce is certainly three times as much now as it was when the land was assessed for purposes of taxation, and the market value of the land must have risen in proportion. That increment, also, is not the result of the land-owners' efforts. It is due to a general change in the nation's condition, and the nation at large should have some of the profit. It is evidently a question of degree with Count Okuma. He would not deny the applicability of the principle of the unearned increment to both cases, but he thinks that the urban folks are much better off than the rural and should, consequently, be more heavily taxed.

THE KOBE MEMORIAL.

The Memorial addressed by the foreign community of Kobe to Lord Salisbury on the subject of the Revised Treaties, has now been published, in part at any rate. It contains, among other statements, the following:—

> By the new Codes which are shortly to come into operation the period for which land may be leased is limited to twenty years, and it is absurd to suppose that British subjects will attempt to build workshops for carrying on a manufacturing business on land which at the expiration of that time may pass out of their hands or be subject to such an increase of rent that business would be rendered impossible.

We have often had occasion to note the extraordinary fatality that seems to pursue the foreign residents in Japan whenever they combine to make representations on the subject of Treaty Revision. They appear to be doomed to commit mistakes which have the effect of fatally discrediting their action. This question of the tenure of land under the new Code has been discussed again and again. There never could have been the faintest doubt about it had not certain local journalists ignorantly committed themselves to erroneous statements from which they subsequently refused to withdraw, though the clearest evidence was adduced in proof of their blunder. The Civil Code of Japan recognises two kinds of land tenure apart from ownership—we need not here concern ourselves about emphyteusis and so forth—, one of which, "superficies," is defined in Book II. Chap. IV., Articles 265 to 269, inclusive; the other, "hiring or letting to hire," is defined in Book III., Chap. II., Sect. VII., Sub-sect. I., Articles 601 to 604, inclusive. Superficies is the kind of tenure contemplated when the tenant desires to own buildings on the land (the very case explicitly alluded to in the Kobe memorial). No limit of time is fixed for such tenure. The land may be hired for any number of years agreed upon by the lessor and lessee. Should it happen that the number of years has not been fixed at the time of leasing the land, then the lessee is entitled to relinquish his lease at a year's notice, and the lessor is entitled to invoke the intervention of a court of law which may determine a period of not less than 20 years and not more than 50. The whole of these provisions, the whole system of long lease for building purposes under the system of superficies, as well as the fact that partnerships or firms of foreigners carrying on business in Japan under Japanese law, will be entitled to own as much land as they please—all these things are calmly ignored by the Kobe Memorial. The memorialists write as though nothing of the kind was included in the Code, and as though the only reference to land leasing or land owning was contained in Article 604, which, under the head of "hiring and letting to hire," provides that "the period of duration of contracts of hiring and letting to hire must not exceed twenty years."

Really it is difficult to find any terms applicable to such flagrant, such extraordinary, blundering. The Kobe people had in their hands not only full English translations of the Civil Code, but also an expert commentary which explained this question of superficies in the clearest terms, showed the difference between such a system and the ordinary method of letting and hiring, and dwelt on the importance of the privilege as enabling foreigners to procure land under leases of sufficiently long duration to warrant the erection of warehouses, factories, and other buildings however costly. Nor is that all. This very memorial was sent to Yokohama for signature, but the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce declined to connect themselves with it, one of their principal grounds of refusal being this very mistake about the tenure of land. Yet the Kobe Chamber forwarded the memorial unaltered to Lord Salisbury! The story almost defies credence. We could believe it if the actors were children playing some game in which the composition of mock memorials was a feature, but where a body of grave business men are concerned, and where important interests as well as international problems are affected, such reckless giddiness is utterly inexplicable.

The wisest folk may commit errors. If we comment in strong terms on the Kobe blunder, it is chiefly for the purpose of dissociating other sections of the foreign communities from a mistake so mischievous. For this problem of land tenure is of great moment. Every one solicitous on account of Japan's material development and on account of the prosperity of foreign enterprise in this country—which is only another way of saying Japanese prosperity—must be keenly anxious that the Japanese should abandon their irrational, their unwise, their pusillanimous attitude towards the question of land ownership by foreigners. A band of unthinking agitators, prompted partly by the want of a political shibboleth and partly by impatience because Treaty Revision could not be accomplished, raised the cry of "strict treaty enforcement," five years ago. Their investigations showed that several foreigners had, by more or less devious devices, acquired possession of land beyond the limits of the settlements, and out of the factitious excitement fanned in connection with that discovery, there grew up a fantasy that the soil of the empire must be prevented from passing into alien ownership. All thinking persons, foreigners and Japanese alike, are interested in dispelling a prejudice so plainly injurious to the growth of business enterprise. But that most desirable consummation will certainly not be promoted by a document like the Kobe Memorial; a document wherein a body of grave business men entirely misrepresent the action of Japanese legislators, and publicly prefer against them an accusation of the most narrow-minded illiberality, when in reality they have endeavoured by the best means in their power—short of granting the privilege of actual ownership of land to individual foreigners, which, in the then state of public opinion, they could not grant—when they have successfully endeavoured, we say, to devise a system for minimizing the inconvenient effects of an embargo which they could not remove. Japanese legislators are not likely to be favorably impressed by injustice of that kind, or Japanese officials be encouraged in the prosecution of efforts which obtain so little appreciation.

Elsewhere in the same memorial the following paragraph occurs:—

> Definite diplomatic stipulations form the only safeguard upon which foreigners can rely, and to be effective they must be vigilantly enforced. When the port of Hyogo (Kobe) was opened to foreign trade in 1863, an agreement was con-

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cluded between the Imperial Government and the Foreign Representatives for leasing land and renting or buying houses within what is called *sakkyochi* or the mixed residence zone. This agreement was ultimately published in the form of a letter to the Consuls by Mr. Shunsuke Ito (now Marquis Ito) who was then Governor of Hyogo. Yet sixteen (*sic*) years later, in 1884, without any communication with or notification of the Foreign Consuls or Diplomatic Representatives, the Japanese Government secretly issued instructions to the prefectural authorities wherein the duration of leases—which foreigners and Japanese were by diplomatic instrument permitted to make "at their own convenience"—was limited to twenty-five years, and a penalty both of fine and imprisonment imposed on Japanese subjects for any infraction of the regulation.

The statement about land tenure was an error of fact. What shall we call this paragraph? It sets out by saying that "definite diplomatic stipulations form the only safeguard upon which foreigners can rely," and that even such stipulations, "to be effective must be vigilantly enforced." This is nothing more or less than a distinct declaration that the memorialists have no faith in the liberality of the Japanese Government or the Japanese people, and are further persuaded that the Japanese Government can not be trusted to fulfil diplomatic stipulations unless opportunities of evading them are carefully kept out of its reach. Faith, of course, can not be exacted. It is a plant of tender growth, and that it does not flourish in the bosoms of the foreign communities Japan is an unfortunate fact for which the Japanese themselves must be held chiefly responsible. But why parade such a fact in a public memorial? What can be the result except to widen the breach between foreigners and Japanese? Besides, it is against the Government of Japan that this expression of distrust is placed on record. Has the conduct of the Government of Japan warranted any denunciation of the kind? Has not the Government of Japan, on the contrary, shown uniform and scrupulous integrity in the discharge of all its engagements towards foreigners? Let us consider, for a moment, the concrete evidence adduced by the Kobe Memorialists in support of their charge that diplomatic stipulations made with Japan to be effective must be vigilantly enforced. They say that whereas, in 1863, an official agreement was concluded unconditionally empowering foreigners to lease land in a certain quarter of Hyogo, the Japanese Government, in 1884, "secretly issued instructions to the prefectural authorities limiting the duration of such leases to 25 years." We can not, of course, speak intelligently about "secret instructions." It is strange that if such instructions were issued in 1884, nothing was heard of them until 1898. We are bound to assume that the Kobe Memorialists would not publicly prefer a charge of the kind without conclusive proof, but it is difficult to see how they can have acquired proof, and if they are unable to form an ordinarily accurate conception about the contents of a written law which is not only couched in the clearest terms but also accompanied by a commentary, they need not be surprised if their ability to sift fourteen-years old evidence about secret transactions is not immediately conceded. Be that as it may, however, what is the obvious intention of this charge against Japanese statesmen? Is it not to show that the Government itself was conservatively opposed in 1884 to the acquisition of land by foreigners under long leases? Observe the date, "1884." Now in 1884 negotiations for Revision of the Treaties were renewed at the Foreign Office in Tokyo, and resulted in a draft treaty wherein the privilege of owning land in Japan was unreservedly granted to foreigners. There was no discussion about the privilege. There was no difficulty in obtaining it. The Japanese negotiators inserted it with virtual spontaneity. Again, in Count Okuma's revised treaty of 1889, which actually received the signatures of America, Germany and Russia, ownership of land was unreservedly allowed to foreigners. It appears, then, that the very Government which the Kobe memorialists accuse of violating its engagements by secretly interfering to restrict the foreign leasing of land, was readily conceding by treaty the permanent privilege not merely of long leases but also of actual ownership. We leave the memorialists to reconcile these facts. They appear to have allowed themselves to be carried away by an inexplicable vertigo, but a moment's calm retrospect will convince them that they never made a greater or more unfortunate mistake than when they arraigned not merely the good faith of the Japanese Government but even the liberality of its disposition. The Japanese Government has been uniformly liberal and friendly in its attitude towards foreigners. The Japanese Government did everything in its power to check the agitation of 1893-4, and Japanese officials since that time have spared no effort to soften the prejudices educated in those years. It is not against the Japanese Government that the foreign residents ought to gird. The Kobe Memorialists show that they can not distinguish between friends and enemies, or appreciate the ingratitude, to say nothing of the unwisdom, of confounding the two in a common accusation.

There are other statements in this strange document that can not be reconciled with any sense of the responsibility attaching to the utterances of an association of business men. It is alleged, for example, that "Japanese law provides imprisonment for many trivial offences which in England would be met with a small fine," and that "Japanese tribunals are reluctant to grant bail on any occasion if it can possibly be avoided." The provisions of Japan's new Criminal Code were criticised by a number of highly competent legal experts—French, German, and Belgian—at the time of its promulgation 18 years ago, and we can not remember that any one of them noted the defect now referred to by the Kobe Memorialists. Be that as it may, however, what grounds have the Memorialists for asserting that Japanese tribunals will not grant bail if they can possibly avoid doing so? How can they be in a position to publish such an allegation? Where are their proofs? Our own inquiries go to show that if there is any failure to resort to the privilege of bail, the fault lies with the ineptitude of the accused persons rather than with the unwillingness of the magistrates. A more unfortunate document never was penned than this Memorial. Its statements are inaccurate; it is careless almost to the verge of recklessness; its tone is wanting in moderation, and its charges are calculated to give grave offence to the Government whose good will has been uniformly displayed towards foreigners, and whose sympathy it is most desirable to preserve. Two reforms we are all deeply interested in bringing about. One is that individual foreigners should be entitled to own land in Japan; the other that suitable prisons should be provided for foreigners under detention or suffering punishment. The suggestion of the Memorialists as to the construction of proper buildings at each of the Treaty Ports seems excellent, and is understood to be the idea entertained not only by the present Cabinet but also by the last. Was it necessary, however, to preface that suggestion by a statement that "the cells of Japanese gaols are in many cases barred dens resembling nothing so much as those in which wild animals are kept"? It would scarcely have been possible, we think, to compile a document better calculated than this Memorial to injure the cause which the memorialists, in common with all the rest of us, undoubtedly have at heart.

EXPERIENCES.

"I hear so much about unprovoked rudeness on the part of the Japanese lower orders towards foreigners," says a friend, "that I should like to describe to you two recent experiences of my own—one on my way from Tokyo to Hakone, the other on my return journey. After I had taken my seat in a railway carriage, there entered a foreign lady and gentleman. The latter carried under his arm a small dog. It is, of course, against the rules for a passenger to take a dog into the carriage with him. One of the railway officials addressed a remonstrance to the gentleman, but he took the dog on his knees, and pointing to it, uttered the word 'baby' three or four times—his knowledge of English seemed very limited. He did not behave roughly, but persisted in ignoring the porter's explanations, and finally carried his point, and his dog, probably because the train would have had to be detained to settle the question. It was a small matter, but it seemed to me to illustrate a demeanour not uncommon among foreigners. Would this gentleman have attempted to take a dog, however small, into a first-class carriage in his own country in spite of the remonstrances of a railway official? The second experience was much more unpleasant. Just as the tram-car was about to start a foreigner arrived. His effects consisted of eight packages 'of sorts' carried by four coolies. He paid three of the coolies, but gave nothing to the fourth, who therefore put his head and his hand into the car and asked for money. The foreigner's prompt and unhesitating answer was to slap the man's face, and the tram started. I can assure you that foreigner was 'all there.' His dominant idea seemed to be that the whole world was in league to cheat him. His own fare was forty *sen*, and when the conductor of the tram said that the charge for the eight packages would be sixty *sen* more, he fell into a state of great excitement, protested that he was being swindled, and was only induced to pay up when the tram folks proceeded to unload his baggage at the next station. He really seemed to think that he was travelling among savages and that he had to be on his defence all the time. These are excerpts from the diary of one trip into the country. 'Like begets like' in Japan, I suppose, as well as everywhere else."

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THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Mr. Ozaki Yukio is certainly making his mark. We do not remember that any Cabinet Minister ever before established such a claim on public appreciation in so brief a period. The only measure actually taken by him has been a wholesale recission of rules and regulations issued, from time to time, by his predecessors, for the control and direction of teachers and students. But he has given public expression to opinions which show him to be one of Japan's most liberal and enlightened statesmen. We confess that we did not quite expect this from Mr. Ozaki. As to his brilliant abilities there never was any doubt. But his very brilliancy inspired a certain measure of distrust, and, while admiring his powerful and sparkling speeches in the Diet, in was impossible not to fear that the consuming fire of partisanship with which all his utterances glowed might be a very dangerous element in a statesman's temperament. Mr. Ozaki, however, as a portfolio-holder, though he evidently retains the courage of Mr. Ozaki the "Rupert of debate," has developed all the responsible gravity of a Cabinet Minister, and is standing forth as the exponent of precisely the very opinions which were most in need of an able and bold champion in Japan. We may be pardoned if we express our admiration in strong terms, because the reforms advocated by Mr. Ozaki are precisely those which have over and over again been urged in these columns. In the forefront of these reforms we place the removal of the cruel disabilities under which schools conducted on religious principles have hitherto laboured in Japan; disabilities which, as we pointed out at the time and as Mr. Ozaki now plainly says, were in great part responsible for the Doshisha calamity, which has done incalculable injury to Japan. Nothing could be sounder than the principle that Schools receiving aid from the State out of funds contributed by tax-payers of all shades of belief or unbelief should be conducted on purely secular lines. But to decline altogether to officially recognise the value of graduation certificates given by private schools where religious instruction forms a part of the curriculum, and to withhold from the students of such schools privileges without which they can not finish their education, is to discriminate with terrible unfairness against the whole religious section of the nation. Mr. Ozaki Yukio is probably not the first among Japanese Ministers of Education to hold that view, but he is certainly the first who has given public expression to it.

Another admirable step taken by Mr. Ozaki is his admonition with reference to the demeanour of children towards foreigners. The admonition was contained in a speech delivered by the Minister on the 21st instant to a large audience of the Educational Society's members. He spoke not merely of children, but also of grown people who, according to reports received from Governors of Prefectures in which open ports are situated and from the police, show rudeness to foreign gentlemen and ladies and sometimes abuse them and even resort to acts of violence. Denouncing such conduct as contemptible in the extreme, Mr. Ozaki called upon all persons engaged in education to spare no pains in eradicating anti-foreign sentiments from the breasts of children and young people, for, as the child is, so will the man be. That is exactly what we have often said. If children at school were taught that every one making an exhibition of race prejudice disgraces himself and his country, this particular evil would soon disappear. We admit frankly that a similar reform is needed in many Occidental countries, but we who live here have to think of Japan only.

Mr. Ozaki said a great deal in his speech about the worship of money, but into that branch of his views we need not follow him, except to note that he justly upbraided the rich men of Japan for not making donations to educational purposes, as do the rich men in America, England, and other Western countries. The Keiogijuku—Mr. Fukuzawa's College—is the only University in Japan, his Excellency said, which owes its origin to private munificence. Certainly the comment is true of Universities, but Count Okuma's Technical College at Waseda is also a conspicuous instance, and Mr. Okura's recent gift of 500,000 *yen* to found a commercial school is a fine example which will probably find imitators. Still, as we have noted more than once in the past, private benevolence is extremely backward in Japan.

A RADICAL RECOMMENDATION.

We suppose that if an Imperial Decree appeared one fine morning dismissing from office the whole body of Japanese officials, with the exception of the Ministers of State, the world would open its eyes very widely and conclude that His Majesty and his advisers had been overcome by a sudden access of dementia. Yet that is the course recommended by the sober, thoughtful *Jiji Shimpo*, and not recommended once only, but urged in leading articles published at a considerable interval and inspired by an evident conviction that no smaller measure will satisfy the requirements of the time. The *Jiji's* point is not very easy to grasp. It has an idea that the present regulations for the appointment of officials (*Kwanri ninyo-rei*) were devised in the interests of the Clans, because, while instituting a system of qualifying examinations, they make exceptions in favour of graduates of Upper Middle Schools and of the University. Such a notion sounds very strange in Occidental ears, for all Western countries make a habit of attaching certain definite values to the graduation certificates of high-class educational institutions, and since the graduates of the Imperial University and of the Upper Middle Schools in Japan are drawn from all classes and localities, it is difficult to see where their taint of clannism comes in. However, the *Jiji* has its own views. It opines that if officials in responsible positions were now required to pass examinations, very few of them would be successful, which is probably quite true, for after we have laid aside our text books for a dozen years, not many of us could calculate a logarithmic base or write a synopsis of the philosophy of Hobbes. At the same time, we all flatter ourselves that we are at least as competent to discharge our daily duties as a lad fresh from the academical halls. Whether the *Jiji* thinks differently we can not discover, for it passes on at once to declare it utterly incongruous that a new master should have old clerks. Put out all the rank and file of officialdom. If there are any really good men, they can be reappointed immediately. Let an entirely new atmosphere percolate the administrative mansion. Then revise the regulations and make a knowledge of the English language the prime essential for official appointments.

What constitutes "new" and what "old," we wonder, in the *Jiji Shimpo's* estimation When the present Cabinet goes out of power, would its successors be justified in effecting a similarly thorough atmospheric change? If not, why not? And if yes, what a kaleidoscope the future history of the Japanese administration becomes! We do not think, too, that the proposed plan would have a very calming effect on the office-seeking fever which the *Jiji* itself, in common with other journals, denounces. Several thousands of official vacancies would be something for the hungry crowd to scramble for.

FORESTS IN JAPAN.

Among the very numerous and more or less superficial criticisms and suggestions about finance that appear in the columns of the vernacular press, we sometimes find a striking statement. Of that nature is a paragraph in the *Nippon* on the subject of State forests. The State owns, according to our contemporary, 7 million *cho* (17½ million acres) of forest lands, and the total revenue derived from this immense possession is less than a million *yen* annually. There ought to be some effective system of forest control, for the Imperial University turns out, every year, men who are supposed to have made a specialty of this branch of study, but the astonishing fact is that the State's forests seem be regarded as a great nuisance rather than a valuable asset. The *Nippon* accounts for the curious state of affairs thus:—At the time of the Restoration the paramount tendency of the administration was centralization of power, and the forests were swept into the official net without due distinction between public and private property. As a natural result, great discontent was engendered, and applications began to flow in from all quarters, asking for the restoration of lands here or the grant of lands there. Several thousands of such applications are now in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and the business of dealing with them monopolises the time of the Forestry Bureau so completely that no attempt can be made to inaugurate an efficient system of forest control. Meanwhile, sales of State-forest lands are almost always attended with the gravest abuses, dishonesty and corruption of every kind being practised. The time has surely come, says the *Nippon*, to draw the line irrevocably and clearly between State lands and private lands. Some might suffer by the division, but others would gain, and one result would be that a proper system of forest control could be inaugurated. It is believed by competent experts that the state forests might be made to yield a revenue of 10 million *yen* at once, and 20 or 30 million *yen* in the course of a few years. A *yen* per acre—that is to say, 2 shillings—would means an income of 17½ millions.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

It must be confessed that the prospect of a continued working alliance between the Liberals and Progressists becomes palpably less hopeful as the days go by. The question of administrative reform is now a dark cloud upon the horizon. The Cabinet, very soon after its accession to power, appointed a committee to make preliminary investigations. It is the third committee of the kind that has approached the problem. The first was presided over by Count Okuma in the Kuroda Cabinet of 1888-9. The second, under the same presidency, sat while the Matsukata Cabinet was in office last year. Count Itagaki is the President of the third, and the Opposition organs, as our readers may remember, have not hesitated to suggest that the post was allotted to the Liberal leader by the Progressists because they knew that failure was inevitable. Nothing has been heard of the Committee's investigations since it commenced its sittings. That is not remarkable. The Committee would be well advised if it carefully kept its proceedings private until its full report was compiled. But what we do find remarkable is that the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, a leading Progressist organ, roundly accuses the Committee of accomplishing nothing, and attributes its failure to favoritism. Favoritism, says our contemporary, was the rock upon which the previous reform committees came to grief under Clan Cabinets, and favoritism was preeminently the abuse which the present Cabinet undertook to eradicate. Hence the last thing to be anticipated was that the new committee would allow itself to be swayed by personal considerations, and would shrink from abolishing useless offices through fear of disturbing the balance of power between the Liberals and the Progressists. Yet not only is that the case, but the Committee has closed its doors thus falling into the evil habit of the clan era, and refuses to receive any suggestions from without. It has not the courage to to do what the nation wants, and is apparently oblivious of the fact that the wider counsels it can obtain, the more likely is it to find wisdom. We are quoting the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. That, indeed, is the whole point of the matter. How long can the two sections of the Constitutional Party work in concert when the organs of one section attack the leader of the other in such fashion?

THE UNTIRING ONSET.

Any reader of the Tokyo journals nowa-days finds it quite interesting to speculate what will be the next kind of battering ram directed by the Opposition organs against the ministerial citadel. As a mere feat of ingenuity the number of changes rung upon the same theme are quite remarkable. Thus the *Chiuo*, so surely as day succeeds day, constructs some situation portending grave things to the Empire, and then asks how the present Government can possibly be expected to steer the country through such dangers. One wonders whether any ears can be captivated by such perpetual harping upon the same string. Yet, after all, iteration often makes a mark where reason would be powerless to effect anything. We have to confess, however, that this journalistic fashion perplexes us considerably; for while, on the one hand, we desire to keep our readers fully informed as to the tendency of public opinion in Japan, we are anxious, on the other, not to weary them by reverting to themes which have long ago become hackneyed. Our difficulty is increased by the adroitness of our Tokyo contemporaries. To-day, for example, we take up the *Chiuo Shimbun* and find an article with great promise of interest. England and Russia, it sets out by saying, will assuredly fight, and China will be the bone of contention. Germany and France will follow in the wake of the combatants and gather up the fragments. Japan will therefore be in the very centre of the battle-field. That is a sufficiently startling exordium, and we compose ourselves with pleasant anticipation to continue our perusal of the article, when incontinently we are shunted off the route of foreign politics into that worn-out old siding, the quarrels of the Liberals and the Progressists, and the paralysis that their dissensions bring upon the councils of the State. Need it be said that we are then confronted by a number of very ancient friends—the Progressists' advocacy of an Anglo-Japanese alliance before they came into office; the support that their organs continue to extend to that project; their evident forgetfulness of the fact that such an alliance, by mortally offending Russia, Germany, and France, would tend to disturb the peace it is intended to preserve; their failure to perceive that Japan has no right to add to the chances of a collision between Russia and England; and the inferences to be drawn from these facts, namely, that a Cabinet so undiscriminating has no business to meddle with such grave matters as the Chinese problem, the question of the Philippines, and so forth. To the catalogue of arraignments is now added the Hawaiian affair, for it is declared that the Japanese Empire has been humiliated by the petty little Hawaiian Republic, and that the great Foreign Politician, Count Okuma, has been worsted in an encounter with the insignificant Mr. Cooper of Honolulu. How true it is that impartiality goes out at the window when party politics come in at the door!

A MEDICINE FOR PHTHISIS.

One of those cures that are flashed before the eyes of the public from time to time, and then disappear for ever from sight, is announced by a vernacular newspaper. Tuberculosis is the disease to be conquered, and the new sovereign remedy has the interest of being compounded with ingredients so rare that the whole world's known supply would not suffice to treat more than three thousand sufferers. It is hoped, however, that researches now being conducted will lead to the discovery of suitable substitutes. Originally a certain Mr. Tomoji Shinsuke was said to be the inventor, but he now writes to the *Hochi Shimbun* to say that he did not discover the drug, but received it from a friend, and found it so efficacious that he is making arrangements to distribute it—*gratis* of course—among the physicians of his acquaintance. He adds that its principal ingredient is nitrogen, which explanation rather militates against the original rumour of scarcity. Mr. Tomoji was once a member of the Diet. He now deals in fire-arms, and owns a periodical called the *Noji Zasshi* (agricultural magazine).

NOTES ON NEWS.

It appears probable, after all, that the anxiety felt by the Japanese about the possible effect of the annexation of Hawaii on the immigration question will prove to have been altogether baseless. After the incorporation of Hawaii in the American Republic, the latter's rules about the restriction of Chinese labour will apply to the former, whereas Japan has succeeded in obtaining an assurance that her people shall be placed on the same footing as immigrants from Europe. Hence the prospect is that the engagement of Chinese subjects to work on the sugar plantations will now cease, and the demand for Japanese labour will become greater than ever. In connexion with this, the *Fuji Shimpo* says that on the 15th of July, the Immigration Bureau in Hawaii sanctioned a number of applications for permission to engage Japanese, and that arrangements have been made with five Japanese Emigration Companies for sending over 2,875 men. The Companies are the Kumamoto Imin Goshi Kaisha, the Morioka Shokai, the Kaigai Tokō Kabushiki Kaisha, the Tokyo Imin Goshi Kaisha and the Nihon Imin Goshi Kaisha.

It is alleged that the project of State purchase of private railways has again been brought on the *tapis*. Count Itagaki, it will be remembered, became the prominent supporter of the idea during the interval between his Party's secession from the Ito Cabinet and its amalgamation with the Progressists. The latter event checked the scheme, many of the leading Progressists being opposed to it. Some of the "business men," however, notably Mr. Amenomiya Keijiro, have never suffered the matter to rest, their conviction being that by no other means can the ingress of cheap foreign capital be secured. Military strategists, also, are in favour of the step. Lieut.-General Viscount Kawakami is said to have recently addressed the "business men," explaining to them the German system of State ownership, and pointing out its advantages. Thus, through the operation of one influence or another, the problem has found its way to the Councils of the Cabinet, where it is reported, though on very apocryphal authority, to be now constantly discussed. We may remind our readers that the railways in question were the Nippon, the Sanyo, the Kiushu, and the Kobu; that the idea was to buy them at the rate of twenty years' purchase on a 5 per cent. basis of profit, and that the State, having acquired them, was to hypothecate them, together with its own lines, for a foreign loan of 200 million *yen*.

A very positive denial is now published of the rumours, recently circulated with persistence, to the effect that the Cabinet had decided to postpone the abolition of export duties. A writer in the *Mainichi Shimbun* says that he proceeded to the Department of Finance and put the question direct. The answer was that no intention of the kind existed. On the contrary, the officials of the Department were fully conscious of the disadvantages of export duties, and had resolved to get rid of them *in toto* as soon as the operation of the new Tariff eased the financial situation. It is added that the talk of postponement originated with a section of the present Cabinet, who are unwilling to forego two million *yen* of revenue, and

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who also entertain some strange idea that the abolition of the duties by Japan may induce foreign States to impose corresponding import dues. The groundlessness of such a fear is conclusively demonstrated by the *Mainichi*.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* asserts that the second-class Japanese cruiser *Chitose*, now in process of construction at San Francisco, has been found to have a radical defect which will necessitate her complete rebuilding. Our contemporary gives no particulars whatsoever, but makes only a bald statement of the fact. It sounds scarcely credible.

THE BUDGET FOR 1899-1900.

No sooner have we been informed by one vernacular journal the (*Shogyo Shimpo*) that the Government have resolved to make no change whatever in the continuing expenditures for the *post-bellum* expansion programme, and that the appropriations for the regular service of the Army and the Navy are to be considerably increased next year, than another (the *Yomiuri Shimbun*) gives us diametrically opposite information. The *Yomiuri* says that Count Inouye's plan of equalizing the annual expenditures on account of the expansion programme—which would involve, of course, a large reduction in the outlays during the next two years—is to be adopted by the present Cabinet on an even more radical scale. The dimensions of the programme itself and the date of its final completion will remain unchanged, but the sections undertaken in each year will be made more or less similar. Whether the Ministers of War and of the Navy can be induced to agree to this change is still uncertain, adds our contemporary. They were with difficulty induced to endorse Count Inouye's project, which merely involved postponing until 1899 a part of what had originally been promised for 1898, and they are now to be invited to agree to a similar postponement until 1900. The *Yomiuri* thinks that this problem may affect the stability of the Cabinet.

PRISON REFORM.

It is alleged that Count Itagaki has carried his point, and that a Bill for transferring the Prison Expenditures from the Communes to the Treasury will be presented to the Diet next Session. We trust that the rumour may prove true. Again and again in former years the Government attempted to carry out this most essential reform, and again and again the House of Representatives refused to vote the measure, because the members representing the agricultural interest were unwilling to consent to any outlay which might lessen the funds available for their pet project, the reduction of the Land Tax. The Cabinet has an overwhelming majority in the present House of Representatives, and can obtain the passage of the Bill without difficulty. Of course the project is considerable from a financial point of view. It means an additional outlay of some 3¾ million *yen* annually, and the expenditure of a large sum on building proper jails. But the thing has to be done, and the sooner it is faced the better.

"NEW JAPANESE LAWS" AND THE "CODE OF COMMERCE."

Dr. Lönholm has now completed his translations of the various laws constituting the Japanese legislative system. We have already alluded to his translations of the Civil Code, of the Law Concerning the Application of Laws in General, of the Law Amending Decree No. 113, and of the Law of Nationality. All these were included in one volume and brought out in July. To render this section complete, he should have added the Law Concerning the Operation of the Civil Code, the Law of Procedure in Actions relating to Personal Status, and the Law of Procedure in Non-contentious Matters, but, as he now tells us, desiring to publish the Civil Code itself with the least possible delay, he did not wait until the translation of these supplementary laws was finished. Similar considerations influenced him with regard to the Commercial Code. The translation of that important body of law also he published in July, without waiting to finish the translation of the Law of Shipping and the Law Concerning Mariners. The consequence is that he now gives us a volume which may be regarded as supplementary to his two preceding volumes (the Civil Code and the Commercial Code), containing:—

The Law of Shipping.
The Law concerning Mariners.
The Law concerning the Operation of the Civil Code.
The Law of Procedure in Actions relating to Personal Status.
The Law of Procedure in non-contentious Matters.

To these he made a most useful addition, in the form of two glossaries of terms relating to commercial and maritime matters. Dr. Lönholm has also published another work, namely, a translation of the Commercial Code in French. Of course his translations of the Commercial Code and of its correlated laws are, in a certain sense, premature, since he has taken the revised forms which have not yet passed the Diet. But there can be no question about the immediate interest that the laws have for everyone engaged in trade in Japan.

We need scarcely say that these laws contain much which is of the greatest importance to foreigners, but it would carry us far beyond the limits of our space to enter into any minute disquisition. We shall therefore confine ourselves to one or two points, rather by way of illustrating the value of these volumes than for the purpose of analysing their contents.

All associations for purposes of profit, which comply with the conditions prescribed for the creation of commercial companies, are juridical persons, according to the new law, and as such are entitled to own real estate. Now the second clause of Art. 36 of the Civil Code says:—

> Foreign juridical persons * * * * have the same rights as the same class of juridical persons existing in Japan; but this does not apply to such rights as foreigners can not enjoy, or so far as special provisions are made by law or treaty.

It follows, therefore, that foreign juridical persons will be entitled to own land, since that is not a privilege interdicted by law or treaty. In other words, a foreign mercantile or manufacturing firm or partnership, registered in Japan and carrying on business according to the laws of Japan, may purchase and hold real estate. But is a tradal association the only kind of juridical person eligible for that privilege? The 54th Article provides that "associations or foundations for purposes of religion, worship, charity, science, or art, or other purposes of public utility, not having as their object the making of profits, can become juridical persons by the permission of the competent authorities? Such associations or foundations are not absolutely entitled to the status of juridical persons as a matter of right: the privilege is subject to official permission. If the 34th Article and the second clause of the 36th (quoted above) stood alone, it would be possible for a foreign missionary body, provided that official sanction were obtained, to hold in its own name all land required for the purposes of its work. But unfortunately the first clause of the 36th Article says:—

> The existence of foreign juridical persons other than States, administrative districts, and commercial companies, is not admitted.

It appears, therefore, that associations of foreigners in Japan for purposes of religion, worship, charity, science, or art are not considered likely to be of sufficient public utility to receive the status and privileges of juridical person. Missionaries, therefore, will have no recourse except to register themselves as possessing the *chijōken* (superficies) of the lands now held in trust for them by Japanese, unless, indeed, they prefer to continue the system of Japanese ownership, pure and simple.

An interesting point in this context is that education is not considered an "act of commerce" in Japan. The catalogue of "acts of commerce" contained in Arts. 263 and 264 of the Commercial Code is long and liberal. It includes even the editing and publishing of newspapers. But it does not include the profession of education. Japanese subjects associating themselves for educational purposes can obtain the status of a juridical person on the ground of being engaged in a purpose of public utility, but foreigners can not come to Japan and acquire the ownership of land with the object of building schools. However, as superficiaries they can have leases long enough to suit the requirements of any enterprise whatever.

Referring to a superficies, it is to be noted that the 45th article of the Law Concerning the Operation of the Civil Code says:—

> As to a superficies created for an alien or a foreign juristic person the provisions of the Civil Code apply only so far as it is not otherwise provided by treaty or regulation.

At first sight this article seems to suggest that the privilege of superficies, in so far as its enjoyment by foreigners is concerned, is liable to be restricted at any moment by special legislation. But a moment's reflection shows that the intention of the article is to enable the Japanese Government to exclude the subjects or citizens of non-treaty Powers from obtaining long leases of land as superficiaries, or becoming owners of land as juridical persons. The case of the Chinese, for example, will at once explain what is intended. In the absence of Art. 45, a Chinese subject, although his treaty footing is different from that of an Occidental, might lease land as a superficiary; or two Chinese subjects, associating themselves for purposes of trade, might become land-owners. The Government reserves the right of interdicting such operations.

We have said enough to show the great interest and importance of these laws,

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and it only remains to add that the work of translation seems to have been excellently done by Dr. Lönholm. The foreign community owes him much gratitude.

"CLAN OFFICIALS."

What is a clan official, we wonder. When the talk was of "clan statesmen" one could understand it, for a "clan statesman" was supposed to be a person who, by means of influences not recognised in any system of constitutional government, obtained possession of administrative power and held it despite the efforts of politicians claiming to have "the people's mandate." But a "clan official"—how is that term to be construed? Apparently it means a nominee of a clan statesman. There is no other conceivable interpretation. It follows, thus, that every official serving Japan up to the 30th of June, 1898, was a clan official—not administrative officials only, but diplomatic officials, consular officials, military officials, and naval officials. Gradually a proposition is gaining strength that all clan officials should be driven out of office. We have seen that the idea originated with the *Fiji Shimpo*, and has been more than once gravely advocated in the columns of that influential journal. The *Fiji's* view is partly romantic and partly practical. The romance consists in a desire for dramatic effect. A clean sweep is to be made of the ranks of officialdom, and then those of special competence are to be reinstated in their old posts. What on earth would be the use of removing them if they are to be immediately restored to office? Apparently the only result would be startle the nation by a kind of *coup de théâtre*. Possibly, indeed, there is a deeper motive. Possibly the editor of the *Fiji*, believing that a great number of incompetent persons have been drafted into the army of officialdom through the influence of favoritism, and, thinking that it would be much less painful and invidious to do the weeding out by a process of re-selection than by the ordinary method of dismissal, advocates a clean sweep in the first place. But if that be his theory, it is to be regretted that he does not make it clear, for his proposal, as it stands, has the aspect of a mere freak from one point of view. From another, however, we could sympathise with it if the facts were really such as he represents them to be. A new master, he says, can not work with an old clerk: the whole atmosphere of the establishment ought to be changed at the same time with its head. That appears to be virtually the conviction of Mr. Hoshi Toru also, and of course it gains greatly in importance when a prominent politician like Mr. Hoshi advocates it. Coming back to Japan, he is disgusted, he says, to find that whereas the long-desired and long-fought-for form of government, party cabinets, has been achieved, the whole strength of the men in power and of their political supporters is devoted to patching up differences among themselves, and that they have no time to effect any of the reforms which the nation expects of them and has been promised by them. The public will soon weary of them, if things continue as they are, and the only plan is to sweep out the whole body of officials, with the exception of the technical experts, and fill their places with party men. Mr. Hoshi, in short, seems to consider that hunger for office is so keen among the Constitutionalists that the only hope of recalling them to their sober senses is to supply them with food on a wholesale scale. His survey of the situation differs slightly from that of the *Fiji*, but both agree that the new masters can not work with the old clerks, and that a thorough change of atmosphere should be effected. As for foreign observers, however, the first question they will ask is, what is the matter with the old clerks? On the whole, their manner of conducting the State's affairs strikes us as having been remarkably successful. It does not occur to any foreign student of the history of modern Japan that she could have done much better in other hands, or that the party politicians now entrusted with the control of the Administration have any reason to be discontented with their country's position and prospects. They have themselves been the means of obstructing many measures which to the unsophisticated outsider look like useful reforms, but, for the rest, we have only to say that if they are honestly dissatisfied with Japan's progress, material, moral, and political, during the past thirty years, their faith in their country's capacities of achievement passes the range of ordinary conception. It may be true, as Mr. Hoshi says, that they can not settle down to work so long as unrealized possibilities in the shape of the sweets of office disturb their moral equilibrium, but we ourselves can not believe anything of the kind. We have full faith in the ultimate success of party government in Japan—so far as party government can be a success anywhere—and we therefore venture to point out that if this step of wholesale official dismissals be resorted to, the effect upon foreign nations will be disastrous. Nothing capable of working greater mischief to Japan's reputation could well be undertaken. It is difficult to treat the proposition seriously, nor do we think that it will ever enter the field of practical politics, but in deference to such authorities as the *Fiji Shimpo* and Mr. Hoshi Toru, we briefly submit the foreign view of such a project.

INFLUX OF FOREIGNERS.

"We do not expect," writes the *Asahi Shimbun*, "that very many foreigners will be attracted to the country by the operation of the Revised Treaties. The greater the number that come, the better pleased we shall be. But, at the same time, it is well to be on our guard against some features of the contingency. A large addition to the pauper and incompetent ranks of the people would not be at all desirable, and it is quite on the cards that India, Hongkong, Singapore, &c., may send us a goodly contingent of loafers—'three-W' adventurers. It would be an excellent thing if some system could be devised for keeping out such persons; restricting our visitors, for example, to officials, savants, merchants, genuine travellers, and their servants, and *bonâ-fide* labourers." Yes, of course, it would be an excellent thing, but so would the exclusion of hurricanes and inundations.

The race for the Mile Amateur Swimming Championship took place in London on July 18th. J. A. Jarvis, of Leicester, won, the time being 26 minutes 37⅘ seconds. Percy Cavill retired early in the race.

ASHIO POISON.

The valiant efforts of Mr. Tanaka Shozo on behalf of the unfortunate inhabitants of Tochigi Prefecture, and the measures of relief adopted by the Government, appear to have been only partially successful. Very pitiful reports are now published with regard to the condition of the people of the Kono District in the Ashikaga Division of that Prefecture. Their lands have been deprived of all productive power owing to the poison carried by the Watarase River from the Ashio mine, and they are almost starving. Of course their indignation is strongly roused against Mr. Furukawa, the owner of the mine, but Mr. Furukawa seems to have loyally carried out all the preventive measures dictated by official experts.

AN APPEAL.

The little specimen of English that we quote below has been in our possession for more than ten years. Quaintly comical as the language sounds, it has an echo of genuine pain that rendered it sacred in our eyes when first we received it, and would still forbid us to offer it as a subject of general mirth had not a very much brighter day dawned long ago for the poor lad who was then "siting dwon with the deeply soly:"—

WANT.

The young man, who can not yet speak the English well, and my age is 23 years old and myself nature is most amiable, here I am siting dwon with the deeply soly.

Ah! I can not learn my hoping science, so I am very poor, I am very soly for it.

I hope to be changed into the servant of the Evangelist or Foreign Gentlemen, and to be learn much or little at the another time to be work.

Ah! My Gentlemen with the deeply mercy! I hope to be notice to (here follow the name and address) If you like to save me.

THE CASE OF EDWARDS.

At the Yokohama District Court on Wednesday, the man Edwards, who is charged with fraudulently obtaining goods from various Japanese and foreign tradesmen of Yokohama and Kobe, was brought up in custody for his preliminary examination

The only foreign witnesses called were Mr. F. W. Thomas, of the firm of Messrs. Brett & Co., chemists, and Mr. H. Sharp, manager of Messrs. Kelly and Walsh. They were both examined in a private room, and gave evidence as to the nature of the deception practised on them. In both cases the prisoner obtained the goods by stating a false address. His spoil from Messrs. Brett and Co.'s was a case of scent valued at 6 *yen*, while from Messrs. Kelly and Walsh he obtained cigars to the value of about 30 *yen*.

The prisoner will take his trial at the Higher Court.

THE SCENE AT A GARDEN PARTY.

The official account of the affair at the garden party held at Sapporo on the 22nd is as follows:—"In the course of his speech Mr. Kokan Kudo attacked the administration of the island as having been one of military absolutism. The General briefly replied, denying the allegation, and eventually he, accompanied by his subordinate Military officials, withdrew, saying that they did not wish to be present at the delivery of political speeches." No mention is made of Lieut. General Naguyama menacing the speaker with his drawn sabre.

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THE POWERS IN THE FAR EAST.

MR. HOSHI TORU, in an interview with a representative of the *Japan Times*, is said to have expressed the opinion that an Anglo-Japanese-American alliance is not to be regarded as among the practical problems of the time, and that "Japan must make up her mind that the fate of China will be settled in a way pretty much to suit the convenience of Russia, Germany, and France." Such a statement can be read in one sense alone; namely, that England no longer counts for anything in the Far East, and that things will be arranged without consulting her. The idea, is very bold. It assumes, in the first place, that Germany, France, and Russia are leagued against Great Britain. But that, surely, is assuming a great deal. As a matter of fact, the Power confronting England in China at present is Russia and Russia only. France is not taking any action to which England objects, and Germany has her hands full at Kiao-chou, which she seems disposed to develop by fair and legitimate means. Russia and England are the Powers standing in the lists. What is the real question between them? Is it not that Russia seeks to avert any conjuncture which might hereafter hamper her absorption of Manchuria? Like the American backwoodsman, she has girdled the Manchurian tree with a ring, and she intends to fell it in her own good time, pending which consummation she is resolved to oppose everything that might prove an obstacle to the accomplishment of her purpose. Now, if we look a little deeper, there is no difficulty in deducing the general principle underlying that particular proposition. The general principle is that Russia wants to have China divided into spheres of influences, just as Africa is divided. Unless such a division is made and recognised, it is of course impossible to segregate any one part of the Chinese empire from the operation of treaties which apply to the whole. The treaties forbid China to grant to any nationality exclusive commercial or industrial privileges. She is free to discriminate as much as she pleases in favour of individuals, provided that her discrimination is not nominally based on their nationality. Russia, however, having obtained for herself—not as an individual but as a State—the privilege of building and owning certain important Manchurian railways, is now said to have exacted from the Chinese Government a promise which will effectually exclude any other nationals from undertaking railway enterprise in that region of the Middle Kingdom. It may be urged, indeed, that Russia has kept within the letter of the law, since she has not asked China to discriminate in favour of any one nationality, but has merely demanded from her an assurance that she will not hypothecate the Shanhaikwan-Newchwang Railway to any foreigners, or place it under the supervision of any aliens whatever. A plea of that kind is a palpable evasion. There can not be the smallest doubt that the effect of Russia's action is to exclude all foreign railway enterprise from Manchurica, where she herself has already obtained large railway concessions, and since such exclusion is a distinct breach of the treaties between China and Western Powers, Russia stands convicted of inducing China to violate her international pledges. Of course the statesmen at St. Petersburg understand perfectly well what they are doing. They know enough of British public opinion to be sure that no proposal for the division of China into spheres of influence could be seriously discussed by an English Cabinet, and they are therefore seeking to achieve their own special object without bringing the general principle into the field of discussion, their method being to create a situation so embarrassing that England may be induced to resolve it by a compromise on the basis of abstaining from the acquisition of any new vested rights in Manchuria, provided that Russia, on her side, keeps her hands off everything westward of that region. Such a compromise would achieve Russia's purpose. It would convert Manchuria into an informally recognised sphere of Russian influence. The hope entertained at St. Petersburg is that LORD SALISBURY will agree to something of that kind rather than draw the sword. But is Russia herself prepared to draw the sword? Not for an instant. Does MR. HOSHI suppose, does any one suppose, that Germany and France would make common cause with Russia in a war against England for the purpose of adding Manchuria to the Russian dominions? The idea is preposterous, unless, indeed, we assume that Russia, Germany, and France have entered into an explicit compact for the partition of the Chinese empire. That they certainly have not done. To say nothing of the moral aspect of such a conspiracy, neither Germany nor France is at present in a position to take material advantage of its results. The question lies between Russia and England, and Russia has not the slightest intention of stepping outside the circle of diplomatic menace and manœuvre. She could not with the slightest chance of success fight England single-handed in the East, and neither Power could injure the other seriously in the West. Russia is playing her cards for all they are worth, but she is not going to throw the pack in her adversary's face if she loses the game. As for China's fate being settled over England's head, the plain fact is that England presides at the council of settlement, and that she will continue to preside there. It is always possible that, owing to some unforeseen complication, the situation may pass beyond the range of peaceful discussion. But there could be no greater misconception than to suppose that because England does not rage or bluster, she will tamely allow herself to be thrust aside, supposing there were any Power rash enough to make the attempt. Many a time the nations of the world have fallen into the error of mistaking British self-restraint for an invincible repugnance to fight, and it has always happened that when that erroneous theory obtained widest credence, it was rudely dispelled. The probability of history's repeating itself in that respect is to us the most disquieting feature of the present situation.

THE LOSS OF THE "BARING BROTHERS."

EXTRAORDINARY STATEMENT.

A Court of Enquiry into the loss of the *Baring Brothers* was opened at the U.S. Consulate at Kobe on Saturday. The evidence afforded no clue as to the cause of the fire, which some witnesses suggested was due to Japanese coolies smoking. One of the sailors expressed the opinion that there was something suspicious about the fire. Another, Henry Brady, who appeared half-intoxicated, made some extraordinary statements. It appeared that he and another man had been in trouble with the captain and had "kicked" because they did not think the captain fit to take charge of a ship. Brady came down to Yokohama in irons. Witness, continuing, said anybody could have set fire to the ship. As to the fire occurring the night after he returned it might have been set on fire by somebody else who thought that the day of their return would be a good opportunity because suspicion would rest on them. "As true as I am born a living man," said witness, "I never had nothing to do with that fire. Wouldn't do that trick at all. If I wanted to get clear of the ship I'd jump overboard and swim ashore. I daresay people can find out who set fire to that ship. There might have been men on board that set fire to that ship as well as I did."

The Captain—As well as you did!

Witness—Look here, Captain, I wouldn't do such a trick on board your ship. Do you know what I'd do? I'd jump overboard and swim ashore.

The Consul on leaving the Bench said that the mystery seemed to be as little solved as when the enquiry began, but for the purposes of reference he should have the record filed in the Consulate for any future reference that might be necessary.

MOSQUITO YACHT CLUB.

Last Saturday the race was over the Widow buoy course under Club time advance for a prize presented by the owners of the *Kodesu*. The *Kodesu* led throughout the race, but was not racing for her own prize. At the Widow buoy the *Sodeska* was second boat, having been favoured by a change in the wind; coming home she was unlucky enough to pick up a lot of weeds; and, being unable to dislodge them, had to take them home with her. This helped the *Nandeska* to regain her place as second boat and to keep it to the finish. At the lightship going out the *Nandeska*, in attempting to cross the bows of the *Sodeska*—when the latter was on starboard tack—fouled her, for which a protest was lodged by the owner of the *Sodeska*: the protest being referred to the Committee by Mr. Rose, the officer of the day. The times and handicap were as under:

	Handicaps.	Start.	Light-ship.	Finish.	Corrected.
	m.s.	h.m.s.	h.m.s.	h.m.s.	h.m.s.
Kodesu.....	allow 2.05.04	2 32.25	4 47 28	4.47 28	
Nandeska.....	1.28	2.05.09	2 33.20	4 49.14	4 47 45
Sodeska.....	1.28	2.05.19	2 33.09	4.51 00	4 49 32

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JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS.

The present depression on the stock exchange is almost unprecedented, remarks the *Mainichi*, though hopes of a speedy revival are universally entertained. The weather during the hot season has been especially favourable to the rice crop, and the total increase in the produce for this year is estimated by the Agricultural and Commercial Department to be 16 per cent. above that of any of the previous years. The excess of imports has indeed reached 100 million *yen*, and Yokohama alone will have to pay over 30 millions in specie in the near future; but since iron and rice, which have hitherto constituted the chief imports, will soon commence to be re-exported, Japan may find herself emancipated ere long from that factor of commercial inequality against which she has been struggling. Moreover the silk trade promises to be prosperous, and the loans from the Nippon Ginko are fast diminishing, in proportion with the reduction in the issue of convertible notes above the legal limit. A relaxation in the money market is, under these circumstances, shortly to be expected. The shares of the Imperial Commercial Bank, the Kanegafuchi Spinning and the Hokuyetsu Railway Companies, and the Ishikawajima Dockyard, which are usually scarcely accepted as securities for loans, find brisk sales at present. There can be no doubt that the present Ministry will endeavour to pass an increased taxation scheme so as to place the finances on a firm basis, and secure the revision of the Public Bonds Regulations with a view to undertaking the sale of bonds abroad or introducing foreign capital. That would raise the value of shares of all kinds.

The trouble in connection with the Hiogo Warehousing scandal is now coming to a close. The shareholders appear to have resolved upon co-operating with the officials of the company. At a recent meeting of the principal shareholders from Osaka and Kobe, the following resolutions, according to the *Osaka Asahi*, were passed:—(1) That the shareholders holding the same views shall form a committee, and, by ascertaining the facts connected with the late swindle, determine upon whom the responsibility is to be placed, with a view to securing the means of amelioration and protecting the interests of each. (2) That the shareholders shall appoint six delegates and entrust them with the work of investigation and with negotiations with the company's officials. (3) That the delegates so appointed shall secure the services of a legal counsellor until the close of the present incident. (4) That matters of paramount importance shall be dealt with according to the decision of a special general meeting of shareholders, which may be convened at any time at the request of the delegates, when at least one-fourth of their number shall be in attendence. (5) That the expenses incurred in meetings and for other causes shall be borne by the allied members in proportion to the amount of shares in their possession. The former principal officials having tendered their resignations, Mr. Kano Jiroyemon was elected President and Mr. Shibuya Jushiro Vice-President. A committee of thirteen was nominated for the adjustment of the Company's affairs.

The *Yiji* condemns the present style of Japanese domestic architecture. The advantages of safety and convenience Japanese architecture can hardly claim to have secured. Japanese houses at present are not suited to the climate of the country. The people are tormented by extreme heat as well as troubled by severe cold. An English geologist, Mr. Bartholomew, has justly remarked that the main island of Japan, together with Shikoku and Kiushiu, belong to the coldest section of the temperate zone, and the territory from Aomori to Hokkaido must be classed, in point of climate, with the cold countries of Russia, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Canada. The atmosphere in Japan contains a high degree of moisture, which seriously affects the health both in heat and cold. A hundred degrees of heat in the neighborhood of New York does not indicate a state of things so oppressive as 90 degrees in Tokyo. For the same reason zero in Tokyo would indicate a cold much more intense than the same point in New York. The notion that Japan is comparatively mild in extremes of heat and cold is entirely fallacious. The average rainfall in Japan, according to the same geologist's investigation, is from two to four feet—unparalleled in any temperate country. As for snow, the quantity is almost unrivalled. Shinshiu and Hokuroku have falls of from 15 to 20 feet in winter during a single day or night. Such being the case, Japanese houses are entirely unfit to adequately shelter their inmates from rain and frost. Their style of construction is evidently based upon the designs peculiar to tropical regions, and their instability and insignificant appearance are unfavourable signs of the state of the country's refinement.

Information from Korea, dated August 5th and published in the *Mainichi*, announces the changes now going on in the field of Korean politics. A gentleman recently presented a memorial to the Emperor condemning in most emphatic terms the proceedings of the Independent Club, whose aim, he asserted, was not only to impair the national interests, but also to curb the royal prerogatives. This aroused to a certain extent the suspicion of the Emperor, whose feeling towards the Club afterwards became directly hostile through the deliberate misrepresentations of influential Ministers. The platform of the Club was represented as involving the most dangerous form of democracy and republicanism. Meanwhile some members of the Club, to bring disgrace upon Li, ex-Superintendent of Mines, openly delivered harangues in the streets, and went so far as to say that if a mean fellow like Li were to be trusted by the Emperor no hope could be entertained of the Government. These injudicious utterances were immediately taken by the hostile party as a gross offence against the Throne, and calumnious reports concerning the Club were forwarded to the Emperor. The Emperor ultimately yielded to the representations, and directed the superintendent General of Police to adopt a stalwart policy against the Club. The chief of the Police hitherto in power, being the father of the President of the Independent Club, was dismissed from office, and directions were issued for the arrest of the principal members. On the night of the arrest, a notification was issued prohibiting public meetings within or without dwelling houses, and notices to the same effect were put up in the crossings of highways. In spite of these measures the Club held a meeting which was characterised by extreme excitement, to consult about its future operations. The police, however, intervened, and the assembly hall was surrounded by a body of some 500 troops despatched in accordance with special directions from the Emperor. The proceedings of the debaters were thus effectually stopped.

The *Mainichi* is troubled by a number of communications urging the advisability of abolishing the Central Rice Exchange. The recent abnormal appreciation of rice and the consequent distress of the labouring classes have evidently led to this agitation. The lower orders appear to have been reduced to the last extremity. How is their unfortunate position to be accounted for? The *Mainichi* enumerates the following five points:—(1) The vast sums of money that have fallen into the hands of labourers since the war, especially during last summer, and which have had the effect of creating luxurious habits among them. (2) The indulgence in luxury promoted by the extraordinary enhancement of wages. The sudden increase of both Government and private enterprises has created a demand for labour in excess of supply, and has inspired the labourers with ill-advised independence and pride. (3) The appreciation of commodities caused by the enhancement of wages has steadily continued until the spring of this year, while wages themselves have begun to show a tendency to fall. (4) The tightness of the money market and the financial disorganisation among individuals have necessitated the sudden curtailment of all undertakings, whether official or private, the result being lack of employment and a corresponding decrease in wages, while prices on the other hand have continued to rise. It is true that the Rice Exchanges throughout the empire have contributed to create serious fluctuations in the market, with little regard to the injury that might be sustained by the community at large; and the *Mainichi* thinks that should they still continue to advance the value of rice in disregard of the distress of labourers and middle classes, their immediate abolition should be determined upon. In the meantime, measures must be taken to control the arbitrary proceedings of rice brokers, which are invariably a source of extraordinary fluctuations in the price of the grain.

The *Yomiuri*, in a long article, points out the opportunity of a powerful alliance that lies before Japan. Simultaneously with the restoration of peace between America and Spain the question of the Philippines will present itself for solution. Russia, Germany, and France, will probably appear on the scene to interfere in the same way as they interfered in the case of the Liaotung Peninsula. The problem affects Japan is no inconsiderable degree. China has consented to the Russian proposals in regard to the construction of a Newchang railway, and England is reported to have taken the matter into serious consideration. If she resorts to any stalwart measures a collision with Russia will be the inevitable result; and Japan can hardly keep herself aloof at such a conjuncture. It is not advisable for her to shrink from those great problems which are destined to trouble the Orient. She ought to march boldly forward with the resolution to turn the catastrophe into a source of blessing; she might do this by the enforcement of a policy of friendship with England. Lord Charles Beresford, himself an advocate of an Anglo-Japanese entente, might be invited to this country when he comes on his mission to China, with a view to laying the foundations of the proposed alliance. The Government, being entirely free from internal troubles at present, can the better devote its energies to making the country's voice heard in foreign affairs.

Now that the Constitutionalists in the House of Representatives have secured an overwhelming majority of 250 out of the body of 300 members, it is impossible, remarks the *Kokumin*, to expect from them measures to promote the interests of the people at large, as they are simply combined for their private advantage. The House of Peers at this conjuncture ought not only to perform its own legitimate functions, but also those which the Lower House is unable, or rather unwilling, to discharge. The Peers have hitherto been divided into two sections, the one consisting of the blind supporters of the Government, and the other of mere bigots. Neither was considered capable of playing an important role in the sphere of administration. The time has now come for them to exhibit their capacity and enthusiasm, and to show that the Upper House is really the place where public opinion is most correctly represented. It is not to be recommended that the House should assume an attitude similar to that shown by the present Constitutionalists against the last Cabinet, in connection with problems seriously affecting the national welfare. Still the Peers ought to refrain from giving their blind approval to any question simply because it was introduced by the Government without discussing it on its merits. They ought, in fact, to place themselves beyond the influence of personal sentiment or party interest. Otherwise, with the present politicians in power, national catastrophes must be expected.

Labour immigration to Hawaii increases year by year, and is attended, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, with a steady growth of the export trade. The

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following comparative table shows the amount of trade with the islands during the past five years :—

	Exports. Yen.	Imports. Yen.
1893	197,522	3,689
1894	313,908	6,147
1895	393,689	2,163
1896	513,188	9,926
1897	524,179	1,414

Despite the insignificant amount of imports, the export trade last year represented double the amount of exports to Belgium and Holland, and nearly as much as those to Austria. The following gives the staples sent from Japan to Hawaii :—*Saké*, 105,595 *yen*; soy, 69,552 *yen*; sulphur, 25,692; cotton crepe, 19,378; peas and beans, 17,042; coal, 14,500. Hawaii levies on these commodities (sulphur excepted) a 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty. It is said that the annexation of the islands by the United States will not affect Japan's commercial privileges in Hawaii to any extent. Unfortunately, however, if the little group is to be governed by the same laws as the United States, an increase of import duties will be the inevitable result. The merchants commercially interested in Hawaii ought to direct the Government's attention to the matter, with a view to maintain trade in a condition as favourable as at present.

While an extraordinary curtailment is noticeable in commercial and industrial enterprises, the utmost prosperity is enjoyed by the Bank of Japan and other similar institutions throughout the empire. The Nippon Ginko's position is doubtless a matter for congratulation, but the extraordinary success on the part of minor banks is really, says a vernacular paper, a curse to the State. The number of banks and the amount of their capital at the end of July last were as follows :—

Classification.	Number of Banks.	Capital. Yen.
Nippon Ginko	1	30 000,000
Specie Bank	1	12,000,000
Industrial Bank	1	10,000,000
Agricultural and Industrial Banks	39	24,450,000
National Banks	25	4.915,000
Savings Banks	246	24,030,300
Joint Stock Corporations	1,202	243.912,840
Joint Partnership	37	6.604,900
Banks with joint funds	109	9.111,064
Private Banks	78	6 036,520
Total	1,739	391,060,624

These figures, according to the investigations of the Finance Department, show an increase of 11 banks and of 6,661,500 *yen* in capital over the statistics for June last. The fact is, however, chiefly owing to the increase of minor banks established with a capital of from 100,000 *yen* to 200,000 *yen*. At no time has the banking business been so prosperous as at present, and the tightness of the money market ought to have been relieved under these circumstances to a considerable extent; but the reverse is the case. The cause of the anomaly is to be found in the fact that the small banks, instead of being instrumental in relieving the depressed condition of the financial community, have proved the chief factor in withdrawing funds from the market. Some of them, organised by former money lenders, have adopted the policy of issuing of loans at usurious rates of interest. The loans were issued in sums of 50 or 100 *yen* on trustworthy security, at a daily interest of 4 or 5 *sen*, in addition to special fees for the transaction. Eminent financiers advocate the necessity of destroying these institutions as a means of relieving the market. They are disposed to fix the minimum amount of capital for each bank at 500,000 *yen*.

A party of burglars recently broke into the shop of a jeweller, known as Messrs. Tenshodo & Co., at Kajiyamachi, Nagasaki. An entrance was effected by making a hole in the roof, and the thieves succeeded in getting away with a quantity of jewellery, valued at some 8,000 *yen*. During the operations the thieves were disturbed by the occupants of the house, consisting of two men and a woman. These were at once seized and tied up by the robbers, who threatened to kill them in the event of any cry being raised.

Mr. Uyemura, editor of the *Iwate Nippo*, suggests that newspapers and periodical magazines shall enjoy the privilege of free postage. His idea is that journals have a most direct relation to "human improvement." So, we believe, have bread, clothes, and other commodities, but that is no reason why they should be conveyed from place to place gratis.

The *Shogyo* gives the profit and loss account of the Bank of Japan for the first half of this year and compares it with the first half of 1897. The figures are as under :—

	Net profit or loss for 1st half of 1898. Yen.	Net profit or loss for 1st half of 1897. Yen.
Head Office	1 234 374	2,432,613
Osaka Branch	746,395	696,208
Western "	235,548	129,590
Hokkaido "	24.138	46,998
Nagoya "	132.771	5,278
Sapporo Agency	—6.935	—5 828
Kyoto "	141,237	10.549
Taipeh "	—257 156	—162,224
Otaru "	30,497	...

The minus sign represent loss.

The losses of the Sapporo and Taipeh agencies are partly owing to the depreciation of public bonds, but chiefly to the tax imposed upon issues of convertible notes above the legal limit. As to the Bank's reserves, it may be noted that the amount for the latter half of last year stood at 12,170,000 *yen* and was increased in the 1st half of this year by 400,000 *yen*, making a total of 12,570,000 *yen*. The following comparative table may also be of interest as showing the amount of gold and silver coins in the Bank's possession at the end of June of this year and last :—

	June, 1898. Yen.	June, 1837. Yen.
New gold coins	45.253.755	—
Old gold coins	—	31,164,148
Other old coins	238,071	220,504
Gold bullion in bars	—	19,769,715
English gold coins	95 529	6 415 240
American gold coins	1,046 753	1,046 743
Gold bullion	17 924 883	17.174 132
Silver coins	1,306 785	16 504 157
Silver bullion	—	27,755 936
Gold and silver alloy	6.628.020	298,806
Total	65 872,404	120,349,384

Thus a reduction of 54 million *yen* is noticeable for the 1st half of this year, and, although it is chiefly attributed to the settlement of accounts relating to the Indemnity deposits, it is not to be denied that the inequality of trade has greatly contributed to the result. As for the various public bonds held by the Bank of Japan at the end of the term under notice the figures stand thus :—

	Face value. Yen.	Market value. Yen.
5 % Pension Bonds	8 724 595	7,857.569
Old Bonds	611.875	90 377
Naval Bonds	1.530,900	1,380 055
Consols	28 876 450	26 363 430
Imperial Loan Bonds	4 382.000	3.965,710
War Bonds	1 004 500	935.331
English Bonds	132,000	1 122 005
Total		41.714.456

The Agricultural and Commercial Department, having resolved upon despatching a number of commissioners to China to make investigations in regard to the steady development of trade with that country, is reported by vernacular papers to have issued the following communication to private individuals and corporations engaged in commerce and industry :—The development of commercial relations with China is absolutely indispensable in promoting Japan's foreign trade. With this in view steps have in the past been taken to despatch special commissioners to investigate the actual facts in China whenever questions of paramount importance have presented themselves for solution. Circumstances now seem to require the adoption of some wider and more intelligent [illegible]. It has been decided that a number of experts and experienced merchants should at once be sent to China to investigate various enterprises carried on in that country, in order that an appropriate programme may be formulated on the results of these investigations, for the furtherance of commerce, industry, and agriculture. The views of persons engaged in these enterprises are therefore invited for determining the method of investigation and the classification of enterprises in which information is most needed. The commissioners are to leave Japan towards the close of September next, and their investigations will extend over three or four months. The subjects of inquiry so far determined by the Department are as follows :—

1. Tea industry (in Shanghai, Hankow, Foochow, and Amoy). 2. Silk trade (in Canton, Shanghai, and some ports, of the interior). 3 Imports of cotton fabrics (Hongkong, Shanghai, Tientsin, and Hankow). 4. Imports of woollen manufactures and prospects for export of wool to Japan (Hongkong, Shanghai, Amoy, Hankow, Tientsin, and Newchwang). 5. Imported timber and lumber industry (Tientsin, Shanghai, Hankow, Newchang, &c.) 6 Market for cotton yarns and output of cotton). 7. Glass, cement, porcelain, and earthen wares (Shanghai, Hankow, and new open ports). 8. Silk weaving industry (Soochow, Kiaochow, and other provinces). 9. Peas, beans, &c. (Newchwang, Liaotung, Shantung, &c.). 10. Flax and hemp (Liaotung and other districts along the Yangtsz-kiang). 11. Breeding cattle and domestic fowls (in the interior). 12. Matches (Hongkong, Shanghai, &c.) 13. Marine products and salt making. 14. General condition of the currency; facilities for the circulation of money between China and Japan; the pernicious effects of Japanese gold monometallism upon the Chinese market, and the means of amelioration. 15. Railways and other machinery for communication; the routes now under contemplation; the principal cities or towns served, and the marine communications available. 16. Means of transportation by rivers and seas. 17. Commercial customs or usages in Shanghai, Hongkong, Amoy, and new open ports. 18. Conveniences for the settlement of Japanese in newly opened ports. 19. Enterprises undertaken by foreigners and Japanese in Shanghai and other ports recently opened.

According to the *Mainichi*, the silk trade of Yokohama has revived considerably in consequence of large orders for fine filatures received from Europe. This led to an unexpected appreciation of prices, 12 bales from Soshiu fetching 950 *yen* each, and 16 bales from Keiyeisha 930 *yen*. Quotations have risen altogether by 10 to 20 *yen*. The enhancement of prices seems to be largely based, however, not on the orders received, but on generally favourable prospects. Of the coarser qualities the "superfine" is in demand, some purchases having been made at 970 *yen*. On Saturday last business was done to the amount of 710 bales, while on Sunday 22 bales changed hands. On the 22nd instant 25 bales were sold at 865 *yen*, 27 bales at 875 *yen*, and 25 bales at 900 *yen*; the sales altogether reached 153 bales. The tone of the market is extremely good.

The *Kokumin* writes at some length on the necessity of putting a check on the Government. A hostile political party, it says, ought to exist for this purpose. At no time has the Government been so free as at present; it can do almost as it pleases. The public is disposed to imagine that despotism is confined to absolute monarchy. But popular government may be used to the same end, and with more injurious effect. Japan has just entered upon an era of tyranny under the form of popular government against which special precautions are necessary. "Party Cabinets" may be excellent; but if they seek only to promote selfish ends to such an extent as to suspend the executive machinery, to replace competent officials by incompetent, to shrink from making requisite arrangements in regard to foreign diplomacy, to bid for the support of adherents by "sweets of office," and to sell a portion of the government forests to fill private purses, this Cabinet must be convicted of the worst evils of administration. Parliamentary members and newspaper editors having no connection with the Constitutional Party ought

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to do all in their power to protest against the present Government. To put the reins of administration in the hands of mere political "ruffians" is simply a display of folly. The people, the *Kokumin* adds, must be roused from the lethargy into which they have fallen.

The *Mainichi* publishes an interesting article from the pen of Mr. Taguchi on the land and *sake* taxes. Supposing, he says, the deficiency in revenue to be 20 million *yen*, it may be asked which of the two forms of taxation can be enforced upon the poorer people with the less difficulty—the land tax or the *sake* tax? He argues that an additional revenue of 20 million *yen* obtained from the *sake* tax would be taken from the purses of the poor, whereas in the case of land tax the amount would be collected from a small number of large landed proprietors and from a certain proportion of the middle class. It is only right that the landowners should be taxed. At the time of the Tokugawa régime the Empire of Japan was held by thirty different feudal chiefs, who were scarcely better than drones; the tenants under these feudal chiefs have, in the course of time, become landlords themselves, and now threaten to exhaust the fruits of labour without labour on their part. This cannot but be regretted in the interests of the country.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. MacNAIR ON "GENESIS."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The notice of my book on Genesis, which appeared in the *Shinseiki* some months ago and is reproduced in your last Summary of the Religious Press, credits me with ignoring current questions of criticism regarding the sacred text. This is not a correct representation. As was stated in the preface and introduction, the work is distinctly expository and not critical in its purpose; but questions of criticism received relatively due attention at appropriate points throughout the book.

The bearing of modern science on the Genesis cosmogony is dealt with in the sixty or more pages devoted to the first Chapter; and the significance of the words "day" and "evening" and "morning," as figurative, not literal expressions in the mind of the sacred writer, is discussed at considerable length—is certainly not ignored. The reviewer is evidently not aware that this interpretation is granted as permissible by so distinguished a member of the higher critical school as Dr. Driver, whose words on the subject are as follows:—

"The possibility must be admitted that the writer may have consciously used the term figuratively, fully aware on the one hand that the work of the Creator could not be measured by human standards, but on the other hand desirous of artificially accommodating it to the period of the week. In spite of the phrases *evening* and *morning*, which seem to imply literal days, the supposition that the narrator meant his 'days' as the figurative representations of periods should not, as the present writer ventures to think, be ruled as inadmissible."

"The question, however, is not so much what the word *means*, as whether or not it may have been applied figuratively by the writer. It seems reasonable to admit that this may have been the case. The 'morning' and 'evening' will then be part, not of the reality, but of the representation."

Prof. G. Frederick Wright, in quoting the above sentences in the *Homiletic Review* for May, goes on to say:—"The truth is, as Dr. Driver clearly perceives, that the meaning of such terms is not a question of mere etymology in Hebrew grammar, but of the broader questions of rhetoric, upon which the judgment of any well-informed literary person is of about as much value as that of a specialist in Hebrew. Broad-minded scientific men like Winchell, Dawson, Dana, and Guyot cannot by good rights be warned off this field. * * *"

It is quite true that I have not adopted the views commonly distinguished by the term "higher criticism;" but it is also true that the modern conservative scholarship, which I have sought to reflect, avails itself, no less than the so called "advanced" school, of the results of the most recent research in archæology, history, philology, and the natural sciences.

Opinions will doubtless continue to differ; but it may be pertinent to the general question to quote from another "up-to-date" (and a German) authority which I happen to have at hand, Prof. Fritz Hommel of Munich. He gives the following in the preface of his recent book entitled "The Ancient Hebrew Tradition" (1897):—"In addition to those portions (of the contents) which bear on the criticism of the Pentateuch, this work contains such a mass of evidence from the inscriptions—throwing new light on the history of religion and on sacred archæology—that even those who may consider that I have failed in my main purpose will still find plenty of material which they cannot afford to treat with indifference or explain away. But the truth must in the end prevail. The monuments speak with no flattering tongue, and already I seem to see signs of the approach of a new era in which men will be able to brush aside the cobweb theories of the so called 'higher critics' of the Pentateuch, and, leaving such old-fashioned errors behind them, attain to a clearer perception of the real facts. The gales of spring are already beginning to sweep across the fields that have so long lain ice bound. I seem to trace their influence in the effect produced on every unprejudiced mind by that marvellous book of James Robertson's on the pre-prophetic religion of Israel, of which no less a personage than the late August Dillmann declared that it hit the nail right on the head."

The writer in the *Shinseiki* declared further that scholarly opinion is overwhelmingly against the Mosaic authorship of Genesis; but this is altogether too sweeping a statement, unless we admit the claim so often made by the "higher critics" that Biblical scholarship is not to be found, except in rare cases, outside their own ranks.

I am, yours truly,

THEODORE M. MacNAIR.

August 20th, 1898.

A WORD IN CONCLUSION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I see by Monday's paper that the editor of the *Shepherd's Voice* has read my recent letter about the very serious unfitness of the name of that journal.

The editor's aversion to discussing the name of his magazine in the columns of the *Japan Mail*, seems to me, if I may be allowed to say so, certainly natural, and perhaps commendable. With your permission, therefore, I shall offer just a few necessary words more, and then drop the subject.

If the editor will read my first letter, printed in last Wednesday's paper, once more, I trust he will see clearly that I was not, in that letter, seeking for information, but was simply protesting against a use of one of the Lord's titles such as no explanation can make otherwise than unbecoming and irreverent. Yet I could, and can, readily believe that this aspect of the matter may not have occurred to the editor before his attention was called to it; for a sort of cold-hearted indifference to that which affects the Person of the Lord Jesus is widely prevalent now, and even Christians who are zealous for some truths do not, alas! always escape this spiritual infection.

I beg to thank the editor for his seeming acknowledgment of the justice of my protest, when he says that there is no doubt some names might be more Scriptural than they are. But I do not see the relevance of his parenthetical remark about names of denominations; and I think if he had known my own belief and practice as to that matter, he would not have made it.

As I was not seeking information, and as I thought and still think that any good that may be hoped for through the editor's conscientious consideration of the matter to which his attention has been asked, is more likely to come if thoughts about all persons except one are as far as possible entirely excluded, I must respectfully decline, for the present at least, to adopt the editor's suggestion of addressing him directly.

Again thanking you for your courtesy in granting space for this correspondence.

I remain, sir, yours faithfully,

ELTEKON.

August 23rd, 1898.

THE TYPHOON AND FLOODS IN FORMOSA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Twatutia, Formosa, August 17.

Once every summer, for several years in succession, Formosa has been visited by a terrific typhoon, accompanied by floods, which have wrought great havoc in the villages of the lowlands. These storms have been increasing in force for the last three years, until, with the present summer, North Formosa became the unwilling host of a typhoon and inundation which, if the hackneyed phrase be permitted, were by far the greatest witnessed "during the life of the oldest inhabitant."

Heavy rains fell during the early days of the month and on the 5th we had a cloudy day with light rains. On the 6th the rain increased, and a rather stiff wind blowing in gusts, together with a falling barometer, gave evidence of an approaching storm of unusual severity. By 5 o'clock in the evening the Tamsui river had risen level with its banks and was sweeping along with a terrific current, which no boat cared to encounter. Shipping of all kinds had, earlier in the day, sought shelter either higher up river, or in some of the creeks away from the main stream. A large Japanese schooner was, however, unable to get away, and it was left strongly moored to the river's bank not far from the Foreign Club.

With darkness, the storm increased in fury, and the river gradually spread itself along the streets of Twatutia, and eventually even entered Taipeh city, which is on considerably higher land. By midnight the principal streets had been converted into roaring streams four or five feet in depth. From then on until 4 a.m. the water rose inch by inch, and the wind increased until it was blowing with typhoon fury. At four there were five feet of water on the bottom floor of the writer's residence, and the narrow street in front was an angry river of over 6 feet in depth, surging along with such rapidity that it dashed in waves against the house, adding greatly to our anxiety. And as if the wind and water were not sufficient, fire broke out in two different sections of Twatutia and also in Taipeh to add it's horrors to the situation.

About 4 a.m. the wind changed and with it the water began to slowly recede, and by noon, one was quite able to move about certain of the higher streets without the aid of boats.

Unfortunately most Formosan houses are built of sun-dried mud brick; the Chinese use mud because they can find nothing cheaper, and not because the commodity possesses any specially valuable qualities. For single-storied structures, in dry weather, they are probably good enough, although even then their use would not appeal to one with regard to cleanliness. But in wet weather they are always more or less dangerous, and for two-storied structures their use is absolutely criminal and should be considered as such by the authorities. The use of so convenient and economical an article as mud seems to have appealed to the Chinese builder to such an extent that even in brick houses, which the owners were desirous should be substantial, the storm disclosed to the astonished owner mud where there should have been cement or lime, and mud where there should have even been brick and stone.

It was about the only creditable thing the storm did. It exposed the flimsiness of Formosan houses in general and the need of reform in methods of building. An honestly built brick

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or stone structure would have defied the storm regardless of its fury, but unfortunately there were few buildings of that kind.

The greatest damage was done near the river front and all night the shrieks of the unhappy victims, were heard above the roar of the storm. When the water receded sufficiently to admit the use of a rescue boat, it was in many cases found too late; the unfortunates having either been carried out to sea or crushed under the heavy mass of timber and mud. The survivors poking about the wreckage were much affected and did not appear like living intelligent beings; and one Chinese well known by foreigners, in whose house some ten persons met their death, silently wandered about, clad in tattered night garments, pale-faced and speechless, all the world like a spectre. Hundreds of Chinese who had fled from their houses and sought shelter in the higher districts returned to their homes to find them levelled to the ground. With no roof to shelter and no food to eat, one found them, men, women, and children, sitting about the wreckage, sad and disheartened. In some places they were gathered about the dead and mangled body of one of the family which they had with difficulty recovered from the ruins, or they were bandaging and caring for the wounded or an injured relative. There were frequent exhibitions, however, of that heartless apathy with which Chinese often look upon the misfortunes occurring to strangers, even though they be their own countrymen.

In Taipeh, which consists of the capital city and its two suburbs Banka and Twatutia, 1,398 houses were totally destroyed and 759 badly damaged, which means that in this small district only the occupants of over 2,000 houses were rendered homeless, although among the damaged houses there are doubtless many that can be quickly repaired. The majority of the inhabitants anticipated the danger and escaped while there was yet time. But others were not so fortunate, and 86 bodies have so far been recovered from the ruins. Great numbers were, however, washed out to sea; and an English-speaking Chinese informed the writer that he had been busy during the morning pushing back into the river the dead bodies which were continually being washed up on to his premises where he feared they might strand, and thus be left on his hands.

Twatutia presents a very much damaged appearance. The settlement being on the bank of the Tamsui River, on lowland which not many years ago was a large marsh, sustained the greatest injury. Over 800 houses were totally destroyed and over 400 badly damaged, and more than fifty dead bodies have been, so far, recovered the ruins. Foreigners did not escape without loss. Messrs. Tait & Co.'s large hong was badly damaged, and a second building owned by them was partially destroyed. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s old hong was wrecked and the occupants were obliged to remove to new quarters which were very fortunately in course of construction and now nearly completed. A godown attached to the hong of Messrs. Smith, Baker & Co. was destroyed and the building occupied by the United States Consular Agent partially collapsed. In fact, there is only one Foreign Firm in North Formosa which escaped without loss, either from damaged tea or sugar, or from injured buildings. The Foreign Club was very badly wrecked and it has been necessary to secure new quarters. Chinese, however, were the greatest losers and large quantities of tea owned by them has been damaged, and in some cases destroyed. Houses in some sections of Twatutia are down for blocks and in one district, which has been but lately built, all the new structures are in ruins. In one street (Kohingai) not a house remains standing, and much lumber, which had been stored on this street because the water had not reached it during previous floods, was this time swept away. Among the wrecked buildings is the large Japanese Restaurant called Kojimaya. This building had been constructed in Japan and brought down and set up here at considerable expense. It was perhaps the best type of Japanese architecture in the Island. The Twatutia Police gave great assistance and furnished food to nearly a thousand persons, and native societies also did much to relieve distress.

Inside the walled city of Taipeh the damage is not so great, the city being on a higher elevation. Still 71 houses were destroyed and 93 badly injured, while 10 persons were killed and 11 wounded. Water came into Government House to the height of 1½ feet, and the Prefecture was converted into a miniature lake with a depth of over two feet. The members of one of the large Japanese Firms, Sanyo & Co., had an exciting experience and a narrow escape. The large building which they occupied had a stone foundation, but the walls were of mud brick, and they watched with anxiety the water crawl up to this danger line. At 10 p.m. it was but a few inches from the mud brick and in consequence the dozen occupants took refuge in a building to the rear, the stone foundation of which ran higher. They had been in their new shelter but a moment when with a crash the adjoining house, which was occupied by a small hospital, fell to the ground. Soon after, their own main building collapsed, and, fearing that the rear building would follow, they made their way to an unoccupied building near by, but this also soon became dangerous, and, plunging into the water, they managed to reach the Prefectural Office in safety—and just in time, as the buildings they had deserted, together with others adjacent, crashed to the ground. As soon as the storm abated it was found that the Chief Doctor of the hospital, a nurse, and a patient had been killed instantly. In another house occupied by 10 Japanese, only three had escaped with their lives. The Government took prompt measures to afford relief.

In another section of Taipeh city, the buildings of the Appeal Court were destroyed and the Court has been suspended for a few days in consequence. A new building is being erected for the Court, but it will take many months to complete it, and meanwhile temporary quarters will be provided.

In Banka out of 1,024 houses submerged, 529 were totally destroyed and 271 badly damaged, while the loss in life, so far as is known, amounts to 30 dead and 130 wounded. Nearly all the houses are more wretchedly constructed in Banka than in Twatutia, and though the water did not reach to the height in the former city that it did in the latter, still the houses collapsed more quickly and many who were carried down with the wreckage were not submerged and consequently escaped with the wounds they received during the fall, whereas in Twatutia, the great depth of water drowned many who might have later escaped from the wreckage with outside help.

At Kelung, the sea in the harbour arose 6½ feet above high water mark and the streets of the village were covered to the height of a man's shoulder; 30 houses were wholly destroyed and 40 badly damaged. The loss of life is yet unknown. The large barracks occupied by Japanese troops were destroyed and in the railway yards there remains not a single building. The S.S. *Yenoshima Maru* lost both anchors, and while she was running for the open sea, she stranded on the rocks near the entrance of the harbour. Many native boats, both Japanese and Chinese were lost, but the number is not known yet.

Of the surrounding villages Pachina suffered the greatest. Here over 400 houses were totally destroyed and over 50 others rendered uninhabitable. 12 bodies were recovered from the ruins and 35 were found wounded. At Paukiao, Kimpauli, Hobe, and other villages in the north, there was considerable loss of property and life.

In the whole district of Taipeh, which includes the villages above mentioned, the losses reported up to date amount to 2,073 houses totally destroyed and 993 houses so badly damaged as to be uninhabitable. 139 bodies of the dead were recovered from the ruins and 160 wounded. Later investigations throughout the Prefecture will undoubtedly double this number.

No detailed report has yet arrived from the South, as both railway and telegraphic communication have been interrupted. A traveller arriving from Gochay by the sea route has, however, brought some information. From him we learn that Taichu (formerly the proposed Chinese capital, Taiwan-fu) had 40 houses destroyed, and that the new Prefectural buildings, the post office, and the barracks were damaged and about a dozen people were killed. Many roads running from the city were destroyed. The Twa-to and Chiok-tsui rivers overflowed, converting an area of some 25 miles in length into a lake. The entire village of Katow, which is situated on the bank of the Twa-to River, was swept away. Great damage was also done in Gochay, and several small villages in the vicinity were totally demolished. The roads extending to the southwards from Tai-ka were all destroyed, and it is impossible to learn how the southern towns have fared. It is believed, however, that the damage has been very heavy there also.

The damage to the railway running south from Twatutia is reported by an inspector who returned yesterday to be very great. An iron bridge near Chureki has been twisted out of all shape, and for considerable distances the line has been washed out and in some places badly undermined. The repairs required will be so extensive that it is quite out of the question, this gentleman states, to use the road again during the present year.

I have been unable to obtain any meterological report of the storm, but the commander of the *Yenoshima Maru* at Kelung states that the wind was blowing at the rate of 55 miles an hour in Kelung harbour during the height of the storm.

J.W.D.

FRENCH NEWS.

Admiral Camara's inconvenient experience in the Suez Canal has induced the new Minister of Marine in France, M. Lockroy, to propose a scheme for establishing refuge and coaling stations in the colonial possessions of France. Affairs connected with the defence of territory abroad have hitherto been managed by the Colonial Department but will now be transferred to the Ministry of Marine.

The revenue returns of France for the first half of the year are very satisfactory. They show on the indirect taxes an increase of 90,000,000f. over the corresponding period of 1897—namely 1,395,000,000f., against 1,304,000,000f. Of this increase 72,000,000f. are due to Customs duties 5,500,000f. to spirits, 6,500,000. to sugar, 2,500,000f. to stamps, and the rest to the tobacco and other monopolies.

It is stated that a survey has been made of the route for a railway from Konakry to the Niger, and that no serious engineering difficulties present themselves. The Niger is found to be not navigable about Kardamama, which is 20 miles beyond Kurussa.

The Minister of Public Works in the last Cabinet, M. Turrel, has been behaving in a singular manner. His opponent in the constituency of Narbonne was M. Berlioz, and M. Turrel resorted to the device of a newspaper article accusing M. Berlioz of having resigned his commission in the army in order to escape a campaign. The charge was false and M. Turrel knew that it was. But he had been provoked by "abominable" libels published against himself "and his mother" by M. Berlioz. M. Turrel has been unseated by the Chamber of Deputies, and the whole incident makes a picturesque addition to the records of modern elections.

The French Chamber is asked to vote a

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credit of 150,000 francs for the exploration of Southern China and its access from Tonking. The work is expected to occupy two years.

We have seen what Japan has had to expend on the duties of preserving a neutral attitude during the Hispano-American War. The cost to France on account of increasing her Atlantic Squadron in connexion with the war has been 288,000 francs. We may note here that the annual outlay on account of France's Far-Eastern Squadron is about 2½ million francs.

The collision between Major Esterhazy and Colonel Picquart in very differently described by the parties to it. Major Esterhazy got his report before the public first. Here it is:—

They met by chance in the Avenue Bugeaud, and Major Esterhazy struck Colonel Picquart on the shoulder with his cane, exclaiming:—"*Voilà, gredin, ce que je t'ai promis.*" Colonel Picquart tried to defend himself with a cane. Blows were exchanged, and the bystanders refusing, on learning who the combatants were, to fetch a policeman, as called upon by Colonel Picquart, Major Esterhazy went off, saying:—"You can find me when you choose." This was, of course, a challenge to a duel, but Colonel Picquart has already declined this mode of settling the quarrel, and he will probably lodge a complaint against his adversary.

Colonel Picquart's account, which appears to be generally believed, runs thus:—

"I was crossing the Place Victor Hugo when I heard some one running behind me. I turned mechanically and perceived Esterhazy, accompanied by a dragoon quartermaster. He advanced towards me brandishing an enormous stick. I had just time to parry the blow which he intended to deal me from behind with my left arm and with this stick—a solid one, hard as steel, of which my aggressor's face must bear the trace—and then to strike in my turn. His hat rolled off. Esterhazy picked it up, and tried to stir up the passers-by against me, exclaiming, 'I am Major Esterhazy and that man is Picquart.' But it was in vain. As I went on hitting he ran to seek refuge in a wine shop, where he was joined by the quartermaster. A road labourer placed himself at my disposal to testify if need be to what had just taken place. I summoned a policeman and asked him to make a report, which he did. I made no attempt to take out my revolver. As I have previously declared, I consider that Esterhazy's life should be respected, for it belongs to justice."

Referring to the above, the Paris correspondent of *The Times* says:—"The *Temps* has interviewed the road labourer, who confirms Colonel Picquart's version, adding, however, that he was quite unaware at the time who the two men were, and that he had heard none of the words so complacently reported last night in a paper which had all along been one of the most ardent partisans of Major Esterhazy. The police report also reiterates the version of the road labourer."

KOREAN NOTES.

The *Independent*, of the 6th inst., publishes an autobiography of the deposed Minister of State, Yi Yong-ik, which it hopes may prove of interest to its readers. We rather think it will. Yi began life as a miner but found the work too irksome for his liking, so he passed upwards into the ranks of the merchants and sold sackcloth to the people of Sōul. After a while he made enough money to buy his father a petty magistracy: this brought him into touch with official circles and eventually into the society of the Tai Won-kün. At the time of the 1882 disturbances, when the Queen managed to escape death in the Palace by leaving the city on the back of a faithful attendant, Yi Yong-ik spread a rumour abroad that he was a peculiarly fast runner, pretending in fact that he could cover 500 *li* in a day. It was a manifest lie, but the possession of brazen effrontery seems to be rather admired in Korea—at least honours and rewards fall to the lot of those who know how to apply it judiciously. The King of Korea was anxious to communicate with his Queen and Yi obtained the post of courier—on the strength of his own unsupported boast—and on the Queen's restoration to power he came by his reward, being made Prefect of Tan-chun, South Ham-kyengdo. A strange translation from the running-path: but strange things are always happening in Korea. Thenceforth Yi's career became one of extortion, deposition from office; reinstatement in a higher position by use of devious means; extortion, deposition, reinstatement, again and again; until finally he obtained some high offices in the Court. To quote the *Independent*:—"These appointments enabled him to collect money which he knew only too well how to use for his own advantage. Early last year he came to Sōul, making himself an indispensable visitor to the Palace. But he quarrelled with some one just then more powerful than himself and, after trial, was sentenced to be banished for a number of years. But he did *not* go and frequented the [illegible] as usual under the veil of night. He was soon pardoned. A year or two ago a Songdo mob wanted to kill him on account of his intolerable extortions as the ginseng tax collector, but he fled to Sōul." There his story for the present ends. Mr. Yi Yong-ik must enjoy "life" to the fullest extent of all his faculties, to paraphase Mr. Henry Norman oracular deliverance. How will he end? The Independence Club seem determined to run him to earth, for at a recent meeting they resolved to impeach him before the Supreme Court. He is fully aware of their intentions, and has already attempted to bribe some of the most influential members.

The United States Consular report for 1897 remarks:—All goods for Korea are transhipped in Japanese or Chinese ports, except in the case of Russian goods from Vladivostock, which port is connected with Korea by regular lines of Russian and Japanese steamers. There are two important lines of steamships doing a regular business between Korea and the ports of China and Japan. The service leaves much to be desired. The employees are so incompetent that shipments are very irregular, and important articles are apt to be left out or overcarried, causing vexatious and expensive delays.

The editorial columns of the *Independent* are strongly redolent of the atmosphere which attends a school magazine—the prize mental product of the intellects that have attained fifth form rank. The calm assurance displayed by these profound philosophers when at times they conceive it their duty to set forth the whole duty of man for the benefit of the world in general and their peace of mind in particular, is the envy of men who have twice their tale of years to carry. Every now and again the *Independent* is impelled by a like spirit to solemnly lecture its country's rulers, and the spectacle is awe-inspiring. In its issue of August 11th it deals with the shortcomings of the Ministers of State under the heading, "Diplomacy and Duplicity"

Frankness and sincerity are not conspicuous among the virtues of a Korean statesman. The qualities which he cultivates with assiduity and upon which he prides himself most are his serene composure, profuse smiles, and consummate dissimulation. His promises are easily given because he rarely expects to keep them. All this may be the natural products of a system under which laws are made not so much to protect the weak against the strong as to help the few at the expense of the many; where dishonesty too often proves the best policy; where underhanded, roundabout methods work better than fair and straightforward dealing. But the application of these tactics to foreign policy has been full of harmful and lamentable results.

It is our settled conviction that the sooner our statesmen and diplomats give up the foolish notion that duplicity is diplomacy, the better will it be for the country. A state like Korea, enfeebled by domestic misrule and environed by foreign dangers, what will she ever gain by mimicking the petty tricks of cheap diplomacy? Not a thing. In spite of the superficial politeness, confidential (?) whispers, thoughtless promises, artful circumlocutions, etc., nay, *because* of these, Korea has lost the confidence, respect, and sympathy of those who would have been only too glad to help her. Our advice to a Korean diplomat is therefore:—

Be sincere and straightforward.

Think twice before making a promise; but, once made, keep it.

Don't shirk responsibility by timely sicknesses and untimely resignations.

Remember honesty is the best policy even in Korean politics.

H E. Kim Pyengsi, the Premier, still persists in offering his resignation. The *Independent*, voicing the rumours of the street, sententiously remarks that "he was eager enough for offices years ago when there were no criticizing clubs nor troublesome international problems to disturb the serenity of the official life in Korea."

A proclamation has been issued by the Korean police against the increasing habit of opium-smoking.

Mr. Consul-General Jordan, in his report for 1897, *apropos* of the Land Tax, the House Tax, and the condition of the people of Korea, writes:—The unit of taxation for land is the *kyol*, or produce of about 10,000 square feet of ground. Land is divided for purposes of assessment into six classes, the average assessment per *kyol* being from $5 to $6 (10*s.* to 12*s.*). On this scale the proceeds of the land tax alone ought to reach $4 000,000 (£400,000), but there has been no survey of the country for 300 years, with the result that the tax has become very unequal in its incidence and its collection irregular. The house tax is based upon an annual average assessment of about 1*s.* 2*d.* per house, the apportionment of the levy being left to the village headmen. One curious feature of this tax is that Sōul, the city in the Empire which has most claims to material prosperity, is entirely exempted from its incidence. A former king, anxious to foster the growth of his capital, compounded for the payment of the impost for 100 years, and although the period covered by the commutation has expired it has not been considered advisable to revive the tax. The result is that the population of the capital enjoys the benefits of good roads and other improvements at the expense of the country districts, which are much less favoured in this respect. However, there are probably few countries where the things of this world are more evenly distributed than in Korea; if there is little wealth there is practically no pauperism, or at least none that obtrudes itself upon the public. In Sōul there are said to be only a score of beggars in a population of 200,000, and the most of these owe their profession to the presence of foreigners. In Song-do, a large town to the north with a population of about 60,000, I am assured by a missionary gentleman that there is only one beggar, and he is an importation from the foreign quarter in Sōul.

CHINA NEWS.

The Chinese Government is suffering at present from a severe attack of morality. The following Imperial Decree is translated by the *N.-C. Daily News*:—

The Censor Kao Hsi chen reports that the practice of some of the officials in the provinces in getting persons to subscribe for the Chao-hsin Bonds or national Loan is getting unpleasant to the people at large and suggests that strict orders be again promulgated on the subject, etc. Our intention in issuing the Chao hsin Bonds was to make the Loan a permanent one, after the manner of other countries, and not merely as a temporary measure to fill up the void in the Imperial Exchequer made on the spur of the moment, which has heretofore been the practice. We have already strongly urged upon all our high provincial authorities to obey our orders to the letter, and set their faces sternly against any attempts at forcing our subjects to buy the said Bonds, but that every one should be given perfect liberty to subscribe or not as he chose. Indeed, instead of being a voluntary act, on the part of our people such pro-

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cedure by disobedient officials would make it only a means of extortion and the causing of great sufferings among them. This is just what we earnestly wished to avoid, and hence we now again call upon our high provincial officials to give at once the strictest orders to their subordinates to abstain in every way from any semblance, even, of extortion on our merchants and people at large; and that each one should have perfect liberty of choice whether to subscribe to the Bonds or not. And in case avaricious officials and their subordinates venture to disobey us we look to the high authorities to denounce the culprits in the strongest terms in order that we may make severe examples of such. The Boards concerned are also commanded to take special note of this edict.

The late Prince Kung is the subject of another edict:—

Li Su, Prince of Kung, was a senior member of the Imperial House and closely related with us in the government of the empire. During the minority of the late Emperor Tung Chih, while we and the Eastern Empress Dowager were Regents, the south-eastern portions of the empire were in a state of disturbance and the State encountered great difficulties. To the late Prince do we owe the suppression of the disorders, his advice having borne the best results. In apportioning the rewards for the above results Li Su was created a Prince of the First Order in heredity under the title of Prince of Kung, a title he has borne for over thirty years, during which he always showed perfect devotion to the Throne and loyalty in dealing with State affairs. Lately he had been overwhelmed with heavy responsibilities of government demanded by the crisis the empire is passing through, and his body had to succumb to them. He fell seriously ill towards the end of the 2nd month (middle of March) during which we, accompanied by H.I.M. the Emperor, personally visited the Prince. We then thought that with perfect rest and quiet the late Prince would manage to triumph over his malady and so become once more a staunch pillar of the State. What was our grief, then, to learn that on the day before (29th) his highness had passed peaceably away and started on his eternal journey, leaving us desolate in the midst of the severe trials that surround the Throne. Words cannot express our grief at this national catastrophe. We will personally proceed to the palace of the late Prince to pay our last sacrifice to his *manes* and further command that the epithet of "Prince Kung the Faithful" be bestowed upon him and that his tablet be placed in the temple of Distinguished Worthies as a mark of our high esteem of his memory. He is also to have a resting place for his remains in the Imperial mausolea and sacrifices shall in future be made at his shrine during the four seasons of the year.

To stimulate a military spirit amongst his subjects the Emperor recently authorised says the *N.C. Daily News*, the formation of volunteer and militia corps in every city, town, and hamlet within the boundaries of his empire. The scheme is still in embryo in many of the provinces, but it has been taken up in thorough earnestness by the notables and gentry and the official classes in Hunan province. To their credit must also be given the introduction of educational clubs amongst the volunteer organisations, an example which there is every probability of the volunteers of other provinces also putting into practice. In the provincial capital of Changsha there was established two years ago a Society for the acquirement of Modern Knowledge, to which already belong hundreds of young men, the scions of the highest officials and notables, as well as officials themselves who are stationed in Hunan to await office. This Society owns a large library of scientific books as well as those treating on other branches of modern study, has printed scientific primers, etc., to teach the more ignorant members, and purchased recently quite a collection of scientific and mechanical models to give practical illustrations, having engaged qualified teachers from Shanghai. Each volunteer organisation is to have a club, which is to be a branch of the parent Society at Changsha, and the object is to entrust the members, high and low, and enlighten and educate them to the time so that in future these organisations will not be the slaves of schemers against the public peace.

Bubonic plague has broken out at Nhatrang, Annam. The official statement is to the effect that only a few isolated cases have occurred, but the *Avenir du Tonkin* declares its disbelief in the official statement and give reasons for supposing that an epidemic of serious proportions is raging. The place is cut off from communication, no vessels being allowed to call there, and letters have been intercepted, so that it is impossible to ascertain the real state of affairs independently. Our contemporary opines that the disease has originated entirely from "the microbe factory maintained at Nhatrang at the public expense under the name of Dr. Yersin's Institute." The native assistants, our contemporary goes on to say, have no doubt become careless; they manufactured microbes in large quantity, and have themselves been the first to fall victims to their own carelessness or ignorance in carrying out their work, and from them the disease has been contracted by others. "The epidemic thus commenced is bound to make large ravages, for we know that the preventive serum, the discovery of which was too soon announced, has still to be found. Who would have thought that the Nhatrang Institute, established and maintained to protect us from the plague, would have had as its final result the introduction of this contagious disease into Indo-China?

Chinese ideas of justice are peculiar. A native was found concealed in a half-finished building in Shanghai. He was discovered by the contractor in charge of the premises and four of his assistants, who at once bound him firmly with ropes and kept him in that condition for a day and a half without food, occasionally relieving the tedium of his detention by hoisting him up to the beams of the roof and there suspending him by the thumbs. The police ultimately heard of the proceedings and arrested the contractor and his four assistants, who were formally charged at the Mixed Court with unlawfully imprisoning and torturing the man. The contractor and his men were fined $5 each, and the man they had detained was sentenced to 100 blows!

There is more stirring of dry bones in the official circles of China. An Imperial edict was issued on the 10th instant exhorting the Imperial Ministers and high provincial authorities of the Empire to set earnestly to work and supplement his Majesty's endeavours to reform the country. "It has been the habit of one-half of our officers to observe only the technicalities of old and obsolete usages," remarks the decree in question, "and we have tried once before to lay bare the utter uselessness of such practices in the Government of the Empire in the present crisis. We enlarged upon the high importance of keeping up and educating ourselves with the procedure of modern time and warned our officers from treading in the footsteps of the ancients of the Sung and Ming eras. The times and the crisis which hang over us must force us to take steps towards strengthening ourselves, and unless we cast away from us sincerely the practices of old, embrace at once a thorough reformation, and make a new era of progress and modern education, there is no hope of success before us." In the same edict his Majesty eulogises the earnest and diligent efforts of Chên Pao chên, Governor of Hunan, to educate his subjects in that province to a knowledge of Western sciences and the extreme value of keeping level with the times. This Governor has persevered in his attempts at supplementing the earnest wishes of the Throne, and, although he may have met obstruction and bigoted conservatism in his work, Governor Chen has gone on in spite of all; and this example his Majesty puts before all his officers to imitate. "The bane of China has been the deeply rooted system of inertness and a clinging to obsolete customs. This, indeed, it should be the true duty of each and every officer to shake off, in defiance of the hostile attitude of the uneducated majority." The Emperor winds up with saying that it is his earnest desire that "all his officers, his Ministers of the Crown and provincial authorities, high and low, should keep this edict in mind, rouse themselves up into activity, enlighten and educate themselves to what is going on at the present moment, and do, every one, his best to cast off the shackles of obselete and useless customs."

L'Echo de Chine announces that Imperial sanction has been given to the Belgian contract for the construction of the Peking-Hankow Railway.

A telegram to the *N.-C. Daily News* through native sources at Peking states that Dr. Yung Wing has succeeded at least in obtaining a loan of 40 million taels from a syndicate, which bears the Chinese appellation of Anglo-Chinese Commercial Company, Limited, for the purpose of constructing the proposed Tientsin-Chinkiang Railway. The preliminary agreement was signed on the 28th ult., the terms being 4½ per cent. interest per annum, issued at 90

The *China Mail* of the 12th inst. says:—

Satisfactory news has been received as to the progress of the Commission for Delimiting or Inspecting the Kowloon *hinterland*. We hear that the inspection of the Mirs Bay half of the territory will be completed in a few days, about Monday, when the Expedition will return for a day or two. The man-of-war will then proceed to the Deep Bay side of our new possession, and make incursions inland from that point.

Monseigneur Garnier, S. J., Bishop of Kiangsu and Titular Bishop of Titopolis, peacefully passed away on the 15th at the Procure, St. Joseph's Church, French Concession, Shanghai, at the age of 73. The venerable prelate had suffered from the intense heat of the past few weeks, but not so much as to give the Fathers any cause for anxiety until three days ago, when it became evident that his increasing years had robbed him of the strength needful to combat with the heat. He was seized with an attack of paralysis from which he never recovered, and died in the presence of the majority of the Jesuit Fathers at St. Joseph's. Bishop Garnier was a Breton, born at Rennes on May 6, 1825. He entered the Society of Jesus at the age of 27 on January 24, 1852, and after four or five years' service in the Society was consecrated priest, working under the Mission Evangeles. He was sent to labour at Cayenne among the French convicts in 1857, and he stayed there as chaplain for ten years. Here he came into contact with many officers of the French Navy whom he was destined to meet afterwards in China. Attachments formed then have remained unaffected by lapse of years, for the Bishop up to the time of his death was in correspondence with now prominent officers of the Navy, whom he knew in Cayenne as quite young men. Frequent testimony has been given by those who knew him in French Guiana of the noble work the late Bishop did among the unfortunate exiles there. In 1868 Monseigneur Garnier was sent to China and he has been in this country ever since. Of 29th April, 1879, he was consecrated Titular Bishop of Titopolis and Vicar Apostolic of Kiangnan. Since then he has been a very prominent public character.

AMERICAN NOTES.

The Pacific coast papers, despite the war, are finding plenty of space for news from Klondyke and the Yukon territory. Many "treasure" ships have returned with miners lately, and their manifests tell tales of much gold and gold-dust stored in their specie-rooms. The fortunes of the returning men vary from a hundred thousand dollars to five thousand, and most seem quite satisfied with the hauls they have made. The mushroom town of Dawson increases apace. What a transformation has been effected there can be gleaned from a miner's letter under date June 24. He says:—

When I started out over the ice in March last Dawson was a town of about 2,000 people. The business portion consisted mainly of the stores of the two big companies, the Alaska Commercial

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and the North American Trading and Transportation together, with a dozen or more saloons and dance houses which stood in a frequently broken line along one side of First Avenue or Front Street. The residence portion was a group of log cabins on the first rise of a hill to the northward.

I come back to find both sides of Front Street built up almost without a break for a distance of nearly three quarters of a mile and the business pushed into the cross streets and along Second Avenue. The water front down on the river is packed close for a mile and a half with boats barges, two and three deep, many of them with goods for sale and flying banners of new industries —photographers, dentists, doctors, and lawyers— all manner of people. At the mouth of the Klondike southward on both sides the tents of the new comers resemble an army in camp, and northward of the town on the rise of the hill is another army. There Major Walsh, commissioner of the territory, has pitched his tent where he can command a view of the town.

All the surrounding hillsides that last winter were merely wooded spaces are rapidly being resolved into the City of Dawson. The trees are down and in their place stand cabins in all stages of construction, most of them on the simplest architectural plans, but many being built with a care and neatness that indicate permanent residence. Most of the business places on Front Street are mere rough board or canvas affairs, put up with regard to speed rather than appearance or permanency, but there are a few quite pretentious buildings of newer order. These are, without exception, saloons and gambling and lodging-houses. They are all doing a great business.

Front Street, long and wide as as it is, is crowded with people at every hour of the twenty-four, and particularly in the evening from 5 o'clock until midnight. Life is at high tension. The great number of new comers is hourly being increased by the boats and barges, and the circle of tents widens daily; saloons and dance houses now are numbered by the score; the water side of Front street resembles the approach to a State fair.

In the hastily constructed booths every line of traffic is represented, (including lemonade at 50 cents a glass), icecream, news and peanut stands. Both sides of the street boast sidewalks, but the roadway is axle deep with mud. The street is littered with logs and the wreckage of buildings.

The *Klondike Nugget* and the *Yukon Midnight Sun* are two newspapers already established, while at least half a dozen other plants are here or are on the way.

The camp knows no rest. There are now twenty-four hours of broad daylight to every day and twenty hours of warm, bright sunlight. And there is a general indisposition on the part of the inhabitants to sleep. The hours claimed by night in San Francisco—from 6 o'clock of the evening until 6 of the morning—are the pleasantest of the day, being cooler and the light more subdued, although for nine hours of that time the sun is above the horizon. For this reason many sleep during the warm hours of the day, and the streets are full of life every hour of the so-called night.

There is one little pause once a week in the hurlyburly. Commissioner Walsh has pronounced a Sunday law. At 12 o'clock sharp on Saturday night business stops, particularly that of the saloons, including gambling. In such great respect is this regulation held that neither friendship, love, nor money can procure a drink over a bar after 12 o'clock midnight of Saturday or before midnight of Sunday. The big jag of the week is given these few hours in which to recover itself and know the joy of starting anew.

Money or dust flows into town daily and thence finds lodgment across the bars, or over the faro and poker tables. The two commercial companies get a big share of it and finally the banks get some. There are two banks here now, operating under canvas, both Canadian institutions.

It is estimated by practical miners that the output from Klondyke this year will be between 7,000,000 and 10,000,000 gold dollars.

General John S. Williams, ex-United States Senator and a hero of the Mexico and civil wars, died at 7 a.m. on July 17th at his home near Mount Sterling, Kentucky. "Cerro Gordo" Williams, so nicknamed on account of his bravery in the battle of that name in the war with Mexico, took an active part in American history, but for some time past had been living quietly on his farm near Mount Sterling. He was born in 1820 in Montgomery County; served in the Mexican war with distinction, being first a captain and later a colonel; and was in command of the Fourth Kentucky at the capture of the City of Mexico. In 1853 and 1852 he was a member of the Kentucky Legislature. He opposed secession, yet raised a Confederate regiment and was made a brigadier general, and was under General Joe Johnston at the surrender. He was elected United States Senator in 1874 and served until March 3, 1885. He was defeated by Joseph S. C. Blackburn for the renomination in a memorable contest.

Here is a paragraph that is going the rounds of the American papers:—Pittsburg has the distinction of having had the most expensive dinner ever given in this country, perhaps in the world. In round figures that feast cost its host $5,000,000. The home of Charles Lockhart was the scene of this dinner. Mr. Lockhart is a Standard Oil magnate and his wealth runs into more than any five other millionaries in this city. Mr. Lockhart has been slightly indisposed, and one evening about a week ago he arranged for a little family reunion. Mr. Lockhart has five children, two sons and three daughters. The five children and other members of the family were present at the dinner in question, and when they lifted the plates set before them the two sons and three daughters each discovered thereunder a certified cheque for $1,000,000, and as there were five cheques the total was $5,000,000.

A firm of French wine-producers of Rheims offered the United States Government 1,200 bottles of champagne for the sick and wounded soldiers, and the Secretary of the Treasury ordered that the wine should be admitted free of duty. This must be a nice advertisement for the firm.

The ways of some American newspaper correspondents are almost past comprehension. After the taking of Santiago three correspondents belonging to the *New York World* and the *New York Journal* entered the city, armed with 20,000 *Journals* and coloured posters showing the wreck of the *Maine* with dead sailors floating past. The inscription at the top was "Remember the Maine," and at the bottom "Buy the *Journal*." As soon as General Shafter saw the posters he very naturally sent a detail of sailors to arrest the *Journal* men and seize their paraphernalia, fearing they might have a bad effect among the residents. The correspondents were placed under guard over night in the Theatre Royal, and the next day General Shafter himself saw them placed aboard the *Arkansas*. Another journalist named Scovel attempted to participate in the ceremony of hoisting the flag over the Governor's palace in the city, but was ordered down by the guard. He then sought General Shafter. Words passed between the two, and Scovel struck at General Shafter, his blow fortunately falling short. He was immediately placed under arrest. General Shafter stated he had not ordered the man's trial for the reason that he did not wish to give him that much notoriety, and had simply ordered his expulsion from the district under his command.

THE AUSTRO-JAPANESE TREATY.

The *Mainichi* announces that a telegram from Mr. Takahira, Minister at Vienna, has reached the Foreign Department that the Austrian Government has accepted the coming into operation of the new treaty from the 17th July and of the new Tariff from the 1st January, 1899. The documents regarding the matter were signed on the 17th inst. by representatives of both Powers. They will be retained at Vienna until final sanction is given to the treaty after discussion in the Austrian Diet.

The mixture of spiritual authority and temporal influence exercised by the Pope leads to diplomatic incongruities. Recently, after interviewing the French and Austrian Ministers as to help for Spain, the Pope "wired the Queen Regent to confide in Providence."

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The business of the Russo-Chinese Bank for the past year shows a clear profit of 855,645 roubles, the share of the Chinese Government amounting to 303,760 roubles. A sum of 360 000 roubles is available for the payment of dividends equal to 7½ roubles per share nominal value.

The Chinese Corporation, Limited, has been registered in London to take over the business of L. Spitzel & Co. The capital is £250,000 in £1 shares, of which 50,000 are preference. Mr. Spitzel is popularly credited with being hand-in-glove with Li Hung-chang in business schemes at Peking and Tientsin.

When the old P.M. liner *China* left Manila on the 19th July, all was quiet there and business was being resumed. The *Kobe Herald* learns by wire from Shanghai that several American soldiers had been killed by the insurgents during some street fights. The insurgents were being disarmed on entering the city and all looting was repressed.

The news of the signing of the peace protocols in Washington was conveyed to Admiral Dewey and General Merritt in Manila Bay, by the Australian liner *Australian*, which left Hongkong on the 13th inst., the very day of the assault on the doomed city. The instructions wired by President McKinley to Hongkong were to the effect that Admiral Dewey and General Merritt should occupy Manila bay, harbour, and city, to cease hostilities, and raise the blockade.

Captain Chichester, of H.B.M.S. *Immortalité* (says a Kobe paper) by the death of his father last month, has succeeded to the baronetcy. Sir Edward was born in 1849, and obtained his commission as sub-lieutenant in 1868. He rendered distinguished services as transport officer in the Transvaal and in Egypt, and later in connexion with sea fisheries. He married, in 1880, a daughter of the late Commander R. C. Whyte, R.N.

The *Kobe Chronicle*, in speaking of the career of Mr. Ozaki Yukio, the Minister of Education, recalls the times he spent in London, where "as a journalist he soon made the acquaintance of some of the quill-drivers on the London press, and in a week Ozaki was one of the most popular men at the Press Club." "We wonder," adds the writer, "if Ozaki still recalls those feasts of wit and flow of soul and old English ale on tap in the establishment in the little alley behind the Cheshire Cat off Fleet Street." It is curious that the memory which is equal to recalling so much should drop into errors of fact hardly to be expected of one who writes so confidently of his subject. There is no such hotel as the Cheshire Cat in or "off" Fleet-street. There is, however, a very famous resort called the Cheshire Cheese, and perhaps the writer in the *Kobe Chronicle* may mean that.

A Hongkong paper suggests that the appointment of Viceroy of India has been given to Viscount Curzon, and not to the Hon. G. N. Curzon, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Viscount Curzon is the eldest son of Earl Howe, and has sat for a Buckinghamshire division since 1885. Beyond a petty sinecure appointment under the last Conservative Government he has had no official experience whatever, and unless his gifts are much greater than anyone has so far suspected he would be the last man one would imagine fit for so important a post. Whichever Curzon it may be, the appointment is not altogether a happy one. The courtesy lord is a political nobody; the commoner is admittedly clever, but is at present more fit, we should imagine, for the floor of the House of Commons than for the Council Chamber of Government House.

The activity of Russia in military and naval matters is, writes a correspondent, extraordinary. A few days ago the reorganisation of the Artillery, so as to double its strength within a

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short time, was ordered, and an Austrian military paper states that since the accession of the present Tsar, two entire Army Corps have been created, two Cavalry Corps newly formed, the Field Artillery augmented by seventy batteries, and the East Siberian Rifles doubled, and that if the projected formation of four new Army Corps is carried out, ■ it certainly will be, since the present reorganisation of the Reserve Artillery is the forerunner of that step, Russia, which already possesses exactly twice as many Army Corps as Austria-Hungary, will beat Germany or France by eight Army Corps, and will have the largest Army in the world. The naval programme includes the construction of eight warships, sixteen cruisers, and thirty torpedo-boats by 1904.

A Japanese lad named Fukoda Sakuyemon has been arrested at Kobe and acknowledges setting fire to Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann & Co.'s godown in Kobe in July.

We understand, says the *Hongkong Daily Press*, that the amended rules for inland navigation came into force yesterday (August 15th) and that British steamers plying on the West River have been notified that they are at liberty to proceed by any channel they like and to stop at any port *en route*.

Captain Deloncle, of the ill-fated *Bourgogne*, was a man of many parts. In addition to his splendid abilities as an officer, the unfortunate captain was a writer of merit. *La Patrie* says it was not generally known, even among his acquaintances, that he had written several pieces for the stage. His intimate friends predicted great success for them.

The Channel Squadron was, on 1st July, strengthened by the commissioning at Devonport of the new second-class cruiser *Furious*, to replace the cruiser *Charybdis*. The *Furious* is a larger and more powerfully-equipped cruiser than the *Charybdis*, and carries an additional complement of nearly 100 officers and men. She has cost nearly £300,000, and is armed with four 6 in., six 4·7 in., and twelve smaller quick-firing guns.

The officers and men of the steamer *Amarapoora* seem to have a mission to prevent the officials of British Consulates in the Far East from wearing out their prime in shapeless idleness. They effectually prevented the staff at Yokohama from stagnating during the steamer's long stay here; and the Court usher and gaoler grew so accustomed to and so fond of them that there was scarcely a dry eye when the Blue Peter was at last hoisted. Now, after the stranding of their ship, they are making things interesting at Shanghai. Mr. Flannigan, the late chief engineer, who called forth the wrath of even a man so slow to anger as Mr. Troup, has been charged with wounding with a razor a person whom the China paper describes as "a man named Nesbitt." A man named Nesbitt indeed! John Nesbitt, with his eternal persecutions and prosecutions, is almost as historical a person to Yokohama people as, say, John Knox. We grieve to observe that for his little diversion Mr. Flannigan (who, by the way, after admitting the soft impeachment of *delirium tremens* preferred against him by Mr. Lowder at Yokohama, claimed that he was as sober a man as there was on the *Amarapoora*) received a sentence of 30 days' imprisonment. Mr. Squire Shires, another engineer,—one of the most pleasing peculiarities of the *Amarapoora* was the distinctive names of its staff—was charged with being intoxicated and disorderly. His case was peculiar. He was found lying outside the Public Library, entirely *sans culottes*, and quite oblivious to everything. Such utter disregard of toilet conventions could not be overlooked, and he was arrested, and fined next morning.

Two British warships were launched during the first week in July—the *Amphitrite*, a first-class cruiser, at Barrow, and the *Ocean*, a battleship, at Devonport Dockyard. The *Amphitrite* is one of six vessels of the *Diadem* class, of 11,000 tons, and is the second cruiser of the class built at Barrow. The *Ocean*, which is officially described as a "twin-screw first-class barbette battleship," is one of a group of battleships known as the *Canopus* class, designed by Sir W. H. White, Assistant Controller of the Navy and Director of Naval Construction. She is the first battleship ever built at Devonport. Her construction was seriously delayed by the engineering strike, but for which she would have been got off the slip by the end of 1897. The dimensions of the *Ocean* are as follows:—Length between perpendicular, 390 ft.; extreme breadth, 74 ft.; load draught of water, 226 ft.; load displacement, 13,000; estimated indicated horse power, 13,500; speed with full power, 18·25 knots. The armament consists of four 12-inch 46-ton guns, worked in two barbettes on revolving turntables; twelve 6 inch quick-firing guns, mounted in armoured casements—eight on the main deck and four on the upper deck—ten 12-pounder guns of 12 cwts. each—six on the upper deck, four on the main deck, one in special mounting for field service, and one for boat service—six 3-pounder Hotchkiss quick-firing guns on recoil mountings, four Maxim machine guns, submerged torpedo tubes for the discharge of 18-inch torpedoes. The coal capacity of the ship is 1,900 tons, and she will have a complement of 751 officers and men. She is so heavily armoured that projectiles from the ordinary types of guns would have practically no effect on her hull.

A naval court-martial was held on July 24th on board the *Nile*, at Devonport, for the trial of William Matthews, signalman of H.M.S. *Ganges*, charged with having stolen a confidential auxillary signal-book, and with desertion. The prisoner pleaded guilty on both charges, and a circumstantial letter showed that he deserted at Falmouth on April 20, and surrendered to the Coastguard at Clontarf, Ireland, on April 29. On being brought back to the *Ganges* he made a confession of having stolen a confidential auxiliary signal-book between April 1 and November 22 last year, when on the *Nile*, on the Medi erranean Station, but this confession was not read in court. It is understood that the prisoner intended selling the signal-book to a foreign Power, the name of which was not divulged. Witnesses were brought from the Mediterraneau Station, where the offence was committed, to give evidence at the trial. In throwing himself upon the mercy of the court, the prisoner asked them to take into consideration the monetary advantages which were offered to him, and that, after he has stolen the signal book, his conscience pricked him, and he burned the book and took the consequences of making a confession, rather than being branded as a traitor to his Queen and country. If he had not done this, the theft could not have been discovered, and serious consequences might have arisen from the carrying out of his original intention. The prisoner's character sheets showed that he was rated very good for character and ability. Matthews was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour, and ordered to be dismissed from the service with disgrace. After the court-martial, it transpired that the confession which was withheld from the court contained a sensational statement with reference to negotiations which the prisoner entered upon for the disposal of the signal-book.

H.B.M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

(Before RALPH G. E. FORSTER, Esq., Acting Assistant Judge.)

(FRIDAY, August 19th.)

THE LEOPOLD CASE.

The hearing of the charges against Charles Emil Leopold was continued this morning, Mr. H. C. Litchfield and Mr. J. F. Lowder again appearing for the prosecution, Professor Terry for the defence, and Mr. A. B. Walford for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

James Maclean, accountant in the employ of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, produced cheques drawn by Mr. Leopold from 1st December last to date. He also produced and examined copies of the bank ledgers. The entries in the ledgers were made in the usual and ordinary course of business, and the ledgers themselves were in the custody of the bank. He had examined the copies he now produced, and compared them with the original entries, with which they were identical. The first sheet produced was extracted from the 1897 ledger; and the others from the 1898 ledger. In these papers were set out the particulars of the whole of accused's dealings with the bank from June 30th, 1897, to June 30th, 1898. There was an entry under date 9th February, 1898, of *yen* 28,000, which read Russo-Union Bank, but which should be Russo-Chinese Bank, the writing being very indistinct in the cheque. Against the 14th February was an entry of *yen* 28,091.61 which was paid into the bank on the 9th of the month, and was by oversight credited to another account. On the 14th the mistake was discovered and the sum put to Mr. Leopold's account, showing that really no overdraft occurred during that period at all. These were all the explanations he had to offer on the documents.

Professor Terry had no questions to ask.

Herbert Maurice Bevis, Manager of the Yokohama Branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, identified the letter written to the bank by Leopold in regard to the first alleged shipment of furs, to the value of £1,250. He said that if he had known that the goods had not been shipped he should certainly not have purchased accused's draft. He did so in the belief that the bill of lading, the invoice, and marine policy were genuine documents, and that the statements contained therein and in accused's letter to the Bank were true. The same remark applied to the other transactions in which the Bank purchased accused's drafts on Lampson's. From about the beginning of this year witness instructed the accountant that accused was not ■ be allowed an overdraft, and he also communicated his decision verbally to accused. His cheques would therefore not have been honoured unless the account had been at credit.

By Professor Terry:—Witness knew something of the firm of Lampson and Co., and understood they were a responsible and respectable firm—first class people. If it appeared by the Bank ledger that Leopold's account was overdrawn on one or two occasions, the fact was unknown to witness. On referring to the ledger witness pointed out that the overdrafts were only for a part of a day; the deficit existing during the earlier part of the day was wiped out by a sum to accused's credit entered later in the day. These were not really overdrafts; the bills to accused's credit were already in the bank, but the credit entry had not come up from the bill department. The accused's credit from Lampson's was what he called a mercantile credit; being from a first-class firm, he accepted it, but at the same time in the Bank's letter to accused a hint was given that he was not freed from responsibility as the drawer of the bills.

Togashi Fusaharu, in the employ of the Pier, Traffic, and Lighter Company, said the company acted as agents for Ahrens and Co. A shipper for the *Hohenzollern* would come to their company with two blue forms provided by Ahrens and Co., such as those produced. One was kept in the Pier Co.'s office; one was given back signed to the shipper. The Pier Company afterwards took charge of the cargo. With the cargo they sent out three shipping forms on white paper. One was kept in the office; one was retained on board the *Hohenzollern*; and the other came back to the agents with the mate's receipt. Witness produced a batch of blue forms ranging from December last to April. He had searched through the forms for shipments of furs in Leopold's name marked with the L.L. in a diamond described by Leopold in his letters to the bank as the distinguishing mark of shipments to Lampson. He found the entries of April 14th to which reference was made by the witness Harmsen the previous day.

This concluded the present case for the prosecution, and Mr. Litchfield applied that the accused should be committed for trial. He asked leave, however, to amend the charge as laid in order that the official of the court who would be entrusted with the case in the event of the accused being committed for trial might have the opportunity of framing his charges in accordance with the 90th section of 24th and 25th Victoria, Chapter 96, as well as under the two sections which he (Mr. Litchfield) had mentioned on the opening day. The 90th section provided that whoever with intent to defraud induced any other person to execute, make, accept, endorse, or destroy the whole or any part of any valuable security, or write or affix his name or that of any other person in

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order that the same might be afterwards used or dealt with as a valuable security was guilty of a misdemeanour. He asked that the charges might be amended by the addition of the following:

> The said Emil Wismer further charges that the said Charles Emil Leopold on 31st December unlawfully and designedly did falsely pretend that he had shipped or that he was possessed of and was about to ship on board the steamship *Hohenzollern* 50 cases of furs and on such false pretences did induce Albert Hofmann to make and sign two valuable securities, to wit, a bill of lading stating that 10 cases of furs had been shipped and another bill of lading that 40 cases of furs had been shipped on board the said steam ship *Hohenzollern* with intent to defraud whereas in truth and in fact he did not ship such cases of furs or any of them, as in making such false pretences he then well knew.

He (Mr. Litchfield) had further to apply, on the evidence already adduced, to further amend the charge in order to give the court the opportunity of making a charge under the Debtors' Act, of 1869. The thirteenth section provided that any person who obtained credit by means of false pretences was guilty of a misdemeanous. He proposed to add the following to the charge:—

> The said Emil Wismer further charges that on or about 31st December, 1897, he incurred certain debts to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, for which debts he obtained credit by the false pretence that he had shipped 50 cases of furs on board the *Hohenzollern* for London, and that afterwards, namely, on or about 10th January, 1898, on or about 14th February, 1898, on or about 21st February, 1898, and on or about 7th April, 1898, he incurred to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation certain other debts to the amount specified in the foregoing charge, for which he obtained credit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation by the false pretence that he had shipped on board the steamship *Hohenzollern* for London cases of furs heretobefore mentioned.

Mr. Litchfield explained that the amended charge referred to the same dates, involved the same sums, and covered practically the same facts. The application was for the purpose of filling in any gap which might possibly be open—he did not for a moment suggest that there was any likelihood of such being the case—in the charge.

Mr. Terry suggested that he had a very good right to oppose an amendment of the charge after all the evidence had been given, but he did not want to make any captious objections for the mere sake of delay. He understood that these amendments could be made the subject of a separate charge, as they were, though practically identical, separate offences in the eyes of the law. He should like, however, if his consent was necessary, to give it on the condition that the prosecution should understand that as these charges were a repetition of the same matter and did not increase the gravity of the offence, they therefore did not justify any increase in the amount of bail.

His Honour remarked that it was necessary, before asking the accused whether he had any statement to make, to read over the whole of the depositions to him.

Professor Terry said the depositions had already been read through before the different witnesses, and the accused had heard them. Accused would not care to make any statement and he did not wish that the depositions should be read over again.

His Honour said from the rules of the Court it certainly looked as if the depositions should be read over again.

Mr. Lowder remarked that he remembered a previous case in which, the accused expressing himself satisfied, the reading of the depositions was dispensed with.

His Honour:—Well, you have quoted a precedent, and if counsel on the other side raises no objection we may take them as read. (To accused) Are you content?

Accused:—I am content.

The charge was then read over, and accused, after the usual formal warning, asked if he had any statement to make.

Accused:—No statement, sir.

Professor Terry at this point asked that the order of committal should be made after office. Accused's sureties were not present, and as his present bail expired immediately on the committal for trial he would have to remain in custody until a fresh application for bail was made. The sureties would be in Court in the afternoon, and he therefore asked that the order should be made then.

An adjournment was accordingly made. On the Court reassembling His Honour told the accused that he was committed for trial both on the original and the added charges.

The application for bail was heard in chambers and Mr. H. J. Snow was substituted in place of Captain Forbes as one of the sureties, the others being Messrs. J. W. Cain and I. Bunting.

IN GERMAN NEW GUINEA.

The western half of the island of New Guinea belongs to the Dutch; the eastern half is divided between England and Germany, the latter occupying the northern part with the adjacent islands of the Bismarck Archipelago. A North German Lloyd steamer connects Singapore with the German colony, making the voyage there and back in about two months. This steamer is generally more full when going to German New Guinea than when returning, for more people go to that country than ever come back. It is one of the most unhealthy regions that has ever been seriously colonised: not only do Europeans suffer from its climate, but Malays; in fact, the native Papuans are the only people who thrive there. Not long ago the steamer took out 400 Chinese as an experiment in colonising. Two months later, on his next trip, the captain inquired how the experiments had answered. Only 80 Chinamen appeared as an answer to that question, malaria and dysentery had accounted for the rest. On board the German steamer Papuans are gradually being drafted into the crew to replace the Malays, and so far there are four brown "boys" from New Pommern and New Mecklenburg (German for New Britain and New Ireland), and one huge black fellow from Bougainville Island. All these boys come from cannibal tribes, and possibly they sometimes eye the succulent passenger wistfully. The Bougainville boy is said to have expressed regret that by coming on the steamer he was missing a special feast at home, and he wears a soft black felt wideawake hat which looks as if it must have belonged to a missionary. These natives appear contented, being well treated on board; but possibly this is due to the fact that their present voyage is a sort of trial trip, after which they are to go as advertisements fat and well-looking to their homes, to tell their fellows the joys of being a sailor, and to bring back recruits for the crew.

Recently, when the steamer was at Matupi, the chief settlement in the Bismark Archipelago, the son of the King of Lord Howe Island came on board to arrange to bring some of his subjects as sailors. Never having seen a steamer before, he was much impressed by its wonders, and expressed the opinion that the steamer was "plenty too much big," and Lord Howe Island "plenty too much small." His feelings, when a lump of ice was placed on the palm of his hand, were evidently of a most thrilling description. He exclaimed that he was being burned. But what pleased him most of all were the electric bells. That the mere pressing of a white knob should cause a pretty sound followed by the punctual appearance of a Chinese steward was to him an endless source of amusement, and he continued pressing the button long after every excuse for ringing had been exhausted, and till even the impassive Chinaman showed signs of being slightly bored by the joke.

The New Guinea Company, who are the chartered company of the country, have for some time been in treaty for transferring their sphere of operations to the German Government, but a new phase has been put on the matter by the discovery of gold in the interior. It is reported that some English prospectors, having unearthed gold in German territory near the Bismarck Mountains, have offered a large sum for a mining concession. Gold-seekers from Australia have for some time been trying their luck in these regions, and not long ago a party of five were picked up in extremities on a raft. Driven to the coast by the natives, they had lost their boats, and drifted for several days on a hastily constructed raft, quenching their thirst by boiling sea-water, and catching the steam in a cloth, from which they wrung out the drops of fresh water. The only drawback to this ingenious method was that they were gradually using up their raft as firewood. They had a fair lot of gold in their pockets, but hardly any food, and a good price would probably have been paid on that raft for a pound of biscuits.

The islands of the Archipelago are not so unhealthy as the mainland of New Guinea, and at Herbertshöhe and Matupi, distant from each other about two hours pull in a boat, lies the main settlement of Europeans, numbering about thirty. At the former place the Roman Catholics have recently erected an imposing iron church with double spires. The European houses are built in an attractive style of wood with a verandah all round, and the whole structure is raised about six feet from the ground on cement blocks to keep the floor above the damp malarial soil. Wood has to be used for building owing to the frequency of earthquakes, which add another drawback to these regions. The scenery, with its volcanoes and wooded mountains, is in many places very fine; and the natives, who are as uncouth and nuclad as can be found anywhere, excite one's interest and disgust in about equal degrees. On the whole, the country is more suited for a visit—and that a flying one—than for a lengthy stay. There is probably no less inviting colony, unless it be German South Africa: for there, not only can men not live, but even the beasts commit suicide, if one may judge from the fact that out of eight camels which were imported into the South-West African colony, seven promptly rushed out to sea and drowned themselves.

To the globe trotter the question of curios is always important, and in this respect New Guinea produces many things of interest to a collector. The Papuans have decidedly artistic instincts, and the carvings of grotesque masks, images, and pillows, on all of which the Papuan countenance, with its prominent long nose, is faithfully reproduced, are quite remarkable, especially as the carving implements are only sharp stones and shells. The usual work is shells, beads, and strings, beautified by various, coloured feather trimmings, and spears and arrows are compounded with an ingenious mixture of art and deviltry.

Almost every village on the mainland, and every island, has its own special language, and the only common tongue is pidjin English, in which the natives manage to express themselves very ingeniously. Thus a train is "steamer belong bush," a bald man is described as "that fellow belong cocoanut no plenty too much grass," while a black servant, being asked what his master was doing, and wishing to express that he was playing the piano, said, "he fight big wood fellow, make him cry plenty too much." Not a bad description of a German pianist. At present the Germans have to learn to master pidjin English; whether they will ever introduce pidjin German remains to be seen, but perhaps some day the natives may learn to shout "Hoch!" for a "grosse fellow Kaiser."—*The Globe.*

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

(FROM THE "JAPAN TIMES.")

THE FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

RUSSIAN ADVOCACY OF EUROPEAN CONTROL.

London, August 19.

The semi-official *Journal de St. Petersbourg* dwells on the difficulties the Americans will experience in introducing autonomy into the Philippines, and advocates its gradual introduction under the strict yet benevolent control of Europe. In America, opinion is strengthening in favour of the retention of the islands.

THE AMERICANS IN CUBA.

London, Aug. 20.

Lawlessness prevails among the American troops occupying Santiago, and is disquieting the Authorities at Washington, who have ordered more regiments to proceed thither.

THE CHINA QUESTION.

RUSSIAN PRESS URGES AGREEMENT WITH ENGLAND.

The *Novoe Vremya* and *Novosti* have adopted a friendly tone towards Great Britain. The latter urges the removal of the discussion on the China question from the heated atmosphere of Peking to London or St. Petersburg, with the view of arriving at an agreement inspired by mutual concessions. M. de Staal, Russian Ambassador, is returning unexpectedly to London.

THE SURRENDER OF MANILA.

SPANISH CHARGE OF INVALIDITY.

SAMPSON'S FLEET AT NEW YORK.

London, August 22.

The Spaniards are raising the contention

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that the surrender of Manila was invalid, because it took place subsequent to the signature of peace.

Admiral Sampson's fleet has arrived at New York, and met with a splendid reception.

THE CAPE ELECTIONS.

TIDE TURNS AGAINST RHODES.

The Cape Elections are going against Cecil Rhodes' party. It is anticipated that the Afrikander Bond will secure a majority of five.

DISCORD IN AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

TROUBLES IN GALICIA.

London, Aug. 23.

Owing to troubles having broken out in Galicia, trial by jury has been suspended in several districts.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

An army transport corps under Colonel Martin has reached the camp at Makawiyesh, four days distant from Atbara. The march was a trying one, and the country traversed was found to be deserted.

FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

London, Aug. 24.

There are indications that President McKinley favours the retention of Luzon only, but nothing definite has been settled. 1,200 more troops left San Francisco on Monday for Manila, but a fast steamer was dispatched to recall them. A large increase in the American Navy is contemplated.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

MARCH ON KHALIFA'S STRONGHOLD.

The Sirdar's army has arrived within forty-five miles of Omdurman.

(Received by the *Fiji*.)

RUSSIA IN CHINA.

Peking, Aug. 17.

Russia has demanded China's assurance to the effect that even when English capital is to be employed in constructing the Shanghai-kwan to Newchang Railway, the line will never be used as security, nor that any supervision of whatsoever character shall be invested in aliens. China has acquiesced to this demand. It is supposed here that England will not consent to furnish the loan under such conditions.

THE "GREMIASTCHY."

Chemulpo, August 24.

The Russian warship *Gremiastchy* entered this port to-day.

MARQUIS ITO.

Söul, August 25.

Marquis Ito and party left Chemulpo this morning at 5 o'clock and arrived here at 4 p.m. After an hour's rest the Marquis was received by His Majesty the Korean Emperor in audience, the interview lasting for about an hour. A dinner party is to be held in his honour this evening at the Court.

[From the "Shanghai Daily Press."]

THE FALL OF MANILA.

Hongkong, Aug. 16.

The Americans bombarded the outskirts of Manila and on the 13th the Spaniards surrendered. The city has not suffered any serious damage.

THE REASON.

Governor General Augustin told a lady here that Admiral Dewey demanded a surrender within one hour. The Spaniards declined and Admiral Dewey bombarded the city.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL BOLTS.

When the Spaniards raised a white flag Governor-General Augustin jumped into a German launch which was in waiting and went aboard the *Kaiserin Augusta*, which immediately sailed for Hongkong.

HOW MANILA WAS TAKEN.

The details of the taking of Manila are as follows:—A simultaneous attack was made by land and sea. The troops stormed the trenches and forced the Spaniards to retreat into Manila Intramura (the walled city), where they surrendered.

THE NAVAL PART.

The squadron silenced the forts and the quick-firing guns of the gunboats made more havoc, raking five vessels. The American land attacking force consisted of 10,000 men: the losses are unknown.

THE LOSSES ON THE U.S. SIDE.

Hongkong, August 17.

The *Zafiro* has arrived and reports that the Americans lost six killed and forty wounded in the taking of Manila, while the Spaniards lost considerably.

MARTIAL LAW.

Martial law has been proclaimed in Manila.

TERMS OF CAPITULATION.

The terms of capitulation are: the surrender of the islands, the officers are to give parole, whilst the troops are to be considered prisoners of war, and all public property is to be surrendered.

STRANDING OF H.M.S. "BLENHEIM."

Hongkong, Aug. 18.

H. M. cruiser *Blenheim* arrived here to-day. She grounded on the Kowloon shore, but is expected to be got off at high tide to-morrow.

SIGNIFICANT SIGNS.

Owing to indications of impending trouble, the relief crew brought out by the *Blenheim* will not be transferred to the *Barfleur*. H.M.S. *Hermione* is sailing for Weihaiwei on Tuesday next and the *Barfleur* is to be ready for sea within six days. Great activity prevails in the Naval Yard.

(From Java and Sources.)

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND: STRAINED RELATIONS.

Peking, Aug. 17.

The relations between Russia and Great Britain in China are regarded as seriously strained, and the situation wears a grave aspect.

THE RICE CROP.

Yamaguchi, Aug. 20.

The rice harvest has commenced, and the crop is reported to be a full one.

Utsunomiya, Aug. 20.

The hot weather continues. The rice crop is expected to be plentiful.

THE INDUSTRIAL BANK.

Wakayama, Aug. 22.

Mr. Tani Kin-ichiro, the Manager of the Industrial Bank, arrived yesterday. He entertained many wealthy merchants and farmers at a restaurant, and placed before them a proposal of raising debentures. It is said that the 43rd National Bank will act as agent for the Industrial Bank.

SCENE AT A GARDEN PARTY: A GENERAL DRAWS HIS SABRE AGAINST A SPEAKER.

Sapporo, August 23.

The celebration of the opening of traffic on the railway took place on the 21st, and next day a large number of persons were invited to a garden party. Mr. Kudo Kokan, the ex-Progressist, now a high official of the Hokkaido Government, delivered a speech in which he criticized the administration of Hokkaido by Lieut. General Nagayama during his period of office as Governor-General. Lieut.-General Nagayama, who is now Commander-in-Chief of the 7th Army Division, was among the guests, and, exasperated by this address, drew his sabre and tried to make his way to the speaker, as if he intended to kill him. Great confusion followed.

THE KIBI RAILWAY.

Okayama, Aug. 24.

The Chugoku Railway Company, at its recent general meeting, decided to purchase the Kibi Railway for *yen* 600,000

HOUSES DESTROYED BY LIGHTNING.

Nagoya, Aug. 24.

Last night a heavy thunder storm prevailed in this locality. At a village called Kumitagui, over 30 houses were burned down through lightning.

THE RICE CROP.

Kumamoto, Aug. 24.

The weather is most favourable, and the rice crop is expected to be very good. Prices have a downward tendency.

Sano, Shimotsuke, Aug. 24.

The markets are generally quiet, and in rather bad condition. Last night a heavy storm was experienced.

Hiroshima, Aug. 24.

In view of the expectations of an abundant crop prices have been reduced.

KOREAN NEWS.

Söul, Aug. 24.

Mr. Pak Saijun has been appointed Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Yenyozen Councillor; Mr. Choheishaku, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Mr. Yukikwan, Vice-Minister of Military Affairs.

An official named Kim Koriku has been condemned to transportation by an edict of the Emperor. The charge is that he intentionally misinterpreted to the Russian Minister when the latter had an audience with his majesty.

SURRENDER IN FORMOSA.

Taipeh, Aug. 25.

Another leader and 1,800 rioters have surrendered.

STORM.

Tsu (Ise), Aug. 25.

Heavy rains with N.E. winds prevail.

Sano, Aug. 15.

Violent storms have been experienced here. All the rivers are expected to overflow.

PRINCE KONOYE.

Kyoto, Aug. 25.

Prince Konoye left here to-day for Tokyo.

MARQUIS IWAKURA.

Kobe, Aug. 25.

Yesterday Marquis Iwakura arrived here. To-day he proceeded to Mikage to see Count Matsukata.

MARQUIS ITO

Söul, Aug. 25.

Yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock Marquis Ito arrived here. At 5 o'clock he proceeded to the Imperial Palace and had a lengthy audience of the Emperor. A grand dinner was afterwards given him.

MANILA HARBOUR OPEN.

A Manila despatch to the Department of Foreign Affairs, dated the 23rd, reports that communication by cable between Hongkong and Manila was resumed on the 21st. Manila Harbour was opened on the 14th to commerce.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta 1	M. Aug. 29
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Aug. 31
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 2	Th. Sept. 1
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan 3	M. Sept. 5
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	—	W. Sept. 7
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. Sept. 8
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Sa. Sept. 10

1 Left Nagasaki on the 25th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 23th inst.
3 Left Vancouver on the 2d Sept.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Aztec	F. Aug. 26
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Satsuma Maru	W. Aug. 31
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Sept. 2
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	F. Sept. 2
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Sept. 5
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Sept. 7
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Sept. 9
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Tu. Sept. 13

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

Solution of Problem No. 381.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to Kt 5	1—P to B 4 ch
2—P takes P e.p. mate	
	1—P to Q 6
2—B takes Kt mate	
	1—B takes P
2—Kt takes B mate	
	1—B to K 7
2—Q takes B mate	
	1—P to B 5
2—R takes Kt mate	
	1—R to K sq
2—Q takes R mate	
	1—Kt (R 4) moves
2—B to B 4 mate	
	1—Kt (Kt 7) moves
2—Kt to Q 3 mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Marco, Miss S., L B (Nikko), and D.D.

Solution of Problem No. 382.

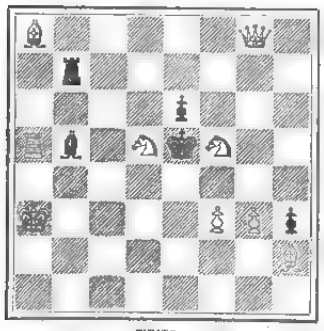
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to R 3	1—P to B 8=Q
2—Q takes Q mate	
	1—B takes P or moves
2—Q to B 8 mate	
	1—B (Kt 8) moves
2—Q mates	
	1—R to Q 4
2—R to B 3 mate	
	1—R any other
2—Q mates	
	1—Kt moves
2—Q takes P mates	
	1—Either P advances
2—Q mates	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Miss S., L.B. (Nikko), and D.D.

Problem No. 385.

By G. R. Makeham.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in two moves.

Game No. 421.

Games Played in the Vienna Tourney.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—Horn.		Black—Tarrasch.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	17 B Q3	Kt R5
2 P QB4	P K3	18 R QB2	PxP
3 QKt B3	P QB3	19 BxQBP	Kt KB4
4 P K3	B Q3	20 K R-q(f)	B Kt3
5 Kt B3	P KB4	21 BxKP	KtxQP
6 B K2	Kt Q2	22 B Kt4	R R-q
7 Castles	Q B3(a)	23 R Q2	KtxKP(g)
8 Kt Ksq(b)	Q R3	24 BxB	RxB
9 P KKt3	P KKt4	25 RxKt	BxR
10 P B3(c)	Kt K2	26 QxB	RxPch(h)
11 P K4(d)	P B5	27 K Kt-q	Q R-q
12 P K5	B B2	28 BxP(i)	PxB
13 P KKt4	Q Kt2	29 Kt K4	R R8ch
14 R B2	P KR4	30 K B2	K Kt5ch
15 R Kt2(e)	Kt Kt3	Resigns.	
16 PxRP	RxP		

NOTES.

(a) Particular attention should be devoted to the manner in which Black as second player gets up an attack; in respect of this the game is an example which may be followed with advantage.

(b) This move facilitates Black's design. We should have preferred R to Kt sq; after this neither Q to R 3 nor P to KKt 4 were possible, owing to White's threat of 9—P to K 4.

(c) We should have preferred P to B 4.

(d) A reasonable and promising advance.

(e) Things were safe for the moment; it was not likely that Black would play RP takes P; as this would liberate White's B and Kt. White should, therefore, have tried to consolidate his game by such moves as P to B 5 and B to Q 3.

(f) Black threatened Kt takes P, as the Q could not retake owing to B to Kt 3. White now suffers through having neglected to play P to B 5 to prevent disintegration on the Q's wing also.

(g) Very clever. R takes Kt would obviously be unprofitable now, and it is surprising that White yielded to the temptation later on.

(h) A pretty finish to an incisively played game. Of course if 27—K takes R, Kt-Kt 5 ch wins the Q.

(i) White had no defence. 28—Kt to Kt 2 was impossible owing to Kt takes P ch; or if 28—Q to K 4, R to R 8 ch, 29—K to B 2, Q to R 5 ch, and mate next move.

Game No. 422.

Vienna Tournament.

RUY LOPEZ.

White—Dr. Tarrasch.		Black—W. Steinitz.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	16 B R4	P KR4
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	17 PxP	PxP
3 B Kt5	P Q3	18 P B4	B K2
4 P Q4	B Q2	19 B B2	P R4
5 Kt B3	Kt KB3	20 P K5	PxP
6 Castles	B K2	21 PxP	Kt R4
7 R K-q	PxP	22 P K6	BxP
8 KtxP	Castles	23 RxB	PxR
9 KtxKt	PxKt	24 QxPch	Kt Kt2
10 B Q3	R Ksq	25 Q K6	R K5
11 P KR3	B KB-q	26 K KB q	R KB5
12 B KKt5	P KR3	27 Q R7ch	K B-q
13 B R4	R Ktsq	28 B Kt 6 and White wins (a)	
14 R Kt-q	P Kt4		
15 B Kt3	P Kt5		

NOTE.

(a) White's play is very vigorous, but he had only to take full advantage of the position. Black compromised his game by advancing his K side pawns. The game is very pleasing. The sacrifice of R for B at move 22, &c., is obvious and conclusive.

Game No. 423.

Ruy Lopez

White—D. Janowski.		Black—P. Lipke.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	21 P KKt4	B K5
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	22 R Q4	P KR3
3 B K5	P QR3	23 B R4	KtxB
4 B R4	Kt B3	24 QxKt	P QB4
5 Castles	KtxKP	25 RxP	BxR
6 P Q4	P QKt4	26 BxB	QR Q-q
7 B Kt3	P Q4	27 B B6	P B5ch
8 PxKP	B K3	28 K B-q	R KB-q
9 P QB3	B K2	29 Q B2	QxQch
10 R K-q	Castles	30 KxQ	R Q6
11 QKt1Q2	KtxKt	31 P KR4	KR Q q
12 QxKt	Q Q2	32 P B5	K B-q
13 Q Q3	KR Q q	33 P Kt5	R R6
14 Kt K5	BxKt	34 R K4	R Q7ch
15 BxB	Kt K2	35 K Ksq	RxKtP
16 P KB4	B B4	36 P K6	PxKP
17 Q Kt3	P QB3	37 RxKP	PxKtP
18 P KR3	R K-q	38 PxP	RxBP
19 QR Q-q	Kt Kt3		Black wins.
20 Q B2	Q R2		

Game No. 424.

Ruy Lopez.

White—Pillsbury.		Black—Tarrasch.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK
1 P K4	P K4	26 BxR	RxB
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	27 QR Q q	B B-q
3 B Kt5	P QR3	28 R Q4	P Kt3(f)
4 B R4	Kt B3	29 KR O-q	Kt Kt2(g)
5 Castles	KtxP	30 R Q7	R Kt-q
6 P Q4	P QKt4	31 KR Q5	K Ksq
7 B Kt3	P Q4	32 K B-q	Kt B4
8 P QR4(a)	P Kt5	33 R R7	R QB-q
9 P R5	KtxQP	34 P KKt3	B Kt2
10 KtxKt	PxKt	35 P K3	B B-q
11 QxP	P QB3	36 P R4	R QB3
12 Kt Q2	Kt Kt4(b)	37 R Q8	R B3
13 B R4	B Q2	38 R K8	P B5
14 R K-q ch	Kt K3	39 R Kt6	R B4
15 Kt B3	B K2	40 P Kt4	R Q4
16 Q Kt4	Castles	41 K Kt2	R Q5
17 Kt K5	Q B2	42 R Kt8	R Q2
18 B B1	B Q3	43 RxR	KtxR
19 B KKt3	P KB4	44 R Kt7	Kt B4
20 Q Q-q	Kt B4(c)	45 RxKtP	B Q3
21 KtxB	QxKt(d)	46 R K 6	B K2
22 QxPch(e)	PxQ	47 P Kt4	Kt R5
23 BxQ	BxB	48 RxP	BxQKtP
24 B B6	B Q3	49 R R8ch	K B2
25 BxPch	K Ksq	50 P R6	Resigns(h)

NOTES.

(a) The usual continuation, of course, is P takes P. The text move was first played by Tschigorin v. Rosenthal in the London Tournament, 1883.

(b) Up to here both sides follow the game mentioned, but here Dr. Tarrasch improves upon Rosenthal's 12..... Q to B 3 with the text-move.

(c) It is difficult to find the best continuation now, White having his pieces well posted. The tempting 20..... P to B 5, for instance, would be bad, because of Kt takes B, Q takes Kt; Q takes P with advantage. The text-move, however seems not to be satisfactory either, as White gives up two minor pieces for the exchange and two pawns.

(d) Kt takes B seems to retain the pawn ahead.

(e) This line of play yields White the best chances, independently of the result of the game.

(f) K to Kt sq might be considered as a preferable alternative.

(g) If Kt takes P, then R to R sq, &c.

(h) Perhaps Dr. Tarrasch could have played the ending better, but it is one of extreme difficulty to conduct in actual play.—*Field.*

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, K. Soyeda, 19th August,—Yokkaichi, 18 August, General, —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 19th August,—Shanghai via ports, 13th August, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 19th August,—Otaru via ports, 14th August, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Marguerite Else, French barque, 1,225, Charles Cezard, 20th Aug.,—Antwerp via Dunkirk, 11th Nov., Antwerp; 6th March, Dunkirk, Pipes.—C. and J. Fravre Brandidt.

Oopack, British steamer, 2,517, J. Barber, 21st Aug.,—Liverpool via ports, 20th Aug., General, —W. M. Strachan & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 20th Aug.,—Otaru via ports, 15th Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 21st Aug.,—Yokkaichi, 20th Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, M. J. Curnow, 22nd August,—Kobe, 20th August, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,031, N. Ohno, 22nd Aug.,—Kobe, 20th Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, T. Sealby, 22nd Aug.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 21st Aug., Mails and General.—O. & O S.S. Co.

Indus, French steamer, 2,300, Vaquier, 23rd Aug., —Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 22nd Aug., Mails and General.—M.M. S.S Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, K. Soyeda, 23rd Aug.,—Yokkaichi, 22nd Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Remus, German steamer, 1,722, J. H. Schwaner, 24th Aug.,—New York via ports, Kobe, 23rd Aug., General.—Frazar & Co.

Hitachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,800, C. Hillcoat, 24th Aug.,—Nagasaki, 20th Aug., Ballast. Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, W. Brady, 14th Aug.,—Otaru via ports, 19th Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, N. Mumezono, 25th Aug.,—Kobe, 23rd Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 24th August,—Yokkaichi 23rd August, General —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Aztec, Hawaiian steamer, 2,303, G. Trask, 25th Aug.,—San Francisco, 4th Aug., Mails and General.—P. M. S S. Co.

Chitose Maru, Japanese steamer, 328, K. Tsuda, 25th Aug.,—Otaru, 22nd Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Narcissus (12). British Cruiser, 5,600. Capt. K. King-Hall, 19th Aug.,—Wei-hai-wei.

Centurion (14), British Flagship, 10,500, Capt. J. R. Jellicoe, 19th Aug.,—Wei-hai-wei.

Victorious (16), British Battleship, 14,900, Capt. A. Schomberg, 19th Aug.,—Wei-hai-wei.

Hanay (6), British Torpedo Boat Destroyer, 260, Lt.-Com. A. Gillespie, 19th Aug.,—Wei-hai-wei.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,878, Hadley, 19th August,—Sydney, Ballast. General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Oburein, British steamer, 1,691, T. H. Dobson,

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19th August,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Catlill & Co.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, N. Muramezono, 19th Aug.,—Yokkaichi and Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakamoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, F. W. Horton, 19th Aug.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001 Y. Yamanouchi, 19th Aug.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 10th Aug.,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, K. Soyekawa, 20th Aug.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,589, P. H. Going, 20th Aug.,—Marseilles, London, and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, K. Nakajima, 21st Aug.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Ishikawa, 21st Aug.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Frundsberg, (9), Austrian Corvette, 1,400, Capt. Lucian von Zieglèr, 22nd August,—Kobe.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 22nd Aug.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Patroclus, British steamer, 3,323, Dickens, 22nd Aug.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, J. W. Ekstrand, 23rd Aug.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,652, R. Nunome, 23rd Aug.,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, M. J. Curnow, 23rd Aug.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sarnia, German steamer, 2,052, Ehlers, 24th Aug.,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 24th Aug.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, Inman Scathy, 24th Aug.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 24th Aug.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. K. Hasegawa, Mrs. M. Kato and 2 children, Mrs. T. Kudzu and 2 children, Mrs. N. Tsuji, Mrs. K. Tsuji, Mr. G. Konoki, Mrs. Morehouse, Mr. A. R. Morris, Mr. Tsui de Sue, and Mr. Sui Tai Yuen, in cabin; Mrs. M. Hibino and child, Mrs. M. Takebayashi and child, Mr. T. Ishio, Mr. R. Fuchikami, Mr. Shu Yue Chen, Mr. Shu Tsu Hai, Mr. Nei Yue Chin, Mr. Wan Dai She, Mr. Wan Dai Kiu, Mr. Tsui Kau Lum, Mr. Hau Sau, Mr. Shin Sang, Mr. Chin Jo Hon, Mr. Wu Dau Yue, Mr. Wu Pbio, Mr. Wu Chai, and Mr. Yuen Yu Tai, in second class; 31 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, C.B.:—Mrs. Geo. Castleman, maid and valet, Mr. Geo. Clarke, Mrs. Geo. Clarke, Mrs. Mary E. Crowe, Miss Dudley, Mr. W. S. Dugdale, Le Comte Charles d'Uisel and valet, Mr. D. M. Dyckerhoff, Mr. Otto Dyckerhoff, Mr. F. W. Edwards, Mr. W. H. Flavelle, Mrs. W. H. Flavelle, Major G. W. Fox, Mr. C. Fox, Mr. F. E. Glazebrook, Mrs. F. E. Glazebrook and child, Mr. P. McGregor Grant, Mr. Geo. B. Halstead, Mr. J. A. Hawes, Mr. T. E. Horiye, Mr. W. P. Johnson, Capt. Jones, R.N., Mr. M. Kameyama, Mr. M. Kerr, Mons. Larme, Madame, Larme, Mr. W. L. Lawrence, Dr. Lee, Mrs. F. A. Morgan and 3 children, Miss Murai, Mr. S. O, Mr. E. M. Paget, Miss M. A Postlewaite, Commander M. Parks, R.N., Mr. Geo. H. Quick, Mr. S. H. Reynold, Mr. N. Sato, Mr. F. W. Smith, R.N., Miss C. E Sterling, Miss Taylor and maid, Mr. Reid Taylor, Mr. Jas. W. Thorne, Mr. Lyman Tiffany, Mr. Stanton Tiffany, Surg-Major J. F. Tuohy, Mr. E. H. Tuska, Mrs. O. H. Waldo, Mr. Wm. A. Wilson, and Mr. Woltemar, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Olympia*, for Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C.:—Mr. D. McGougall, Mrs. S. L. Gill, Mrs. M. Ammann, Miss M. E. Williams, Mons. and Mdme. Bellesort, Mr. Geo. B. Clark, and Mr. Carl Refardt, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from Hongkong, via ports:—Miss A. Akin, Mr. Hugh McPhail, Mrs. E. Holliday, Dr. and Mrs. Muirhard, Mr. R. C. Fairbridge, Mr. J. Conder, Mr. H. J. Allen, Miss A. Allen, Mr. Goldkoop, Miss J. H. Drowne, Mr. and Mrs. W. Schmidt, Mr. H. E. Reynell, Mr. Bruce Webster, Capt. W. W. White, and Mr. Mr. L. Ellis, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mrs. Mr. Powley, Mrs. A. Carr, Miss Alice McGilvary, Mr. M. Rosenthal and wife, Mr. Taro, Mr. Hart Buck, Mr. A. Herbert, Mr. C. S. Burr, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Griffin, Mr. H. J. Craig, Mr. T. Werleitzky, and Mrs. Bowie, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Indus*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. E. W. von Ruskouski, Mr. W. C. J. Keep, Mr. and Mrs. Cujiso, Captain Maire, Mr. E. Lalla, Mr. A. Schnopps, Mr. Kattmann, Mr. Arthur Smith, Mr. and Mrs. G. Peach, and child, Mr. K. Miyakawa, Mr. L. de Micheau, Mr. J. A. Repeau, Mr. H. Brettschneider, Mr. E. H. Joseph, Mr. and Miss Howard, Mr. C. S. Gubby, Mr. Baid, Mr. Mottet, Mr. Berto, and Mr. Putmann in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Tosa Maru*, for London via ports:—Com. S. Nakamura, Com. K. Yoshimi, Sub-Inspector of Snr. S. Ichiwara, Lieut. T. Kimura, Chief-Eng. Y. Kawai, Sub-Lieut. R. Takenouchi, Eng. T. Terajima, Second Lieut. H. Fukatsu, Second Lieut. S. Iwasaki, Sub Lieut. S. Maruyama, Mr. G. C. Siegfield, and Mr. Charles Crowther in cabin; Mr. K. Tomita, Mr. M. Suzuki, Mr. Y. Mizutani, Mr. R. Morimoto, Mr. K. Matsuzaki, and Mr. H. Horiguchi in second class, and 226 men of *Asama* in steerage.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. Percy Alden, Mr. Hart Buck, Mr. C. S. Burr, Mr. H. P. Bowie, Miss Bloomingdale, Mrs. G. W. Bramhall, Master W. O. Bramhall, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Behrens, Miss Myrtle Bagnall, Mrs. H. Carr, Mr. H. J. Craig, Mr. and Mrs. F. Dumas, Surgeon Lieut. J. V. Forrest, Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Fiedler, Dr. and Mrs. F. M. Griffin, Mr. A. Herbert, Miss Hogg, Miss G. G Hogg, Mr. C. F. Heidlem, Mr. Bierens de Haan, Mr. K. Hoshina, Mr. F. W. Lawrence, Miss Alice McGilvary, Mr. A. McKillop, Mr. S. Matsumura, Mrs. M. Powley, Mr. and Mrs. M. Rosenthal, Miss Margaret Scott, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Sidebotham, Mr. W. Taro, Mr. Y. Uchida, Mr. James A. Wilder, and Mr. T. Werglentzky, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. T. Toppe, Mr. D. Sato, Capt. T. Murai, Col. K. Masamitsu (I.J.A.) and son, Mrs. W. Masamitsu, Mr. H. Clement, Capt. M. Yagi, Mr. and Mrs. D. Yamaguchi, Rev. and Mrs. W. R. Foote, Rev. D. McRae, Dr. and Mrs. R. Grierson, Major T. Yamamoto, Mr. Tullock, Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich, Mr. G. D. Poli, Miss Sieger, Miss Waters, Mr. A. Wright, Mr. Edward Ezra, Mr. J. E. D Ezra, Mr. and Mrs. T. Matsuda, Mr. C. S. Bentley, Mr. E. Siebert, Mr. J. Northey, Mr. Paul Le Prevost, Master Hector Le Prevost, Mr. J. J. F. Bandinel, Mr. F. E. Barto, and Mr. L. C. Putman, in cabin; Mrs. T. Matsuda, and Mrs. S. Tsai, in second class; 2 Chinese, 3 European, and 35 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Thomson and child, Captain W. R. Little, Mr. E. G. Lowder's 3 children, Miss Evesall, Mr. F. A. Morgan, Mrs. Bird, Mr. B. A. S. Barrett, Mr. J. Portnasch, Mr. Chow Kam Wo, Mr. Tai Tuck Tong, Mr. J. J. Watt, Mr. G. Holmes and native servant, Mr. J. Crowther, Dr. J. B. Fowler, Mr. A. E. Wileman, Mr. Hue Cho, Mr. and Mrs. Stedman, Mr. W. J. Schroth, Mr. Challoub, Mr. Antari, and Miss Bates in cabin; 5 Chinese and one Indian in steerage.

CARGOES.

The following are the shipments of Tea and Silk, per British steamer *Olympia*, for Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL PACKAGES.
Hongkong	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amoy	—	530	2,373	—	—	2,903
Foochow	731	862	—	25	—	1,618
Shanghai	762	1,093	—	134	—	1,994
Kobe	935	1,773	383	—	—	3,091
Yokohama	80	2,353	1,766	312	—	5,016
Colombo	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,508	6,622	4,527	971	—	14,628

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL BALES.
Hongkong	310	—	310
Yokohama	207	—	207
Total	517	—	517

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	DUBUQUE.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL PACKAGES.
Hongkong	221	—	17	212	—	60	510
Amoy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foochow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai	2,842	933	742	189	—	—	4,706
Hankow	861	—	—	150	—	—	1,011
Kobe	1,760	—	—	47	—	—	1,807
Yokohama	7,316	1,633	1,037	117	—	—	10,103
Total	13,000	2,566	1,987	715	—	60	18,537

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Hongkong and Canton	340	—	340
Shanghai	356	—	356
Chefoo	—	—	—
Yokohama	1089	10	1099
Total	1785	10	1795

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 440 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 117 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The stagnation continues, without any palpable signs of improvement. Prices nominally as before.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	4.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2 00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 14 inches	1.75 to 2 60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 2 3 75
Cotton—Italians and Sattreens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0 15 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches heal	0.18 to 0.41
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0 15 to 0 17
Cloths—Pilots, 54 & 56 inches	0 35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 & 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 & 56 inches	0.50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per lb	0 50 to 0 60

	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 21 inches	7 75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.60 to 2.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.25 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 2 60, Plain	61 00 to 63.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	75 00 to 76.30
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99 00
Nos. 2 60, Gassed	69 50 to 76.50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	114.00 to 124.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$19.50 to —
Indian Broach	19.25 —
Chinese	21.00 to 21.50

METALS.

The market is still without life.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch. and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4 00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4.90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5 90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5 95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to ⅛ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

Market still quiet. Quotations at last week's figures.

American	$2 05 —
Russian	1.95 to 2.00
Langkat	— 1.85

SUGAR.

A steady business has been done at prices fully maintaining last week's level.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.40 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.10 to 6.20
Brown Daitong	3.90 to 4.30
Brown Canton	4.20 to 5.85
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.25
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Expensive purchases have been made, and prices are fully maintained. The *Coptic* took 478

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bales to America on Wednesday, and 440 bales were shipped to Europe by the *Rohilla*.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	$955 to 960
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	905 to 915
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	920 to 930
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	860 to 870
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	900 to 910
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	880
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	855
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	830
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	880 to 890
Kakedas—No. 1	850 to 860
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	810 to 820
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is quite lifeless. A stock of 5,498 piculs remains on hand. Quotations nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 103
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	85 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 22½

TEA.

The market continues active, and, despite large arrivals of new leaf, prices are well maintained The stock in Yokohama at present exceeds a million pounds.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$35 & upwards
Choice	$33 to 34
Finest	31 to 32
Fine	29 to 30
Good Medium	27 to 28
Medium	25 to 26
Good Common	23 to 24
Common	21 to 22

EXCHANGE.

A decline of ¼ in silver from London and a similar reduction in the sterling quotation from Hongkong has caused the rate on that place to be raised, but it is the only change made in rates ruling yesterday.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0¼ to 5/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 5/16
— — 4 months' sight	2 0⅜
— Private 4 months' sight	2 0⅜
— — 6 months' sight	2 0⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	2.55⅛
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.59
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50¼
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06¼
— Private 4 months' sight	2.10¼
On Hongkong—Bank sight	4⅛% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	5⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	76
— Private 10 days' sight	77¼
On India—Bank sight	153
— Private 30 days' sight	156
Bar Silver (London)	27 11/16

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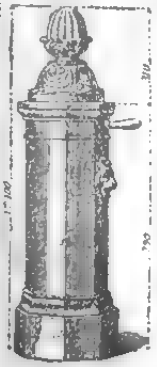

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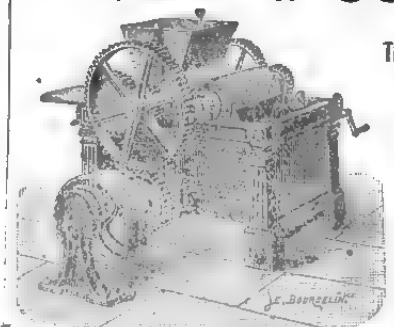

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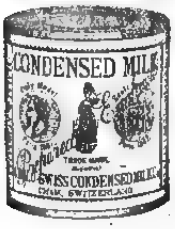

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"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, SEPT. 3RD, 1898.

BIRTH.

At Mount Unzen, near Nagasaki on the 22nd inst., the wife of Rev. H. V. S. PEERS, of a daughter.

DEATH.

On the 31st ult., at No. 62, Bluff, Mrs. W. H. HARDY, widow of the late Capt. W. H. Hardy, in her 34th year.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Spanish Cortes have been convoked for the 5th September.

THE later gains of the Rhodes party in the Cape elections render the issue doubtful.

DYSENTERY is still prevalent in Tokyo, while in the provinces its ravages are very serious.

MARQUIS ITO had a warm welcome at Söul and Chemulpho. He is now *en route* to Tientsin.

THE Chinese Emperor has issued an edict commanding the suppression of the Kwangsi disturbance within a month. His Majesty is so irritated by the event that he has deprived the Governor of Kwangsi of his rank and titles.

THERE were 2,300 deaths from the plague in the Bombay Presidency last week, and 156 in the city.

THE action of the Bismarck family towards the German Emperor is causing much adverse comment in Europe.

THE Welsh colliers on strike, having withdrawn their original demands, met the masters, but the conference proved abortive.

THE line between Ahiko and Ajiki, on the Narita Railway, having been completed, was opened to traffic on the 1st September.

THE question of the State ownership of railways is now warmly debated, the issue dividing men on strictly political lines.

THE 210th day—always watched with anxious interest by the farmers of Japan—passed without any serious climatic disturbances this year.

A MAN named Tanaka Saijiro, aged 30, employed at Shimbashi Railway Station, had his left foot cut off by an engine on the 27th ult.

FRANCE is said to be rather piqued at the Czar's disarmament proposals—or rather at not having been consulted before the Vote was circulated.

THE negotiations between Russia and Great Britain, now proceeding at St. Petersburg, are said to be progressing in a most friendly spirit.

MR. MASATO, an official of the Central Meteorological Bureau, on the 27th left for Yuensan, Korea, and Vladivostock to undertake a survey.

A MANILA despatch recently received says that the price of hemp, in which trade is active, is about 30 per cent. higher than before the war.

IT is reported from China that the delay in the attack on Manila was due to General Merritt, the Navy being ready four or five days before the Army.

THE Emperor of China will henceforth be present at the Palace examinations for the Doctor's degree. He will himself give out the themes.

THE Guild of *saké* brewers has decided to hold a meeting on the 9th Sept. at the Kinkikwan, Kanda, Tokyo, to consider the taxation proposals.

THE garrison in Formosa now comprises 15 battalions, but it will be reduced to 10 battalions, as the rebels are giving much less trouble than before.

A RUMOUR was current in Paris at the close of last week that the French ironclad *Bruix* had foundered in the Indian Ocean. Happily it turned out not to be true.

THE Koya Railway Company has decided to raise debentures of *yen* 100,000 at 10 per cent. It is said the Company has already made terms with a foreign capitalist.

IT is reported that the inhabitants of Naoetsu, Niigata Prefecture, are becoming turbulent, the waterpilk market is entirely dead. The authorities imposed heavy taxes, about six times greater than those in force before the great fire last year, in order to rebuild the streets.

ON the 22nd ult. the steamer *Chikugogawa Maru*, of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, sustained injuries to her engines off Tokuyama. The *Keelung Maru* took her place and left for Fusan. The *Chikugogawa Maru* will be repaired at Tokuyama or Moji.

THE Czar has electrified the world this week by issuing a Note to the Powers urging the meeting of an International Conference that shall discuss the possibility of forming a real and lasting peace and the termination of the present progressive increase of armaments.

THREE robbers named Nakachi, Nimeda, and Okada, who, on the 23rd last December entered a house occupied by a farmer, at Tsuzuki-gori, Kanagawa Prefecture, and menaced him and his family with swords and other weapons, were sentenced to 14 years' penal servitude each on the 25th ult.

A PORTUGUESE named S. Severim, aged 37, late a clerk in the service of the Kirin Beer Brewery Company, Yokohama, who was under preliminary examination at the District Court, Tokyo, has become insane. He had been sent to Sugamo Prison for fraud and while staying there another charge was brought against him.

THE inquiries as to the proposed construction of Kobe Harbour have been completed by the Committee, who will report to the Assembly of City Councillors within a few days. The authorities of Hyogo Kencho will forward a Bill for a subsidy in the coming session of the Diet. The estimated cost of a new harbour is *yen* 10,000,000

THE Kyoto Agricultural and Commercial Bank have applied to the Kyoto District Court for an order to confiscate the properties of Mr. Kurakawa, Director of the Japan Trading Co., Kyoto, and the shareholders, Messrs. Otsubo Denroku, Okamoto Jisuke, and 32 others. The Company failed to meet promissory notes to the value of *yen* 10,672.80.

AGAIN the province of Kwangsi is the scene of a rebellion of a serious nature. A party of rebels has marched to a spot 50 miles north-east of Canton. The northern gate of the city is strongly defended by the Black Flags. The rebel army has declared itself in a most resolute manner to be intent on the expulsion of foreigners. The press of Canton has been prohibited by the authorities from reporting the victory of the rebels.

IN taking a review of the trade of the week, as regards imports nothing new can be said. Both in textiles and metals the market is entirely without life. Beyond the usual business in sugar there is nothing doing. On the export side, the tea trade continues active, and large purchases have been made at prices ranging from $35 per picul for the best quality to $21 for commonest kinds. There is still a big stock on hand. Raw silk moves off fairly well, but

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

Japanese journalists continue to discuss the Philippine problem with keen interest. There is now no suggestion of any alternative policy. All agree that Japan's interests and the preservation of the peace of the East will be best consulted if the islands pass finally into the hands of America: their retention by Spain would be a standing invitation to foreign aggression, now that the helplessness of that Power has been demonstrated. Concerning the objection that in order to subjugate the insurgents and garrison the islands the United States would have to employ a force larger than the whole of her present standing army, the *Kokumin* urges that such considerations ought not to weigh with her. She did not take any account of the cost when she engaged in war solely for the sake of rescuing the Cubans from misgovernment and oppression, and she ought to pursue her magnanimous policy towards Manila also though the effort may be considerable. It is interesting to note that Japanese writers do not regard as worthy of discussion the idea of recognising the independence of the islands for which Aguinaldo and his people have fought. They have ceased to pay any attention to that solution of the problem. Obviously a rooted conviction exists that Germany, France and Russia have entered into some kind of union, or arrived at an understanding, and that, in the event of their not finding the decision of the Paris Conference to their liking, they will interfere resolutely. In order to guard against that contingency, Japan should approach England and America, so that the trio may be prepared to take concerted action. It is unnecessary to repeat the arguments employed. Neither the *Yomiuri*, the *Mainichi*, nor the *Kokumin*, which are now most prominent in this discussion, contributes any idea that has not been advanced more than once already.

* * *

Marquis Ito's visit to Korea having produced a Pro-Japanese feeling in the official circles of that country, for the moment at all events, it is suggested by the *Yomuri Shimbun* that the opportunity should be realized to push the question of the Sōul Fusan Railway. Japan has treated this matter with much patience. The grant of a charter for the construction of the line was one of the promises made by Korea after the war of 1894-5, it being stipulated that the details should be subsequently arranged. Every effort made since that time to obtain the fulfilment of the promise has been defeated, the Korean authorities always finding some excuse for evasion or postponement. There is a limit to Japan's long suffering. Her Representative in Sōul had better make another appeal to Korea's sense of justice and honour.

* * *

With reference to this subject of the Sōul-Fusan Railway, the *Shogyo Shimpo* alleges that Korean officialdom is divided between three opinions. One is that the charter should not be given but sold to Japan, and that if the matter is adroitly manipulated, the Treasury may be enriched to the extent of a million *yen*. Another is that the concession should be made conditional upon Japan's agreeing to surrender the Korean political refugees now living in this country. The third is that as the blood of the Korean Queen stains Japan's hands, no privilege of any kind should be granted to the Japanese. Our contemporary adds, however, that these objections have no real value; that the charter will probably be obtained without much further delay, and that all the Foreign Representatives in Soul endorse Japan's claim.

* * *

Some of the Opposition journals are not at all satisfied to let the Kyobashi incident pass out of sight. They insist that it has disturbed the *entente* between the Liberals and the Progressists much more than either side is willing to acknowledge, and on the strength of that hypothesis they bitterly criticise the Constitutional Party for quarrelling over such trifles. The *Tokyo Asahi*, however, takes a more radical line. It maintains that the Progressist-Liberal alliance [illegible] have become reconciled to the idea of separation, and that each is prepared to step aside so soon as the superiority of the other's strength becomes clearly assured. But naturally they are both anxious to choose a convenient time and opportunity. If was because they anticipated a rupture that they did not cōoperate with each other in the elections, for each hoped that the returns would give it the command of the situation. The result was not sufficiently marked to be convenient to either, for although the Progressists gained considerably as compared with the Liberals, the preponderance was not by any means conclusive. Nevertheless, since the so called "Satsuma Section" have thrown in their lot with the Progressists, the latter believe that if their fellow thinkers among the "Independents" be reckoned, they can certainly command 150 votes in the Lower House. They farther claim that no such thing exists any longer as a united Liberal Party. The Kiushiu section, under Mr. Matsuda, they say, is by no means closely *tié* with the Itagaki section, and, in case of a rupture, would probably join the Constitutionalists, Count Okuma and Mr. Matsuda being from the same province (Hizen). Then there is the Tohoku coterie, under the leadership of Mr Kono Hironaka, who, being still much disliked and distrusted by the Liberals in general, is pretty sure to prefer the Progressist camp. Another uncertain element is the Kwanto section, under Mr. Hoshi Toru. It occupies neutral ground, and is just as likely to range itself finally under the Progressist banner as under the Liberal. Finally, the Hokushin and Chiugoku section are not particularly loyal to Count Itagaki, and it is therefore on the cards, taking all these things into consideration, that a little dexterous manipulation might drive Count Itagaki and Mr. Hayashi out of the Cabinet and leave them with the support of the Tosa section only. Such, according to the *Asahi*, is the view that the Progressists take of the situation. On the other hand, the Liberals say that they would certainly carry the National Unionists with them, and that if to these be added Baron Ito's followers and the new "Ten Club" of Azabu, together with a proportion of the "Independents," their total strength would fall little, if at all, short of that of the Progressists. Whichever estimate be correct, the *Asahi* alleges that if either side could find some great issue to take for a platform, it would at once break away from the coalition.

* * *

It is alleged by the *Yomiuri Shimbun* that means have been found to solve the question which at one time threatened to become acute, namely, the Cabinet's refusal to entertain the views formulated by the extraordinary Committee of the Party on the subject of administrative reform. Compromise is once more the order of the day; a certain number of the Party's recommendations are to be adopted and the remainder rejected. Our contemporary is not very explicit, but it says that among the accepted proposals are the abolition of *Chokunin* Councillors and of the Department of Justice, the present Minister of the latter, Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu, being himself a party to the change.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* maintains its exceedingly radical tone with reference to the reorganization of the Government's *personnel*. It says that the first duty before the Cabinet is to put its house into order, and that there is only way to accomplish that, namely, by weeding out about one half of the total number of officials and increasing the salaries of those that remain. All the talk about administrative reform strikes the *Jiji* as superfluous. Sweep out the useless officials, dissolve the administrative reform committee, and then go to work in earnest at the numerous problems awaiting a settlement.

* * *

Meanwhile the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* declares that the Constitutional Party has no real strength whatever. It commands five-sixths of the votes in the Lower House, yet it does not seem able to accomplish anything. The bigger and bulkier it becomes, the more helpless does it show itself. Ever since it came into power, it has offered to the public only one spectacle, that of its own dissensions. There is much noise, much turmoil, but no tangible result.

* * *

The *Tokyo Asahi* lends its voice to swell this chorus of disapproval. It has a long article on "the science of government," the gist of which is that falsehood and braggadocio used to be very good weapons for old-time statesmen, but are out of fashion now-a-days. Then is goes on to declare that the present cabinet is no better than the last, that it can not continue long in power, and that the public hope to see it succeeded by a Ministry which will pay some attention to the modern principles of administration.

CONSULAR APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

We learn, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, that Mr. A. E. Wileman, who had just returned from leave of absence in England, has been appointed Vice-Consul for Hyogo and Osaka, in place of Mr. F. W. Playfair, who has been appointed Consul to Hakodate. Owing to the absence of Mr. Hall on leave, Mr. Playfair who is now Acting Consul, will not leave for his new post before the 15th of next month. We also hear that Mr. R. de B. Layard will go to Tamsui, and that Mr. Bonar, who is now Consul at that port, may be appointed Consul at Yokohama. According to rumour, there is to be a change in the status of the various Consulates. At present Yokohama ranks first, but as soon as the new Treaties come into force and Her Majesty's Court for Japan is abolished, Yokohama being near to the Legation in Tokyo, there will be no necessity for the Consul, who now acts as Assistant-Judge, to be appointed because of his seniority and long experience. Therefore the Consulate for Hyogo and Osaka (Kobe) will rank first, as the largest British trade is done here. Nagasaki will rank second and Yokohama third. Presuming that the reports, which have been in circulation for a week or two past, are well founded, Mr. Hall will remain in Kobe and Mr. Longford at Nagasaki, and the next Consul in order for promotion (Mr. Bonar) will be appointed to Yokohama.

YOKOHAMA WATERWORKS.

The following tenders—says the *Japan Gazette*—were opened on Monday at the Yokohama Waterworks Office, the successful tenders in the first case being the American Trading Co. and in the second and third instance Hattori:—

91LBS RAILS. 30 MILES.

Firm.	Quantity tendered. Miles.	Price per mile.
China & Japan Trading Co....	30.....	$1,127 00
American Trading Co.	30.....	1,169 16
Hattori.....	15.....	1,184 40
Brown & Co.	15.....	1,190 00
Iwasaki Tomejiro	15.....	1,195 00
Flint Kilby & Co.	30.....	1,223.166
Tanaka Seigero.....	15.....	1,249.50
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	30.....	1.275 9496
Namikawa Yasuke	30.....	1,304 00
Sato Masagoro	30.....	1,325.00

POINTS & CROSSINGS & TURNTABLES. 5 SETS.

Firm.	Points & Crossings. Price per Set.		Turntables. Price per Set.
Hattori.....	$16 00	...	$ 12 00
Iwasaki Tomejiro	18 00	...	14 00
Sato Masagoro	40 00	...	95.00
American Trading Co.	66.40	...	88.60
China & Japan Trading Co.....	75 00	...	80.00
Flint Kilby & Co.....	86 00	...	134.00

On the 30th inst. the bank of the Tone river near Nakagawa village, Sarushima-gori, Mito prefecture, was broken through, and the water over flowing flooded the surrounding country. About 43 houses were injured and a large area of rice fields damaged. The Government is providing relief for over 400 poor people.

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COUNT ITAGAKI'S ESSAY.

Count Itagaki has taken an unprecedented step. He has written a long essay, and published it over his own signature, in the columns of the *Tokyo Shimbun*. Of course, if it were an essay on theology or philosophy or anything of that kind, there would be nothing very remarkable in the performance. But it is an essay about the business of the State Department over which he presides, and as such it constitutes, we imagine, a totally new departure. At this moment of writing, only the first part of the essay is before us, and we may say at once that, unusual as is the publication of a series of comments on his own official business by a Cabinet Minister, Count Itagaki's method of treating the subject is not calculated to shock any sense of official propriety. Formosa and Hokkaido are first discussed. As to the former, we gather that certain plans of reform—they receive no exposition—are on the *tapis*, but that they are held in abeyance until the Governor-General has completed his thus-far-very-successful efforts to convert the insurgents into peaceful subjects. In Hokkaido, the chief aim is to obtain popular confidence for the Administration, but the methods contemplated for that purpose can not be spoken of in detail at present. Count Itagaki has a great deal to say about local Government. His remarks on the subject do not amount, however, to more than an exposition of general principles, most admirable in the abstract, but scarcely of sufficient interest to call for detailed translation. He further enunciates very enlightened and irreproachable ideas about the necessity of impartiality on the part of the police, and co-operation between Government and people, but these doctrines, too, are only what we expect from a leading Japanese statesman.

In the second article contributed by the Minister of Home Affairs to the *Tokyo Shimbun*, Count Itagaki sets out by speaking of prison reform. His views, however, are only a replica of the opinions expressed by him some time ago to a reporter of the same journal and translated at the time in these columns—namely, that the present provincial jail system is radically defective, since no proper means exist for separating prisoners according to the nature of their offences; that the prisons, instead of serving to diminish crime, assist to propagate it; that 50 per cent. of the criminal classes consist at present of recidivists; that efficient and intelligent men can not be induced to serve as wardens, since the emoluments are poor and the profession offers no prospect of promotion, and that uniformity in the prison system can not be secured without transferring the management of the jails from the communes to the central Government.

The Count then went on to speak of religion. His language showed that he has a very high opinion of the value of religion to a nation, for he described it as an essential and fundamental factor of social education. Laws already exist, he said, for the preservation of temples and shrines, but there are no proper regulations bearing on the management of the finances of these institutions, and [illegible] the Japanese capital. There was so system offered. The Tai-wŏn Kun demo-

Minister is now busying himself to supply the deficiency.

Having referred briefly to the control of rivers, a subject which has always presented great difficulties, his Excellency then spoke of local administration. His remarks on this topic will not sound very pleasant in the ears of the tax-payer, for they indicate a conviction that the appropriations on account of prefectural governments will have to be materially increased. The work has been growing heavier for some years, and the allowances are lighter. Thus, in the case of Kanagawa prefecture, the number of documents dealt with in 1888 was 100,000 and the allowances aggregated 20,000 *yen*; the documents in 1896 totalled 280,000, and the allowances were only 80,000 *yen*. New subjects for legislation are constantly presenting themselves, and new regulations have to be made to deal with them, all of which entails a steady increase of administrative work. Reference was also made to the necessity of improving the systems of hygiene and sanitation, and to the advisability of increasing the salaries of local officials.

We presume that these articles are designed as a reply to the thoughtless and impatient critics who imagine that because they do not get see any great and striking result achieved by a Cabinet which has not been quite two months in office, the Ministry must be absolutely idle. Count Itagaki and the Department over which he presides certainly have their hands full enough. In addition to the various projects enumerated above, Count Itagaki recently explained that he is vigorously investigating the following subjects, and that Bills bearing upon them will probably be introduced in the next session of the Diet:—First, the improvement of the police system and its development; secondly, the protection of the labouring classes—as to this, immediate legislation is not contemplated, but only tentative measures of administration—; thirdly, the relief of the poor, with special reference to hospitals and prison-gate assistance—this purpose also is not to be at once brought within the purview of legislation, but efforts will be made towards founding and endowing charity hospitals, places for providing employment, and societies for prison-gate aid; fourthly, the control of the social evil and the question of its centralization or distribution; and, fifthly, the amendment of the law of election as well as of that relating to roads. We have here a sufficiently formidable catalogue. It ought to take away the breath of the writers who accuse the Ministry of being unable to do anything more than keep the peace among their own followers and allay their office-seeking fever. But the hostile writers get out of the difficulty very simply by saying that statements like those of Count Itagaki are mere talk.

STORY OF A REMARKABLE MAN.

By degrees some real light is being thrown on the events of Korean history. What happened in Tokyo after the modern re-opening of Japan to foreign intercourse, is happening on a smaller and slower scale in Sŏul. We can not wonder that the difference should be all in favour of the malfeasant opportunity for fraud this

much more to interest the public in Japan's records and in her national life, and there were so many more students available for the study, that the work of investigation went on rapidly and thoroughly. When we turn over the pages of blue books, periodicals, newspapers and proceedings of learned societies published between 1860 and 1880, we are struck by the remarkable diligence and insight of the numerous writers who, during that era, devoted themselves to examining and expounding Japan's history, politics, manners and customs. The great majority of them were Englishmen. Indeed, if the contributions made by members of the British Consular and Diplomatic services be excluded, the residuum is not very imposing. But in Korea's case the work is being done chiefly by Americans. America was closely connected with Japan's emergence from isolation, but England may be said to have formed the world's knowledge of Japan. Japan was the principal instrument in drawing Korea into the comity of nations, and now America is acting as Korea's interpreter.

Mr. G. H. Jones, in the last number of the *Korean Repository*, writes an obituary notice of Yi Ha-eung, Prince of Heung Sŏng, whom the foreign public knows as the Tai-wŏn Kun, or Prince Parent. The figure of this remarkable man dwarfs all its surroundings on the stage of modern Korea's existence. Born on January 22nd 1811, he died on February 22nd 1898, but during his long life of 87 years, the portion possessing vivid interest did not commence until 1863, when, at the age of 52, he succeeded in having his second son proclaimed King of Korea, and became himself the virtual, though not the nominal, regent of the Kingdom, wielding almost autocratic power for ten years until the King attained his majority, and the Queen's faction, the Min, succeeded in depriving the Tai-wŏn Kun of all authority. He did not accept his effacement tamely. Our of his first protests took the form of an infernal machine. The Queen's brother, Seung-ho, had become the royal favourite. One day, when he was offering sacrifices to the spirits of his ancestors, a box arrived. It was supposed to have come from the palace. Seung-ho, his mother and his son hastened to open it and were blown into the other world. In Japan the Tai-wŏn Kun is not credited with having taken the initiative in that kind of civility. It is said that he himself had previously received from the Mins a box of cigars with dynamite mouth-pieces. But neither these incidents nor the subsequent struggle of the fierce old autocrat, ending in his own kidnapping by the Viceroy Li's agents and his five years' exile in China, are as interesting as the measures of domestic policy that he adopted during his tenure of power. He was undoubtedly a reformer of the most radical type. The status of the aristocrat had been determined from time immemorial in Korea by means of ancestral tablets. There was the tablet erected in memory of a deceased philosopher or teacher by his disciples, and there was the tablet officially placed in one of the provincial temples of fame as a reward for meritorious public services. All the descendants of the men whose names were thus enshrined, enjoyed special privileges. They constituted the *Yangban* class. It is easy to see what

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lished all the "temples of fame" and destroyed their tablets. He must have wielded enormous power. One can scarcely conceive the possibility of carrying out such a measure without provoking a national insurrection. Then the Tai-wŏn Kun abolished the military tax and substituted a house-tax in its place. The military tax had been levied on the plebeians only. It "subjected them to all sorts of disabilities and reduced them to virtual serfdom." But the house-tax was leviable upon patrician and plebeian alike; upon *Yangban* and coolie. This was, in effect, a wholesale levelling of class distinctions and class privileges. From these sweeping steps the Tai-wŏn Kun passed to sumptuary regulations. He allowed the common people to wear black shoes, a privilege hitherto restricted to the aristocracy; he reduced the immense sleeves worn by the "gentleman-at-large" section of the population, and cut down the dimensions of the hat, which was then some four feet in diameter. The sumptuary changes are worth nothing. It has been charged repeatedly against the Japanese that they prompted, or rather compelled, the Korean Government in 1894 to interdict the wearing of top-knot and the use of long pipes, and that by such meddling they helped to provoke popular discontent. The Japanese have always denied the charge, and have declared that these interferences with national customs, however desirable their purpose, were not even encouraged by the Japanese Representative in Sŏul. The Tai-wŏn Kun's record shows, at all events, that the idea of such reforms did not come from without.

From Mr. Jones' essay we derive a new conception of the Tonghaks. He describes them as a religious sect. They claimed to be endowed with supernatural powers by the god whom they worshipped, and they are described in the annals as "deluding the common folk and deceiving the world." They appear, so far as we can gather, to have had their origin in 1872. The Tai-wŏn Kun suppressed them; not completely, indeed, for they re-appeared upon the stage 21 years later and were the proximate cause of the war between China and Japan. Mr. Jones' speaks of the suppression of the Tonghaks as "preliminary to the anti-foreign, anti-christian policy" subsequently adopted by the Tai-wŏn Kun, but does not attempt to trace the connexion. It is to be desired that he had been less reticent.

The sentiment suggested by Mr. Jones' brief but interesting essay is one of hope for Korea. It is a common saying that she has lost the capacity to produce a really strong man, and that any attempt to inaugurate radical sweeping reforms would only serve to foment faction feuds and probably promote foreign interference. The story of the Tai-wŏn Kun's life proves indisputably that these conclusions are both erroneous. He was a man strong enough for any crisis, and the success of his wholesale methods indicates that a reforming statesman in Korea needs only courage. The Japanese showed wise insight when they endeavoured to utilize his services in 1894.

The German steamer *Donar*, on arrival at Saigon from Hongkong, was placed under arrest, French Customs officers having discovered six hundred taels of contraband opium on board, supposed to have been secreted by Chinese before the vessel left Hongkong.

JAPAN'S MARITIME FACILITIES.

During the war with China, the number of steamers belonging to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha which were employed in connection with the transport of troops was 66 and their total displacement 160,000 tons. They carried, in all, 814,000 men and 1889 horses; made 716 voyages, and traversed 1,323,200 nautical miles. Adding the steamers obtained from other sources, the Government's fleet of transports aggregated 176, with a total displacement of 216,160 tons. Those figures are taken from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. It is added that at the beginning of the war the tonnage of all the steamers in Japan's possession was only 180,000 tons, that very few of these vessels were over 1,000 tons. More than 60, with a displacement of 150,000 tons, had to be bought, and 100 were chartered, their total displacement being 203,000 tons. Hence it appears that 350,000 tons of steam shipping had to be added to the country's mercantile marine. The figures are very suggestive. They add much force to the argument often put forward in these columns, namely, that in doubling the establishment of her army, Japan is supplying herself with a weapon which she will not have strength to wield advantageously unless she adopts more vigorous methods of developing her mercantile marine. The framers of the *post-bellum* programme evidently appreciated that a big army is of no service unless means of transporting it exist. For that reason they introduced laws to encourage navigation and ship-building. But the laws have been administered in such a fashion as to become almost a dead letter. We can not but endorse the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* criticism that a more liberal policy should be adopted. The country will have to make up its mind to extend a larger measure of aid to great shipping companies like the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, whose fleet of steamers is just as important to the State for fighting purposes as is the army itself. Our contemporary specially alludes to a fact which we find difficulty in crediting, namely, that the Government does not even appreciate the expediency of giving the State's carrying business to ships flying the national flag.

A ROMANTIC EPISODE.

The escapes effected by imperial and royal personages in times of insurrection have furnished sensational materials to many writers. Some of the strangest of these incidents could doubtless be furnished by Eastern annals, but that source receives little attention. What could be more romantic, for example, than the flight of the Queen of Korea from the palace on the night of July 23rd, 1882? One of her servants, Hong Chai-heui, took her on his back and made his way through the crowds in the streets. "He was stopped several times," says Mr. Jones, writing in the *Korean Repository*, "but, representing the lady as his sister, passed safely all obstructions and delivered her into the hands of her friends at the house of Yun Tai-chun." That was the occasion when her Majesty was supposed to have been assassinated, and the nation went into mourning for several months. In reality she was lying hidden in Chung Ju, until her appeal to China procured the intervention of Li Hung-chang, and the exile of her inveterate enemy, the Tai-wŏn Kun.

A CURIOUS POINT.

H. E. Mr. Ozaki Yukio, in the course of the capital speech delivered by him on the 21st instant at a *réunion* of the Educational Society—a speech to which we have already alluded at some length—made use of a singular phrase, according to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* report. Referring to the baleful effects of the worship of money, he said that, even though Japan became a republic—which, of course, was out of the question—, it would be impossible to have a firmly established Government were the influence of money paramount. The statement struck us at the time as so peculiar that we doubted the correctness of the report and refrained from any reference to the matter, for though a speech implying approval of a republican form of government might not sound strange in the ears of some Occidental audiences, it certainly does sound strange in Japan. Subsequently the authorities of the Educational Society wrote to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* to say that there was "no truth whatever in the statement," which contradiction was afterwards replaced by an assurance that the purport of what the Minister said had been misunderstood. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, however, refuses to accept the correction and dwells with not very dignified insistence on the point that the representations of the Educational Society can not both be accurate. Our contemporary insists, also, that the words were used and that everybody heard them. The question strikes us as being very insignificant. If Mr. Ozaki considers that the words reported by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* convey a false impression of what he intended to say, surely there need be no further discussion about the matter. At the same time it is interesting from a foreign point of view to note how completely any suggestion of a republican form of government in this country is tabooed by public opinion.

RAILWAYS.

Major Osawa, who recently made two trips to Europe for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the question of the State ownership of railways, has brought back with him a firm conviction that private ownership is altogether a mistake. In a lecture recently delivered at the Department of Communications, he is said to have blamed his countrymen for judging only by results. They hear that State ownership does not succeed in France, for example, and they immediately jump to the conclusion that the principle of official railways is bad; or they learn that private lines answer all purposes in England, and they become persuaded that private ownership is the better system, without pausing to examine the conditions that exist in France and England. His inquiries have showed him plainly that all western countries are gradually tending to pronounce in favour of State ownership. He spoke also of gauges, and assured his audience that the superiority of the wide gauge was by no means established, and that, on the contrary, the balance of opinion seemed to be now swaying in the direction of the narrow gauge. Everything seems to indicate that the railway question is destined soon to occupy a large place in the thoughts of the Japanese nation.

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THE RAILWAY QUESTION.

The vernacular press is now divided into two very clearly marked camps with reference to the problem of State ownership of railways. The occupants of each camp profess to be influenced solely by the pros and cons of the question itself from the point of view of concrete expediency, but, unfortunately for the validity of that claim, the lines of division coincide exactly with those of party politics. The *Jiji Shimpo* and all the journals regarded as organs of the Progressists vehemently oppose the idea of State purchase, whereas the journals representing the Liberal Party advocate that measure with an equal display of conviction. Briefly speaking, the contention of the former is that the agitation in favour of State ownership is inspired and supported by speculators in shares. They allege that the question has always been subserved to such influences. In 1890, for example, when a mania for speculation in shares was followed by something like a panic and by a heavy fall in the market prices of all securities, a cry was raised that the only exit from the situation would be found in the purchase of private railways by the State. A few years later, however, when the war with China gave a strenuous impetus to enterprise of every kind, and when railways were projected by the score, people talked of the expediency of transferring the Tokaido Railway to private ownership. And now, when the want of floating capital is keenly felt, once more the doctrine of State ownership finds numerous advocates. In short, the opponents of the scheme write as though its public advantages or disadvantages had no weight whatever with its supporters. They add that, in view of the difficulty experienced by the Government in selling the Public Undertakings and Railway Bonds which have to be disposed of in the ordinary routine of finance, it is extravagant to think of the State's becoming a purchaser of railways. The *Jiji Shimpo*, which condemns the project in unmeasured terms, will not even listen to the strategical reasons advanced by military men, for it asserts that if such arguments be valid in the case of railways, they ought to apply with equal force to steamships and coal mines. It must be confessed, however, that the *Jiji* and its allies do not appear to stand on very solid ground. Not one of them has seriously discussed the questions whether Japan, without recourse to foreign aid, can provide capital to complete her railway system, and whether, even if she could, she would be wise to make the effort. We find difficulty in perceiving how she is to continue the work of railway construction unless she relaxes some of the capital already fixed in that class of enterprise, and apparently the railway companies are powerless to effect the operation of release unless the Government assists them. Not many foreign observers will be disposed to conclude that the present management of state railways in Japan might be extended with advantage to a wider range of lines. That, however, is a mere question of technical and organizing competence. It does not affect the problem of public ownership from the economical point of view, which is really the only important point of view for Japan at the present moment.

AN ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION.

The year 1899 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of modern Japan to foreign intercourse. In order to celebrate the occasion, it is proposed to have an exhibition in Tokyo. Under any circumstances, if the rule of a domestic exhibition every fourth year be observed, 1899 would be the proper time for an enterprise of that kind, the last having been held in Kyoto in 1895. It is just possible, however, that as the attention of Japanese artists and artizans will be engrossed in preparations for the French international exhibition of 1900, the Government would have considered it expedient to postpone the domestic exhibition of 1899 had not this question of the 50th anniversary of the country's opening presented itself. We do not know that anything definite has yet been decided, but we note a suggestion in one of the leading vernacular journals that the exhibition should be opened to the products of all the countries washed by the Pacific Ocean. It seems to us altogether too late to organize an exhibition on such a scale. Indeed, we can scarcely persuade ourselves to believe that the project of holding one of the quadrennial exhibitions next year is seriously contemplated. April, or May at latest, is the month always selected for such affairs, which means that only seven, or at most eight months now remain, an interval quite insufficient for purposes of preparation.

THE PERRY EPISODE.

The Japanese, as we have often observed, love a joke. It was not to be supposed that they would fail to appreciate the comical side of the entertainment given to Professor Perry under the auspices of the Welcome Society. To fête a man who, from his entertainers' point of view, has done nothing whatever to deserve the honour, and to get up a public entertainment on his account merely because he happens to be the grand-nephew of his grand-uncle, is carrying the principle of vicarious recognition almost as far as it is carried for pension purposes in the United States. Accordingly, some folks whose phrenological furniture does not include the bump of reverence declined to apply the classic term *Kangeikai* to the Perry function, and spoke of it in preference as the *Perori-Kai*—a word which, while it serves, on the one hand, as a transliteration of "Perry-Kai," has the additional meaning of a "voracious party." It was an amusing impromptu. People laughed a little, and then the affair passed out of memory. It had a graceful side and perhaps also a useful side, so that no one was disposed to ridicule it over-much. But the laughter has now been revived in a manner that is mischievous rather than mirthful. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* and the *Nippon* state that Professor Perry is an impostor; that his supposed relationship to Commodore Perry is all moonshine; that he prudently took his departure from Japan on the 19th instant in the *Empress of China*; and that, in short, he absconded. The tale is utterly untrue, Professor Perry is still in Japan, at Nikko, we believe. The story gives the newspapers an opportunity to make merry at the expense of Mr. Fukuzawa, at whose College Professor Perry was employed, and at the expense of Marquis Hachisuka, the President of the Welcome Society.

THE COMMERCIAL AND MANUFACTURING CLASSES IN POLITICS.

One of the projects of the last Cabinet was to redress the great inequality now existing between the influence of the agricultural interest in politics and the interest of the commercial and manufacturing classes. The land-owners command nine-tenths of the votes in the Lower House of the Diet, and it is chiefly for that reason that an increase of the Land Tax fails to obtain Parliamentary sanction. The Government, in order to correct that state of affairs, proposed to give a greater number of representatives to the cities and the urban districts, and a change in that sense was embodied in the revised Law of Elections, presented to the last Diet. But the Lower House, not unnaturally, cut down the scheme so that no appreciable re-adjustment would have been effected by it. Marquis Ito declared that the Government would never sanction the law in its mutilated form, but before it became necessary to put that resolve to the test, the House of Representatives was dissolved. The section of the population engaged in commerce and manufacture numbers 9¾ millions, and possesses certainly one half of the nation's total wealth. Yet its influence is scarcely felt in politics. The little band of politicians known as the "business men" (*jitsugyo-ka*) acquire a factitious importance from the numerical equality of the two great parties, and the consequent power of any band of outsiders to sway the balance in either direction. But it is certainly a very remarkable feature of Japanese politics that the manufacturing and mercantile classes allow themselves to be almost completely effaced by the agricultural—remarkable especially when we remember that, whatever may have been the case in former times, Japan's future is now plainly seen to depend on the development of her trade and manufacture. We observe with satisfaction that some influential vernacular journals are taking up this question, and endeavouring to rouse the country's merchants and industrials to a sense of the mischief attending their present perfunctory attitude towards politics.

"LE NU AU SALON."

It is probable that considerable interest will be aroused by the action of the Home Minister, Count Itagaki, in forbidding the sale in Japan of Armand Silvestre's *Le Nu au Salon*. The peoples of the Occident have always been in the habit of sitting in solemn judgment on the peoples of the Orient in matters of morality, and it is a distinctly disagreeable slap in the face that a book allowed to be freely sold in Europe should be tabooed by the Japanese as prejudicial to moral health. For our own part, however, we have not the slightest hesitation in endorsing Count Itagaki's judgment. It is all very well to pretend, as some critics are in the habit of pretending, that the objectionable features of pictures of the nude are purely subjective. That is a remarkably clever argument. It silences cavil by constructively convicting the caviller of moral obliquity. "To the pure all things are pure. A prude who applies the epithet unclean to anything sanctioned by art merely exposes his own moral uncleanliness." Veritable despotism of

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discussion, that. Not one among us can frankly assert that a book like *Le Nu au Salon* is without demoralizing influence. Many of the pictures are beautiful, very beautiful, and a few, a very few, show the wonderful power that a really great artist possesses of subordinating the sensuous to the graceful, and suggesting the refinement of love rather than the coarseness of lust. But not a single one of them is absolutely beyond ethical criticism, and, in truth, if M. Armand Silvestre had deliberately set himself to expose the evil features of this kind of pictorial art, he could not have succeeded better than by massing together a number of drawings which, when viewed separately, might pass muster as a mere glimpse of the "naughty," but when grouped in phalanx become obstrusively shocking and demoralizing. It is not a mere question of the nude: it is a question of motives also. Many of the motives of these pictures could not be verbally described without outraging the commonest canons of propriety. The Japanese are at the parting of the ways. They have to choose the route they will adopt, and we think that Count Itagaki is choosing the right route. It will be said, no doubt, that since the reality of the nude does not shock the Japanese, they can not consistently object to its pictorial representation. An argument of that nature hardly deserves serious consideration. The Japanese have not hitherto condemned the nude under circumstances of expediency or necessity. They have not carefully secluded women's bathing places from men's—sometimes they do not separate them at all—, nor have they required that a labourer in hot weather should encumber himself with garments. Unquestionably in this matter they have often allowed liberty to lapse into licence. But the principle of their procedure is purely utilitarian. There has never been any exposure of the nude for the sake of the nude. That is the fundamental difference between the sacrifice of modesty that the Japanese make to convenience, and the sacrifice of morality that Western pictures of the nude make to the sensuously attractive. In the one case the nude is seen but not looked at; in the other, it is put forward expressly to be looked at. This feature of Western art has become extravagantly prominent. Of course the general question whether the nude should be banished altogether from the *atelier* and the *salon* is outside the range of this particular discussion. We have to do with a special publication, and since it certainly is not a publication that would be permitted to circulate as an original picture-album, we fail to see why its sale should be sanctioned because it is a collection of copies.

THE FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND CUBA.

Recent contributions in the London magazines from the pens of writers evidently familiar with their subject, give some valuable information about the question now so much discussed and so important, namely, the capacities of the inhabitants of Cuba and the Philippines to be autonomic. Mr. G. C. Musgrave, in the *Contemporary Review*, after a brief but highly suggestive reference to the large material results that might be obtained by intelligent development of Cuba's splendid resources, makes the following recommendation about the future of the island:—

Annexation would hardly be consistent with the protestations of humanity only with which America answers those critics who charge her with land-grabbing, or with her disinterested attitude in the past, when she nobly tried to feed the *reconcentrados* without coming between Spain and the insurgents, and found it impossible to assist a tithe of the needy while the struggle continued. The Cubans in arms are also opposed to annexation, and, indeed, would bitterly fight against it. Independence under the immediate protection of the United States will assuredly be the wisest policy, while the influx of British and American capital, the opening up of rich interior districts, and the removal of certain prescriptive tariffs, which the Cubans will insist upon, will speedily assure a return of prosperity to the Pearl of the Antilles when secure a government is established.

That the Cubans will form an ideal government I do not say; but that the island will be better governed than other Spanish-American Republics is a foregone conclusion. The negro problem is not a difficult one. The proportion of the coloured element is much less than in the Southern States, and the Cuban negroes for the most part are an ignorant, indolent, happy-go-lucky race, not eleven years freed from slavery, and still greatly influenced by their former owners. The white Cuban of the small farming class is entirely uneducated, but hospitable, honest, and frugal. In the scattered districts of the interior education has been beyond his reach. But it is in the planter class, the once wealthy sugar and tobacco growers, that the hope of Cuba lies. Lacking educational facilities in the island for many years past, those who could afford it sent their children to the United States schools and colleges. Here they have drunk in Anglo-Saxon ideals, and, though bred at home in luxury and indolence, the war has taught them lessons that will be invaluable in the future. The Cuban is no longer a Spaniard. Reared under entirely different conditions, and its blood recruited by refugees from the French Revolution, by Americans, and by sons of Jamaican planters, chiefly of Scotch descent, who have settled and intermarried with the colonists, a new race has arisen, more refined and cultured, and perhaps more effeminate, than the swarthy bull-fighting sons of Spain, who swarm to Cuba for a season and retire to the Peninsula after a few years' toil. These Cubans have directed this struggle either actively or by secret help from the outside. Those in the cities formed the autonomy government under General Blanco, not because it was the realisation of their ideals, but to secure the gain of half measures in case of failure to accomplish more, and were it politic to do so I could give abundant proof of aid furnished to the revolution by prominent autonomists both before and since the decrees were instituted. I have mixed freely with the peaceful Cubans of all classes, and, though many deplore the revolution and its effects, they are unanimously in favour of freedom from Spain's brutal yoke in any shape or form. Under the direction of the United States it will not be the insurgents who will govern the island, but representatives elected by the voice of the Cuban people, and there are men of intelligence in plenty to fill the posts.

With regard to the resources of the Philippines, Mr. John Foreman, writing in the same *Review*, gives this most hopeful summary:—

The total population of the islands amounts to about six millions. The chief products are hemp, sugar, leaf tobacco, and cigars. The articles of minor importance for export are choice hardwoods, dyewoods, copra, rattans, palm-leaf hats, gums, &c. The islands are extremely fertile, and will produce almost anything to be found in the tropics. I estimate that barely one fourth of the tillable land is now under cultivation. There is at present only one railway of 120 miles. A number of lines would have to be constructed in Luzon, Panay, Negros, Cebu, and Mindanao Islands. Companies would probably take up the contracts on ninety-years' working concession and ninety-nine years' lease of acreage in lieu of guaranteed interest. The lands would become immensely valuable to the railway companies, and an enormous source of taxable wealth to the Protectorate. Road-making should be taken upon Treasury account, and bridge construction on contract, to be paid for by toll concessions. The port of Yloilo should be improved, the custom houses abolished, and about ten more free ports opened to the world. Under the Protectorate undoubtedly capital would flow into the Philippines. The coal beds in Luzon and Cebu Islands would be opened out; the marble deposits of Montalban and the stone quarries of Angono (both near Manila) would surely be worked. The possibilities of development under a free, liberal government are so great that the next generation would look back with astonishment at the statistics of the present day. The Chamber of Deputies would no doubt adopt measures to avert the danger of an overwhelming influx of Chinese.

As to the government of the islands after the withdrawal of Spanish authority, Mr. Foreman's views are very explicit:—

General Aguinaldo's plan, I am informed, is to establish at Manila a Congress to which deputies from all the principal islands will be invited. I do not hesitate to prophesy that, unless under European or American control, the scheme will end in complete failure. At first, no doubt, the islanders will welcome and co-operate in any arrangement which will rid them of monastic oppression. The Philippine Islands, however, would not remain one year a peaceful united Archipelago under an independent native Government. It is an utter impossibility. There is such racial antipathy that the Visayas would not, in this generation, submit to what they would always consider a Tagálog Republic, and the Tagálogs, having procured the overthrow of the Spaniards, would naturally resent a preponderance of Visaya influence. Families there are very closely united, but as a people they have little idea of union. The rivalry for prestige at the present day between one village and another on the same coast is sufficient to prove the tendency to disintegrate. The native likes to localise, to bring everything he requires or aspires to within his own small circle. If his ambition were to be a leader of men he would be content to be a king in his own town. Native ideas are not expansive and far-reaching. Then the question arises—who would be the electors? The masses are decidedly too ignorant to be capable of voting intelligently. The votes would be entirely controlled by cliques of landowners.

If the native Republic did succeed, it would not be strong enough to protect itself against foreign aggression. The islands are a splendid group, well worth picking a quarrel and spending a few millions sterling to annex them. I entertain the firm conviction that an unprotected united Republic would last only until the novelty of the situation had worn off. Then, I think, every principal island would, in turn, declare its independence. Finally, there would be complete chaos, and before that took root America, or some European nation, would probably have interfered. Therefore it is better to start with protection. I cannot doubt that General Aguinaldo is quite alive to these facts; nevertheless, I admire his astuteness in entering on any plan which, by hook or by crook, will expel the friars. If the Republic failed, at least monastic power would never return.

Finally, we may quote the opinion expressed by Miss L. W. I. Garnett in the *Fortnightly Review*:—"The better educated among the half-breeds and Creoles aspire to becoming reformers of their country's institutions; and, even previously to the late revolts, a certain number have been imprudent enough to give proof of the desire entertained by many to overthrow Spanish rule in the islands, and establish instead a Philippine Republic. But even in the exceedingly unlikely event of such a termination to the present rebellion, the new state of things could only be of very short duration. It is, I believe, an ascertained fact that the increase of energy introduced into the Philippine native by European blood lasts only to the second generation; and left to himself the tendency of the mestizo is ever to revert to the natural type. The native is too indolent, and the hold of civilization upon him is too slight, ever to make anything higher than municipal self-government possible in these islands."

A sensational find is reported from Kanowa, in the West Australian gold fields. There, about the middle of last month, miners found a nugget of gold weighing over 95 pounds. It is about 15in. long, and 5in. thick at its deepest point, and is almost of pure gold. At both ends there is oxidised iron, and the nugget resembles pickled fish in shapes.

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RAILWAY AND STEAMSHIP COMPETITION.

Keen competition appears to have sprung up between the Sanyo Railway Company and the Steamship Union. The former recently extended its line from Mitajiri to Tokuyama, and, its cars being incomparably the best appointed in Japan, as its service is the best organized, it soon began to attract numbers of passengers and quantities of freight for Kiushu. The steamship folk, in order to check this diversion of their traffic, saw nothing better than to raise the charges for passage by their connecting steamers between Tokuyama and Moji. That was the first note of battle. The Sanyo Railway Company lost no time in starting a service of steamers of their own to make the connexion across the straits. They also established a spacious and commodious waiting room at Moji, and organized a corps of fifty red-capped runners to capture passengers and goods. The Steamship Union met this move by sending out eighty white-capped touts, and reducing the fares by its steamers from Kobe to Moji. A battle of rates has therefore been commenced, and persons travelling or sending goods southward from Kobe are likely to have a good time.

We mention above the competition that had been commenced between the Sanyo Railway Company and the Steam-ship Union. The former's line is now open from Kobe to Mitajiri, and at the latter place connexion is effected with steamers belonging to the company which carry passengers and goods across the strait to Moji. As for the Union steamers, they run direct from Osaka and Kobe to Moji. The latest detailed news we had was that the Railway Company had commenced to carry passengers from Kobe to Moji for 1.70 *yen* per head—third class, of course. A curious feature of the rates fixed by the Company was that whereas a ticket from Kobe to Mitajiri cost 1.95 *yen*, the through charge to Moji was only 1.70 *yen*. In other words, not only was the steamship journey from Mitajiri to Moji free of charge, but a premium of 26 *sen* was given for making the trip. The telegraph now informs us that the Steamship Union have cut down their charges so that a third-class passage from Kobe to Moji costs only 1 *yen*, or 70 *sen* less than the fare by railway. The competitors will soon be without any margin to work upon if they continue in this heroic course.

THE AMERICANS AND THE REBELS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

One of the reasons assigned for postponing the final decision as to the fate of the Philippines is that the Government in Washington has no definite information as to the agreement, if any, existing between Admiral Dewey and the insurgents. Mr. John Foreman, however, writing in the *Contemporary Review*, speaks with an appearance of absolute certainty on this. "In April last," he says, "General Aguinaldo concluded a secret agreement with Admiral Dewey, subject to ratification by the United States Government. * * * It is provisionally agreed that Aguinaldo shall set up a republic (of which [illegible] Aguinaldo's plan, I am informed, is to establish at Manila a Congress to which deputies from all the principal islands will be invited." If that be true, it is evidently want not of knowledge but of bases for a determination that makes the Washington Government hesitate. Admiral Dewey's compact with Aguinaldo, being explicitly subject to approval in Washington, has no binding effect on the United States, but it indicates the existence of an aspiration which may complicate the situation.

TWO-HUNDRED-AND TENTH DAY.

On Thursday, September 1st, was the *nihyaku-tōka*—210th day—, to which Japanese farmers look forward with so much anxiety. The theory is that if the *nihyaku-tōka* passes without a storm of wind and rain, the success of the rice crop is virtually assured—other conditions, of course, being favourable—inasmuch as the transition from flower to ear will then have been effected. Many people suppose that there is a question of one day only. But that, we need scarcely say, is not the case. The *nihyaku-tōka* marks the close of the total period of special susceptibility to climatic influences: that is all. A typhoon might sweep over the country on the 210th day, and yet a large part of the crop might escape without serious damage. In point of fact a *nihyaku-tōka* without a storm, great or small, is a very rare occurrence in Japan. On the whole, the country has been very fortunate this season, for though the extreme south of the island seems to have been visited by some heavy weather about the 30th ultimo, the damage, if any, has been apparently of very limited character.

According to local telegrams, heavy rains and winds were experienced in some localities, but on the whole the weather was fair. The telegrams report that the rice fields are not damaged. The market has a downward tendency. Information concerning the weather at the principal cities is as follows:—Sapporo—Fair, thermometer 78 degrees. Sendai—Rain commenced at 7.30 a.m. and ceased at 9 a.m. Maebashi—Cloudy with east wind; threatening. Naoetsu—Cloudy and somewhat cool. Shizuoka—Heavy rains, thermometer 80 degrees. Nagoya—heavy rains, ceasing at 9 a.m. Tsu—Threatening aspect; storm ceased at 10 a.m. Gifu—Heavy rain and rivers overflowed. Osaka—At about 3 a.m. strong winds commenced, but the weather calmed by 5 a.m. Kobe—Slight rains continued the whole day. Hiroshima—Fair, and rice crops are expected very good. Matsuyama—Fair. Kumamoto—Cloudy Kagoshima—Rain, with 84 degrees of heat.

THE WEATHER

On the 28th ultimo the experts of the Central Observatory published notices that a low barometric pressure had been reported in the north of Formosa on the 20th, and that it gave indications of extending to Japan five days subsequently. Indeed, on the 26th ultimo, the central and western districts of Kiushiu experienced heavy weather. The depression travelled, however, in the direction of Korea, and then seems to have turned southward, passing *viâ* the Rinkiu islands towards the Formosan Channel. Possibly [illegible] that was the storm which ultimately reached Formosa on the 28th ultimo, and caused serious shipping disaster at Tamsui with a loss of 170 lives.

Altogether, the weather has been unsettled for some days past. On the 27th ultimo, the barometer in Tokyo rose to 165 m.m., a very exceptional reading, which, at this time of year, usually preludes a storm. On the 30th ultimo, a depression was telegraphed from Riukiu, and a strong wind blew at Ishigaki Island and at Osumi in Kiushiu. On the afternoon of that day, the centre of depression moved to the north-east, and Miyazaki (near Kagoshima) was visited by a storm of wind and rain. The Meteorological Authorities issued a warning on the 31st ultimo, first to the districts on the west coast, and subsequently to those on the east. The centre of depression was then said to be advancing to the north east, but the indications were not of a specially alarming nature.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MORALITY IN JAPAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In the Monthly Summary of the Religious Press, published in the *Weekly Mail* of July 9th, I find the following paragraph:—"The Shin Seiki has an article by the editor, Mr. Kozaki Hiromichi, on 'Morality in Japan' in which reference is made to an address of Dr. Greene's in Boston, on 'Great Questions in Japan.' These were stated to be three—(1) Independence; (2) The Army and Navy; (3) Morality. Mr. Kozaki observes that the first two questions were discussed very fully by Dr. Greene, but that the third, in Mr. Kozaki's opinion by far the most important, was not treated in a full and satisfactory manner."

With regard to this paragraph, let me say that I think Mr. Kozaki must have been misled by a very imperfect report in a Boston paper, which I myself have only been able to explain upon the theory that the reporter did not hear the latter half of my address. The subject of the address as stated by myself was:—"Problems of the immediate future in Japan." The problems which I attempted to discuss were those of—(1) National Independence; (2) Military and Naval expansion; Commercial and Industrial Success; (4) Morality; (5) Religion. It was not my purpose to treat any of these questions fully, but simply to state them and to show how in my judgment the religious problem lay back of all the others. So far as I could judge from the comments of many of my auditors made to myself at the close of my address, I succeeded in making the impression I designed to make, and I feel quite sure that my friend, Mr. Kozaki, would have given his cordial assent to all that I said, though doubtless he would have thought, as I did myself, that it was but a mere outline of a subject worthy of a full and extended treatment; but this was inevitable in view of the brief time allotted me!

Yours, &c., D. C. GREENE.

EMPEROR TO VISIT YOKOSUKA.

It is stated that His Majesty will proceed to Yokosuka about the middle of this month to visit the warships *Fuji*, *Yashima* *Takasago*, and *Numa* anchoring there. Some military attachés have been sent to the port to make preparations.

Captain Inman Sealby's reward for conveying the news of the annexation of Hawaii to Honolulu was a handsome silver cup, presented by a committee of One Hundred. The genial captain of the *Coptic* deserved this recognition.

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THE FAR-EASTERN QUESTION.

MR. R. S. YORKE, writing in the *Fortnightly Review* on "Wei-hai-wei, Our Latest Leasehold Possession," refers to the evacuation of Port Hamilton in 1886, and says:—"The Chinese (and no doubt the Koreans and Japanese also) put our retirement down to weakness and fear of Russia alone." That is one of a very common class of statements which help to create among Englishmen unacquainted with the facts and conditions, a totally false impression of the results of British statesmanship and of the quality of British prestige in the Far East. Mr. YORKE admits that the assurances obtained from Russia by Her Majesty's Government at the time of the evacuation fully justified us in our own eyes, but he evidently thinks that neither the Chinese, nor the Japanese, nor the Koreans were capable of understanding our motives, and that, judging, as uncivilized nations usually do judge, from salient facts alone and in accordance with the lowest canons of morality, they construed our retreat simply as an evidence of weakness and pusillanimity. Of course we do not venture to interpret the sentiments felt by the Chinese or the Koreans on that occasion, but we can speak with confidence about the ideas of Japanese, and we assure the writer of the essay in the *Fortnightly Review* that there did not exist in Japan the most shadowy suspicion of the kind indicated by him. The Japanese Government, whatever be the measure of intelligence with which they are credited by MR. YORKE, had an intimate knowledge of all the incidents and negotiations relating to Port Hamilton. They knew perfectly well that neither weakness nor fear of Russia had anything whatever to do with the evacuation. "Fear of Russia" is, indeed, a comical suggestion. It might, perhaps, have been said—if such an insulting form of expression be permissible under any circumstances—that "fear of Russia" induced England to occupy Port Hamilton, since the measure was dictated by the imminence of war with that Power. But evacuation was another and a totally different matter. Considering that Russia made no protest of any kind, and that the place was not abandoned until long after the war clouds had blown over, it is surely extravagant to pretend that "fear of Russia" had anything to do with the step. The plain fact is that Port Hamilton, though strategically its value is beyond question, was found, after careful examination, to be topographically unsuited for the purposes of a naval station, and since the necessity for a basis in the neighbourhood of Korea had ceased to be imperative, England decided to abandon the place without occupying any other in its stead. We may add that, so far from its being true that the Chinese ascribed the abandonment to "fear of Russia," the statesmen in Peking must have known, beyond the possibility of misapprehension, that if any concession to a third Power was made in the evacuation, China herself was the Power. She it was that approached Great Britain on the subject, and she it was that obtained from Russia such a guarantee about the independence of Korea as seemed satisfactory in English eyes. The same inaccuracy—inaccuracy productive of grave misconceptions where subjects requiring the closest scrutiny are discussed—marks Mr. YORKE'S statements in other directions also. Thus he evidently believes that the British Government "offered a loan on extremely advantageous terms" to China, and that the latter was "most unwillingly induced" to refuse it owing to pressure exerted by Russia. But the truth is, as our readers are well aware, that Great Britain made no such offer. China applied to England for a loan and was informed of the terms on which it would be granted. She did not herself object to the terms, but she found that they would involve her in difficulties with the St. Petersburg Government, and she therefore decided not to proceed with the transaction. There is a substantial difference between the two versions. Then, again, Mr. YORKE asks us to draw an "obvious inference" from the facts that although Japan was turned out of Port Arthur, since her occupation of it would have been a constant menace to Peking, she was permitted to continue her occupation of Wei-hai-wei; the inference being that no comparison was thought possible between the strategical value of the two places as bases of operations against China. But he loses sight of two essential points; the first, that it was the flimsiest of pretexts to pretend that Japan's presence in Liaotung would be a menace to Peking, the real reason being that Russia desired to keep the peninsula free for her own occupation at a convenient time; the second, that Great Britain wants Wei-hai-wei not as a basis of operations against China, but as a means of crippling the power which Russia's possession of Port Arthur would otherwise confer on her. There is little significance in the talk about the nature of the *hinterland* of Wei-hai-wei; about the difficulty of defending it on the land side; about the cost of dredging the harbour and building docks. England is not concerned, for the present at any rate, about the contingency of attack from the land side, nor need the question of cost deter her. As for the quality of the harbour, there is only one thing to be said, namely, that it is the finest naval anchorage in the north of China. But, as we have said, these are secondary conditions. The prime purpose of Wei-hai-wei's occupation is to restore the balance of power which Russia's acquisition of Port Arthur disturbed, and the indisputable fact is that so long as England, with her greatly preponderating maritime strength, holds Wei-hai-wei, Port Arthur will be comparatively useless to Russia as a naval station.

At this juncture two things are quite plain. One is that many Englishmen are disturbed by chimeras of their own creation; the other, that the policy they would have England pursue is not the policy which the present Cabinet has declared its intention of pursuing. When we say "policy" we refer to principles of action, not to methods of procedure. The two should be kept distinct. For example, no question of policy is involved in peremptorily refusing to suffer at the hands of any third Power interference prejudicial to the free enjoyment of British Treaty rights in China. That is a fundamental duty which no English Government can allow itself to neglect, whatever be its attitude towards a particular crisis. Hence, when the Russian Government employs diplomatic pressure to close the path to British banking enterprise in China, as it is reported to have done in the case of the loan for the Shanhaikwan-Newchwang Railway, England would be untrue to herself did she shrink from any alternative which stern resistance to such lawless interference might present. Everybody is agreed about that. But the point we desire to make is that the vague uneasiness felt in some quarters because concrete evidences of British self-assertion are not overwhelmingly numerous, and the definite complaints of writers like Mr. YORKE that England does not at once proceed to occupy Chusan and Port Hamilton, or some other naval station equally well situated in Korean waters, are based on a false interpretation of British policy. England does not want to join the scramble for Chinese territority. On the contrary, her present aim is to check it. She seeks to preserve China's integrity and to keep the doors of Chinese trade open to all the world. Under Lord SALISBURY'S guidance, she will pursue that policy as long as China permits her to do so. Russia is only a vicarious factor in the situation. The decision rests really with China. If the Peking Government persists in placing its neck under the heel of every foreign Power bold enough to menace it, then the Cabinet in London must adopt new principles of action. In other words, if China obstinately refuses to make any effort on her own behalf, Great Britain will have to abandon her to the fate she invites, and to take measures for the assertion of British interests without regard to the interests of China as an empire. Pending the final decision on that point, it is inevitable that the course of England's policy should not be marked by brilliant *coups*. She represents a conservative and protective power pitted against radical and aggressive rivals, and the activity will seem to be all on their side. No one doubts, we presume, that if she hold up her hand, the

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opposition of the States now working against her could be immediately changed into coöperation. No one doubts that she could conclude an agreement relieving herself of all further antagonism and securing a large addition to her territory and wealth. But she is happily resolved not to adopt that course unless the possibility of avoiding it is destroyed by China's persistent helplessness. Meanwhile patriotic Britons must possess their souls in patience. There is nothing uncertain about the mood of the nation at all events. That has been declared in the most unequivocal terms, and the declaration will have its effect on the statesmen in London, though, for our own part, we do not believe that any such incentive was required.

SPANISH RULE.

A STRONG indictment of Spanish rule and of Spanish military methods in Cuba and the Philippines is published in the last numbers of the *Contemporary* and *Fortnightly Reviews*. It is very difficult to give full credence to the evidence adduced, but the theory that prejudice is mainly responsible for these accusations can scarcely be entertained when we observe that three independent witnesses concurrently furnish testimony of a most damning character. Miss L. M. J. GARNETT, who writes in the *Fortnightly*, does not, indeed, employ any strong terms against the Spaniards. The sole purpose of her essay is to describe the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands as they are by nature, without any special reference to the administrative methods of their rulers, and we may remark, *en passant*, that if the portrait she draws be at all correct, there is no reasonable prospect that success can attend any experiment of independence for the Islands. Incidentally to her principal subject, however, she says:—"Certainly the Spaniards have, by their misgovernment, hardly less forfeited here than in Cuba all rightful claim to remain in possession after defeat in the war which that misgovernment has provoked;" and elsewhere she wishes that "the near future may bring better government to the rightly rebellious Philippine Islanders." But if this lady's testimony has corroborative value, it is by the writings of Mr. JOHN FOREMAN and Mr. G. C. MUSGRAVE that British public opinion will be principally influenced. The former deals with the Philippines. Setting out from the Treaty of Tordesillas, concluded at the beginning of the sixteenth century upon the lines of the POPE'S judgment by which all regions outside Europe, known and unknown, were divided between Spain and Portugal, Mr. FOREMAN succinctly sketches the history of the Islands and the ethnology of their inhabitants down to the present day. It would scarcely be possible to compress his story into smaller space without sacrificing intelligibility, and besides our object here is to note certain phases only of the narrative. Religious fanaticism is represented as having been the guiding principle of Spain's rule. If the soul of the native could not be satisfactorily prepared for a future state, his body must be destroyed. On the other hand, the islander is intellectually or intuitively unable to extend conscientious belief to transcendental Christianity. Thus from generation to generation, in the early days, armed expeditions carried fire and the sword among people, who passively resisted what they could not understand, until the name "Castilla" became a sound of terror, and a system of enforced discipline was established which had the effect of "taming the masses into orderly beings." Manila was founded in 1571, and during the next century and a half the government of the provinces is said to have been in the hands of low-class Spanish adventurers, whose rule was productive of shocking abuses. Over and above the provincial governors, over and above the Governor-General himself, are the four corporations of Friars, the Austin, the Dominican, the Franciscan, and the Recoleto. These priestly rulers shrink from no excess or atrocity. Now, we find them causing a Governor-General to be poisoned; now, instigating the murder of another and hooting his dead body through the streets. But Mr. FOREMAN'S portrait of the ecclesiastical system and its administrators must be given in his own words:—

> Manila is an archbishopric and there are six provincial bishoprics. The total number of parishes will be about 620, of which the friars hold about 95 per cent. As parish priest the Spanish friar is beyond all control of the civil government. He can neither sue nor be sued. He is quite independent of all State authority. He may prove to be the vilest criminal with all impunity. His superiors would pretend to punish him, but they would never expel him; they are themselves sheep who protect their own lambs. He acts, however, as voluntary (and very willing) Government agent. He meddles in every public affair of the township by recognised right. If he cannot have things all his own way and influence every public act, from the election of native headman downwards, he singles out for revenge all those who have outvoted him. And this is generally what happens, at one time or another, in half the parishes. If a young man, who has been educated in Manila or Hong kong, returns to his native town with somewhat advanced ideas, or merely salutes the priest as a gentleman instead of kissing his hand as his spiritual father, he too is marked for social ruin one day. The father of a family of attractive daughters has also to be careful lest the charms of his off-spring bring about his own fall. In short, in one way or another, the native who possesses anything worth having has either to yield to the avarice, lust, or insolence of the Spanish priest or to risk losing his liberty and position in life. The parish priest has simply to address what is called an "oficio" (official advice) to the governor of the province, who remits it to the Governor-General, stating that he has reason to believe that the individuals mentioned in the margin are persons of doubtful morality, or conspirators, disloyal, or whatever he may choose to dub them, and recommend their removal from his parish. In due course a couple of civil guards will suddenly appear at the door of each named individual. Without warrant or explanation of any kind further than "by order of the governor," he is marched off to the capital town and cast into prison. Later on he is sent up to Manila, and, without trial or even defined sentence, he is banished to a far distant island. In 1896 I met three old friends of mine on board a steamer, who were being transported in precisely similar circumstances. I could hardly believe my own eyes. They were well-to-do planters, and the last time I saw them, prior to this occasion, I was the guest of one of them in their town of Taal (Batangas Province). His well-served table, his carriage and horses, had been at my disposal. Now, alas! I found these men treated as criminals, with iron anklets slipped on one iron bar and padlocked. They were on the upper deck, exposed to the rain, sun, and heavy dews day and night. All I could do for them was to secretly supply them with food and clothing. In the law courts nothing can be obtained without "greasing the palm," and then it only brings a sentence with a loop-hole for reopening the case when the judge likes. The same system of "squeeze" obtains in all the Government departments, from the half-dollar slipped into the hand of the native scrivener to the thousand dollars or more quietly laid on the table of the dignified holder of the scales of justice.

From this story it is easy to infer the objects of the rebellion. Mr. FOREMAN sums them up thus:—(1) The expulsion of the monastic orders; (2) the abolition of the Governor-General's arbitrary power to banish without accusation, trial, or sentence; (3) restoration to the natives of the lands held by the religious orders; (4) a limitation of the arbitrary powers of the civil guard; (5) no arrest without judge's warrant; and (6) the abolition of 15 days *per annum* compulsory labour. These terms were conceded, it is said, by the Treaty of Biac-na-Bato, signed on the 14th of last December between the Governor-General and AGUINALDO. But, according to Mr. FOREMAN, no sooner was the Treaty signed and the rebellion scotched than the promises made by Spain were all ignored.

This incident brings us at once to Cuba, where a similar breach of faith is charged against Spain by Mr. G. C. MUSGRAVE. The Treaty of Zanjon, concluded in 1878 between the insurgent Cubans and General CAMPOS, was "shamelessly repudiated" as soon as Cuba had been pacified, and to the resulting loss of confidence in Spanish promises is attributed the determination of subsequent insurgents to fight for complete independence or death. As to the conditions produced by misrule in the island, Mr. MUSGRAVE says:—

> Not one-fifteenth of the land is under cultivation, despite the unrivalled soil, though the island has been a commercial gold mine to Spain in the past. Under judicious development and administration Cuba could supply the markets of the world with special products, while her unrivalled tobacco and sugar alone would ensure her trade predominance in the Western hemisphere. It is not my intention to deal at length with Spanish misgovernment. Sufficient to say that, despite the large revenue raised by excessive export and import duties and taxation, nothing has been done to effect internal improvements. There are thousands of miles of *camino Real* (royal highroad) marked on the map, but they are little better than sheep-tracks, and, with one exception in Havana, there is not a road worthy the name. Wheel traffic is impossible in the interior, and communication is entirely cut off in the wet season. The want of roads is not so severely felt in the western half of Cuba, for the railroads, built by private enterprise and trammelled heavily by the Government, open up the country, affording transport for tobacco and sugar-cane to the capital, and thus keeping up communication with the outside world. Away from the railroad, and also in the immense eastern provinces of Puerto Principe and Santiago de Cuba, miles of arable land lie idle, while rich estates languish, being dependent on transport by mule-back, and unable to bring out machinery for preparing sugar, coffee, or cocoa in any quantity, though these grow in abundance and of splendid quality.

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But these statements, serious an indictment as they constitute, fade into insignificance compared with Mr. MUSGRAVE'S account of the measures adopted to quell the rebellion. All Spaniards who go to Cuba, he tells us, join the volunteer organization in the Island, because they thus escape military liability at home. Hence the volunteers, some 40,000 strong in Havana alone, consist for the most part of the lowest elements of the population, and the excesses committed by them make up a shocking tale. It was to satisfy these blood-thirsty "braves" that General WEYLER received the appointment of Captain-General of Cuba, and what happened after his arrival is best told in the words of Mr. MUSGRAVE himself :—

Until this date the revolution had remained mainly in the hands of "Orientals," the inhabitants of eastern Cuba, and the educated and better class Cubans, while sympathising with the cause, had not actively participated in the rebellion. Captain-General Weyler made no attempt to conceal his feelings and intentions. Speaking at his reception on landing in Havana, he raised his thin gloved hand, and stated that he came there to make war, a pitiless war, on Spain's enemies, who would find that his hand was gloved with steel, and he promised also to speedily pacify the Cubans. His now historic *reconcentracion* decree, which was published October 21, 1896, and the brutality with which it was enforced, spelt the absolute loss of Cuba to Spain, and the addition of a further revolting chapter to her history, already sullied by the deeds of Torquemada, Alva, and more modern prototypes. Under its principal clauses all the inhabitants of the country districts were given eight days to abandon their homes and come into the fortified towns and cities. All individuals found outside the lines after that date would be treated as rebels, irrespective of age or sex—in other words, would be killed at sight. All transport of food from the towns was forbidden, and an offer was made to the insurgents to surrender within the eight days of grace. When this prescribed period had expired, the entire country was to be laid waste with the view of starving out the rebels. It was the turning point of the struggle. Every Cuban then had to decide—Cuba or Spain. Which? To go to the towns meant starvation to all, and compulsory military service for the men. The days of grace expired almost before the people realised the order; but, like an angry dog let loose, Weyler then led 16,000 troops to start the "pacification" of Cuba. Starting in Pinar del Rio the columns began looting, burning, and devastating the country, and slaying the unfortunate wretches that fell into their hands. It was the people's awakening. Sorrowfully the women and children relinquished their homes and went to the towns, the men drove their cattle before them, and joined their insurgent brothers in the hills. Thus at the outset Weyler forced the best blood of the island and unlimited food supplies into the hands of the insurgents, and thousands of Cubans, who would have continued on their farms with some semblance of loyalty to Spain, were turned into bitter enemies by the confiscation of their homes and property and the separation of their families. Like a consuming fire Weyler's hordes advanced, leaving a blackened desert in their trail, as he led his men from one province to another, proclaiming each in succession "pacified." His guerilla, or irregulars, had full play, hunting out and murdering the miserable fugitives who had taken refuge in the woods after remaining in their homes until the last. Reliable authorities assert that over two thousand innocent persons were thus killed in Pinar del Rio alone during the pacifying process; but if this number is exaggerated, there is positive proof that many hundreds of terror-stricken rustics perished at the hands of the brutal soldiery.

The provinces laid waste were Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas, and Santa Clara. It was in the north of the last province that I personally witnessed the barbarity of Weyler's orders. In Sagua la Grande the irregulars under Colonel Benito Carrera, guided by negro desperadoes, who knew every inch of the country, routed out the people, using bloodhounds to track down fugitives, and outraging women and girls even to death. The scenes of the Indian Mutiny and the revolting acts of the Sepoys were equalled by Carrera's men. This officer himself brutally tortured prisoners by tearing off their nails to make them reveal the hiding place of other unfortunates, and on the outskirts of Sagua city he cut down a cripple lad who made a spirited answer to the interrogation of his mother. Several official protests against this monster were made by Colonel Barker, the United States Consul at Sagua, though his reports, in common with the statements of other consuls in Cuba, were not published by the State Department, and he was warned from Washington not to utter for publication anything that would cause bad feeling against Spain and endanger Americans in the island. For helping starving Cubans the Colonel has twice had to barricade his house and wait, Winchester in hand, while a mob of volunteers debated on the advisability of burning out the Yankee.

Meanwhile the thousands of homeless people who were now crowded into the towns built themselves crazy shelters on the piece of waste ground. The better class had money, and a few were able to find a refuge in the United States. With the country a desert in which the towns stood as oases, food was soon at famine prices, and the truth dawned upon these people that their homes had been ruthlessly destroyed and their crops burnt without a single provision being made for their subsistence. Private charity did a little, but starvation soon appeared, and in a few weeks it was general. The pen fails to describe the horrible scenes to be witnessed in these settlements—four or five thousand women and children and a few old men dumped down to exist as best they might in the outskirts of a city enclosed in a barricade of barbed wire, with forts at frequent intervals past which no one could venture on pain of death. Without the commonest sanitary measures, they existed, and some are still existing—the wives and children of once wealthy farmers and planters—huddled in with the negroes who once worked on their estates. Their food was the refuse from the swill tubs and scrapings from the gutters, and it is marvellous how long life can be sustained on these morsels. Even in Havana city, where they can beg in the streets, and where food was never scarce among the residents as in less favoured towns, I have seen children lick the blood off the stones at the shambles, and all the inhabitants of Los Fossos that had strength to crawl hastened one day to the beach to fight over the putrid carcase of a cow that was washed ashore. Those that procured chunks ate this meat raw, and this in sight of the Prado, Havana's fashionable quarter, where high officers live in luxury while bodies of starved victims are picked up on the benches below every day. Most of these settlements are alike. Rows of palm-leaf huts with skin-clothed skeletons laying on a heap of rags on the muddy floor. Babies, hideous mockeries of childhood, lie dying on the breast from which all sustenance has dried, their little bodies covered with a loathsome skin disease, which attacks old and young alike. Young girls, once beautiful, without the clothing demanded by decency, lie on the bare floor moaning with the pangs of hunger. They have probably had the alternative of another fate; for an abominable traffic in mere children has been carried on openly, the girls usually being taken through misrepresentation to houses of ill-fame in the cities, many passing from Havana to Mexico, and points further south, before they become aware of their cruel position, while others enter the life with their eyes open, accepting their fate as inevitable. In some huts one or two bodies are sure to be found, the relatives crying over the worn out corpse of the dear one, so happily released from further suffering, and awaiting the advent of the dead cart on its gruesome rounds. Over all is a sickening smell of disease and death, while shrieks and curses of crazed victims raving in delirium and the general wails of hunger add to the horrors of the scene. In January of 1897, when I first visited these settlements, they were comparatively full, but in the October following there was a shocking difference, a miserable remnant alone remaining. The numbers of those who perished through starvation up to January 31 of this year have been estimated by various authorities with widely divergent results, one report stating that over 500,000 had perished. This I think is an exaggeration, but after personal visits to all the settlements of importance in the island, and careful inquiry into official statistics, especially the church registers, which record only those bodies buried in consecrated ground, I estimate that at least 400,000 miserable wretches have died of starvation and disease though the *reconcentracion*, and that 100,000 more must die under any circumstances. The consular reports to the United States do not deal with the many small interior towns, places of 500 inhabitants and an *ingenio* or sugar mill, where the people are chiefly employed. Into single settlements like these, especially in Matanzas and Santa Clara Provinces, 3,000 homeless people have been penned up to die without causing attention. With the tons of food recently shipped from the United States, the supply has been insufficient to relieve even those starving in the seaports.

WEYLER has been recalled and his successor, Captain-General BLANCO, is described by Mr. MUSGRAVE as "a brave and humane man, esteemed highly" by the rebel leaders. But BLANCO appeared too late upon the scene. No one doubts that Spain has able administrators and great generals, but it appears to be her unhappy doom that the task of dealing with crises in her affairs falls at the outset into the hands of men who by their incompetence and excesses create hopeless situations. Mr. MUSGRAVE says that if Spain had sent to Cuba "one-fourth of her vast army, picked the men, equipped and shod them carefully, trained them for a few weeks and provided transport, the Cuban rebels would have been crushed at the outset." Cuba is lost to her now, however, and while we can not but sympathise with her misfortunes, it is only right to note facts which, if they be even partially correct, amply justify the intervention of the United States.

THE CEMENT COMPANIES.

Japan, it seems, will not have to wait long for her era of "trusts," "railway kings," and the other outgrowths of modern commerce. We have seen how the cotton-spinning companies are combining to form a monster association for the purpose of reducing production and thus maintaining prices. It appears that the cement firms are about to adopt the same policy. There are ten cement firms in Japan. At one time they did a fine business, when railway building, harbour making, and other enterprises were in a state of feverish activity after the war. But they have felt the recent depression which affects all branches of business, and have come to the conclusion that their only plan is to combine for the purpose of putting an end to competition among themselves. Nine of the companies are said to have agreed to that course, but one—the Kitsugawa—stands aloof. We read in vernacular journals that there is a legal difficulty connected with this action. Each of the companies, being duly registered, has the status of a juridical person in the eyes of the law, and the question is, can a union of juridical persons hold that status? We do not see that it makes much difference for the purposes contemplated by the association.

THE PARIS CONFERENCE.

There are many journalistic suggestions that Japan should endeavour to be represented at the approaching conference in Paris, since she is vitally interested in the fate of the Philippines. Evidently Japanese public opinion does not take much account of French, German, or Russian neutrality. The idea is that those States are preparing to interfere, not in the interests of peace or the balance of power, as they pretend, but to obtain for themselves some of the *spolia opima* by a display of united force; and that the really neutral

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countries, England and Japan, ought to prepare to counteract the design. Such notions may be true enough and wise enough in their way, but, according to present appearances, the only Powers represented at the Conference are to be the United States and Spain. The telegraph says that the belligerent Powers are to appoint commissioners—not more than five each—who shall meet in Paris not later than October the 1st. There is no prospect now apparent of the conference's assuming larger dimensions. When the result of its deliberations is announced will be the time for foreign interference, and we presume that the Japanese Government will not be found unprepared for that contingency.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT JAPANESE LITERATURE.

The *Taiyō* publishes the views of Viscount Aoki on certain provisions of the new Civil Code. It having been alleged that some parts of this code concede too much to foreigners and are opposed to Japanese customs and traditional instincts, Viscount Aoki was asked to state to a member of the staff of the *Taiyō* his opinions on this subject. The following is the gist of what he is reported to have said on the occasion :—Ever since the new treaties were signed this question has received my earnest attention, and I have come to the conclusion that one of the conditions of a treaty that grants to us equal rights with Western countries must be a readiness on our part to conform our customs as far as possible to those of Occidental nations. The old marriage and inheritance laws of Japan are deemed semi-barbarous by Europeans. Customs that are bad, however old, must be reformed. Every country has its own spirit and character. The counterpart of what we call *yamato-damashii* is found in all European countries. When the interests of Western nations differ and there is friction between them, there is invariably a display of patriotism which is no less fervid than what we see here. But one of the conditions of international intercourse is the sinking of differences as much as possible; and emphasis is necessarily given to this sentiment in the treaties which have been made by us with Western states. It might seem as though I failed to recognise Japanese merits in my desire to introduce foreign ways. This is not so. There is a great deal that is superior in our Oriental system. But it cannot be said that we are living up to our principles. In the Great Learning (大學) it is said, "In things there is a cause and an effect, a beginning and an end. To know that which is first and that which is last is to be not far off the true way." And again it is said that "the heart must be made upright, self-control exercised, and the household properly managed," and then a country can be governed with ease. Modern politicians are far from carrying out this counsel. They profess to be benefactors of the country, but how many of them are there that know how to control themselves, and how many are there whose households are ruled as they ought to be? To expect good results where the sources are polluted is vain. The word *jichisei* (self-government) is very fashionable among us, but how little of the real thing implied by the term is to be found! How unsuitable for their position are many of the members of the Diet! It was intended that only those who had shown competence in their own districts and gained local experience by taking part in municipal or district government should offer themselves as candidates for Diet membership, but instead of this vacancies are filled by men who are not even known in the districts for which they stand and many of whom owe their election to the free use of money. With the fountain head thus contaminated, is it any wonder that the streams are impure?

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In the August 5th number of the *Taiyō*, the views of Count Okuma on education are given by an interviewer. Those whose watchword is progress and enlightenment, says Count Okuma, find themselves greatly hindered by the conservatism of educationists. There is no doubt about it that the majority of elementary school teachers are conservatives and anti-foreign, and that the lads who call out *ketōjin* and *akahige* when foreigners pass are only reflecting the sentiments of their teachers. And as for the views of the teachers, they may be traced to the normal schools, where they have been drilled by instructors of the Chinese antiquated type, who prate much about the five virtues, but who are by no means striking examples of the power and beauty of these virtues. The inconsistency between lofty pretensions and actual conduct manifests itself in every country, but is nowhere more marked than in China, where in politics high moral principles exist only in name. Japan's anti-foreign feeling is derived from China. The more the old system of education is kept to and Chinese models extolled the more will young men be apt to grow up with narrow conceited notions as to their superiority to foreigners. While Marquis Saionji was Minister of Education, he created great enmity by espousing cosmopolitanism and setting his face against Chinese conservatism. The policy of the Mombushō, it is affirmed, has not been formally changed, but there are many evidences that things are going back into the old rut and that the teaching in the normal schools is by no means abreast of the age. The narrowness complained of is the result of a too exclusive study of Chinese and Japanese history and ignorance of the course of events in Europe and America. The scope of study requires enlargement and teachers need to be impressed with the importance of their membership in the great human family and of the virtues *vis à vis* all human beings which it is incumbent on them to practice.

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A dictionary called the *Kotoba-no-Izumi* has been published by the Okura Shōten. It covers 1,900 pages and is now bound in 6 volumes. It sells at 6 *yen* 50 *sen* per copy. The compiler is Mr. Ochiai Naobumi, of the First Higher School. It is stated that the dictionary contains 130,000 words; in addition there are appended some 800 terms used in Yezo only. The work aims at being thorough, even including provincialisms, secret language, Loochooan, and words of European origin. In a review of the dictionary contributed to the *Yomiuri Shimbun* by a member of the Imperial University, it is highly praised, being pronounced in every way superior to such works as the *Genkai*, the *Nihon-daijiran*, the *Teikoku-daijiten*, and the *Nihon-daijiten*, containing nearly twice as many words as the best of these lexicons, and furnishing more minute explanations of each word. The reviewer thus sums up the defects of the work :—(1) Want of clear arrangement of the words, so as to facilitate reference. (2) Inferiority and superfluity in the illustrations furnished. (3) Injudicious selection of the names of persons to be noticed. In some cases noted men are not mentioned, in others space is given to men not widely known. (4) Inconsistency in the selection of places of note, rivers, mountains, &c. (5) The paucity of colloquial terms used in the Tokugawa era compared with those in modern use. (6) Inequality in the space devoted to the celebrated places of the various provinces of Japan. (7) Difference in the number of technical terms given under the various headings. Over against these defects the writer of the review places the following merits :—(1) Great comprehensiveness as regards the terms supplied, including ancient and modern words, general and special terms, Chinese, colloquial, proverbs, and provincialisms. (2) The furnishing of information not usually found in ordinary lexicons, such as the names of books, places, men, &c. (3) The fulness and discernment of its etymology. (4) The lucidity and conciseness of its definitions of all but technical terms.

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The *Bakumatsu-Gaikō-dan*, by Mr. Tanabe Taichi, is a history of the foreign relations of the Baku-fu during the last years of its existence, but it covers more ground than its title indicates; since it contains an account of Japan's foreign intercourse under the first Tokugawa Shōguns. The book is for sale at 1 *yen* 20 *sen* per copy at the Fuzambō Shuppan-sho, Urajimbō-chō, Kanda, Tōkyō. The work throws considerable light on some of the questions now engaging the attention of Oriental statesmen, says the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. It is said to be well written and neatly illustrated.

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A "History of Formosa," originally published in German by Professor Riess, has been translated into Japanese by Mr. Yoshikuni Tokichi, and sells at 25 *sen* per copy at the Fuzambō Shuppan-sho. The work discusses among other subjects the origin of the Formosans and compares them with the Loochooans. Dr. Riess has collected a quantity of most trust-worthy matter and has added a valuable contribution to the small stock of literature dealing with Formosa.

* * *

Dr. Katō Hiroyuki a short time ago delivered a lecture on the possibility of founding a Universal State. The lecture is reported in the *Toyotetsu-gaku*. The subject is purely speculative, in our opinion, but Mr. Katō does not so treat it. He thinks it within the range of practical politics, but he declares himself unable to fix a date for the realisation of his Utopia. Dr. Katō observes that the philosophers who have discussed this question in Europe and who have believed in the possibility of universal empire have either held that such an empire must rely on physical strength for its support or must be based on reason or religion. So far history has gone to prove that neither great conquerors like Alex-

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ander, Cæsar, and Napoleon, nor great religious teachers like Shaka, Mahomet, and Christ have succeeded in founding universal empires in the ordinary sense of the term empire. And there is nothing in the present state of the world to indicate that either plan is likely to succeed in the future. But Dr. Katō argues that there is a sense in which a union of States founded on reason is capable of being realised. There are many particulars in which civilised nations are at one. In commerce, industry, science, and morality, in many of their methods of government, there is no disagreement. Into the comity of civilised nations Japan has entered, and her future must necessarily be greatly affected by this fact. There are those who think that the whole world will in time become civilised, and thus all under heaven will be united, but there seem to me no grounds for expecting such a result, says Dr. Katō. There are whole races of men that will never take kindly to European civilisation. The possibility of uniting under one central Government a number of states that possess unlimited local autonomy has been proved by the history of Germany and the United States. Dr. Katō confesses that the present attitude of great European Powers to each other does not look much like preparation for a Universal State, but he thinks that if the majority of the great Powers can construct a platform on which to combine, an unwilling Power like Russia can be forced into compliance. He does not think that the vision is to be realised without resorting to physical force, but the principal basis of union will be similarity of sentiment—a feeling that the welfare of the world will be best promoted by a great union of states.

* * *

Dr. Nakajima is the author of a work called *Seiyōtetsugaku-shoshi*, "A short History of Western Philosophy," 2 vols., price 3 *yen*. The work covers over 1,100 pages, and seems to have been compiled with great care.

Dr. Inoue Tetsujiro, under the title of "The World and Human Nature from an educational point of view," in a small volume, which sells at 25 *sen*, lectures school teachers on their many deficiencies. The theory on which the work is based and on which so much of the newspaper writing on the same subject rests is that persons engaged in education should not claim any special emolument, that they should work from love of the profession and not for the sake of pecuniary profit. All this sounds very grand, but statistics show that the theory is incapable of being carried into practice. The spirit of the age and common sense are opposed to the idea of men undertaking drudgery while receiving only the pay of policemen or coolies.

* * *

Number 14 of the *Shakai Zasshi* has an article by Mr. Yamagata on "The Degeneration of School Teachers and Students," which consists of a collection of all the unfavourable facts that have been made public during the past few years. But the article is very one-sided. The writer is evidently one of those plaintive pessimists whose croaking is heard continually in every part of Japan. Another writer in the same magazine complains of the wholesale manner in which Japanese writers steal from foreign books without acknowldgement. He quotes an instance where a writer called "Kuwano" under the title of *Bankin no Shakai Gaku-setsu* (Recent Sociological Theories) publishes as his own long extracts from foreign works. In one case no less than 25 pages are translated verbatim from a well-known German work entitled *Sociologie und Politik* without any acknowldgment whatever. But this is not all. This king of literary pirates has had the audacity to publish a preface to his work in which he boasts that he alone among modern writers has propounded for the benefit of his fellow-countrymen new sociological theories. The views expressed in his book he represents to have been elaborated by his own original mind. "I have known many plagiarists," says the writer in the *Shakai Zasshi*, "but none so impudent as the compiler of the *Bankin no Shakai-gaku-setsu*. He deserves to be held up to the scorn of his contemporaries."

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The Nihon Bijutsu Kyōkai has received from the Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Management of Exhibits for the forthcoming Paris Exhibition a notification to the effect that applications for leave to send exhibits far exceed the space available for those sent by any one country, so that, with every desire to treat Japan liberally, on account of the progress in art she has made in recent years, the Committee will be obliged to confine the accepted exhibits to specimens of classes of art and to reject duplicates. They recommend that a judicious selection be made of articles that are likely to sell well in foreign markets, thus insuring satisfactory financial results.

* * *

The *Waseda Bungaku* has a lengthy article on the question of the Nude in Art, a topic which has been very earnestly discussed in connection with a picture published in the *Shinchō Gekkan* and a painting by Mr. Kuroda Kiyoteru exhibited by the Hakubukai. The general subject has so often engaged the attention of writers in the West that there is perhaps little that is new to be said on it. But there are one or two particulars in which Japanese ideas on the nude are quite different from those of the majority of Occidentals. The naked figure, says the *Waseda Bungaku*, does not suggest anything evil to the ordinary Japanese mind. He is accustomed to the sight and regards it with indifference. While this is so, the Japanese lover of art can appreciate beauty of form in the human frame, whether male or female and a nude picture could never shock any person of this kind. The *Waseda Bungaku* is of opinion that there has been much unnecessary fuss over this subject. It quotes from a variety of journals on the question and then expresses the opinion that nude figures in art do not occupy the position of importance given to them by many writers. As to how far the pictures of nude females, which have attracted so much attention, and others of the same kind, can claim to be ranked as specimens of high class art is a question, says the *Waseda Bungaku*, which we leave undiscussed.

* * *

The *Kyōiku jiron* reiterates, under the heading of "Society and Education," the everlasting complaint that modern fiction is inflicting infinite harm on the minds of the young, and even proposes that the pupils of elementary and middle schools should be forbidden to read newspapers containing novels or novelettes; apparently not realising that it would be quite impossible to enforce any such regulation. Most of the newspapers, continues the *Kyōiku-jiron*, have no object or principles but profit, and while this is so and their contaminating sheets find their way into every house, the teaching of morality in the schools is entirely without effect. The *Kyōiku-jiron* furnishes examples of the indecent character of the literature referred to and dwells minutely on its pernicious results.

* * *

The *Kyōiku Kōhō* discusses another discouraging feature of modern education, namely the backward state of high class female education. The writer of the article in Number 213 of this magazine, dealing with this subject, is Mr. Naruse Nizō, one of the chief promoters of the Women's University scheme. The following is the gist of Mr. Naruse's observations. Japan being now a progressive country, it is desirable to eradicate from the minds of men as well as women those conservative instincts which block the way to progress. The notions generally prevailing in Japan in reference to women and how they should be treated are still those of the Chinese. The ideas of the girls who undergo training as well as those of their mothers are hereditary and unsuited to the new rôle Japan is playing in the world's history. Coming to the remedies for the existing state of things, it is discouraging to find men like Mr. Izawa Shūji, Marquis Ito, and others, who have given special attention to the subject, unable to agree as to a definite policy to be recommended. All realise the difficulties of the problem of female education, but nobody is ready with a satisfactory solution. All are agreed that there is a great lack of suitable teachers. The present female instructors do not possess sufficient knowledge and force of character to enlist the respect of their pupils. The male instructors who devote themselves to female education are next to none. Then there are financial difficulties of a serious kind in this class of education. Since the war numerous indeed are the enterprises that are at a standstill for want of funds, and as for education, its efficiency to-day will not bear comparison with what it was prior to the war.

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The behaviour of Danjurō, the great actor, has of late been the subject of severe comment in both magazines and newspapers. It is said that, while his acting has degenerated, he has put on airs that make it very hard for stage managers to do business with him. One complaint made is that after acting for 40 days at Osaka, for which he was paid 50,000 *yen*, he was requested, in consideration of the losses sustained by his employers, to extend the period for three days at the same rate of payment, but that he refused to do so. Then it is said that he asked 12,000 *yen* for one act only of the play called *Kanjinchō*, which was being put on the stage at the Kabukiza, and that he even objected to Kikugorō as a fellow-actor and demanded the employment of his (Danjurō's) own pupils only.

* * *

A member of the Council of the Gakushi-Kaiin, Mr. Sugi Kōji has been investigating the physique of the rising generation. The result of his inquiries are given in the *Tōkei Shūshi* (Statistics), from which we

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take the following particulars:—According to statistics in the possession of the Military Headquarters Staff the height of army recruits has for several years past been falling off. This Mr. Sugi attributes to excessive application and disregard of the rules of health on the part of the student class. The physique of the mass of soldiers who have lately joined the ranks is said to be far inferior to that of foreign troops. In general intelligence the Japanese youth ranks high, the intellect of a lad of 15 or 16 is usually more developed than is the case with European boys of the same age. But the physical deterioration which has been proved to exist is, says Mr. Sugi, a cause for great anxiety, and it is incumbent on the Mombushō and all who are engaged in education to devise schemes for reducing the strain on the minds of the young which the present multiplicity of subjects involves. Unaccustomed to study statistics or to take any trouble to collect them, the Japanese are apt to go on blindfold from year to year, not knowing what the future has in store. In countries like Germany the physical capabilities of the average youth is perfectly well known to the Government and they can calculate accordingly. Japan's information on these subjects is most imperfect, while what it does possess is anything but reassuring.

* * *

In a recently issued number of the *Waseda Bungaku* there is a review of the tendency of thought during the first half of the current year. Degeneration and stagnancy as regards the higher spheres of thought and out and out materialism in the lower are according to this the leading characteristics of the times. organ No discerning person can fail to see, says the *Waseda Bungaku*, that morally Japan has lost by her war with China; men's thoughts have been turned into new channels. Material progress, and not high moral or intellectual attainment, is the chief thing sought after by the bulk of the nation. The range of modern literature has become extremely narrow. Readers for the most part are no longer interested in questions that have little bearing on every day life and their material interests. From being absorbed by the abstract, men's minds have passed to the extreme of being absorbed by the concrete. There are many evils attached to the change that has taken place, but they are not all of the same kind, and there is such a thing as one evil modifying another. . . . . Turning to literature, the three serials that have figured conspicuously in publishing the works of famous novelists are the *Shin Shōsetsu*, the *Shinchō Gekkan* and the *Bungei Kurabu*. The chief contributors to these magazines have been Ryurō, Chūgai, and Kōrō. Rohan has been silent. One of the above publications, the *Shinchō Gekkan*, has been discontinued.

There has been much discussion as to the style adopted by novelists and a still more important subject, the reform of both the written and spoken languages and the adoption of substitutes for the ideographs now in use, has been discussed in some quarters with great earnestness. Other topics that have occupied attention in the literary world are the nude in art; Mr. Danjurō's pompous airs; the acting of the *Chikushō, hara*, at the Sōshi theatre; Dr. Toyama's appointment as Minister of State and his sudden removal from office; Mr. Uchimura's exit from the staff of the *Yorodzu Chōhō*, and the establishment of a new journal, the *Tōkyō Dokuritsu*, by him, and a few other changes of a similar kind.

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From another source we learn that through the efforts of Mr. Kojima Itto, Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō, and others, a society called the Kokuji Kairyō Kaisha (Letter Reform Society) has been formed, the object and constitution of which is thus stated by one or two journals:—(1) The object of the assocation is the reform of the written language of Japan. (2) In effecting this object, it will be the endeavour of the society to adopt the most convenient signs available for the purpose. (3) Any one agreeing with the objects of the society and zealous in the cause is at liberty to become a member. (4) Members shall be divided into (a) investigators, (b) workers, and (c) approvers. (5) The monthly subscription shall be 10 *sen*. (6) The society shall appoint secretaries, accountants and superintendents. (7) The office of the association shall be the Gakushi-kai Jimusho, connected with the Imperial University.

It is said that Mr. Kojima has been an earnest advocate of the reform for nearly 30 years.

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In an interesting article, the *Teikoku Bungaku* dwells on the fact that there are no writers of historical romances in Japan at the present time. Not long ago the *Yomiuri Shimbun* made an attempt to revive this class of literature, but failed. No historical novel worthy of preservation has been penned since the days of Bakin, says the *Teikoku Bungaku*. It adds that since Scott's time the historical romance has deteriorated in England, which is no doubt true, despite the fact that men like Conan Doyle and Stanley J. Weyman, not to mention others, have given us some charming pictures of old English and French life. In addition to being historical, Bakin's works were strictly purpose novels. Each tale was written to illustrate some virtue. At the beginning of the *Meiji* era there was in our literary world a dead set against this class of story. Strong repugnance to the Buddhist teaching interwoven with Bakin's narrative was also felt in some quarters. Realism in fiction became all the rage and Bakin's works were regarded as out of date. It is to be regretted that so clever a writer as Bakin, who illustrated history as no other Japanese writer has done, should have been condemned on account of the minor defects, if defects they were, displayed in his works. One thing is certain, and that is that in many quarters there is a sincere longing for the appearance of a second Bakin. Since Bakin's time historical research has been carried on with great earnestness and modern scholars possess facilities for obtaining minute information that did not exist in Bakin's time. But Bakin was a great genius in addition to being a great student, and it is questionable whether we shall see his like in our day, concludes the *Teikoku Bungaku*.

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The *Sekai-no-Nihon*, hitherto a monthly, from September is to become a weekly and is to assume a new form. Henceforth half of its space only will be devoted to magazine articles, the rest will consist of news and discussions thereon. The style of writing is to be simplified and more attention is to be given to the publication of actual facts than to the discussion of mere theories. The views expressed by other journals will occasionally be stated. The first number of the new series will appear on September 10th. The price has been fixed at 4 *sen* per copy.

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According to an article from the pen of Mr. Mitsuishi Shizuo the reform of Japanese orthography is still engaging the attention of scholars The majority seem to be in favour of improving the Japanese *kana* so as to render them capable of expressing sounds not found in Japanese. Some advocate the use of *katakana* only, others the exclusive use of *hiragana*. The former are led by Mr. Kimura Takatarō; the latter by Dr. Inouye Tetsujirō and Mr. Okada Masayoshi. Dr. Inouye expressed his views at considerable length in a lecture delivered to the Gakushikai-in a short time ago. Dr. Inouye recommends that the *hiragana* now in use should be curtailed by dropping all unnecessary strokes. Dr. Inouye thinks that at no time has the public mind been so ready for a radical change in the method of writing Japanese as at present. He thinks that if a system of signs such as those employed by stenographers were devised they would answer every purpose.

It seems to us that, however advisable the reform may be deemed by leading men, unless the Department of Education can be induced to inaugurate and carry the scheme through, it will never be effected.

FIRES.

About 3 30 on Sunday morning the dismal clanking of the fire bell at the Bluff police station announced the discovery of a fire at 217-B Bluff, the residence of Mr. L. Abenheim, The house was a two-storied one, and was built of wood. By the time the Fire Brigade men at the Bluff station arrived the fire had obtained a firm hold, and the whole of the building was enveloped in flame. The only engine available was a small manual ridiculously inadequate for dealing with so serious a fire, and water could only be got from the various wells in the neighbourhood. In these circumstances there was no hope of saving the place, and the Brigade directed their attention to attempting to confine the fire, and prevent it spreading to the neighbouring houses. In this, by dint of hard work and with the assistance of the Bluff Police Brigade, they managed to succeed, except that a momban's house attached to Mr. Gibbs' premises was destroyed. Mr. Abenheim's house was left a complete ruin, only the chimneys remaining standing. A few articles of furniture were saved, and the fire was fortunately discovered in time for all the inmates to make their escape. The blazing wood made a huge glare in the sky, and many who were aroused by the fire bell thought an even more serious conflagration was in progress. The fire is alleged to have originated in the lamp room, but nothing positive is known. The loss is covered by insurance in the National Assurance Society of Ireland (Messrs. Isaacs & Co., agents).

It should be added that Superintendent Morgin, of the Fire Brigade, wishes to express thanks to the ladies of the Seamen's Union Mission Bible Readers' School, who gave the brigade the use of the numerous rain water tanks attached to the School.

Fire broke out on the 27th, at 3.30 a.m., at Kanasugi-kami-machi, Shitaya, Tokyo, and three houses were burnt down. An infant was killed.

Early on the morning of the 30th fire broke out at the office of the Shinagawa Electric Light Company, and destroyed the building. The fire is said to have arisen from the sparks of a tobacco pipe.

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JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS.

Friction between the former Liberals and Progressists continues, says the *Mainichi*, and threatens to bring about a rupture before long. A clique headed by Viscount Takashima is said to have held secret conferences at the Viscount's residence for the formation of an anti Constitutional Party. They hope to have the aid of the National Unionists, who succeeded in returning nineteen of their number to the Diet. Among zealous advocates of the project are Messrs. Oye Taku, Furusawa Shigeru, Tokutomi Iichiro, and Takenouchi Go. These are said to be indirectly supported by Messrs. Oi Kentaro, Arai Shogo, and Ishizaka Masataka, of the Constitutional Party. The latter statement, however, can hardly be credited. It is said that the new party is to be joined by a number of leading members of the former Cabinet, who are uncompromisingly opposed to the present Ministry. Negotiations have been already opened with Barons Ito and Suyematsu and Messrs. Kaneko and Sone, who have all agreed to act under the direction of Viscount Takashima. Messrs. Oye and Takenouchi are busily engaged in trying to persuade the "business men" to embrace their cause.

Mr. Consul Mutsu, of San Francisco, sends the following report dated the 25th July:—Two or three leading tea dealers to whom enquiries have been addressed report that the demand for Japanese tea has in no way decreased, and the trade may be restored to its former prosperity in the near future. During the past two or three years, however, Japanese and Chinese teas have shown a tendency to decline in favour, owing presumably to competition with India and Ceylon. The taxation of tea seems to involve a certain degree of injustice when it is remembered that coffee is free of duty, but the Consul thinks the imposition of the new tax will not prove injurious to the prospects of Japanese tea.

According to the *Nippon*, Mr. Yamada, Vice-Minister of Justice, has requested the Cabinet to convene a special meeting in regard to the election trouble in which he was a prominent figure. Count Okuma is said to have promised to give him a definite reply when he has completed the necessary investigations. Mr. Yamada is indignant at the action of Count Itagaki, who caused the matter to be divulged before it was legally settled, and allowed a certain Liberal organ to publish defamatory statements against Mr. Yamada. Mr. Yamada's proposed resignation, therefore, may be viewed as having changed the situation for the worse. In one respect it is an open declaration of hostility to the existing Cabinet.

According to the *Mainichi*, a special meeting of the Constitutionalists in the three prefectures of Toyama, Fukui, and Ishikawa, was held at Kanazawa on the 20th instant Mr. Yokuchi, in the chair. Resolutions were passed to the effect that the three prefectures should be united for party purposes, and that a special conference should be held every year previous to the meeting of the Diet. Another motion was passed urging the Government to carry out administrative reforms at once; advising the discontinuance of internal dissensions now noticeable among the members of the Constitutional Party; and securing the completion of a railway between Toyama and Naoyetsu. It was decided that these proposals should be forwarded to the Head Office in Tokyo.

Count Itagaki, Minister for Home Affairs, has distinguished himself by the introduction of sweeping changes in the system of local administration, in which he seems to have secured valuable assistance from the Director of the Prefectural Bureau. With a view to completely eradicating the abuses inherent in local administration, the Count recently issued the following instructions to various prefectures:—In pursuance of directions issued from time to time for the purpose of securing simplicity and perfect adjustment of administrative affairs, it has been decided that the views of the local Governors should be taken into consideration on questions of reform relative to local affairs having more or less connection with the Departments of the Central Government. Much has to be done also in regard to affairs connected with the Prefectural, Rural, and Municipal Offices, the Police and Prison Offices, and their branches, and District Offices of all discriptions. As regards matters which directly concern the people, the utmost simplicity should be exercised in the forms of procedure, in order that they may be properly understood. Radical changes must be effected in order to conduct the administration with the greatest simplicity and celerity.

A report from the Japanese Consul at Mokpho is published in the *Mainichi*. He states that the matches imported into Mokpho are entirely of Japanese manufacture, and their import is exclusively conducted by Japanese. They are classified as safety, sulphur, and China matches. The first-mentioned are quoted at 2.90 *yen* per case of 120 packets. The greatest demand seems to exist among Koreans for manufactures bearing the brands of "one deer" and "two deer." The matches of these brands are extremely popular in Fusan, being specially manufactured to order from leading merchants in that p rt. But in Mokpho they have been superseded by sulphur matches and there is no demand. The "horse" and "triangle" brands, recently imported, are now quoted at 19.20 and 18 *yen* respectively. There are prospects of a steady growth of trade in these matches. The China matches, which are chiefly produced by the Koyekisha, Osaka, are sold for 29.70 *yen* per case containing 300 pockets of a dozen boxes each. The price includes 2 80 *yen* for freight and other charges, and 1 40 *yen* for import duties. Matches of this description have entirely lost popularity among the Koreans, who have ceased to import them, the native merchants being seriously perplexed as to the means of disposing of the stock in hand. As to safety matches, the depression is attributed to the comparatively high quotations caused by their shipment in steamer from Osaka instead of being transported by sailing vessels, as in the case of sulphur and other matches, to Fusan. The Consul recommends transport between Osaka and Mokpho by means of sailing ships.

Rumour has it that the import duties on sugar be 15 per cent., since the total revenue from this source is estimated at 50 million *yen*. Dealers, however, do not favour such a forecast fixing the amount at less than 20 million *yen*. A serious diminution in demand is expected. It is said that the leading corporations in Tokyo and wholesale merchants in Yokohama would enter a strong protest if the question of a 15 per cent. duty is introduced in the 13th session of the Diet. The foreign firms in Yokohama and Kobe appear to have communicated to their respective Governments their views against the measure under contemplation. The dealers, are not opposed to the imposition of taxes *per se*; they simply object to pay more than 10 per cent.

Last year a special committee was appointed by the Tokyo Municipal Council to bring about the speedy completion of much-needed reforms; and as a result of this measure, about 32 highways out of 300 reserved for improvement were dealt with, the work to be effected within ten years. This constituted the first period of the undertaking, and funds amounting to 9 600 *yen* were allowed for it. The rest of the roads were to be dealt with in the succeeding decade. The programme, however, requires more than 10 million *yen* for the 1st term alone, and no source of revenue apparently exists to meet the contingency, inasmuch as the City Reform Regulations do not allow special taxes to be collected above the amount of 500,000 *yen*, of which half has to be paid as interest on Water Works Bonds. Another half therefore is only available for the 31st year. But this would be entirely exhausted in the event of a fire breaking out in two or three places included in the sphere of reform. It has been determined that special taxes shall on one hand be raised to the highest possible limit, and that applications, on the other, shall be forwarded to the Government for a special subsidy. Simultaneously, measures are to be taken to demand the transfer of the Rice Granaries' lots in Asakusa to the ownership of the Tokyo municipality. The *Nichi Nichi* is responsible for these statements.

Under the caption, the "Formosan Railway Scandal." the *Nippon* makes the following comments:—The scheme for the construction of a railway from the south to the north of Formosa was set on foot in the 29th year of *Meiji*, the proposed capital being 15 million *yen*. Owing to the depression in the financial market, however, seven or eight postponements in the organisation of the company have taken place, and it still fails to commence work. In July last, negotiations with Messrs. Peacock & Co. seemed likely to be successful, and another period of adjournment was granted by the Governor General until October next. But the negotiations now appear likely to end in a complete failure. From a strategical as well as an administrative point of view a Formosan railway cannot for the moment be dispensed with. If private enterprise prove unsuccessful the work ought to be undertaken by the Government. The projectors of the Formosan railway are perfectly aware of the fact that a capital of 15 million *yen* would not suffice to carry out the work under contemplation. Surely there must be something below the surface in this matter. The *Nippon* says the fact is that Viscount Takashima, leader of the Satsuma coterie, is at the bottom of the scheme, and it makes very grave charges against the administration of the company's finances.

The question of the state ownership of railways has already been discussed on its merits, and no further comment, remarks the *Jiji*, is necessary, except to show how the purchase is to be effected. It was contemplated that the four main lines of the Nippon, Kobu, Sanyo, and Kiushiu Railway Companies should be bought, for the time being, by the issue of bonds corresponding in value to 20 or 25 times the amount of the net profits (taken as 5 per cent.) realized by them. The Nippon Railway Company has at times declared a dividend of 10 or even 15 per cent, but this has been only when subsidies were included in the dividends, the average annual profit being 8 per cent. The paid-up capital of the Company amounted at the end of March last to 42,360,000 *yen*, and debentures to 295,000 *yen*, making a total of 42.655.000 *yen*. If 5 per cent. profit is to be taken as the standard in fixing the purchase, the aggregate amount to be paid will be no less than 68,240.000 *yen*. In the case of the Kobu Railway the rate of profit seems to have been 12 per cent. and its paid-up capital and debentures aggregated 1,710.000 and 140,000 *yen* respectively, making a total of 1,850.000 *yen*. The purchase price of this railway is, therefore, estimated at 4.440,000 *yen*. The Sanyo railway, of which the paid-up capital amounts to 15.630,000 *yen* and debentures to 2,000,000 *yen*, which two sums, together with a loan of 220,000 *yen*, make a total of 17.850,000 *yen*, has secured 8 per cent. profit, and in consideration of this the purchase is to be fixed at 30,345.000 *yen*. As for the Kiushiu railway, it has secured 10 per cent. on total working funds of 21,045,000 *yen*, of which 19.150,000 *yen* is paid-up capital and 895,000 *yen* debentures. The purchase price is estimated at 42,090 000 *yen*. From the above calculations it may be perceived that the total cost of the railways amounts to 145,123,000 *yen*, and if 5 per cent. bonds are to be issued the interest to be paid annually from the Treasury will be nb less than 7¼ millions. Is it possible for Government to realize a net profit of this amount by taking the four main railways under its control? The question cannot be answered in the affirmitive. That government enterprises are generally attended with on larger expendi-

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ture than private undertakings is an undeniable fact. The report of the Railway Bureau for the 29th year of *Meiji* corroborates this assertion. The ratio of expenses to the receipts realized is stated in the case of government railways at 46 per cent., whereas it does not exceed 42 per cent. in the case of the Nippon Railway, 33 per cent. in that of the Kobu, 40 per cent. in that of the Sanyo, and 30 per cent. in that of the Kiushiu. Even supposing the average amount of expenses to be 40 per cent., it is necessary for government to secure traffic receipts to the amount of 12,500,000 *yen* to realise a profit of 7½ millions; and it is very doubtful whether the government would be able to secure such a result. The four lines above mentioned are conspicuous among private railways, for solidity of structure but they are by far inferior to government railways both in regard to permanent way and in respect of the trains run on them. If these pass into the hands of the Government and are brought into a state befitting an official enterprise, the amount of expenditure is likely to be increased by 50 or even 60 per cent. Moreover, the extension of stations, reconstruction of bridges and lines, and augmentation of rolling stock would certainly require a fresh outlay of 20 or 30 millions. The financial embarrassment into which the Government has fallen has already necessitated the suspension of all undertakings except those connected with the extension of telegraphs and the construction of war-vessels, fortifications, which can not be dispensed with. How, then, can the Government persuade itself to undertake the purchase of railways which will involve a loss of 3 million year by year. Increased taxation must be adopted, but if to be levier it is only for the purpose of enriching a section of merchants through such a programme as the state ownership of railways, the people must decline to contribute a *sen* or a *rin*.

A Government telegram from Vienna published in the *Shogyo* announces that the Austro-Hungarian Government has consented to the new treaty between Japan and Austro-Hungary being put into operation from the 17th July of the 32nd year of *Meiji*, and the tariff from the 1st January of the same year. All the formalities in connection with the matter have been completed. The *Shogyo* says that as the Empire of Austria-Hungary suffers at present from internal troubles, there can be no doubt that the assent to the treaty was the result of the extremely liberal sentiments of the Kaiser Francis Joseph.

Intelligence from Korea published in the *Nichi Nichi* says that during last month the English Representative obtained the privilege of working mines in a particular section, as the result of negotiations carried on between him and the ex-Korean Minister for Foreign Affairs. The treaty was to be signed and interchanged on the 1st of August. The Korean Government, however, suddenly sought delay and despatched one of the secretaries to the English Representative with a private communication from the new Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs requesting the postponement of the date of signing the proposed treaty. This naturally surprised the English Representative in no small degree. He instantly drove to the Foreign Office, but, finding the Minister already gone home, intimated that the latter's attitude was a violation of international courtesy, and was to be regarded as a serious offence against the Minister of a great country, adding that if this sort of discourtesy were to be repeated, a special audience with the Emperor would be requested. Two or three communications have since passed. On the 15th instant, a definite reply was received by the English Representative to the effect that since the treaty for cöoperation in the working of mines contained a number of articles which could not be approved, the signature must be postponed, and that a fresh conference should be held for the revision of the protocol, the draft of which was to be delivered to the English Representative in a few days.

Mr. Ariga, Superintendent of the Industrial Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, is represented by the *Nippon* as having made the following remarks:—Osaka may justly claim to be called the "Manchester of Japan." Her hundreds of chimneys sending up clouds of murky smoke; the stateliness and magnificence of her workshops; the great number of artisans employed in them, and the enormous products of their industry—these are unmistakable signs of the town's unrivalled manufacturing position throughout the Empire. The financial disorganisation of the market has led to the decline of industry, and it was supposed that the supply of artisans would be in excess of the demand. A thorough investigation, however, shows that the reverse is the case. The sanitary arrangements hitherto adopted for artisans have provoked vehement criticism, but the manufacturers seem to have recently introduced extensive reforms so that the system is now approaching a state of perfection. Okayama, though not comparable to Osaka in respect of industry, has nevertheless advanced considerably of late. The wheat straw works, fancy matting, spinning, &c., have made extraordinary progress. The operatives in Okayama are older and more regular in their habits than those of Osaka, most of them being sons of *shisoku*, who were under rigorous discipline in their youth.

A despatch from Korea, dated 20th instant, and published in the *Nippon*, describes the arrival of Marquis Ito in Fusan on the morning of that day. The *Sōul Gazette* (*Kanjo Shimpo*) speaks of the Marquis as the benefactor of Korea, and lauds him as one of the greatest statesmen of the Orient. He must be welcomed, the *Sōul Gazette* adds, in a manner worthy of our love and respect for him. The *Sōul Independent* alluded to the Marquis in a similar tone. A native classical dance was exhibited for the visitor's entertainment.

Not a little excitement was caused by the false intelligence received from Hokkaido a few days ago to the effect that Lieutenant General Nagayama had threatened, in a fit of anger, to kill Mr. Kudo Kokan with a sword. The canard seems to have emanated, according to the *Chuo*, from the following facts:—At a garden party held by the Governor of Hakkaido on the opening of a railway which forms part of a scheme for establishing railways throughout the length and breadth of the North, the Governor delivered a brief address in which he alluded to his seven predecessors, whom he compared to the seven gods and goddesses of fortune. Lieutenant General Nagayama was compared to Bishamonten. Mr. Kudo Kokan, on behalf of the guests present, then rose and expressed thanks for the entertainment prepared for them, at the same time criticising the administration. Referring to the allegory employed by Governor Sugita he remarked that in the case of the "*Bishamon* Governor" a military system of administration was adopted to the extent of curbing the liberty of the people. "Surely," said he, "the scheme for colonization ought to be accomplished with the united efforts of both Government and people." No sooner had he finished these remarks than the Lieutenant-General rose and exclaimed: "Never have I, during my tenure of office as Governor of Hokkaido, done anything to restrain the people's freedom. I am a soldier. I can not be present at a place where speeches are tainted with political allusions. Nor am I willing to stay where such rudeness is shown to me." With these words he left the hall in spite of the earnest remonstrance of the Governor. "Were I to remain here any longer," I he added, "I might be betrayed into something extraordinary."

A SERIOUS EPIDEMIC.

Dysentery is still prevalent throughout the provinces, especially, in the prefectures of Yamanashi and Shizuoka. According to the statistics of the Home Department, 877 cases appeared on the 30th ult., and 191 persons died. This makes a total of 40 667 cases from the commencement of the outbreak. Of those attacked 8,132 have died.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE WAR.

I have no desire to wound the susceptibilities of my American friends, remarks Mr. Thos. H. Reid, of the *China Mail*. Their generous hospitality disarms criticism. They are, writing comprehensively, splendid fellows, hearty, kind, good-humoured, hospitable, modest to a degree little suspected by the average Briton, courteous, and mild in the criticism of our insular idiosyncracies. But their method of running a war lends itself to friendly criticism. A foreign military expert, landed in Cavite or Camp Dewey, at any rate before General Merritt arrived, would have found a rich field for investigation. In another direction—and the fact is so patent to the Americans themselves that no apology is needed for mentioning it—the fortune will be made of the man who first writes the comic history of the invasion of the Philippines. It is full of humorous situations. The mere chronicler of commonplace events cannot do it justice. Neither can the word-painter. It has, unquestionably, a serious side. We are full of sympathy for the patriotic young fellows, who, in an excess of zeal for the honour of their country, have given up the luxuries of life, pleasant homes, and dearly-loved friends, to serve in a far-distant, uncongenial climate, undergoing the perils and discomforts of the sea and the battle-field, with small hope of personal reward or individual glory. Only those who have witnessed the highly-cultured, tenderly-nurtured young men of the United States performing the prosaic drudgery of camp life can fairly estimate what they are suffering for the sake of their country. We can also sympathise from the bottom of our hearts with the relatives of the men who will never return to the homelands. But, as I have said, there are not wanting situations inexpressibly funny.

The sergeant-major of one of the regiments had the sad and unpleasant duty of burying a comrade. As a sergeant-major he is "a griffin." I use the word in its Far Eastern sense. Not knowing very well how to set about the last sad ceremonials he visited the hospital.

"What am I to do?" he asked the hospital steward.

"Wall, I don't know," drawled the steward, whose susceptibilities are blunted by daily dalliance with death. "All we supply, sergeant major, is the corpse!"

Somewhat "rattled," the sergeant-major proceeded to headquarters! Here he saw an official, a clerical-looking gentleman of mild mien and dignified demeanour.

"I've got a dead man on my hands," began the sergeant major, "and I want to know what I am to do with the corpse."

"What was the matter with him?" asked the clerical-looking gentleman.

"Oh, he's just dead!" replied the sergeant-major, determined that he would get in the first hit this time.

"I know he's dead," was the sharp retort, as a fierce eye fixed the unhappy sergeant-major. "What did he die of, you blamed fool?"

"Look you here. I came down here to get information, not to be 'jumped on.'"

The sergeant-major's temper was rising. "Jumped on" is an American term of peculiar significance.

The clerical-looking gentleman then proceeded to explain that he was the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General; that the sergeant-major was scarcely respectful, either in his manner or his language; and that it was customary to address the headquarters' staff differently.

This broke up the sergeant-major. He went back to his adjutant, and begged to be relieved of his rank and duties.

There was some excuse for him. It is difficult to tell from a man's uniform what rank or position he holds in the U.S. Army—difficult to tell whether a man is a "contract doctor" or a brigadier general. The brigadier is generally the more modest and least conspicuous!

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A LITERARY ACHIEVEMENT.

A very admirable little guide-book for the use of English-speaking visitors to Hakone has been produced by the combined enterprise of Mr. T. Matsui, proprietor of the inn called Yenshu-ya in Hakone, and the linguistic ability of Mr. C. T. Tauchiya, a gentlemen who seems to have been educated at Cambridge. It is called "Guide on Hakone," a title subtly devised to prepare the reader for the exceptionally attractive style in which the book is composed. The author says that Mr. Matsui "earnestly requested me to translate a book titled Kanzanshi into English that is generally spoken by the most of foreigners," which task he has faithfully accomplished. He appears to suggest some doubt as to the success of his rendering, for he says:—"I am afraid that the natural beauty of the place should be left out of my pages." But we venture to assure Mr. Tsuchiya that his success is quite phenomenal; that his book will greatly enhance the pleasures of Hakone for visitors, and that, having carefully perused his pages, we can frankly say of them, as he himself says of the Yanahanasawa spa, "telescopic viewing off all sides is very excellent." As rights are not reserved—an unwise exercise of liberality in our opinion—we transcribe a few extracts for the benefit of readers who may not have ready access to this remarkable volume:—

YENSHUYA HOTEL,
HAKONE.

FIRST CLASS ACCOMMODATION.
Fine Views of Fuji Mountain and Ashi Lake.

It would be most convenient in March or in April to contract of lending room during the summer days of that year. To those who shall stay at Miyanoshita and practice a recreative excursion to Hakone, this Hotel may serve for reposing place to dine.

RIHEI MATSUI.

Hakone, June 28th, 1898.

1.—GENERAL REPORTS ON HAKONE.

For the most part, the celebrated places and the famous ruins preserve mostly in steep and unapproachable points, as in precipices or valleys. Here, the most steep and precipitous point in Tōkaidō is Hakone Mountain, to whose summit we can reach after ascending about ten miles from its either base. Owing to toilsome ascent, many difficulties must be endured by travellers. The result of toleration is pleasure. There the Imperial Pleasure Palace stands; Hakone Gongen, a Shintō temple, adorns itself with perpetual unchanging dress of forest; the Ashi lake spreads the face of glowing glass reflected upside down the shadow of Fuji, which is the highest, noblest, and most glorious mountain in Japan; and the mineral hot-springs warmly entertain the guests coming yearly to visit them during summer vacation. The purity of air, the coolness of summer days, and the fine view of landscape are agreeable to all visitors; for these facts, they do not know how is the summer heat and where is the epidemic prevailing.

II. INHABITANTS.—Although the village has not so much population, the degree of livelihood of the inhabitants is comparatively excellent. Their natural disposition is gentle and honest, and their mutual friendship is so harmonious as that of a family.

III. AIR.—Draught of pure air suspends no poisonous mixture and always cleanses the defilement of our spirit. During the winter days the coldness robs up all pleasures from our hands, but at the summer months they are set free.

IV. VIEWS.—Whenever we visit the place, the first pleasure to be longed is the view of Fuji Mountain and its summit is covered with permanent undissolving snow, and its regular configuration, hanging down the sky like an opened white fan, may be looked long at equal shape from several regions surrounding it. Every one who saw it ever has nothing but applause. It casts the shadow in a contrary direction on still glassy face of lake as I have just described. Buildings of Imperial Solitary Palace, scenery of Gongen, all are spontaneous pictures. Wind proper in quantity suits to our boat to slip by sail, and moonlight shining on the sky shivers quartzy lustre over ripples of the lake. The cuckoo singing near by our hotel plays on a harp, and the gulls flying about to and fro seek their food in the waves. All these panorama may be gathered only in this place.

There is a narration now remained about the name Oidara which I will tell you a little. At an ancient period, a youth called Urashima Taro ever passed here, and rested himself from his labour. Within his baggages, he had a box which he was left from his wife with whom he had lived happily, and which he was strictly decreed never to open whatever be the case and that if it be opposed he will become old. But he forgot of his wife's decretive words. He opened the box. The lid was cast into front mountain and the box into hind mountain. Suddenly his face wrinkled, his beard became white, his loins bent as shrimp, and all blessings disappeared at once. On that account, mountain to which he cast the box was called Banko-yama, which Japanese means "Mountain of box," and that of the lid was called Futago-yama, of which pronunciation is in like sound with "lid" in Japanese, and this flat place was named Oidara as I have just spoken.

Westward.—After ascending about a mile westward from Hakone-machi, we shall reach to a post erected to mark the boundary of Sagami, to which Hakone belongs, and Idzu, which belongs to Shidzuoka-ken. The more we go forward the lower the ground becomes. Soon we shall arrive at Segyodaira or Settai, where in former ages the horses passing through this place received bestowment of the bean, but at the present time the alms of tea are given to every one who travels on this mountain instead of giving compassion to horses.

Mishima is a small town busy of one's own occupation, and there may be the perfect convenience of all wants desired for.

Hotels.—Forty-five houses among whole machi are the hotels for cessation of travellers. Each of them as an untiring view of garden and an elegant prospect of landscape; hence many visitors are assembled at the summer days to attend their own health. The chief hotels are Ishiuchi, Yamakiya, and Yenshuya.

Victuals.—Breads, fleshes of fowls and animals, and fresh fishes transporting on from Yoshihama and Fukuura satisfy the relish of people.

Water to be drunk.—Streams of water issuing forth in the south-eastern valley of Hakone-machi, are used by whole inhabitants. Transport and delicate liquid is constantly overflowing from the vat and its pulmy free from defilement so finely values on the applause of visitors as it is with the air.

There were fifty lodging places from Tōkyō to Kyōto in the public road called Tōkaidō. One of them is Hakone. An ancient state about this place is scarcely known to the world, even to its own dwellers, but since the middle ages there were the abundant records and stories remained, which I will talk a little.

Frequently, the violent wars were battled here in ancient times. I will only describe the latest battle struggled at Hakone. At May of the first year of Meiji about thirty years ago from the present, two feudal and military chiefs engaged in battle on Hakone mountain. One of them was Ohubo Kagano-kami, the Lord of Odawara Han, and other Shōgosuke Hayashi, Lord of Bōshū; and the former belonged to Imperial army and the latter was in Shōgun's side. One time, Hayashi staid at Numadzu and held a good many soldiers. Leading them, he passed Mishima and came to Hakone. He requested to the guardsmen of Barrier-gate to let his army pass through it. At that time, the guardianship of the gate was in the hand of Odawara-Han, and the request was not permitted by its master Kagano-kami. He durst to pass through it by military power. Then the battle was instigated, and instantly guns were fired. All of dwellers of Hakone were so frightened that they fled out of their dwellings and hid into mountains or valleys. After short struggle the guardsmen could not conquer him, and retired to Odawara to shut themselves up in the castle for its defence. Taking advantage of victory, he advanced his army to destroy them. He missed unexpectedly his cogitation. He was defeated very badly, and retired to Yumoto. Secondly, he ran back to Hakone, defeated by enemy. By violent pursuit of Imperial army, he was finally obliged to run to Atiro, about four miles south from Atami and thence to escape to his own previous dominion.

Thenceforth, the construction of perfect Imperial government by the revolution of Meiji placed the nation out of impetuous struggles of Feudalism. And this ruin was remained to endless fancy.

The old withered cedar-trees about two or three feet in diameter sink vertically or transversally on the bottom of the lake. Why are they immerging to the lake? A slight research will easily give you a reason.

Another queer advertisement:—Required, the services of a literary person to assist in the production of a pamphlet dealing with the deceit and artfulness of women.—Address W., "Daily News" Inquiry Office, Fleet-street, E.C.

KOREAN NOTES.

We recently quoted an extract from the annual report of the British Consul-General in Korea to the effect that there were no beggars in the little peninsula empire, save in the foreign quarters of Söul; yet to-day we find the *Independent* devoting a leading article to the subject of "What shall we do with Beggars." From this article we learn there are hundreds of beggars in Korea; "that they are a privileged class: that they do not beg but demand; that they visit rice stores, vegetable shops, etc., periodically and help themselves to what they want; that they are more insolent than a millionaire, but nobody dares offend them; and that in some parts of the country people are in as much awe of beggars as of Imperial inspectors." This anomaly, says our contemporary, is explained by the fact "that beggars, thieves, and robbers are too often convertible terms, and that a brigade of beggars was formerly employed by the prison authorities when a particularly nasty job had to be done." The *Independent* describes the Korean beggar as a sturdy fellow who "wants the chain, not charity."

The Vice-President of the Imperial Peddlers' Guild in Korea, Yi Knidong, has been elevated to the judicial bench, being made Chief of the Bureau of Civil Cases.

It costs something to dress well in Korea. Our Söul contemporary estimates that the hat, hair-band, cap, etc., of a Korean gentleman run up to nearly $200. The items are:—

Silk hat	$ 20
Cap	20
Hair band	5
Hat stopper	40
Topknot pin	10
Hat string	50
Pair of solid gold buttons	50
	$ 195

Korea is being impelled slowly along the path of reform. Recently the Vice-President of the Council of State made the following suggestions to the Ministers:—

1. That officers in various Departments should hold their respective positions until sickness or bad behaviour necessitated their removal.

2. That the decisions of one Minister of Justice should not be reversed by his successor without sufficient reasons being adduced; but that in case of an unjust decision the Minister might be impeached.

3. That the special nightly frequenters (whisperers) at the Court should be kept out of the Palace.

4. That proper steps be taken at once to root out the growing opium habit.

On the 13th of August, Kim Pyengsi, the oft-resigning Premier, had his wish gratified, the Emperor accepting his resignation.

The Independence Club having expostulated with the chief of the Supreme Court at the delay in bringing Yi Yongik to trial, the Minister of Justice replied:—

"The case of Yi Yongik—can your Club alone be indignant against it? The legal authorities will never rest until he be brought to justice. Since the Imperial sanction was obtained and the police instructed for his arrest, many days have passed (in vain search for him). May it not be that he has run away? Moreover, Yi Yongik, in close alliance with Choi Jungsik (the man who was some time ago imprisoned for having employed impolite language against His Majesty) manufactured cunning fables trying to exonerate himself (Yi) by throwing all blame of his misdeeds on His Majesty. These facts having come to the light unreserved, Yi had added crime upon crime. He ought to be punished without a day's indulgence. We are twice as impatient and indignant at this delay of the trial as you. I hope this is a satisfactory reply to your inquiries.

Five of the twelve men arrested in connection with the recent "conspiracy"—they suggested that the Emperor should resign in favour of the Crown Prince—have been acquitted. The other seven, Messrs. Yi Choongku, and Kim Jaipoong, two ex-Commissioners of Police, Yi Jongnim, ex Chief of Police, Yi Rionghau and

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Yi Yonghan, two ex-Army officers, and Yi Johyen, ex-Magistrate of Keujei, were all sentenced to banishment for life.

The latest intelligence from Korea published in the *Kokumin* confirms the rumour that the German Minister in Sŏul has applied to the Korean Government for permission to allow a German concessionaire to build a railway between Sŏul and Wonsan. The German Consul-General approached the Korean Court on the 8th or 9th ultimo.

On the 4th ultimo the Japanese Minister submitted a proposal to the Korean Government that the detailed provisions in regard to the Sŏul-Fusan railway should be settled in accordance with the provisional treaty. No definite reply, however, has been received, though the Minister has frequently repaired to the Foreign and Home Offices m bring the matter to a speedy conclusion.

On the night of the 16th instant a communication is said to have been suddenly despatched by the Chinese Consul in Sŏul to the Korean Government, proposing that a treaty of alliance might be concluded between the two countries. The Sŏul Government is not likely to reject the proposal, and it is said that the Minister of War will shortly be despatched to Peking as a special Ambassador. Nevertheless, whether this Ambassador is to be sent with the sole object of making the formal announcement of the independence of Korea or to negotiate for the conclusion of a friendly treaty in the capacity of Envoy Extraordinary, is not yet definitely known.

On the report of the Minister of Justice on the 8th instant, a warrant for the arrest of Yi Yong-ik, ex-Superintendent of Mines, was issued, but he had absconded.

The Imperial Peddlers' Association now numbers 2,800 members. President Chong Ruk-yong having resigned, his post has been temporarily occupied by the Vice-president Li Kui-tong, who was recently appointed Director of the Civil Bureau of the Judicial Department. The Association has for its object the improvement of industry and commerce. It claims to be free from political connection, and denies that it was organised to oppose the Independence Club.

Chhoi Sok-cho, of the Finance Department, was recently appointed Inspector General of Railways and Director of the Minting Bureau. He has manufactured a vast number of nickel coins bearing the inscription "505 years since the opening of the country." It has been determined that the Mint, hitherto established in Inchhon, shall be removed to the neighbourhood of the Ryong Sansŏng Castle.

CHINESE NEWS.

A hot wave seems to have visited Hankow during the middle of August. On the 17th ult. the thermometer in the captain's cabin of the *Kiangfoo* registered 101°, and on deck it stood at 134°. To add to the physical discomforts of the officers and crew, a large lighter loaded with kerosene caught fire and drifted down by the *Kiangfoo*. But the Captain managed to get his unwelcome visitor towed out into the middle of the stream, where it floated harmlessly away.

The Emperor of China has decided to be present at the Palace examinations of new doctors and will give out the themes to be discussed. He has also decided to abolish the fine penmanship test, declaring that caligraphy is but an empty accomplishment.

Shanghai residents have formed a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals. There is abundant scope for such a Society in Japan, but we imagine that many years will have to elapse before we shall see one started here. Of late the treatment of horses and bullocks in Yokohama has shown some improvement, for which the police are in a measure to be thanked, but the loads that these patient animals have to pull up the Bluff are still, in the majority of cases, very much too heavy.

"Philo-Coreanus," writing to the *N.-C. Daily News* from Newchwang, under date August 16th, says:—

Amongst other arrivals at this port I have to notice the Japanese steamer *Seitoku Maru* from Muroran with a quantity of railway sleepers. This is the first instalment, as I understand, of the plant for the Russian Railway Concession. The vessel arrived last Sunday, the 14th inst., and the managers of the railway, Messrs. Gutschmann and Treff, were very anxious to have the cargo discharged at once, but I suppose the holiness of the day did not allow such extraordinary privileges even to the representatives of the omnipotent Czar.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

It is necessary to record that on the following day the *Seitoku Maru* steamed to the east of this port and is now discharging her cargo about two miles outside the limits of the port as a place called Takuantun, where a *locale* has been fixed upon by the managing engineers. Far be it from me to object to what, under the circumstances, appears to be a privilege necessary to the circumstances of the case, for it is only reasonable that those who have received concessions for the building of railways should be allowed to land the material at the most convenient spot, but I would ask whether the great privilege of a steamer proceeding to, and discharging at, a place not allowed by treaty has been granted by the Imperial Maritime Customs, or whether "French leave" has just been taken by the Russian authorities. I hear that when the Commissioner of Customs naturally demurred to allowing a Japanese steamer to discharge outside the limits prescribed by treaty, telegraphic communication at once took place with the Russian Minister at Peking, and this gentleman simply replied: "Do what is necessary with or without permission and throw all responsibility upon me." Don't you think this is rather "tall," or do you suppose the Russian Minister induced the I. G. to authorise his subordinate to do what was asked? I would ask

ANOTHER QUESTION.

Is this privilege to be taken as a precedent, and will Britishers or other nationalities be allowed to land cargo at other places than within the limits of the port? I presume there can be no question about this, in view of the clause in the last treaties generally known as the "Favoured Nation" clause.

The *Emily F. Whitney*, an American sailing ship, whose rumoured loss, while on a voyage from Shanghai to Hongkong, was reported in the newspapers, has arrived safely at the latter port.

The Peking Field Force has received from the Hang Yang Iron works, 2,000 Mauser rifles and four rapid-fire field pieces and a quantity of ammunition, all made at the Viceroy Chang's factory.

Mr. T. R. Jernigan, late U.S. Consul-General at Shanghai, and formerly of Kobe, has some complimentary remarks to make regarding the Model Settlement, using the *Philadelphia Manufacturer* as his mouth piece. He says in reference to the way Shanghai is governed:—

"It will be seen that foreigners at Shanghai are well-guarded against incompetent and disinterested persons serving in a branch of their local government entrusted with the supervision of the safety and value of their property; and it may be stated that by the qualification of suffrage and other careful provisions there is no city in the world better governed than Shanghai. Property is secure, and the city prospers because men who own property and who are competent direct the city's policy. With regard to social and educational advantages no city of the East can show those that are superior. Although it is called the Paris of Asia, there can be found nowhere a more cordial and refined hospitality than at Shanghai, and the gentleman and lady and sterling business man, from whatever land they come, receive a friendly welcome and encouragement." The "Paris of Asia" is good: the Indian cities may lower their erstwhile proud crests.

On August 22nd, the Margaret Williamson Hospital, situated near the West Gate of Shang-hai, was partially destroyed by fire. The *N.-C. Daily News*, in its report of the affair, says:—Dr. Reifsnyder being in Japan and her assistants at Kuling, the hospital is closed, and there was no one on the premises but a boy and a coolie, while in the whole cluster of missionary buildings surrounding the hospital there are only two foreigners at the present time, Miss Kelly and Miss Irvine. The hospital consists of two blocks, one fronting the road, the main building, and one behind, the two being joined by a corridor. A number of Chinese fire brigades succeeded in practically saving the rear building, but the main building was totally destroyed. It is understood that it was insured. The hospital safe was saved.

A correspondent sends the following note to a Shanghai paper:—The Russians have about 25,000 soldiers between Newchwang and Port Arthur. They have landed over a hundred new big guns at Port Arthur and are building up forts, etc., very quickly. A large number of Chinese and Russians are at work on the forts, wharves, etc., at both Port Arthur and Talienwan, whilst the dock at Port Arthur has been enlarged. I saw over two hundred men making canvas tents for the men who have not got houses. Wherever one goes now one finds Russian soldiers all over the country, both on the main road and inland, and surveying for the railway is going on in various places. When the railway is completed Russia, to judge by all appearance, will make another important step forward. They have about thirteen men-of-war now guarding their new acquisitions between Port Arthur and Talienwan.

Our Shanghai morning contemporary guilelessly prints a pretty story that its native correspondent sends from Peking. It runs thus:—

A few days ago some Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên brought before his Majesty the new draft of the credentials to be used by the new Chinese Minister to Korea. His Majesty observed that, following the old usuage when Korea was a vassal of the Crown, the Ministers had elevated the designation "H. I. M. the Emperor of China." (Ta Tsing) three spaces above the characters, "H.R.H. the King of Korea," whereupon the Emperor took up his vermillion pencil and corrected the form by placing the two designations on a level, at the same time remarking: "Korea is independent and no more vassal to us, isn't she? Well then, what's the use of affecting such hollow forms of arrogant pride and pretending an empty superiority over that country? She should be addressed in the same way as other independent countries are addressed. What we require is solid advantage and worth for our country and ourselves. The Sacred Sage (Confucius) himself exhorted us to humility and true worth. What is the use of fighting for such a superiority which amounts to nothing more nor less than paper and ink superiority?"

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* could not have heard of this little episode or it would not have been at pains to put in print its opinion that "some of the recent Imperial decrees are not worth the paper they are written on."

We find the following note in the *N.-C. Daily News* with reference to the new Chinese Minister to Tokyo:—

It appears from despatches received from Peking that no less than twenty-three names were handed to the Emperor by Ministers of his Court and officials in the provinces, to choose for the post of Chinese Minister to Japan, chief among whom were Huang Chunhsien, Salt Intendant of Hunan, recommended strongly by Prince Ching; Liang Cheng, a Tsungli Yamen Secretary, recommended by Chang Yinhuan; Chang Hengchia, a Hanlin, recommended by Sun Chia-nai. As Huang Chunhsien possessed, in the Emperor's opinion, the best qualifications for the post, His Majesty at once selected his name. But after a pause, probably recalling the objections made two years ago to Mr. Huang, the Emperor ordered enquiries to be made at the Japanese Legation as to whether Mr. Huang would be a *persona grata* at the Court of Tokyo. The reply was that Mr. Huang had been very popular nearly twenty years ago when he went as *attaché* with the first embassy to Japan under Minister Ho, and H.E. Huang Chun-hsien now finds himself at last a Minister Plenipotentiary, which privilege was denied him two years ago, and during which time he has profit-

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ably spent in inaugurating important reforms in Hunan and benefiting his country at large.

We (*Japan Mail*) do not believe, for reasons already given, that any inquiry was addressed to Japan on the subject.

Another Imperial Edict of progressive import appeared on the 22nd August. It stated the Emperor's intention to open schools of Chinese and foreign languages, and attach them to the Chinese legations abroad, for the benefit of the sons of Chinese residents doing business in the countries to which the legations are accredited. The idea is to educate young Chinese staying or born abroad in the literature of their own country, and give the more brilliant ones a change of serving their country when their education in foreign countries shall have been completed. It is to be hoped, remarks the *N.-C. Daily News*, that the Government will not treat these young men as shabbily and scurvily as those educated some years ago abroad were treated, owing to a fear that the returned students "knew too much and were therefore more foreign than Chinese."

Dr. Griffith John, the veteran missionary, informs the Shanghai journals that Hengchowfu is being deluged with anti-foreign placards. A public letter has also been addressed by Chou Han's notorious clique, in which reference to the recent doings of Japan, Russia, Germany, France, and Great Britain are alluded to. The most outrageous statements are made in this letter, as might only be expected.

The floods around Chunking are said to be the worst for 29 years past.

A disused palace at Peking is to be fitted up as an Imperial Hotel for the reception of distinguished strangers, under the superintendence of Prince Ching and H.E. Li Hung-chang.

Rear-Admiral Stark has been appointed Commandant of Port Arthur. Col. Kholodowsky is to command the artillery at Port Arthur and Talienwan.

The *P. & T. Times* says the Russians have determined that the new dockyards at Port Arthur shall be the largest in the Far East, and eclipse anything possessed by Japan. They have also changed the name of Port Arthur to Ni-ku-la-wen—a name which, we believe, is intended to signify the valour of the present proprietors.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Wednesday was the birthday of the Queen of the Netherlands, and the Dutch residents of Yokohama displayed decorations in honour of the event.

Early on Tuesday morning a young couple, apparently about 21 years old, committed suicide by lying on the rail near Tsurumi Station before an up train on the Tokaido line.

The *Shogyo* says Mr. Nakamura Yaroku has been selected as the successor to Mr. Yamada, Vice-Minister of Education, and on the 29th ultimo application was made for the sanction of His Majesty to the appointment.

A man named Hayashi Jin, aged 24, living at Matsuya-cho, Kyobashi, Tokyo, was arrested on the 29th ult. by the Tokyo Police on a charge of having stolen two gold vases, valued at over *yen* 1,000, from the Catholic Church, No. 80 Settlement, Tokyo.

The Japanese were the only nation represented by a military *attaché* during the operations of the U.S. army against Manila. Captain Long, A.S.C., D.A.A.G.B., of the Headquarters' Staff, Hongkong, was present in an unofficial capacity, says the *China Mail*, and was exceedingly popular with the American officers.

The American loss at the capture of Manila amounted to forty-six killed and about one hundred wounded, the Spanish casualties being approximately two hundred killed and one hundred wounded. There was practically no damage done to the town and no noncombatants were injured during the bombardment.

Early on the morning of the 27th a robber armed with a sword entered the house of a pawn-broker named Awoyagi, living at Suwa-cho, Koishikawa, Tokyo. He tied up three employés who were sleeping in the office, and demanded where the money was kept, menacing them with the sword. Another employé who was sleeping in the next room got up and informed the police, but before they arrived the man had left.

A most singular will suit has just terminated in England. Dr. Kingsbury, the plaintiff, was left £30,000 by an affectionate and lucrative patient, Mrs. Howard, and it was alleged that this was obtained by the exercise of undue influence over the testatrix. The theory of the defence was that Mrs. Howard had, while in a hypnotic state, received suggestions from Dr. Kingsbury which had induced her to make the will. The Jury found, however, that no such influence was used.

With the exception of a number of cases of typhoid fever and measles contracted on board ship, the health of the U.S. troops at Cavite and Manila was excellent at date of latest advices, but it is possible, as the *China Mail* observes, now that the exciting work of the trenches is over, that climatic diseases will begin to show themselves. In the brigade hospital at Camp Dewey, there were no patients except those suffering from gunshot wounds, a remarkably good record. The splendid physique of the men and the plentiful supply of good food were mainly responsible for this satisfactory state of affairs.

In France the pampering of prisoners seems to be carried to a great extent. At Fresnes-Rungis, the other day, what is described as a "lovely new prison" was opened with many signs of rejoicing. A number of officials on electric motors, decorated with flowers and tricolours, took part in the cheerful ceremony. The new gaol, if what is much more like a very decent hotel can be so described, is a substitute for Mazas, La Roquette, and St. Pélagie, and is lighted by electricity, well supplied with cold water, electric bells to call warders, and gardens for exercise. It is sad to think that the accommodation must be limited to 2,150.

The twin screw liner *Hongkong Maru* was successfully launched on 7th July from the shipyard of Sir James Laing at Sunderland. The vessel has been built to the order of the Tokyo Kisen Kabushiki Kaisha. She is the second ship built by Sir James Laing for that company, and is intended for fast passenger and cargo service between China, Japan, and the United States. Her dimensions are:—Length, 431ft.; breadth, 50ft. 6in.; depth moulded to upper deck, 32ft. 6in. The vessel has been constructed of steel throughout to Lloyd's highest class, as well as to the rules of the Japanese Government and the British Board of Trade. Accommodation has been provided for a large number of first-class and second-class passengers, and about 250 emigrants. The first-class accommodation consists of special suites, a luxurious saloon capable of seating all the first-class passengers at one time, spacious social hall, and tastefully decorated ladies' and smoking-rooms. The second-class passengers are also accommodated in a similar manner. Electric light has been fitted throughout, and ample and efficient ventilation is arranged for, as well as a complete system of heating during the cold weather. There is space in the holds for about 5,000 tons of cargo. The engines, which are built by Messrs. George Clark (Limited), of Sunderland, have been designed with a view to the high speed on service of nearly 17 knots, and have cylinders 28½in., 46 in., and 75in. in diameter, with a stroke of 48in., taking steam from four double-ended and one single-ended boilers.

THE FALL OF MANILA.

From later despatches to hand by the English mail, we learn that Captain-General Augustin had been superseded at Manila by General Firmin Jaudenes Alvares eight days before the American ultimatum was delivered. He was deposed by telegram from Madrid, but waited till the last moment, however, before quitting Manila: when the first shot was fired he boarded the German steam-launch *en route* for the *Kaiserin Augusta*.

The U.S. ultimatum ran as follows:—

To the General-in-Chief commanding the Spanish Forces in Manila.

Manila Bay, August 7, 1898.

SIR,—We have the honour to notify your Excellency that operations of the land and naval forces of the United States against the defences of Manila may begin at any time after the expiration of 48 hours from the hour of receipt by you of this communication, or sooner if made necessary by an attack on your part. This notice is given to afford you an opportunity to remove all non-combatants from the city.—Very respectfully,

(Signed) WESLEY MERRITT,
Major-General, U.S.A., Commanding Land Forces of the United States.

GEORGE DEWEY,
Rear-Admiral, U.S. Navy, Commanding U.S. Naval Forces on Asiatic Station.

The reply ran:—

To the Major-General of the Army and the Rear-Admiral of the Naval Forces of the United States.

Manila, August 7, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to inform your Excellencies that at half-past twelve o'clock I received the notice with which you favoured me, that after 48 hours have elapsed you may begin operations against this fortified city or at an earlier hour if the forces under your command are attacked by mine.

As your notice is sent for the purpose of providing for the safety of non-combatants, I give thanks to your Excellencies for the humane sentiments you have shown, and state that finding myself surrounded by insurrectionary forces I am without a place of refuge for the increased number of wounded, sick, women and children who are now within the walls.—Respectfully and kissing the hands of of your Excellencies,

(Signed) FERMIN JAUDENES,
Governor-General and Captain-General of the Philippines.

The letter was carried into the city by Lieut. Armitage, of H.M.S. *Immortalité*.

The foreign war-ships after this began to move out of the way, the German, French and other European nationalities going over to the north side of the Bay, the British and Japanese coming over to the erstwhile American anchorage. As the four British war-vessels steamed across, the *Immortalité* leading the others in line, and when the senior ship was about two ships' lengths off, the band of the *Olympia* played "God Save the Queen," and the band of the *Immortalité* responded with "The Star Spangled Banner." It was a common, every-day act of courtesy, but it is immensely appreciated by the Americans who witnessed it. Sir Edward Chichester, the typical bluff old English seaman, has won a warm place in American regard for his behaviour during the war. The foreign residents of Manila, British, German, Chinese, etc., took refuge on ships in the Bay, the two English Bank managers being the last to leave. Capt. Long, of the British A.S.C., and a Japanese military officer were the only foreign *attachés* with the American army.

General Merritt on August 9th issued the followed General Orders, No. 3:—

In view of the extraordinary conditions under which this Army is operating, the Commanding General desires to acquaint the officers and men composing it with the expectations he entertains as to their conduct.

You are assembled upon foreign soil situated within the western confines of a vast ocean separating you from native land. You have come not as despoilers and oppressors, but simply as the instruments of a liberal and powerful government whose

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purposes are beneficent, and which has declared itself, in this war, the champion of those oppressed by Spanish misrule.

It is therefore the intention of this order to appeal directly to your pride in your position as representatives of a high civilisation, in the hope and with the firm conviction, that you will so conduct yourselves in your relations with the inhabitants of these islands, as to convince them of the lofty nature of the mission which you come to execute.

It is not believed that any acts of pillage, rapine or violence will be committed by soldiers or others in the employ of the United States, but should there be persons with this command who prove themselves unworthy of this confidence, their acts will be considered not only as crimes against the sufferers, but as direct insults to the United States flag, and they will be punished on the spot with the maximum penalties known to military law.

By Command of Major-General Merritt,
J. B. Babcock,
Adjutant General.

Father William D. McKinnon, Chaplain of the 1st California Volunteers on August 10th entered Manila absolutely alone, bent on persuading the Archbishop to sanction a surrender. He entered the palace of Archbishop Nozaleda, where he was cordially received. The Archbishop informed Father McKinnon that he was and had always been most earnest in his wishes for the restoration of peace between Spain and the United States, and would do all in his power to secure a cessation of hostilities. The Archbishop did not think, however, that it would be possible to secure the surrender of Manila without a fight. The Spaniards in the city were suffering greatly from lack of food, were in fact starving, nevertheless he did not believe the Governor General would give up without making a last desperate effort. The Archbishop denied most emphatically the authorship of the circular ascribed to him in which the Spaniards are called upon to resist the Yankee invaders to the last drop of blood. As a man of God, he said, he could not have given utterance to sentiments like these. He was an apostle of peace, always. The Archbishop bade Father McKinnon a cordial adieu, and placed his carriage at his visitor's disposal for a visit to the Governor-General. Governor Firmen Jaudenes Alvarez, whom Father McKinnon describes as a small man, not of imposing presence, was also most cordial. His talk was less peaceable than the Archbishop's, as became a soldier. Manila, he said, would not be given up without a struggle. He had received Admiral Dewey and General Merritt's notification that the city would be bombarded, and the Spanish flag still flew. If the Americans wanted the city they must take it.

In the opinion of the *China Mail*, Father McKinnon performed by this daring act one of the most remarkable feats in the annals of foreign warfare.

At a quarter to nine o'clock, on August 13th, the American fleet got under way. At nine o'clock, flags were sent to masthead, and shaken out in the morning breeze. The *Monterey* seemed to be leading the way, the other vessels standing by and watching the marine monster get into position; but it was soon apparent that the *Monterey*, *Charleston*, *Baltimore*, *Boston*, and *Concord* were not going into action, being held as supports, and the *Olympia*, as became the noble flagship, lead the fighting line. At 9.35, the *Olympia* sent some 4 inch shells hurtling through the air in the direction of the Malate fort, called San Antonio de Abad. All fell short, a heavy rain squall making it difficult to judge distances or to observe the result of the firing. The *Petrel* now came up and fired into the fort, followed by the *Raleigh*. Meanwhile the captured gunboat *Callao* and the steam-launch *Barcelo* were careering over the surf close inshore, and as soon as she got within range the plucky little *Callao* banged away like a little spitfire with her small calibre guns. Most of the firing were done at between 3,000 and 4,000 yards, and the practice of the big ships was excellent after the distance had been determined, most of the 5 in. shells falling inside the battery or the earthworks. The *Olympia* fired sixty-nine 5-inch shells and sixteen 8-inch shells, and the *Raleigh* and the *Petrel* must have fired about as many, although the *Petrel's* battery gave trouble for a short time. It was a pretty sight to see the *Callao* (Lieut. Tappan commanding) and the *Barcelo* riding through the breakers, pouring a hail of small shell into the Spanish riflemen, who replied, striking the *Callao* but doing no damage.

A general signal to cease firing was hoisted at 10.32, and shortly after the American infantry could be seen advancing upon the Spanish entrenchments under cover of the fire of the Utah battery. The troops advanced along the beach and the Calle Real, with colours flying and bands playing inspiriting tunes, and after fording the little creek in front of the Spanish position the troops deployed in skirmishing order along Malate, keeping up a heavy musketry fire and finally halting on the Luneta. The resistance of the Spanish troops was very stubborn at first for a nominal defence. About twelve o'clock Flag-Lieutenant Brumby went ashore in the Belgian Consul's launch, accompanied by Inspector-General Whittier, of General Merritt's staff. An interview with Capt.-General Jaudenes resulted in an agreement upon the draft terms of capitulation. General Merritt then went ashore with Lieutenant Brumby to settle the terms. Considerable difficulty was experienced in finding General Jaudenes, who was ultimately discovered in the sacristy of one of the churches filled with women and children. Lieut. Brumby had to speak somewhat sharply to several Spanish officers before the whereabouts of Jaudenes was revealed.

Immediately after the capitulation was signed, Lieutenant Brumby went out to lower the Spanish flag, accompanied by two signalmen from the *Olympia*. After considerable difficulty he found his way into Fort Santiago in the northern portion of the walled city where there had been a large Spanish flag flying all day. Many Spanish officers were grouped around, and Lieutenant Brumby's presence had attracted a crowd from the streets. As he approached to haul down the yellow and red banner he was hissed by the crowd, and when the Stars and Stripes were raised many in the crowd wept bitterly. Fearing the crowd might lower the flag, Lieutenant Brumby asked an American infantry officer who came along to bring his detachment as a guard. Fortunately, the officer met a company of infantry with their band, and brought them along, the company presenting arms while the band played "The Star-Spangled Banner," thus giving a touch of *eclat* to the ceremony.

The conduct of the Spaniards after the capitulation was disgraceful. In regard to the preservation of public property they committed actual breaches of faith, says the *China Mail*—to which we are indebted for these details. They brought down the river the gunboat *Cebu*, flying the Spanish flag, and deliberately set her on fire at the mouth of the Pasig. A party of Americans boarded her, and hoisting the American flag endeavoured to save the vessel, but their efforts were fruitless, and to-day the scorched hulk lies there as a monument to Spanish duplicity. They did not stop at this. At least three launches and a large number of boats and cars were destroyed along the banks of the river. Landing shortly after General Merritt, I was one of the first to traverse the walled city. We found the civil inhabitants and soldiers looking remarkably well for reputedly starving people. It was well capitulation was agreed to, however, for a bombardment of the city would have entailed severe loss of life among the women and other non-combatants.

The American troops quickly occupied the city on both sides of the Pasig, sleeping on the principal streets throughout a wet night. The conduct of the American troops, officers and men alike, was beyond praise; it was simply admirable. They had not been inside Binondo an hour before they were fraternising good humouredly with the Spaniards and natives, and one group of Regulars squatted in the Escolta and edified the crowd for quite a long time with tuneful plantation ditties and stories.

A correspondent of the *China Mail* with the troops, speaks highly of the way in which they were handled, mentioning particularly the destructive fire of the four guns of the Utah battery, the dashing charge of the Colorado Regiment, and the sweeping advance of the Californian Regiment. General Merritt entered the walled city at 3 o'clock and fighting then ceased everywhere. The capitulation was formally signed by the Spanish Commissioners, Colonels Don José Maria Olaguen Telin and Don Carlos Reye Rich and General Don Nicholas de la Pena y Cuellas; the American Commissioners being General Greene, General Whittier, Colonel Crowder, Judge Advocate, and Captain Lamberton, of the *Olympia*.

GENERAL MERRITT'S PROCLAMATION.

The following, says the *Daily Press*, is a proclamation issued by General Merritt in Spanish, English, and Tagalo:—

Headquarters Department of the Pacific.
August 14th, 1898.

To the People of the Philippines:

I.—War has existed between the United States and Spain since April 21st of this year. Since that date you have witnessed the destruction, by an American fleet, of the Spanish naval power in these islands, the fall of the principal city, Manila, and its defences, and the surrender of the Spanish Army of occupation to the forces of the United States.

II.—The Commander of the United States forces now in possession has instructions from his Government to assure the people that he has not come to wage war upon them, nor upon any part or faction among them, but to protect them in their homes, in their employments, and in their personal and religious rights. All persons who, by active aid or honest submission, co-operate with the United in its efforts to give effect to this beneficent purpose, will receive the reward of its support and protection."

III.—The government established among you by the United States is a government of military occupation; and for the present it is ordered that the municipal laws such as affect private rights of persons and property, regulate local institutions, and provide for the punishment of crime, shall be considered as continuing in force, so far as compatible with the purposes of military government, and that they be administered through the ordinary tribunals substantially as before occupation, but by officials appointed by the government of occupation.

IV.—A Provost Marshal-General will be appointed for the City of Manila and its outlying districts. This territory will be divided into sub-districts and there will be assigned to each a deputy Provost Marshal.

The duties of the Provost Marshal-General and his deputies will be set forth in detail in future orders. In a general way they are charged with the duty of making arrests of military as well as civil offenders, sending such of the former class as are triable by courts martial to their proper commands with statements of their offences and names of witnesses and detaining in custody all other offenders for trial by military commission, provost courts, or native criminal courts, in accordance with law, and the instructions hereafter to be issued.

V.—The port of Manila, and all other ports and places in the Philippines, which may be in the actual possession of our land and naval forces, will be open while our military occupation may continue to the commerce of all neutral nations as well as our own, in articles not contraband of war, and upon payment of the prescribed rates of duty which may be in force at the time of the importation.

VI.—All churches and places devoted to religious worship, and to the arts and sciences, all educational institutions, libraries, scientific collections, museums, are, so far as possible, to be protected; and all destruction or intentional defacement of such places or property, of historical monuments, archives, or works of science and art is prohibited, save when required by urgent military necessity. Severe punishment will be meted out for all violations of this regulation.

The custodians of all property of the character mentioned in this section will make prompt returns thereof to these headquarters stating character and location, from embodying such recommenda-

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tions as they may think proper for the full protection of the properties under their care and custody, that proper orders may issue enjoining the co-operation of both military and civil authorities in securing such protection.

VII.—The Commanding General, in announcing the establishment of military government and in entering upon his duty as Military Governor, in pursuance of his appointment as such by the Government of the United States, desires to assure the people that so long as they preserve the peace and perform their duties towards the representatives of the United States, they will not be disturbed in their persons and property, except in so far as may be found necessary for the good of the service of the United States, and the benefit of the people of the Philippines.

WESLEY MERRITT,
Major-General U. S. Army Commanding.

PROCLAMATION BY GENERAL JAUDENES.

EJERCITO Y CAPITANIA GENERAL DE FILIPINAS.

Manila, 14th August, 1898.

Soldiers, Sailors, and Volunteers.—Your unfaltering courage during the long siege and more prolonged blockade of this place entitles you not only to the gratitude of your country, but also to the respect and consideration of the American army, as eloquently witnessed in the honorable capitulation agreed upon yesterday and formulated to-day, of which a copy is annexed.

By this you are conceded, including your banners, all the honours of war; so much for our inevitable permanency in the ungrateful country defended. And liberty and the return of the arms only temporarily deposited being expressly agreed upon as essential conditions of the aforesaid honours, we will be treated as prisoners only as if we on duty.

I trust that your good sense and prudence will as always maintain the discipline you have hitherto displayed, affording no opportunity either to natives or foreigners to observe neglects that might call for repression.

All this will serve as an alleviation of the misfortune which with you is deplored by your General-in-Chief, JAUDENES.

THE CAPITULATION.

Manila, 14th August.

The undersigned, constituting the commission appointed to arrange the details of the capitulation of the city and defences of Manila and its suburbs and the Spanish forces garrisoning the same, in accordance with the preliminary treaty concluded yesterday between Major-General Wesley Merritt, of the United States Army, Commander-in-Chief of the Philippines, and His Excellency Don Fermin Jaudenes, Acting General-in-Chief of the Spanish army in the Philippines, have agreed as follows:—

1.—The Spanish troops, European and native, capitulate, together with the town and its defences, with all the honours of war, depositing their arms in the places designated by the authorities of the United States and remaining barracked in the places designated by and at the orders of their officers subject to inspection by the aforesaid North American authorities until the conclusion of a treaty of peace between the two belligerens states.

All the individuals comprised in the capitulation shall remain at liberty, the officers continuing to occupy their respective domiciles, which shall be respected so long as they observe the rules prescribed by their Government and the existing laws.

2.—The officers shall retain their swords, horses, and private property.

3.—All horses the property of the state and public property of all descriptions shall be delivered to the staff officers of the United States.

4.—Complete returns in duplicate of the troops by corps and detailed lists of the public property and arsenal effects shall be delivered to the United States within ten days from this date.

5.—All questions connected with the repatriation of the officers and soldiers of the Spanish forces and their families and the cost of such repatriation shall be settled by the Government of the United States at Washington.

The families may leave Manila at their convenience.

The restoration of the arms deposited by the Spanish forces shall take place when the city shall be evacuated by them or by the American army.

6.—The officers and soldiers comprised in the in the capitulation shall be supplied by the United States with rations and necessaries, according to their rank, as if they were prisoners of war, until the conclusion of the treaty of peace between the United States and Spain.

All the funds of the Spanish treasury and other public funds are to be surrendered to the authorities of the United States.

7.—This city, its inhabitants, its churches and religious worship, its educational establishments, and its private property of whatever description, shall be placed under the especial safeguard of the faith and honour of the American army.

Signed by the United States and Spanish Commissioners.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

(FROM THE "JAPAN TIMES.")

REPORTED FOUNDERING OF THE "BRUIX."

London, Aug. 27.

It is rumoured in Paris that the French ironclad *Bruix* has foundered in the Indian Ocean, but nothing is known about the matter in official circles.

THE "BRUIX" SAFE AND SOUND.

The rumour about the foundering of the French cruiser *Bruix* is untrue.

THE WELSH COAL STRIKE.

MEN GIVING IN.

The Welsh colliers on strike have withdrawn their original demands and meet the masters to-day. A settlement is probable.

CONVOCATION OF THE CORTES.

The Cortes have been convoked for the 5th September.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA IN CHINA.

London, Aug. 29.

Sir Charles Stewart Scott's negotiations at St. Petersburg defining the Russian and British spheres in China are proceeding in a friendly spirit.

THE CAPE ELECTIONS.

The later gains of the Rhodes party render the issue of the elections doubtful.

THE WELSH COAL STRIKE.

The efforts of the conference on the Welsh coal dispute have proved abortive.

INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT.

IMPORTANT DECLARATION BY THE CZAR.

HIS MAJESTY INVITES A CONFERENCE.

London, Aug. 30.

By order of the Czar, a Note has been issued declaring Russia's desire for the maintenance of peace, and pointing to the reduction of the excessive armaments now crushing all nations as the ideal for which all Governments ought to strive. The Czar considers this moment favourable and invites an international conference to consider the means for assuring a real and lasting peace and to terminate the progressive increase of armaments.

THE CZAR'S DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL.

London, Aug. 31.

It is believed that the Powers will accept the Czar's invitation to discuss disarmament. France, however, is irritated at not having been consulted before the issue of the note by her Ally. This is calculated to prejudice the assembling of the conference.

THE PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

TERRIBLE MORTALITY.

There were 2,300 deaths from the plague in the Bombay Presidency last week, and 156 in the city.

ANOTHER REBELLION IN KWANGSI PROVINCE.

Shanghai, Aug. 31.

Again the province of Kwangsi is the scene of a rebellion of a serious nature. A party of rebels has marched to a spot 50 miles north-east of Canton. The northern gate of the city is strongly defended by the Black Flags. The rebel army has declared in a most resolute manner to be intent on the expulsion of foreigners. The press of Canton has been prohibited by the authorities to report the victory of the rebels.

The Chinese Emperor has issued an edict commanding the suppression of the disturbance within a month. His Majesty is so irritated by the event that he has deprived the Governor of Kwangsi of his rank and titles.

MARQUIS ITO.

Chemulpo, Aug. 30.

Marquis Ito and party have arrived here from Söul, and were received by a large number of gentlemen. The party will leave for China by the *Hiogo Maru*, of the N.Y.K., which is expected here shortly.

(FROM THE "CHINA MAIL.")

GREAT SLAUGHTER OF REBELS.

Wuchow, Aug. 16.

People say that Li Lap T'ing, the rebel chief, is at Tai Kwai Shan, a place about 70 li from Wat Lam Chau.

That 200 rebels entered Tai Wong Kong and were defeated there by General Ma, forty being made prisoners and one hundred slain.

That the gentry of the districts of Pak Lau, Yung Un, and Luk Ts'un are daily capturing and sending in to their respective magistrates between ten and twenty rebels for execution.

That the rebels, many of whom are rebels by compulsion, and not by their own choice, have been estimated at one hundred and twenty-eight thousand by the mandarins.

That the Ch'ong Ng District Magistracy (District Magistrate of Wuchow) is at San Tei Hü near Yung Un inspecting the train-bands, and that, acting upon information received from the gentry as to the whereabouts of the rebels, he has razed several of their villages.

That corpses were seen floating past Wuchow to-day.

The French gunboat *Lion* arrived yesterday.

(FROM JAPANESE SOURCES.)

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

Bakan, Sept. 1.

The German warship *Gefion* last evening passed the straits for Mutsure Island, and is still anchoring there.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 1	M. Sept. 5
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Laos 2	W. Sept. 7
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India 3	Th. Sept. 8
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 4	Sa. Sept. 10
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Sept. 12
America	P. M. Co.	Glenfarg 5	Tu. Sept. 13
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Th. Sept. 22
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Sept. 28

1 Left Vancouver on the 22nd ult.
2 Left Hongkong on the 30th ult.
3 Left Hongkong on the 31st ult.
4 Left Hongkong on the 1st inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 25th ult.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Sept. 2
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Sept. 5
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Sept. 7
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. Sept. 7
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Sept. 9
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Glenfarg	M. Sept. 12
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Tu. Sept. 13
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Laos	W. Sept. 14
America	P. M. Co.	Aztec	W. Sept. 22
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	F. Sept. 23

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CHESS

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

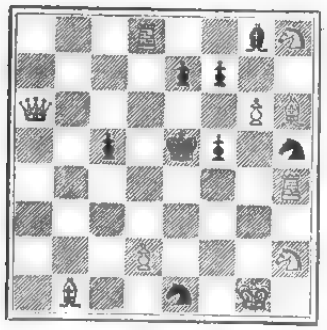
The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

No solution of Problem No. 383 have reached us so far. We will give our solvers another week's time and publish the solution next Saturday.

PROBLEM No. 386.

By P. F. BLAKE.

First Prize *Birmingham Daily Post* Tournament.



White mates in two moves.

GAME No. 425.

FROM THE VIENNA TOURNEY

PILLSBURY BEATS THE GERMAN DOCTOR.

Comments by Reichelm in *The Times*, Philadelphia.

White—Pillsbury.	Black—Tarrasch.
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—KKt to B 3	2—QKt to B 3
3—B to Kt 5	3—P to QR 3
4—B to R 4	4—Kt to B 3
5—Castles	5—Kt takes P
6—P to Q 4	6—P to QKt 4
7—B to Kt 3	7—P to Q 4
8—P to QR 4	

This departure from the usual P takes P is Tschigorin's invention.

	8—P to Kt 5
9—P to R 5	9—QKt takes P
10—Kt takes Kt	10—P takes Kt
11—Q takes P	11—P to QB 3
12—Kt to Q 2	12—Kt to Kt 4
13—B to R 4	13—B to Q 2
14—R to K sq ch	14—Kt to K 3
15—Kt to B 3	15—B to ■ 2
16—Q to Kt 4	16—Castles
17—Kt to K 5	17—Q to B 2
18—B to B 4	18—B to Q 3
19—B to KKt 3	19—P to KB 4
20—Q to Q sq	20—Kt to B 4

If P to B 5, 21—Kt takes B, Q takes Kt, 22—Q takes QP, etc.

21—Kt takes B	21—Q takes Kt

Again, if Kt takes Kt then R to K 6. This, however, was Black's best play.

22—Q takes P ch

The kernel of Pillsbury's manœuvre. White gets the exchange and two Pawns for two minor pieces and keeps Tarrasch on the defensive.

	22—P takes Q
23—B takes Q	23—B takes B
24—B to B 6	24—B to Q 3
25—B takes P ch	25—K to R sq
26—B takes R	26—R takes B
27—QR to Q sq	27—B to B sq
28—R to Q 4	28—P to Kt 3
29—KR to Q sq	29—Kt to Kt 2
30—R to Q 7	30—R to Kt sq

Kt takes P was a better chance.

31—KR to Q 5	31—K to Kt sq
32—K to B sq	32—Kt to B 4
33—R to R 7	33—R to B sq
34—P to KKt 3	34—B to Kt 2
35—P to Kt 3	35—B to B sq
36—P to R 4	36—R to B 3
37—R to Q 8	37—R to KB 3
38—R to QKt 8	38—P to B 5
39—R to Kt 6	39—R to B 4
40—P to Kt 4	40—R to Q 4
41—K to Kt 2	41—R to Q 5
42—R to Kt 8	42—R to Q 7

The only chance of freeing his Bishops.

43—R takes R	43—Kt takes R
44—R to Kt 7	44—Kt to B 4
45—R takes KtP	45—B to Q 3
46—R to Kt 6	46—B to K 2
47—P to Kt 4	47—Kt to R 5
48—R takes RP	48—B takes P
49—R to R ■ ch	49—K to B 2
50—P to R 6 and Tarrasch resigned.	

The passed Rook's Pawn is worth at least a piece.

GAME No. 426.

A brilliant game also played in the Vienna Tournament:—

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING.

White—A. Halprin.		Black—A. Burn.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	29 K Kt sq	Q x K P ch
2 Kt KB3	Kt KB3	30 K B sq	Q B6 ch
3 P K3	P B4	31 K Kt sq	Q K6 ch
4 P OKt3	B Kt5	32 K B sq	Q B6 ch
5 B Kt2	P K2	33 K Kt sq	P K6(e)
6 B Q3(a)	Kt B3	34 R R2(f)	Q Q8 ch
7 QKt Q2	B Q3	35 K Kt2	P K7
8 Castles	Castles	36 R R sq	Q x R ch
9 P B4	Q K2	37 K x R	P K8(Q) ch
10 R B sq	QR Q sq(b)	38 K Kt2	Q K6 ch
11 BP x P(c)	Kt Kt5	39 K B sq	Q B6 ch
12 B Kt sq	BP x P	40 K Kt sq	B K3 ch
13 B x P	P K4	41 B Q4	Q Q8 ch
14 B Kt2	Q Kt x QP	42 K Kt2	Q x QB
15 P KR3	B R4	43 O x Q	R x Q
16 P KK4(d)	B K3	44 B K4	Kt B6
17 Kt B4	B QB4	45 B x Q Kt P	Kt x P
18 Q K2	P R5	46 B Q5 ch	K B sq
19 KKt K5	Kt Q2	47 K B3	Kt B6
20 Kt x Kt	R x Kt	48 B B4	P Kt4
21 Kt K5	R B2	49 K Kt3	K K2
22 Kt Kt2(e)	B Q3	50 K B3	P KR3
23 R x R(f)	B x R	51 B Kt8	K Q3
24 Kt x B(g)	BP x Kt	52 B B4	K B4
25 Q B4	Q Q3	53 B B7	K Kt5
26 R R sq	R x P ch(h)	54 B K8	P QR4
27 K x R	Q Kt6 ch	35 B B7	B B4
28 K B sq	Q B6 ch	56 Resigns.	

NOTES.

(a) B to K 2 should be played, especially so in this case. It will be seen that in the manner in which White continued he had eventually to dislodge this B, with P to KR 3 and P to KKt 4, ruining his position altogether.

(b) KR to Q sq, and to occupy the QB file with the QR, would be correct here. In the end the KR proved more powerful at KB sq. This, however, is only accidental, as it could not have been foreseen now, except by inspiration.

(c) Intending to close up the Q file, but overlooking Black's ready reply of Kt to Kt 5, attacking the badly placed B at Q 3.

(d) Suicidal, but he has already the inferior game.

(e) The last series of moves were all forced, and so is the text-move to a certain extent, as he feels the necessity of protecting the KRP with R to KR sq.

(f) Perhaps he might have tried to get rid of Black's powerful KB with 23—Kt to B 4 at once.

(g) Opening the KB file gives Black the opportunity of the following brilliancy. Kt to B 4 would still have been comparatively better.

(h) This powerful sacrifice, leading to a forced win, entitles this game to compete with a fair chance of success for the brilliancy prize. The sacrifice is perfectly sound.

(i) The repetition of moves enables Black to gain time for this final manœuvre.

(j) If Q to ■ sq, then P to K 7;—35 Q takes Q. P to K 8 (Q) ch, and wins. The ending is full of beautiful variations, which we leave the reader to examine. Black wins by force.—*Field*.

GAME No. 427.

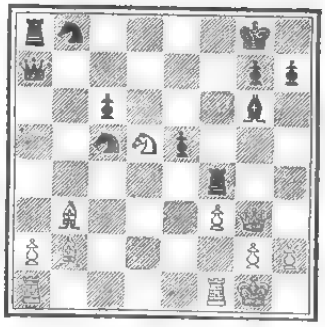
There is very little to note, says the Singapore Press, with regard to the consultation tournament, several games having been put off by mutual arrangement or through the inability of some of the players to attend. The surprising event of the past week has been the defeat of Messrs. P. McIntyre and L. M. Cordeiro by Dr. Stephens and Mr. G. Reutens, who after a series of bad luck, suddenly made a good stand and won one of the best played games of the tournament. The game is as follows:—

ZUKERTORT OPENING.

White—Stephens and G. Reutens.	Black—McIntyre and Cordeiro.
BLACK.	WHITE.
1—Kt to KB3	1—P to Q 4
2—P to Q 4	2—Kt to KB 3
3—P to B 4	3—P to K 3
4—P to K 3	4—P to QB 3
5—P to B 5 (a)	5—Kt to Q 2
6—B to Q 3	6—B to K 2
7—Castles	7—Castles
8—B to B 2	8—Kt to K 5
9—Kt to K sq	9—P to B 4
10—P to B 3	10—KKt to B 3
11—Kt to B 3	11—P to QKt 3
12—P to QKt 4	12—P to QR 4
13—Kt to Q 3	13—RP takes P
14—Kt takes KtP	14—Kt to Kt sq
15—Kt to Q 3	15—P takes P
16—Kt takes BP	16—B takes Kt (b)
17—P takes B	17—P to K 4
18—B to Kt 3	18—Q to K 2
19—Kt to R 4	19—B to K 3
20—B to Kt 2	20—B to B 2
21—Q to B 2	21—B to Kt 3
22—Q to KB 2	22—Kt (B3) to Q 2 (c)
23—Q to Kt 3	23—P to B 5
24—P takes P	24—R takes P
25—Kt to B 3	25—Kt takes P (d)
26—K takes P!	26—Q to QR 2!

Position after Black's 26th move.

BLACK.



WHITE.

27—Kt to K 7 ch (e)	27—K to B sq (f)
28—Kt takes B ch	28—P takes Kt
29—K to R sq	29—Kt takes B
30—P takes Kt	30—Q to Kt 2
31—R takes R	31—Q takes R
32—B takes P	32—R to QKt 5
33—B to Q 6 ch	33—Resigns.

NOTES.

(a) This opening, which bears the name of the famous chess-player, the late Dr. Zukertort, now develops into a Queen's Gambit Declined, in which the early advance of the Pawn to B 5 is considered inadvisable. The usual move is Kt to ■ 3.

(b) Although this must leave White with an isolated Pawn, the exchange is not favourable for Black as it leaves White with two Bishops strongly posted for offence and defence.

(c) QKt to Q 2 is better.

(d) A sad mistake. Q takes P ch should have been played.

(e) If Kt takes R, then Kt takes B ch.

(f) If K to R sq, mate would follow in three moves.

NOTES.

Teichmann won the eighth and ninth games of his match with Lee, and this terminated the contest in his favour, the final score being Teichmann 3, Lee 1, and 5 drawn.

It is said that the following is Mr. Amos Burn's method of making ready to enter on the play of a match game. First of all he disposes on the left side of the chess-board "a small row of well-selected, well-cleaned, and well-seasoned briar-root pipes." Then he places beside them a knife with 17 blades, a pipe-cleaner, a corkscrew, and a bootjack. Next he arranges, in convenient positions, a supply of matches and a tin of Navy cut tobacco and a spittoon; and now, having satisfied himself by sundry inspections that everything is as he would have it, he heaves a sigh of placid contentment, and is ready to open with 1—P to Q 4. When other men with blocked pipes rage furiously together and pervade the precincts in quest of someone who has a wire, Mr. Burn calmly takes his second pipe, or his third, as the case may be. When other men are distracted because of lack of matches Mr. Burn has them at his elbow, together with every other appliance and appurtenance which he requires for playing chess with comfort.—*Australasian*.

It was announced that at the close of the Vienna Congress a masters' tourney was to be held, under the auspices of the German Chess Association, at Cologne, the first prize to be of the value of £50.

The Vienna Tournament without any exception, has been the most closely contested Tournament that the world has seen. For many rounds, Pillsbury and Tarrasch have kept within a half a point of each other, never more than a point, and

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finish together. Janowski, the French champion, who takes third prize, exhibited an ability which marks him as one of the world's great players. He defeated, in successive rounds, Pillsbury, Tschigorin, Schiffers, Tarrasch, Alapin, and Walbrodt. He is a dashing player, always dangerous, and fights as long as there is a shade of a chance.

The judges decided that Pillsbury and Tarrasch should play a match of four games to decide who should take first and second prizes. Tarrasch won the first and third games, Pillsbury the second, and the fourth was drawn. The final score was; Tarrasch, 2½; Pillsbury, 1½. Tarrasch receives first prize, $1,500; Pillsbury, second, $1,000 (gold).

HENRY N. PILLSBURY.

Pillsbury will be twenty-six in December. He became famous as the winner of the First Prize at the Hastings Tournament, defeating the World's Champion. Since then, he has defeated Showalter twice for the championship of the United States, and now adds to his laurels by his great fight with Dr. Tarrasch.

DR. SIEGBERT TARRASCH.

Dr. Tarrasch is just ten years older than Pillsbury, and is a native of Breslau. When only sixteen years of age he was a good chess-player, and exhibited extraordinary intellectual endowments. In 1883, being twenty three years of age, he took his degree in medicine. In 1884, took first prize and secured title of Master in Nuremberg. In 1885 played in the Hamburg Chess-Congress, in which he showed great skill and tied with Blackburne, English, Mason, and Weiss for second place. The five scored 11½ points against Gunsberg, who took first prize with 12 points. Since 1886, Dr. Tarrasch has been a practising physician in Nuremberg; first prize in the Breslau Tournament, 1889; the Manchester Tournament, 1890, and the Tournament in Dresden, 1892; Leipzig, 1894. Dr. Tarrasch has the unique reputation of being the greatest amateur chess-player in the world, for he can not, in any sense, be called a professional. As a player he excels in what may be called chess knowledge. Always analytical, never very brilliant, he plays for a position or combination that gives safety to his game and, at the same time, allows him to force his opponent. This short sketch of the German Doctor would be incomplete if we did not add that he is one of the most genial and gentlemanly players that ever sat at a board.—*Literary Digest.*

An increase of chess enthusiasm (says the *St. James's Budget*) has to be recorded in the House of Commons this year. Last year's match between members of the House and reporters of the Press Gallery has this season resolved itself a regular chess contest or tournament, in which eleven players are engaged on each side, who play two games with each other, whenever opportunity offers itself. The first contest was won by the champion of the House, the Right Hon. Horace Plunkett, against the oldest chess player of the Gallery, Mr. B. F. Bassy.

Advanced Pawns should be supported from the side of the board and not from the centre. A Queen's Pawn used as a supporting Pawn is especially weak, being open to attack from all sides.

In every tournament certain players are admitted of whom it is well known that they have no chance for any of the prizes. Such players, through accident or misadventure, may perhaps win an odd game from a prominent competitor. The player who meets with the misfortune to lose such a game at once loses the chance for a high prize, and another player, whom perhaps he has defeated, may come in ahead of him, not through his own merit, but simply because his rival had the misfortune to lose a game by accident. This is not a fair result, and the smaller the number of such men in a tournament the better, particularly as a few such isolated wins, while they may flatter their personal vanity, ought to bring them neither increased reputation nor material gain.—*St. James's Budget.*

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Gisela, Austrian steamer, 2,640, F. Mosca, 26th Aug.,—Trieste via ports, Hongkong, 19th Aug., General.—Browne & Co.

Suevia, German steamer, 2,663, Foerck, 26th Aug., —Hamburg via ports, Shanghai, 21st Aug., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, C. H. Butler, 26th Aug.,—Portland, Oregon, 7th Aug., Mails and General.—Dodwell Carlill & Co.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, Edward Porter, 26th Aug.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 24th Aug., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Dardanus, British steamer, 2,992, Thos. M. Gregory, 26th Aug.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 25th Aug., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Taiwan, British steamer, 1,109, H. Hudel, 27th August,—Hongkong 21st August, Sugar.—Butterfield & Swire.

Indravelli, British steamer, 3,152, Francis Norman, 28th August,—New York via ports, and Kobe 26th August, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 28th August,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe 27th August, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 29th August,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 10th August, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Hohensollern, German steamer, 1,900, E. Wolters dorff, 24th August,—Hongkong 24th August, Mails and General,—H. Ahrens & Co. Nachf.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 31st August,—San Francisco 13th, and Honolulu 20th August, Mails and General.—O. & O. S. S. Co.

Ixion, British steamer, 2,209, Nish, 31st August, —Liverpool via ports, and Kobe 30th August, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Silesia, German steamer, 3,138, S. Behrens, 1st September,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong 25th August, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Samuel Skolfield, American ship, 1,435, James B. Hall, 1st September,—New York 1st April, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

DEPARTURES.

Oopack, British steamer, 2,517, J. Barber, 26th Aug.,—Singapore, Ballast,—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Astec, Hawaiian steamer, 2,303, G. Trask, 26th Aug.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Braemar, British steamer, Edward Porter, 2,318, 27th August,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, C. H. Butler, 27th August,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Alexander Gibson, American ship, 2,121, E. C. Colley, 28th August,—New York via Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Gisela, Austrian steamer, 2,640, F. Mosca, 28th August,—Trieste via ports, General.—Browne & Co.

Suevia, German steamer, 2,663, Foerck, 29th August,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 27th August,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Remus, German steamer, 1,722, J. H. Schwaner, 30th August,—Kobe, Ballast.—Frazar & Co.

Indus, French steamer, 2,300, Vaquier, 31st August,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. S.S. Co.

Manuel Llaguno, American ship, 1,650, C. V. Small, 1st September,—New York via Kobe; General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 2nd September,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, G. Ohno, 31st August,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. G. A. March, Captain and Mrs. Houghton, infant and nurse, Mr. S. K. Douglas, Rev. W. B. Hunt, Mr. Carl Lulus, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Master Alan and Miss Nellie Smith, amah and boy, Mr. J. Marshall, Mrs. and Miss Smithers, Mr. Middleton, and Mr. Van Rensselaer in cabin.

Per German steamer *Hohensollern*, from Hongkong:—Mr. H. Deck, and Mrs. Th. Lehmann in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Gakutaro Osawa, Mr. T. Wai Hing, and family, and Mrs. Okane in second class, and Mr. William Watson in third class.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from San Francisco, via Honolulu:—Hon. John Ferguson, Mrs. John Ferguson, Miss Helen Ferguson, Mrs. S. C. Jones, Mrs. N. Greene, Miss D. Greene, Mr. M. A. Wejaszewski, Mr. A. D. Walker, Miss M. J. Young, Mrs. Jennie Howell, Mrs. Frank Davis, Miss E. H. Thorne, Mr. A. Schmidt, Dr. Spatyer, Rev. A. T. Howard, and Mr. H. T. Dredge in cabin, and 98 passengers in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Indus*, for Marseilles via ports:—Major A. Tracey and servant, Mr. Antonio Benitez, Mr. Thomas Jacob, Mr. Lagrange, Mr. Von Roskowski, Mr. and Mrs. Lombard, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Bo t, Mr. and Mrs. Probst and child, Mr. and Mrs. Herogt, Mrs. and Miss Wehrung, Mrs. Gaillard, 2 children and amah, Mrs. Moninot and child, Mrs. Toche, 2 children and amah, Mrs. C. B. de Pas, Mrs. M. Connick, Miss Una E. Hall, Miss Belle Smith, Miss Mary Rogers, Mrs. G. M. Graham and 12 children, Mr. R. Finch and boy, Mr. J. J. Collins, Mr. D. R. Davidson, Mr. C. Place Remedios, Mr. W. T. C. Whennuah, Mr. Baird, Mr. R. J. Kirby, Mr. Abdeali S. M. Auk, Mr. M. Pollak, Dr. Moore E. Graham, Mr. Alexio S. Silver, Mr. E. Laureito, Mr. Lefroy, Mrs. C. S. Johnson, Frères Joseph Wolf and Francois Leher, Mr. Bindo Bay, Mr. Gaillard, Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Thisthwayte, Mr. Toru Shimidzu, Mr. Hatsukuma, Mr. Takagi, Mr. Shiba, Mr. [illegible]gnot, Mr. A. Neuburg and boy, Mr. Michelan, Mr. Arthur Smith, Mr. Salinger, Dr. and Mrs. J. K. Makinson and 4 children, Mr. P. Monnier, and Mr. Le Guilcher in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The total inactivity which has characterised trade for so long has not given place to a healthier state of things. Godowns are still packed with goods for which there is no enquiry, and as yet there is no sign of approaching improvement. The figures quoted below are nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb. 38½ yds. 30 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb. 36½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb. 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2 00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.75 to 2 60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3 75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0 15 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per piece.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.28 to 0.40
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Alpacca or Lustre—Crape, 24 yards, 32 inches	0 15 to 0 17
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 0.7/8
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0 50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb. per lb.	0 50 to 0 60
	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7 75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.60 to 0.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb. 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.25 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb. 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to 43.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 2 60, Plain	61 00 to 63.00
Nos. 2.80, Plain	75 00 to 76.30
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2 60, Gassed	69 50 to 76.50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	114.00 to 124.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$19.50 to —
Indian Broach	19.25 —
Chinese	21.00 to 21.50

METALS.

Market is still altogether lifeless. Quotations nominally at last week's figures.

	per picul.
Round and square ¼ inch, and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4 00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4 90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5.90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5 95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2 10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The market is still quite of a holiday character. Quotations at last week's level.

American	$2 05 —
Russian	1.95 to 2.00
Langkat	— 1.85

SUGAR.

The usual steady trade has been done at about the same prices as last week.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$5.40 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.10 to 5.10
Brown Daitong	3.90 to 4.30
Brown Canton	4.20 to 5 85
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 7.15
White Refined	7.70 to 9.00

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EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Purchases reaching a fairly large aggregate have been made, at prices which show no decline from those obtained last week. The *Indus*, which left Yokohama on Wednesday, took 392 bales to Europe. There is a very large stock on hand amounting to nearly 15,000 boxes.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.....	$955 to 960
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.....	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	905 to 915
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers.....	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	930 to 930
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers.....	860 to 870
Filatures—No. 2, 13/18 deniers.....	900 to 910
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den, ...	880
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	855
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	830
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers.....	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	880 to 890
Kakedas—No. 1	850 to 860
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	810 to 820
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is quite lifeless. A stock of 11,000 piculs remains on hand. Quotations nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best.....	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 103
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good.....	100 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium.....	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	85 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 22½

TEA.

The market is active, and prices are maintained. In spite of large purchases there is still considerably over a million pounds in stock in Yokohama.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$35 & upwards
Choice	$33 to 34
Finest	31 to 32
Fine	29 to 30
Good Medium	27 to 28
Medium	25 to 26
Good Common	23 to 24
Common	21 to 22

EXCHANGE.

Rates remain steady with Silver from London and sterling quotations from China unaltered.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅛ to 1/16
— — Bills on demand ...	2/0 5/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅛
— Private 4 months' sight.....	2/0⅛
— — 6 months' sight	2/0⅛
On Paris—Bank sight	2.55⅛
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight ...	2.59
On America—Bank Bills on demand..	49½
— Private 4 months' sight...	50½
On Germany—Bank sight	2.06⅛
— Private 4 months' sight...	2.10⅛
On Hongkong—Bank sight	44 9/16 dis.
— Private 10 days' sight.....6 9/16 dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	76
— Private 10 days' sight ...	77⅛
On India—Bank sight.....	153
— Private 30 days' sight ...	156
On Silver (London)	27⅛

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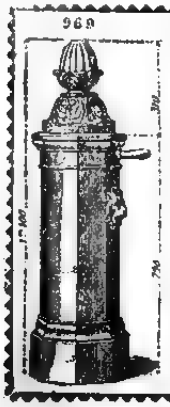

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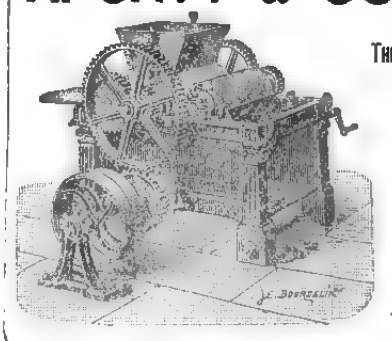

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 11.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 1898. 明治三十一年九月十三日 VOL. XXX.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISON QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, SEPT. 10TH, 1898.

BURIAL.

OTTOFY.—The ashes of GLORIA COLUMBIA OTTOFY, the only daughter of Dr. Louis and Nellie (Freeman) Ottofy, who was born in Chicago, July 4th, 1889, and died in the same city, February 19th, 1891, were buried in the foreign cemetery at Yokohama, September 6th, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Crown Prince has recovered his normal health.

YOKOSUKA is *en fête* in anticipation of the forthcoming visit of the Emperor and Empress.

BRO. WALTER TUCKER is the W. M. Elect of the O'Tentosama Lodge for the ensuing year.

MR. TAKAHASHI, Manager of the Yokohama Specie Bank, left San Francisco on the 3rd inst. for home.

GENERAL MERRITT has left for Paris, and during his absence General Otis will administer the the government of the Philippines.

A TERRIBLE gale swept over Japan on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Telegraph wires are down throughout the country, and railway traffic is disorganized everywhere in consequence of wash-outs and landslips.

TRAINING has begun on the Yokohama race course, and prospects are bright for a successful autumn meeting of the N.R.C.

MR. YASUDA, Vice-Minister for Justice, on the 2nd retired from his post, and Mr. Nakamura was appointed to the vacancy.

MARQUIS ITO is to have a fine reception in China, Li Hung-chang doing all he can to confer honour on the distinguished visitor.

THE situation at Manila is regarded with uneasiness, the Filipinos being inclined to resent the action of the American officers in keeping them out of Manila.

MR MURATA, Minister to Mexico, left on the 1st June for Peru to make investigations as to whether the land recently leased is suitable for Japanese emigrants.

GENERAL MILES is openly accusing the U.S. Secretary of War of gross mismanagement leading to appalling losses through sickness, and the garbling of despatches.

SOME wealthy citizens in Aichi Prefecture are promoting the construction of a trading harbour at Taketoyo. It is said they have already applied to the authorities for permission.

TELEGRAPHIC intelligence, dated the 2nd, from the Japanese Consul at Amoy states that according to the Hygienic Committee at Amoy no black plague has appeared there of late.

ON Thursday morning, about 4 30 o'clock, a junior sergeant, named Kyo Hajime, aged 20 belonging to the Kyodan Battery, committed suicide by shooting himself with a carbine.

MR. W. G. WARD, a journalist well known in the Far East, committed suicide at Moorgate-street station in July last—a fortnight after Mr. Tennant's distressing suicide in Yokohama.

THE Emperor of Japan will confer the decoration of the Order of the Chrysanthemum on the Emperor Francis Joseph, and the Order of the Sacred Treasure on the Empress of Austria.

AN old Cunard steamer, renamed the *Trinidad*, which was conveying a cargo of coals to Kiaochow, has been wrecked in the China Sea. The crew were rescued by the P. & O steamer *Rohilla*.

AN employé named Inaoka Kanekichi, aged 32, of the Nagoya Branch of the Toyobashi Bank, forged a cheque and drew out from the bank *yen* 6,000, afterwards absconding with a *geisha* girl.

THERE has been a terrible battle in the Soudan, lasting five hours. The Dervishes lost 15,000 men and then threw up the sponge, surrendering to the Sirdar's army. Omdurman is now occupied.

THE American war-ships recently engaged in Manila will dock and repair at Hongkong, two at a time. Japan refuses to allow the American ships to dock and repair at Nagasaki, regarding that as a breach of the neutrality regulations so long as hostilities are only suspended.

A FARMER named Fukuda Gentaro, aged 23, living at Toyasato village, Kawachi-gori, Tochigi Prefecture, on the 29th ultimo murdered his father, named Gennai, stabbing him in the chest with a sword. The offender afterwards gave himself up to the police.

MR. KOMIYA TSUNEKICHI, Director of the Narita Railway Company, was sued in the Tokyo District Court on the 1st instant for the recovery of *yen* 35,370 owing to the Kujime Bank. Mr. Akiyama, representing the Bank, applied that the debtor should be declared bankrupt.

THE 2nd December being the 50th anniversary of the accession of the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, H.I.H. Prince Kanin-no-miya has been appointed to proceed to Vienna to present the Emperor of Japan's congratulations. The Prince will leave on the 14th inst. by the French mail. Count Yanagisawa, Captains Kawamura and Tachibana, and Mr. Matsui, an official of the Imperial Ceremonial Board, will accompany the Prince.

THE shareholders of the Nippon Cast Iron Company, who decided to wind up the concern at a meeting held on the 20th ult., held another meeting on the 30th ult. and decided to continue the works, and to write down the old capital from *yen* 300,000 to *yen* 60,000, and to raise new shares amounting to *yen* 40,000, so as to make *yen* 100,000 in all. The debt of the company, amounting to *yen* 130,500, will be paid from the new shares and the sale of stock, involving a loss of *yen* 45,000.

THE French papers accuse the Czar of ignoring the continuous and strenuous preparations of France to recover the lost Provinces (Alsace and Lorraine). It is beginning to be felt that the Czar's manifesto is a grave blow to the Franco-Russian Alliance. President Faure and his Ministers are hastily returning to Paris to deliberate upon the manifesto. The enthusiasm of the German official papers regarding the proposal of reducing armaments has further exasperated France.

FRANCE has been startled by the arrest of Colonel Henry, Chief of the Intelligence Department, who confessed to writing a paper incriminating Dreyfus by name. This paper purported to emanate from a foreign attaché. It was lately read in the Chamber by M. Cavaignac, Minister of War, as positive proof of the guilt of Dreyfus. Colonel Henry committed suicide in prison, cutting his throat with a razor. M. Cavaignac remains convinced of the guilt of Dreyfus, but the clamour for revision of the sentence is increasing. The Cabinet is divided on the question.

THE improvement in trade has come before the setting in of autumn, a hopeful portent. The movement in piece goods, yarns, and grey shirtings, though only slight at present, promises to gather speed ere long, and hopes run high of a good fall trade. The declaration that the new tariff will be enforced from the 1st of next January has also given the market a fillip, for now importers and buyers alike know better how they stand. A better feeling is to be noticed in metals, up-country buyers displaying a gratifying tendency to renew their much depleted stocks. Kerosene, in view of the shortening days, is very firm, and dealers are quite open to offers at current rates. Sugar shows little change, demand being steady with plenty of visible stock. In regard to raw silk, a retrograde movement is reported, demand having fallen off considerably both in the States and Europe. The native buyers are petitioning the Government to grant easier monetary facilities through the Specie Bank, but their success seems doubtful. Raw silk has at last had a turn and over 635 piculs were settled within three weeks. There is a large stock in hand. Tea is beginning to decline in activity and prices are falling in consequence.

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TROUBLE IN THE CABINET.

During the past three days, rumours of a Cabinet dissension have been busily circulated in Tokyo, but the accounts published as to the origin of the trouble vary considerably. The version given by the Liberal organs is this:—When the Administrative-Reform Committee met, on the 30th ultimo, the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, Mr. Taketomi, submitted a proposal in the sense that the salaries of all the high-class political officials—that is to say, the officials whose tenure of office depends on the life of the Cabinet—should be increased. Count Itagaki disapproved of the proposal. His idea is that the salaries of junior officials should be augmented, and those of the upper class left as they are. He refrained, however, from immediately announcing his final opposition and desired that an interval of two days should be taken for reflection. Thereupon Messrs. Oishi, Ozaki, and Taketomi spoke vehemently in favour of the project and against any delay in discussing it, and their attitude offended Count Itagaki so much that he left the meeting.

The version coming from the side of the Progressists is very different. They say that as little time remains for the Committee to formulate its programme, as the public are getting very impatient, some radical and decisive step must be taken at once. Hence the Progressist members of the Committee proposed that a plan should be drawn up for abolishing the Hokkaido Administration Bureau, the Formosa Administration Bureau, the Bureau of Temples and Shrines, and the Bureau of General Business, and for reducing the number of civil officials by one-third. Count Itagaki objected to this scheme. He declared that it was not reform but destruction, and that he could not consent to reduce the staff of the Administration by more than one-fifth.

It will be observed that both stories have the taint of bias. The Liberal version represents the Progressists as having proposed a measure of which the public at large would not be likely to approve, and the Progressist account represents the Liberal leader as opposing a scheme for cutting down administrative expenditures. It is now pretty generally admitted that the emoluments of junior officials are too small. A project for increasing them was framed by the last Ito Cabinet and had the approval of all moderate persons. But there has been no serious suggestion that the salaries paid to high-class officials are insufficient. Hence the unpopular character of the proposal attributed to the Progressist members of Committee is apparent. On the other hand, the four bureaux which the Progressist members are shown as proposing to abolish, all belong to the Home Department, over which Count Itagaki presides. Hence the Progressist version makes Count Itagaki sacrifice general reform on the altar of his own Department's interests, and holds him up as obstructing the large reduction of administrative staff advocated by the Progressists. It is difficult to repose full credit in either version, but there can be no doubt about the fact that some kind of rupture has occurred.

Such are the incidents of the quarrel as seen through the spectacles of the parties to it. If we turn to the opinions expressed about its results, we find a similar divergence of views. The *Tokyo Shimbun* (Liberal) refrains from entering into details, but is inclined to welcome the occurrence of these storms, inasmuch as they will have the effect of rousing the Cabinet from its inert condition and clearing the atmosphere. Anyone that regards them as the precursors of the Cabinet's overthrow, will find himself mistaken. Their influence will be of the opposite character. The *Yomiuri* (Progressist) is not so hopeful. After noting that Baron Kusumoto and Messrs. Nakamura, Minoura, and Suzuki are endeavouring to reconcile the disputants, it expresses the opinion that this incident may result either in the abandonment of the scheme of administrative reform or in a final rupture between the Liberals and Progressists. The *Mainichi Shimbun* (Progressist) writes as though it considers the breach final and has no desire to build a bridge. Count Itagaki is strongly condemned on the ground that he thinks more of his own Department than of the interests of general reform, and that, whereas he used to be a conspicuous advocate of the principle of Cabinet Ministers' united responsibility, he is now a conspicuous violator of that very principle. The *Mainichi Shimbun* has never acted as a link to hold the Liberals and Progressists together. Perhaps it has always regarded their union as a mistake. Its present attack upon the Liberal leader can not help to soften the mood of his followers.

The threatened Cabinet crisis—if the term be not an exaggeration—is apparently a thing of the past. Count Itagaki, having withdrawn his objections to the various proposals which he had been disposed to condemn, presided at the meeting of the Administrative Reform Committee on the 3rd instant, and the discussion made such rapid progress that two or three further conferences are expected to suffice for drafting the complete programme of reform. The result is not likely to be announced, however, for three or four weeks, as the draft has to pass through the hands of the Legislative Bureau in the first instance; then to be considered by the Cabinet in full conclave; and then to go before the Emperor for approval.

Under the circumstances nothing is publicly known of the scheme now assuming final shape under the hands of the Committee. But rumour confidently alleges that all idea of abolishing the Metropolitan Police Bureau and the Departments of Justice and Education has been abandoned; that the organization changes will be limited to combining some bureaux and sections and abolishing others; that the number of officials will be diminished; that the salaries of the lower grades will be increased, and that the Regulations for Official Appointment will be amended in the sense of making members of the House of Representatives eligible for all the higher offices—*Chokunin* and *Sōnin*—without examination. It is also stated that similar eligibility will be declared in the case of members of city and prefectural assemblies and graduates of officially recognised schools, but that the appointment of such persons will be made to depend on the verdict of a Committee of Selection (*Senko iin*). We can only say that if such changes are introduced, they will be the only really retrogressive legislation during the *Meiji* era.

THE SILK MEN OF YOKOHAMA.

The dispute between the silk-men of Yokohama and the Specie Bank appears to be growing acuter. Briefly speaking, their accusation is that whereas the Bank has ten million *yen* of State funds on which it pays interest of only 8 per cent., it charges Japanese silk-men from 10 to 11½ per cent. for accommodation, and is very reluctant to assist them, though it lends readily and at low rates to foreign merchants. The persons preferring that accusation are Messrs. Hara Zenzaburo, Mogi Sobei, Ono Mitsukaga, Anzai Tokubei and so on; men whose reputation lends great weight to their words. The Specie Bank denies the accuracy of their allegations, but the details of its denial are not published. The silk-men have asked for aid from the Treasury. They point to the facts that tea-dealers get seventy thousand *yen* annually of public money, and that a large sum was handed by the Finance Department to the Industrial Bank for the purpose of relieving the distress of the cotton-spinning industry, yet nothing whatever is done for silk, Japan's greatest staple of export; not even the export duty is abolished. In 1887 the silk for export was only 47,400 bales (Japanese); in 1895, it had increased to 130,800 bales, but the pecuniary facilities for carrying on the business remained the same as ever.

It is difficult to suppose that the silk-men seriously expect the Treasury to furnish them with capital for carrying on their business, yet they can certainly point with much force to the subsidy granted to the tea trade by the Diet. The aid provided by Count Inouye for the distressed cotton industrials can be justified in a great measure. Large sums of capital already invested in that industry would have been lost had not some succouring measure been adopted. But no such consideration applies to the case of the middle-men engaged in the silk trade. We are astonished, therefore, to find that their petition is strongly endorsed by the *Mainichi Shimbun*. Apparently that journal attributes the diminution of silk production since 1896 partly to scarcity of capital; otherwise its mention of the fact in this context becomes inexplicable. But, indeed, the whole of the *Mainichi's* article is difficult to comprehend, for while asserting, on the one hand, that splendid prices are now ruling for silk in the Yokohama market, it alleges, on the other, that foreign buyers, seeing the dearth of capital among the Japanese, are holding on until the latter are driven to make sales at a sacrifice. It is comfortable to turn from such writing to the columns of the *Keizai Zasshi*, where the principle of State interference in such matters is roundly and uncompromisingly condemned, the subsidy to the tea dealers, the aid given to the cotton-spinners, and the purchase of the Industrial Bank's debentures by the Treasury being all grouped together as official blunders. We ourselves are disposed to think that the silk-men's campaign is against the Specie Bank only. They want to get accommodation from it on better terms, and they have organized this agitation with that aim. They must know very well that the Treasury has no funds to place at their disposal. It would be a very pleasant time if we could all fall back upon the State to supply money for the conduct of our businesses.

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ANOTHER JUDICIAL TROUBLE.

The public have been hearing a great deal of late about the Judicial Department. The action of Mr. Sone, Minister of Justice in the last Ito Cabinet, who, just before going out of office, succeeded in effecting a wholesale removal of antiquated judges; the vehement protest which that action evoked from the former President of the Supreme Court, Mr. Kojima Iken, and the defence of Mr. Sone's procedure undertaken by the Tokyo Bar collectively and by Mr. Okamura Teruhiko individually—all these events attracted much attention. Another incident is now reported which seems likely to cause much excitement. The present Procurator-General, Mr. Yokota, was Vice-Minister of Justice in the Ito Cabinet. It is understood that he worked vigorously in conjunction with the Minister, Mr. Sone, to effect the above weeding out of the Judiciary, and Mr. Kojima Iken's attack was therefore principally directed against him, a plausible pretext for questioning his motives being furnished by the fact that he himself profited largely by the judicial changes, inasmuch as he obtained promotion from the Vice-Ministership of Justice to the post of Chief Public Procurator. The report now circulated—not by Opposition journals but by papers favourable to the Government—is that Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu, Minister of Justice, influenced by ex-Chief-Justice Kojima's representations, privately advised Mr. Yokota to resign, and was met with a peremptory refusal. The Minister, not seeing his way to let the matter rest there, has decided to take an extreme step, namely, to reduce Mr. Yokota to the position of Chief Procurator of a provincial appeal court—in Sendai or Miyagi—and to deprive him altogether of his office, as a disciplinary measure, should he refuse to accept the lower post, as he probably will. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, relating this incident, predicts that it will cause as much commotion as did the Takano affair, and adds that it fails altogether to perceive how Mr. Yokota can be held guilty of the offences laid to his charge by Mr. Kojima Iken, namely, violating the Constitution and breaking the law. At the same time, it thinks that Mr. Yokota has been injudicious. He should have foreseen that the action he took in conjunction with Mr. Sone would provoke criticism and opposition, and should have made arrangements to avert complications, above all by refusing himself to profit by the changes he worked to accomplish. Hence the *Yomiuri*, while condemning the Minister's procedure, at the same time recommends Mr. Yokota to resign. We may mention that Mr. Yokota is one of Japan's most competent jurists. It was he that drafted the the Revised Criminal Code soon to be brought before the Diet.

THE OZAKI INCIDENT.

Apparently it does not strike Mr. Ozaki Yukio's assailants that not his utterances but their own criticisms suggest want of loyal circumspection. That is certainly what foreign observers see most clearly. They can not reconcile this semi-hysterical outcry with the existence of any deep-rooted faith in the stability of imperial institutions. If men have absolute confidence in the strength of a house's foundations, they remain quite undisturbed though the wind beats against its walls. It is not wise to be over-solicitous, for solicitude suggests apprehension, and apprehension does not coexist with firm faith. Just now the English people are probably as much attached to the Throne as are the Japanese. It is true that they have outgrown all illusions about the "divine rights" of Sovereigns. They recognise the monarchy simply as an essential part of the polity that suits their natural temperament and their national circumstances, and they surround it with respect and even reverence became they understand that such an environment is essential to its stability. But they are not in the smallest degree perturbed by sporadic utterances of republican sentiment, for they know that no fear need be entertained of an epidemic. If a solitary speech delivered by an English publicist threw several leading London journals into a state of perturbation because it contained a passing reference to republican institutions, then indeed we should begin to think that royalty was in peril. And that is precisely what many foreigners will think when they observe the commotion caused by the speech of the Minister of State for Education. We do not say that they will be right in thinking it. The feeling entertained by Japanese subjects towards the Throne is a thing apart; a thing which few foreigners can fully comprehend and fewer still appreciate. We ourselves have no doubt that most of the clamour provoked by Mr. Ozaki's reference to a Japanese republic is inspired by a thoroughly genuine abhorrence of any suggestion, however remote or hypothetical, pointing to a change of the form of government in this country. But all students of Japanese affairs will not share our confidence, and we commend that fact to the consideration of the men who are trying to make political capital out of the incident.

"A LEAP INTO THE LIGHT."

That is the heading of an article in the *Nippon* which will probably amuse our Russian readers as much as it has diverted us:—Toseki was a memorable brigand. Mercy and righteousness are words that would have sounded strangely in his mouth. Yet, had he spoken them, it would scarcely have been right to stop one's ears because of his generally evil repute. Rather should advantage have been taken of his fitful moral impulse to urge him, to press him, to guide him, to invite him, to lead him to obey the prompting of his awakened conscience. A wicked man's affectation of virtue is at least one step in the right direction. If the ugliness of the pretence deterred every attempt to correct the wickedness, the world would improve but slowly. Hiranuma Senzo, the usurer, founded a school for the poor, and the applause that his act evoked led Okura Kihachiro to follow his example. If a man's deeds present any praiseworthy aspect, let us not probe the motives too deeply, nor withhold all approval because the source is tainted. Our rôle now should be to applaud Russia's new mood; to fall in with it; to treat it as genuine. It can be easily tested. She has only to give up Port Arthur. The rendition of Wei-hai-wei would follow, and then that of Kiao-chou. Such possibilities should not be lightly regarded.

NOTES ON NEWS.

Another monetary difficulty, this time on a large scale, is reported from Osaka. The directors of the Nishi-nari Railway Company are said to have discovered a deficiency of 257,000 *yen* in the assets of the Company. Mr. Manako, the President, explains that the money has been used for "promotion expenses," a conveniently vague formula which suggests that such enterprises in Japan are not without a secret history. The shareholders, however, find the explanation insufficient, and there is considerable commotion.

The first of the three steamers ordered from England by the *Toyo Kisen Kaisha* (Oriental Steamship Company), for service on the Hongkong-Yokohama-San Francisco line, is expected to reach Japan about the 20th of October. She is a vessel of 6,000 tons, 7,500 h.p., and maximum speed of 17 knots, and accommodation for 100 first-class passengers, 300 second-class, and 500 third-class. This vessel, which is called the *Nippon Maru*, will be quickly followed by the *Hongkong Maru*, and according to the present programme, the service will commence on December 15th.

The recent heavy rain has been followed by the almost invariable result, injury to the Tokaido Railway and suspension of traffic. This time the scene of the damage is between Kambara and Okitsu, and the immediate cause of the trouble was the overflow of the river Okitsu. It is said that three or four days will be required for effecting repairs.

Prices of commodities continue to decline. If the average of the principal staples—excluding rice and *sake*—in January, 1887, be put as 100, it appears that the corresponding figure for June of current year was 179; the figure for July, 168; and the figure for August, 166. Things have not yet descended, however, to the level of August, 1897, which was 160.

A telegram from Söul, published by the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, says that the detailed agreement relating to the Söul-Fusan Railway has at length been drafted and is now under consideration. It is expected that this much-mooted question will be finally disposed of in a few days. The concessionaires are Mr. Omiwa Chobei and another.

The Tohoku Railway has been injured by the recent heavy rain, and we regret to say that the injury has resulted in the overturning of a goods train, and the wounding of six persons, one severely. The principal damage to the road is between Kurosawa-jiri and Kanagasaki, some 60 miles north of Sendai, and the accident to the goods train happened at 7 p.m. on the 3rd instant. It is not expected that the line can be re-opened to traffic for a considerable time.

Referring to the "210th day," which fell this year on September 1st, it may be worth while to explain a point to which our attention has been directed. The importance of fine weather on the 210th day—*i.e.* the 210th day from the 1st of the 1st month, old reckoning—consists in the fact that the rice is just then passing from flower to ear. But of course that stage occurs at different times in different districts, and, moreover, in no one district does a single day suffice for the process. Ex-

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perience, however, seems to have shown the Japanese farmer that fine weather on the 210th day is generally indicative of climatic conditions favourable to the rice crop at its most critical stage. That is a sufficiently rational theory, and for the rest it may be observed that, where his own particular business is concerned, the Japanese farmer knows pretty well what he is about.

The rice crop does not appear to have suffered appreciably by the rains of the past few days. Some loss has doubtless been caused by inundations, but the general verdict is that the yield will be exceptionally fine, judging, of course, by present indications. It is stated that if these favorable conditions continue, the Bank of Japan will soon reduce its rate of interest.

The affair of the Nishinari Railway does not appear to attract as much attention as might be expected, judging from the magnitude of the sum said to be missing, namely 270,000 *yen*. It seems that the line has been in financial difficulties for some time, and that the directors have been trying to sell it, first to the Government and afterwards to the Sanyo Company.

The *Gaikoku Gogaku Zasshi* has followed in the wake of the *Far East*, and gone to the land of the shades. There were many difficulties in the way of such an enterprise. The promoters desired to cater for students, but the price of the magazine, 25 cents per copy, was more than the majority of students can afford to pay. Then the plan of teaching a language month by month in a fragmentary way, involving the lapse of several years before the necessary information is fully furnished, presents obvious objections. The editing of the magazine, too, was not uniform, mistakes being sometimes left uncorrected. Under these circumstances sales were limited, and its issue only lasted 12 months. The publishers (the Hakubunkan) announce that they are about to issue a new magazine, to be called 中學世界, *Chūgaku Sekai*, which will, to a certain extent, take the place of the *Gogaku Zasshi*. The first number is to appear on September 10th and the magazine will be a fortnighty.

In a leading article published in the *Japan Times* on high class education, the following passage occurs:—"Want of sufficient accommodation (in the Imperial University) obliges the authorities to prescribe the number of admissions, the result being that only those who possess scholarship are admitted. This is a very serious affair, for though we do not pretend to be acquainted with the precise condition of the arrangements, it would appear to us that the graduates of the Higher Schools of only average scholarship are precluded for ever from gaining admission within the walls of the University. This would appear like cheating the Higher School graduates of their privilege." These comments are very misleading. There is no such grievance as our contemporary supposes. All graduates of the High Schools enter one of the Universities. In some cases a delay of 12 months occurs after they have acquired the right to enter by passing the High School examination, but the delay is confined to students of subjects not taught as yet in the Kyoto University. That Institution receives surplus Engineering and several other classes of students who have qualified to enter a University, but is not ready as yet for students of Law and Literature. Thus there is no "cheating of Higher School graduates of their privileges." It may be well to state that students who are delayed a year owing to want of room in the Tokyo University, take precedence of all other applicants the following year.

THE PERRY INCIDENT.

As to the propriety of silence on the part of the foreign local newspapers, in the matter of the Perry incident, we entirely disagree with our correspondent "G.D." It was right, in our opinion, that notice should be taken of the false story published by two vernacular journals. They were not "unimportant papers," as our correspondent seems to think. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* and the *Nippon* are two of the leading Tokyo journals. It is our habit to notice what they write, since they certainly represent a section of Japanese public opinion, and we should certainly have exposed ourselves to an imputation far more injurious than that suggested by "G.D." had we kept silence in this instance. With regard to what "G.D." calls our "*de-haut-en-bas* attitude towards the entertainment and indirectly to its guest, scarcely concealing a sneer," we have only to say that, from the outset, the extravagant aspect of the celebration presented itself to us in a very strong light, and induced us to refrain from publishing the account of the speeches, &c., as forwarded by the Welcome Society. We considered the entertainment ill-advised. Perceiving, however, and appreciating the liberal and graceful motive of the promoters, we refrained from hostile criticism. A long residence among the Japanese was not necessary to foresee that the eyes of a laughter-loving people would certainly be fixed on the humorous side of the incident. The want of proportion between the occasion and the demonstration could not fail to thrust itself upon intelligent observation, and it is not at all surprising, though it is distinctly humiliating, to find that a public entertainment organized under the auspices of an important body like the Welcome Society, has been greeted with a chorus of laughter and nicknamed the *go-yen no peroro-kai*, or the "five-yen gobble-gathering." One word more. "Surely," says, "G.D.", "the *Mail* and all of us might welcome any voluntary attention of the Japanese to a foreigner when it was kindly meant and pleasantly carried out." That observation embodies an entirely new view of the affair. If it was "a voluntary attention of the Japanese to a foreigner," then it becomes entirely laughable, for its object had not the most shadowy claim as an individual to any such attention. But the opening paragraph of our correspondent's letter shows that his final reference to the personal element was not seriously considered. He regards the affair, and so do we regard it, as a public demonstration intended to prove to foreigners that Japan is friendly to them and that the liberal regimen is irrevocably established. It was from that point of view that we considered it, and it is from that point of view that we deem it ill-advised and undignified.

THAT ADMIRABLE MEMORIAL.

Men have been known to be proud of a deformity because it was monstrous, or of a disease on account of its rarity. But a community, an educated, grown-up community, proud of such a memorial as the Kobe residents recently addressed to Lord Salisbury—that is a very remarkable instance of self-conceit. Nothing else was needed to crown the fiasco. Quainter, if possible, is Kobe's idea of the reward it has earned. The Kobe Consulate is to be as well paid henceforth as that of Yokohama, and the *Kobe Chronicle* rejoices with exceeding great joy over the fact, explaining it thus:—

> Can it be also, that the lead taken by Kobe in memorializing the British Government on the matter of the Treaties has also had its effect? While Yokohama remained quiescent and inactive, Kobe took the lead, and Yokohama followed in a weak sort of way, with an air of humility and thankfulness for the smallest of mercies that does not seem to have had much effect with the authorities. The China Association, I hear, has already commented upon the difference between the two ports, but it is perhaps somewhat unfair to blame the Yokohama people for not signing the memorial, for it is very certain that the great majority of British residents there would have attached their signatures to it if they had had an opportunity. Arrangements had indeed been made by the Kobe Committee to take a room at one of the hotels in Yokohama, where the memorial would have lain for signature, but after arrangements had been made it was found that time would not permit this to be done, and so the memorial had to be sent off with the Kobe and Nagasaki signatures only, Nagasaki having responded promptly to the suggestion made from Kobe.

The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce refused to endorse the Memorial because it contained gross misstatements—misstatements of such a nature as to make its signatories ridiculous. And now we are told that "it is somewhat unfair, perhaps, to blame the Yokohama people for not signing the Memorial" for "the great majority of the British residents there would have attached their signatures to it if they had had an opportunity!" There are in every community a certain number of men who, knowing nothing about a question and wishing not to be troubled with any knowledge, can easily be induced to conclude that the side on which some of their friends are marshalled must be the right side. Had the Memorial come into the hands of such persons in Yokohama, and had they seen that it bore the signatures of many of their Kobe friends, they would doubtless have added their names also, and the dimensions of the fiasco would have been proportionately increased. But fortunately it came, in the first instance, into the hands of men who, having some sense of responsibility, had devoted to careful inquiry the time spent by the framers of the Kobe Memorial in composing what must be regarded as one of the giddiest, most erroneous, and least impartial documents that ever obtained the endorsement of a mercantile community. The merchants of the senior port, however anxious they must have been to work hand in hand with Kobe, could not put their names to gross errors. Thus Yokohama is now happily beyond the range of the ridicule evoked by the Memorial, and, whereas Kobe's mistakes and intemperance have made it impossible for Lord Salisbury to use the Memorial with any effect, Yokohama has been working with intelligence and knowledge which have secured the full cöoperation of the Foreign Ministers and the appreciative consideration of the Japanese Government.

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And a Kobe newspaper now seeks to persuade its readers that the status of their Consulate has been raised because they have given evidence of their capacity to follow ignorant and headstrong leaders! Well, yes: there is something in the idea. After all, the Kobe folks have much greater need of Consular guidance and restraint than the Yokohama community has.

OJI PAPER MILL.

There appears to be considerable trouble among the operatives of the Oji Paper Mill. Discontent has been manifested ever since the commencement of last month. An attempt was then made to effect a settlement by dismissing a manager and an overseer, but as 53 *employés* were sent away at the same time, the dissatisfaction continued to grow, until finally it spread to the two branch offices of the Mill in Shizuoka. There, also, a change of managers proved fruitless, and recently the whole of the hands went on strike, to the number of seven or eight hundred, demanding a considerable increase of pay, and talking of bloodshed and dynamite. It is said that the principal officers of the Company have tendered their resignations, and that an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders is to be held for the purpose of consulting on a course.

KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

Our readers are probably aware that, for reasons which still await full explanation, Yokohama is no longer to be the premier port of Japan, so far, at any rate, as British official recognition in the matter of consulates is concerned. The Kobe and Yokohama consulates are to be placed on an equality, the salary of the former being somewhat increased and of the latter proportionately diminished. Had the old conditions remained unchanged, Mr. J. C. Hall would doubtless have taken Mr. Troup's place at Yokohama, and Mr. J. H. Longford, would have succeeded Mr. Hall at Kobe, but it is stated that these changes will not take place. Messrs. Hall and Longford will remain at their present posts, and Mr. H. A. C. Bonar will probably come to Yokohama. In short, Yokohama and Kobe are to stand on the same plane. The *Kobe Chronicle* not unnaturally exults over this feather in the cap of the younger port, and, with that accuracy of information which always distinguishes it, adds that Yokohama is no longer to be No. 1 in the British Consular Service, "nor even to stand as No. 2, but to rank henceforth as No. 3." Our contemporary then discusses, in a manner very satisfactory to itself, the titles of Kobe to this recognition, and arrives at the conclusion that "Kobe may fairly claim it as a right that the Consular-General should make that port his headquarters." We have never before heard of a "Consular-General," and if Kobe thinks that it is to have a brand new official with an unprecedented name all to itself, we fear that it will be disappointed. In connexion with this subject we may refer to another *on dit* circulated by the same well-informed journal, to the effect that, in view of the Consuls in Japan being deprived by and by of judicial authority, the British Government "has reduced salaries all round." We believe the statement to be unfounded.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

There is evidently a serious intention of pushing the project for an international exhibition in 1902 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Japan to the world. As originally referred to by the vernacular press, 1899 was the year mentioned; a mistake, evidently. An international exhibition would be a very good thing, and we do not see why Japan should not have one, but it may be doubted whether an interval of two years would be sufficient between the Paris Exhibition in 1900 and a similar enterprise in Tokyo in 1902. The distance of Europe from Japan will also prove a very serious drawback, and another obstacle is the want of accommodation. Mr. Takahashi Yoshio, Manager of one branch of the great Mitsui Firm, who appears to be the most active promoter of the scheme, is represented as saying that every one possessing house room would doubtless be pleased to accommodate visitors. That sounds like a hopelessly unpractical suggestion. Japanese people living in Japanese houses could not possibly accommodate foreign visitors, and foreign residents assuredly would not show hospitality to any persons except their own friends. However, it is conceivable that enterprising men might set themselves to solve the dilemma by running up temporary structures to serve as hotels. One consideration greatly in favour of the project is that, by 1902, the smooth working of the Revised Treaties—for we have no doubt of their smooth working—will have become an established fact, and it would be an excellent plan to invite as many foreigners as possible to bear witness to the success.

UNION OF COTTON IMPORTERS.

A telegram from Osaka says that a project is on foot, and has well nigh matured, for a union of Japanese and foreign merchants engaged in the import of raw cotton. The scheme is to embrace Osaka, and Kobe, and to be extended, if possible, to Yokohama. It is with the object of checking the arbitrary action of the associated cotton-exporters of Bombay that the idea of an union on this side has been started. The Bombay men have virtual control of this market owing to the advantage that their combination gives them *vis à vis* the competition in Japan. It is proposed to include American and Chinese dealers in the union, but that feature of the scheme is a little obscure.

We spoke in our last issue of a cotton dealers' union now in process of organization in Kobe and Osaka. According to the account originally published, the object of the union was to combat the control of the combined cotton exporters of Bombay. But later statements entirely modify that version. We now gather that the union is designed to make importers of raw cotton independent of the spinners on whose account it is imported. The promoters of the scheme are the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, the Naigai Wata Kaisha, and the Nihon Menka Kaisha. About 40 members have already been enrolled, and at a meeting held on the 2nd instant in the Osaka Hotel, a form of agreement and a schedule of rules were drafted. Foreign merchants are invited to join, whether in Osaka, Kobe, or Yokohama, and it is also contemplated to enlist the cöoperation of exporters of raw cotton in China and America. We gather from the rules that the union will be called the Nihon Menka Domei Kaisha, and that the head office will be in Osaka.

Such a movement does not improve the prospects of the already-embarrassed cotton-spinning companies. It means that they will have to pay more for their raw material, and as they cannot realize a profit even at present rates, an increase of the cost of production will be a serious matter for them. The members of the Union, however, being business men, will presumably be careful not to create an impossible position for the spinners, since the import of raw cotton depends on the latter's prosperity.

A FOREIGN LOAN.

In our recent *résumé* of Japanese finance, we showed that a sum of 160 million *yen* remained to be raised, under the *post-bellum* programme, in the form of Public Undertakings and Railway bonds. Count Inouye's financial statement, as submitted to the House of Representatives, contained the same figures. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* now says that the Cabinet is understood to have resolved upon applying to England for the money; that a loan will be placed upon the market at 4 per cent., and that telegraphic instructions have been sent to London for the purpose of obtaining preliminary information. It is not certain, however, whether the loan will be raised in a lump sum, or whether subscriptions will be sought at intervals as required by the progress of the works to which the money is to be applied. We should imagine that there can not be any doubt about the matter. The Treasury will be unwilling to receive money not immediately required and yet necessitating the payment of large sums in interest. It is very easy to arrange for the raising of the loan by installments at fixed intervals. The only step required is to announce that the calls on the bonds shall be made at such and such times and of such and such dimensions.

THE TOKYO ELECTION AFFAIR.

The resignation of Mr. Yamada, Vice-Minister of Justice, has been accepted. "At his own request" is the formula employed. Mr. Nakamura Yoroku, a well-known figure in the Diet and a leader of the Progressist Party, is appointed in his place. Thus the curtain falls on the Kyobashi-election drama. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is strongly condemnatory. It totally disapproves of such a hole-and-corner method of settling the affair. If Mr. Yamada abused his official authority, he should have been dismissed from office. If he did not abuse it, he should not have been removed at all. We admire the *Nichi Nichi's* ability, but sometimes it seems to impair the value of its comments by hypercriticism. Mr. Yamada does not carry with him into retirement the reputation of having abused his official authority. His resignation is another of those many sacrifices on the altar of sentiment with which the history of Japan has made us familiar. There is too much of this *kanjo*, we venture to think. It interferes perpetually with practical issues.

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PRESIDENT OF THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

Mr. Kondo, President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, made some interesting remarks in a speech delivered by him on the occasion of the *Hitachi Maru's* trial trip in Tokyo Bay on the 30th ultimo. The *Hitachi*, a vessel of 6,170 tons displacement, was built at the Mitsu Bishi Docks in Nagasaki. Her keel was laid on April 16th 1896, and her building has consequently been tolerably expeditious. Some 300 persons were invited to be present at her maiden trip, and Mr. Kondo's speech was one of the features of a sumptuous entertainment. After explaining that the *Hitachi* was the first vessel of such dimensions constructed in Japan, and that she had qualified to rank as *A 1* at Lloyds, he went on to say that when the former Mitsu Bishi and Kyodo Unyu Steamship Companies were amalgamated in 1885 to form the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the total displacement of their combined fleets was 61,000 tons, whereas the figure now stood at 189,000 tons, or more than the triple of the former. Further, the length of the lines served by the Company's vessels had been 5,900 nautical miles in 1885, and was now 46,900 miles. Again, the Company's biggest ship at that time was the *Yamashiro Maru*, a vessel of 2,500 tons, whereas the fleet now comprised 12 ships of the *Hitachi* class, all of over 6,000 tons. Each of these steamers was capable of carrying 2,000 soldiers with their equipment in time of war, and it was thus easy to see what an immense addition had been made to the offensive capabilities of the nation.

Mr. Kondo's speech was not all sunshine. A significant shadow showed itself. The Company, he said, had expended no less than 11 million *yen* on its European line, and the question now to be considered was whether it could successfully compete with organizations all of which were in receipt of a considerable measure of State aid. The problem pressed specially for solution at present, inasmuch as the Japanese Company would probably have to face direct competition from German ship-owners. The Hamburg-American line of steamers had been extended to Yokohama, and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha had thus a rival on the very route now taken by its vessels.

THE RUSSIAN PROPOSAL

We have seen how the extremists of one section of Japanese opinion treat the Czar's proposal for disarmament. The *Nippon* speaks for them, using very insulting language, but also very comical. The other end of the scale is represented in the columns of the *Mainichi Shimbun*, which calls the incident an unlooked for blessing from heaven; regards the Hispano-American war as the last that the world will see for many a year; anticipates the speedy federation of the nations, and opines that the great principles of Christianity have won the victory "prepared for them from the beginning." *O sancta simplicitas!* What a bland and childlike view to take of this despairing protest against the length of England's purse!

REVELATIONS.

An extraordinary series of paragraphs has been appearing for some time in the columns of the *Yorozu Choho*. The *Yorozu* is perhaps the most enterprising of Japanese journals, but public opinion does not credit it with motives by any means as admirable as its fertility of conception. Whether public opinion judges harshly or wisely in this matter we are not prepared to say, but we find it very difficult to reconcile our contemporary's latest departure with any theory of genuine solicitude for social reform. Briefly stated, the programme deliberately laid out for itself by the *Yorozu* and pesistently followed has been to conduct secret inquiries into the lives of all the most prominent Japanese of the time, to whatever class they belong, and to publish the results of the inquisition. Something like four hundred skeletons have thus been dragged from the shelter of their cupboards and exposed to the view of the world. At present the *Yorozu* confines itself to the erotic phases of life. It proclaims the names of men that keep mistresses and of men otherwise unfaithful to their marriage vows. There are only a few foreign residents on the catalogue, but we presume that their turn will come in due course. For the moment, however, the affairs of Japanese celebrities have naturally more interest in the eyes of Japanese readers than the affairs of strangers, and the *Yorozu* deals almost exclusively with the former. It professes to be actuated solely by a desire to effect reform, and there can be no doubt that the shock of publicity will prove a severe punishment to many of the persons named. But as for the ingenuousness of the *Yorozu Choho*, there are excellent reasons to be sceptical. Wherever it is possible to manufacture a romance out of materials collected by the searcher after skeletons, a spicy and sensational tale is constructed, and the paragraphist never hesitates to draw upon his own imagination for details which, though a novelist would certainly be justified in supplying them, are obviously pure conjectures. It is our frank opinion that such journalism is much more likely to impair than to improve public morality.

A DIFFICULT CASE.

In the highest court of justice there are few stripes, we are told, for those that violate the law unwittingly. What should be done with the Chinese woman, a resident of Hawaii, whose story is this:—"The husband of the woman died several years ago. The widow and two children became of the household of a relative. The relative became poor. Business was bad with him. The woman felt that she and the children were too much of a burden for the kind friend who so willingly shared his all with them. The children were old enough to be told and they practically understood. They agreed that it was best to die and go to their father's presence and cease as a burden here. One of the children went on the errand to buy opium. The drug was made a drink in a saucer, and partaken of by all. The children died, the woman recovered. She does not comprehend that she has been criminal. Her people do not expect her to understand it."

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

It really seems as though that castle in the air, "administrative reform," was likely to be at last removed from the field of political vision. Year after year, since 1888, the formula *gyasei seiri* has been upon the lips of politicians. They were always careful to avoid any clear definition of what they meant by the expression, but they used it with such persistence and gave to it such a prominent place in their list of "urgent duties" that the nation learned to regard it as something of very large dimensions. We have seen how, when the present Cabinet came into power, a committee was at once appointed, under the presidency of Count Itagaki, to make investigations preliminary to administrative reform; we have seen how the heads of the Constitutional Party drafted a list of the "reforms" that they considered essential; we have seen how certain journals, led by the *Fiji Shimpo*, urged the necessity of making a clean sweep of the official mansion, and filling it with new occupants and a new atmosphere, and we heard the frequent gibes and sneers directed recently against the ministry by Opposition journals and even by its own organs because the much talked-of "reforms" hung fire. It is not a little surprising, therefore—or rather it would be surprising had we not all along understood how unpractical the outcry was—to find the Liberal organ (*Tokyo Shimbun*) now coming out with a "flat-flooted" statement that the administrative machine, as it exists at present, was framed by the "clan statesmen" on the best Occidental models, and that radical changes would be improper. Anything like a great and general alteration, or a complete renewal of personnel, is out of the question. To get rid of abuses due to favouritism; to amend the regulation for official appointments, and to reduce formalities and red tape to a minimum—these, says the *Tokyo Shimbun*, are the limits of rational reform. It is quite extravagant to talk of total reconstruction or "a second revolution," as some folks are fond of doing.

Other journals supplement the above very significant utterances by paragraphs saying that all idea of abolishing the Educational Department, or the Metropolitan Police Bureau, or the Department of Justice has been abandoned. Every reasonable person will endorse that view of the question. We have again and again expressed our own strong opinion as to the giddiness and irresponsibility shown by the clamorous advocates of "administrative reform" in past years, and we count it a matter for hearty congratulation that the reformers themselves have now discovered the unpractical character of their own demands. If this question were finally removed beyond the range of political discussion, there would be a greatly improved prospect of administrative and legislative efficiency.

DEAD-LOCK IN THE IMPORT TRADE.

Using big type, double-leaded and conspicuously placed, the *Mainichi Shimbun* informs the public that there is a project on foot to obtain Government assistance for solving the present dilemma in the import trade. Millions of dollars worth

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of goods are lying stored in Yokohama and Kobe, but the Japanese merchants to whose order they were imported can not take delivery, and very serious inconvenience is felt on all sides. Now the Government has been devoting large sums to the redemption of War Bonds and Consols, in order to relieve the pressure in the money market. If officialdom has a duty to perform in that respect, why should it not also recognise some obligation in the field of the country's foreign commerce? That is the question propounded to themselves by embarrassed Japanese merchants, and there is no difficulty in conjecturing the answer they find. Their idea, then, is that the Treasury should place a sum of 8 or 10 million *yen* at the disposal of the Specie Bank, and that the latter should give accommodation to Japanese middlemen, the foreign importers, on their side, remitting a moiety of the interest and storage charges on the goods. It is supposed that fully fifty per cent. of these goods could be sold to the consuming classes without difficulty or delay, and the proceeds of the sales could then be applied to releasing a further instalment of the accumulated imports. There is nothing to indicate the authority upon which our contemporary relies for the above statement.

AN IMPATIENT PUBLIC.

If the views and predictions of Tokyo journalists contained any measure of truth proportionate to the confidence and persistence with which they are advanced, the Liberals and Progressists ought to have fallen asunder long ago, for truly as many reasons have been discovered for their separation as the days their union has numbered. The *Yorozu Choho* now enumerates no less than six causes, each of which is in itself sufficient to produce a final split between the parties, and the whole six combined ought to dissolve them into their elements without a moment's delay. But this cry of "wolf" has become wearisome. No one imagines that the union of the two parties will be permanent. They joined hands for a destructive purpose and they will surely turn their backs on each other one of these days. For the moment, however, they are held together by a sentiment much more potent than any of the differences dragging them apart, the fear of ridicule. To part company after a two months' association would be to invite the laughter of the nation, chiefly at the expense of the seceding section. On which side is the onus of dissension to rest? That is the question difficult to decide.

Meanwhile, some journals—among them the *Fiji Shimpo*—are almost plaintive in their expressions of disappointment because the conflict is deferred. "Why don't you fly at each other's throats?" these papers say in effect. "What is the use of keeping up a timid pretence of concord? We all know that at heart you are mutually hostile. One half of you advocate the State purchase of private railways; the other half oppose it. Yet you leave the question to be discussed by outsiders, and carefully refrain from ventilating it yourselves. You are like shy girls fearful of opening your lips. Fight it out at once and discover where you are and how you stand. The public are getting tired of watching for the *fracas*."

MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CHIEF PUBLIC PROCURATOR.

We apprehend that the Chief Public Procurator is on the verge of defeat at the hands of the Minister of Justice. Frankly speaking, we can not tell what Mr. Kokota's offence has been. Here are three questions which are said to have been propounded to him by the Minister, together with the answers given by him:—

Q. What was the reason for amending the regulation fixing the establishment of Judges and Public Procurators; and did you intend to have recourse to the intervention of a bench of judicial officials in the event of resistance being offered to the changes recently made among Judges and Public Procurators?

A. The reasons are set forth in the Petition to the Throne on the subject. As for the intentions I may have entertained, I see no occasion either to state them or to answer for them.

Q. Before making the changes in the Judiciary, did you assemble the Judges of the Supreme Court and consult with them?

A. I did speak with two or three of the Judges. But I uttered no word that could be construed as enlisting their consent or asking for their support. I merely asked that if they considered the proposed changes proper, they would assume an impartial attitude towards them.

Q. Did you send letters to Judges Mizukami and Watanabe, telling them to come privately to Tokyo, as they might possibly be appointed Judges of the Supreme Court?

A. I did write to them, and I did tell them to come privately, because it seemed inexpedient to to create an unnecessary fuss about the matter. As for the prospect of their being appointed to the Supreme Court, my remark was based on the fact that vacancies had already been created by resignations.

As impartial readers of this catechism, we are bound to say that if the charges implied in the questions are serious, Mr. Yokota's answers are not absolutely limpid. At all events the vernacular press says that the matter has now come before the Cabinet, and that Mr. Yokota will be removed to a Provincial Court, on the ground that his continued presence at the Supreme Court would interfere with the smooth working of the further judicial changes contemplated by the Minister of State for Justice. That is quite intelligible. If the superannuated or inefficient members of the Judiciary are to be induced to cöoperate in the proposed reform by voluntarily effacing themselves, the sacrifice will not be rendered easier for them by Mr. Yokota's presence as Chief Procurator of the Supreme Court, and he, on his side, should not be altogether unwilling to facilitate matters by passing out of the foreground for the moment.

SÖUL-FUSAN RAILWAY.

Now that the concession for the Söul-Fusan Railway has been obtained, or is on the point of being obtained, we can not help wondering whether it will prove a white elephant. The distance is 250 miles, and the cost of construction is estimated at 20 million *yen*, or 80,000 *yen* a mile. It must be conferred that the figure is high, but even if we put it at sixty thousand *yen* a mile, the sum required is 15 million *yen*. Where can such an amount be obtained at present? The *Nippon* talks of completing the work in four years, and writes in a peremptory strain about the necessity of commencing at once, but when we remember that money can not be found in Japan at present even for completing domestic lines already commenced, one must be very sanguine to expect that fifteen millions will be subscribed for a line in a foreign country.

THE WEATHER.

The confused weather of the past week is clearly reflected in the reports of the Meteorological authorities. On the 2nd instant a slight barometrical depression made itself apparent in the South of Kiushiu, from whence it travelled to the southern coast of Shikoku, and entering the main island from the east, passed northward by the east coast, reaching Hokkaido on the afternoon of the 4th. This, however, was a comparatively insignificant disturbance. It had scarcely disappeared when another depression, coming, apparently, from some distant point in the southern seas, was reported from Kishiu and the adjacent islands, and was followed by a rapid fall of the barometer over the whole country, with the exception of the south, where, strange to say, the meteorological conditions showed an improvement. Early on the morning of the 6th, however, the reports from the south indicated that the area of depression had extended thither also, simultaneously with a farther marked sinking of the barometer in every part of the empire. Heavy rain now began to fall in various places, and at 7.30 a.m. on that day (6th), the meteorological authorities warned the greater part of the coast districts. By the afternoon, the depression had become very low from Kishiu throughout the central provinces, and the warning was extended to the inland districts as well the coasts, and at 11 p.m. on that night, the warning was repeated.

So much injury has been suffered by the lines of telegraph that the Meteorological Observatory is not able to publish any detailed account of the course of the gale, or the readings of the barometer. It is supposed, however, that the centre of the storm entered the main island in the vicinity of Hamamatsu, and that its direction was north by east, the rate of progress being 40 miles an hour. Passing through Suruga, Kai, Kozuke and Shimotsuke, it reached Fukushima at 6 a.m, on the 7th instant, and sweeping thence across Rikuzen and Rikuchiu, crossed the sea, and striking Yezo on the southeast, finally emerged at Nemuro into the Sea of Okotsk. This course is to some extent conjectural, but, on the whole, may be regarded as tolerably accurate. It will be observed that Tokyo and Yokohama were on the edge of the storm, which accounts for the comparative immunity they enjoyed.

The lines of telegraph seem to have suffered most. One may almost say that the service is interrupted throughout the whole country. On the Tokaido route, one or two wires are available as far as Mishima, but beyond that there is no communication. The case is equally bad along the Nakasendo, the Naoyetsu-Uyeda-Takasaki line alone remaining. On the Tohoku route, the lines to Sendai and Wakamatsu are serviceable, but northward of Shirakawa communication is entirely interrupted.

Numerous injuries to railways also are reported. As usual the Tokaido line has a particularly bad record. On no less than three sections the traffic is interrupted; namely, the Oyama-Yamakita section, the Oyama-Gotemba and the Okitsu-Kambara. The most serious damage seems to be on the Yamakita-Oyama

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section, where a heavy landship has occurred, displacing the rails through a distance of 60 yards. It is expected, however, that two or three days will suffice to repair the injury. On the Japan Railway traffic is interrupted at two places, one between Nichimaru and Kuroiso and the other between Okamoto and Kataoka. The Ryomo road (Tokyo to Maebashi) has also suffered in two places, on the Ashikaga-Tomita and the Omata-Omama sections. The iron bridge over the Tonegawa beyond Kurihashi, on the Tokyo-Utsunomiya road, was reported to be in danger, the river having risen 19 feet and threatening to rise still more, so that no tickets for any place farther north than Kurihashi were issued from the 7th instant. The worst damage of all seems to have been suffered on the line over the celebrated Usui Pass, where the Abt system is in use. Two or three tunnels between Yokokawa and Kumanotaira have given way, and experts report that there is no hope of restoring traffic for a considerable time.

In Tokyo the defects of over-head wire for telephones has been signally illustrated. Out of 3,800 subscribers to the service, no less than 1,465 found their telephones useless on the morning of the 7th instant.

With the regard to the effect upon the rice crop, it is not yet possible to speak with certainty, but the general impression is that no very serious injury has been done—certainly nothing comparable to the havoc wrought on the 9th of September last year. The force of the wind is said to have been less than that experienced in 1897 and the condition of the rice plants was much more favorable. The early rice (*wase*), of which the ears have already formed, was bent but not broken, and will consequently recover. The middle crop (*nakute*) is past the flowering stage but not yet heavy enough in the head to be much hurt. The late plants of the middle crop and the early plants of the third (*ekute*), being just at the flowering stage, were most seriously imperilled, but it is said that they have escaped without fatal damage. As for the late plants of the third crop, they were not in a condition to suffer much. Our readers must note, however, that these statements are only conjectural. Until the telegraph service is restored, it is impossible to speak with any certainty. There can be little doubt, however, that the millet fields within the area of the storm's track are terribly injured, for the stalks must have been broken and there is, consequently, no chance of the grain's ripening. The cotton crop also must be seriously damaged. We note that the market price of rice has advanced a little, but not sufficiently to suggest that much uneasiness has been inspired by the storm.

The storm of Tuesday night caused some damage in Yokohama harbour. The sailing ship *Lyndhurst* dragged her anchor, and drifted till she fouled the *Marco Polo*, which had come inside the breakwater in anticipation of the gale. The *Marco Polo* was struck by the *Lyndhurst's* bows, and both vessels sustained slight damage, the sailing ship having some plates forward dented, while some of the outer fixings of the warship were damaged. They got clear about 5 a.m. The Blue-funnel steamer *Ixion* parted her moorings, and the sailing ships *Stronsa*, and *Samuel Scholfield* dragged their anchors, but no serious results followed. The yacht *Stella* was carried by the force of the wind from her moorings to the Pier, against which she would probably have beaten herself to pieces but for the efforts of a party under Messrs. McGowan and F. Bailey, of Mr. Laffin's establishment, who by dint of hard work got her clear, and anchored her safely near the Water Police Station. She battered herself considerably, but the damage is merely superficial. The double-ended yacht *Tomioka* was lost.

A CHEQUE WITHOUT ASSETS.

It is stated that a certain Mr. Nakagawa Ichitaro, a dealer in imported indigo, whose place of business is Yokohama, has been attempting to effect purchases by means of a cheque on a bank where he has no assets. The amount involved is not large—only 1,003 *yen*—and the defaulter, when the cheque was returned after various transfers, appears to have pleaded error, offered 500 *yen* as part payment, and asked for a brief delay. Not being considered worthy of trust, however, he was arrested. The cheque was passed in the first instance to Messrs. Klingen and Seux, by whom the parcel of indigo had been imported.

LIBERALS AND PROGRESSISTS IN CHIBA.

There is a pronounced rupture between the Liberals and Progressists in Chiba Prefecture. The proximate cause of their difference is Mr. Abe, the Governor. He holds office there for the second time, and during his former tenure he made himself very unpopular among the Progressists, whereas the Liberals have always supported him. This divergence of views recently found strong expression in connexion with the election of four politicians to represent the Constitutional Party in the prefecture. We need not enter into details. The dispute has been referred to Tokyo.

THE PHILIPPINES.

It is stated that out of the five commissioners who are to proceed to Paris from the United States for the purposes of the conference with Spain, three are in favour of the permanent retention of the Philippines by America; the fourth will be guided by the President, who, in turn, will follow the trend of public opinion, and the fifth, being from a sugar-raising State, may not be disposed to welcome an accession of sugar-producing territory. Of course there will be unanimity on the part of the whole five before they leave America, but their individual views are now a subject of considerable interest.

MR. BOKU YEIKO.

It seems that Mr. Boku Yeiko is really about to return to Korea. Our readers doubtless remember that a rumour in that sense was circulated some time ago, and that the Korean refugee did actually proceed to Nagasaki, but it turned out that his object was only to meet his daughter, whose romantic story we related at the time. Now, however, there appears to be little doubt that the horizon has cleared sufficiently to permit of his return to Söul. The circumstances under which he goes are kept profoundly secret, but rumour says that he will probably be appointed to some high office when he reaches Söul. If that be true, we may assume that the party of progress is in the ascendant there, but our own information does not indicate that such is the case.

SUICIDE OF MR. W. G. WARD.

DEATH OF ANOTHER FAR EASTERN JOURNALIST.

The *Kobe Chronicle* says that on the 28th July an inquest was held at the City Mortuary concerning the death of Mr. George William Ward, whose body was found lying on the previous Monday afternoon in one of the tunnels at Moorgate Street Station. The deceased was a war correspondent, having represented the *Daily Mail* in Abyssinia, the *Pall Mall Gazette* during the Ashanti campaign, the *Morning Post* in the Soudan, and the *Pall Mall Gazette* in the China and Japan war. A bill-poster named William Huck stated that he saw the body lying twenty yards inside the tunnel. The head was lying between the lines. His clothes were not disarranged, and his hat and umbrella were placed carefully at his side, together with a bottle labelled "Poison." The divisional surgeon of the police (Dr. Frederick Gordon Brown) deposed that the bottle contained morphia. A hyperdermic syringe was found in the pocket of the deceased, and probably he injected some morphia to deaden his feelings. The deceased's father, Mr. Robert Ward, of Swindon, stated that his son suffered acutely from rheumatism, caught through falling into the Nile, and that it must have been the intense pain which drove him to end his life. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily insane."

Mr. W. G. Ward, says the *Chronicle*, is well known in the East. He was originally connected with a paper in Egypt, and afterwards made his way to Hongkong, where he joined the staff of the *Hongkong Telegraph* in Mr. Fraser Smith's days. While connected with this journal he was brought up before the Hongkong Court on a charge of conspiring with Mr. Fraser Smith to injure the character of a Mr. Minhinnett by publishing certain charges in the paper concerning him, and after a lengthy trial each of the accused was sentenced to a term of imprisonment. The sentence excited much criticism throughout the Far East, as all that Mr. Ward appears to have done was to draw the attention of the police to evidence coming to his knowledge which appeared very convincing. Mr. Fraser Smith was released after a short time, but Mr. Ward served his sentence, and was never the same man again, so deeply did the iron enter his soul. Some time afterwards he went to Siam, where he started the *Siam Free Press*, but, the climate disagreeing with him, he returned to Hongkong, where he was in the hospital for some months and thus lost an engagement to serve the *New York Herald* in the China Japan war. On his recovery he went to the front for the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and wrote some remarkable sketches for that journal of the struggle at Wei-hai-wei. Proceeding home at the conclusion of the war, he was engaged to go to Egypt for the *Pall Mall*, and later represented the *Morning Post* and the *Daily Mail*. His sad end will be much regretted by the friends he made wherever he went. Curiously, it occurred exactly a fortnight after the suicide of another Far Eastern journalist, Mr. H. Tennant, and the two men were much alike in disposition, both having periods of high spirits which alternated with spells of deep despondency.

KILLED BY AN ELECTRIC WIRE.

About 6 30 on Wednesday evening a telephone wire in Motomachi, Honjo, Tokyo, was severed by the force of the typhoon, and fell down into the street. In its fall it struck a man named Yuyama Komekichi, and he fell to the ground. The telephone wire somehow made a connection with an electric light wire; and thus a current of great strength was induced. Yuyama was killed and three other persons coming within the circuit were injured, while a police inspector who came to their assistance received a severe shock.

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APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS IN JAPAN.

ONE of the questions of the time is the manner of appointing officials in Japan. When Marquis ITO reorganized the administration in 1885, he obtained the Emperor's approval of a set of regulations (*kwanri ninyō-rei*), the gist of which was that all official appointments, below those of the *chokunin* class, should thenceforth depend upon proof of efficiency furnished by examination. These regulations were welcomed as a signal reform, being regarded as an effective instrument for putting an end to the abuse of favouritism. The outcry against "clan government" had not then attained the dimensions to which it was subsequently raised by party politicians. Favouritism, however, is an abuse inseparable from every bureaucratic system, and there was certainly reason to complain of favouritism at the time of the Administration's reorganization in 1885. Marquis ITO'S reform doubtless had its origin in a sincere desire to place the system of Government on a better footing, irrespective of any desire to protect the clan statesmen against the charges, of which they were ultimately destined to be the object—though in truth they were charges which a clear-eyed statesman like the Marquis might have been expected to foresee. Still, there is no doubt that the effect of the regulations should have been to deprive the "clan statesmen's" assailants of their main weapon of attack, for from the moment when applicants for office were required to furnish qualifying tests by passing examinations of a fixed standard, it ceased to be possible to say that the ranks of officialdom were recruited from the personal friends, relatives, and connexions of cabinet Ministers, rather than from men of genuine merit. That feature of the regulations was accentuated by a provision that graduates of the Imperial University would be eligible for appointment without examination. In other words, graduates of the Imperial University became possessed of the first claims to office, and, until their claim was satisfied, there could be no recouse to even the very ineffectual favouritism that a Minister might exercise by influencing the verdict of the public examiners on behalf of his own *protegés*. The reform seemed thoroughgoing and enlightened, and not only did the public welcome it, but they also estimated it at the value which it certainly possessed. With such regulations in full force it was always for us very difficult to appreciate the justice of the clamour raised in later years against what the political agitators were pleased to call the *jōjitsu naikaku*, or cabinet of favouritism. The epithet plainly could not apply to the general body of officialdom. If had to be taken as referring to occupants of the highest offices—portfolio-holders, members of the Privy Council, and other *chokunin* officials—or to men who obtained promotion through the influence of a patron without examination. In short, the only interpretation that thoughtful persons could put upon the crusade against "clan statesmen" was that, in the first place, a system which limited the *personnel* of the Ministry to a small coterie of men without any popularly endorsed titles, seemed to the agitators to be inconsistent with the spirit of constitutional institutions; and, in the second, that the heads of the political parties, when they spoke of favouritism, thought only of the high offices to which they themselves aspired. Under such circumstances, when the "clan statesmen" recently effaced themselves, and party politicians stepped into their place, we, in common doubtless with many other foreign observers, watched curiously to see how the leaders of the onset upon "clan government" would justify their attack in the eyes of the nation—what steps they would take to correct the abuse of "favouritism" against which they had protested so vehemently. Indications of their mood had already been furnished. When the last MATSUKATA Cabinet assumed office with the support of the Progressist Party, voices very soon began to be raised in favour of what was called *jinsai tōyō*, or the employment of talent. To state the matter briefly, it was found that the regulations requiring applicants for office to qualify by examination constituted a very irksome obstacle to the aspirations of men who, by the exercise of undoubtedly high qualities, whether as political organizers, as party tacticians, as journalists, or as orators, had proved themselves worthy of public consideration, but who, being, for the most part, tolerably advanced in years and, at any rate, having long been strangers to the studies necessary for the successful passing of a public examination, could not hope to gain access to the ranks of officialdom by the regularly prescribed routes. *Chokunin* offices were, of course, open to these men—that is to say, offices commissioned direct by the SOVEREIGN—, but *Sonin* and *Hannin* offices were closed to them; and to explain what that meant the easiest method is to say that, whereas the annual salaries of *Chokunin* officials aggregate only 1⅓ million *yen*, in round numbers, those of *Sonin* and *Hannin* officials aggregate 21 million *yen*. Hence the talk of *jinsai tōyō*; the first vague expression of an idea that some method should be devised for utilizing the administrative talent which the party politicians believed that they possessed, but which the examination system precluded them from exercising as officials. The suggestion did not assume any definite shape at that time. Only one step was taken to satisfy the not unnatural ambition of the party politicians—a new office, that of *Chokunin* Councillors of Departments—was created, and prominent Progressists were nominated to the posts. But when party cabinets became an accomplished fact two months ago, and when what was called *ryōkan netsu*, or the office-hunting fever, assumed almost epidemic proportions among the rank and file of the Constitutionalists—to say nothing of the leaders—, proposals for a radical alteration of the "official appointments regulations" began to be heard again, and have been growing ever since in vehemence and insistence. We have alluded to this question more than once, and have incidentally described the singular attitude of the *Jiji Shimpo*, which advocates a complete clearance of the official mansion, on the ground that fresh atmosphere must be admitted, and that old clerks can not work satisfactorily with new masters. We are much mistaken if the *Jiji's* reputation does not suffer severely from the line it has pursued in this matter. A new master, if he be a man of any prudence or common sense, desires nothing better than to retain the services of an old clerk, who is familiar with the business and whose capacity has been developed and proved by experience. Moreover, the State is not without obligation towards the present occupants of office. They obtained their positions by satisfying certain tests for which they had to prepare themselves by a special course of education. They have served faithfully and efficiently, and to deprive them suddenly of their appointments merely because another step has been taken towards the consummation of representative institutions, and because the *Meiji* statesmen, who laid the foundation of those institutions, have been replaced by party politicians, would be one of the most indefensible procedures recorded in history. To these special considerations must be added the fundamental fact that, if the *Jiji's* plan were adopted in one case, it would be equally applicable to all, so that every change of Cabinet might involve an official revolution, and government in Japan would be disfigured by the very worst and most crippling abuse that can grew out of representative institutions. Happily there appears to be no prospect whatever that the *Jiji's* advice will be adopted, but to find such advice strenuously advanced by the country's leading journal, is very disquieting. Many rumours are afloat as to the course which seems most likely to find favour with the Cabinet in this matter. Nothing definite is yet known, but it is confidently alleged that the regulations for official appointments will be modified in the sense of extending the limits of eligibility without examination. If such a step be taken, it will be a national misfortune, in our opinion. Whatever specious plea may be advanced in its defence, the undisputable fact will remain that it is a

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large development of the "spoils system." History will say of Japan's party politicians that their advent to power, instead of correcting the evils of favouritism and corruption, against which they so vehemently inveighed before coming into office, created a mercenary political class, "an oligarchy of stipendiaries" and inaugurated a system which has elsewhere been shown to render politics repellant to all disinterested and genuinely patriotic men, and to make elections dependent upon issues which have nothing to do with the interests of the country, but are connected solely with the necessities and profits of a band of office-hunters. We commend to the attention of Japanese publicists the dictum of a well-known English authority that "the details of the Civil Service belong to a business, not a political, administration," and that "the line between proper political and non-political places is perfectly well defined." Men can not be pitchforked into office merely because they have shown themselves clever orators, adroit politicians, or successful agitators. Every step in the direction of abolishing the examination system, is an extension of the abuses of patronage and favouritism.

THE CHARGE OF ASSAULT AGAINST A BRITISH SUBJECT.

A CASE tried last Tuesday in H.B.M.'s Consulate illustrates a point to which we have more than once alluded in these columns, namely, the unfavorable position in which a foreigner may at any moment find himself placed if he happens to be involved in a difficulty with Japanese workmen or coolies, no foreign witnesses being present. The complainant in this instance was a Japanese coolie in the employ of the Pier Transport and Lighter Company; the defendant Mr. M. FITZGERALD, who manages the shipping agency of Mr. E. STANILAND. It appears that on July 14th, Mr. FITZGERALD employed the complainant and other coolies to carry a quantity of baggage to the Custom House. He declined, however, to pay the coolies at once, having, as he subsequently explained, some apprehension whether they might not appropriate the money instead of accounting for it to the Pier Company. He therefore told the head coolie to bring the bill to his office "at the proper time." The man complied, but was sent back without payment on the ground that the end of the month was "the proper time." What happened at the end of the month did not transpire, but it is certain that up to August 17th the money had not been paid. That, of course, is inexcusable. Remuneration for such services can not, with any shadow of propriety, be withheld from July 14th to August 17th. On the latter day, Mr. FITZGERALD, having occasion to go to the Hatoba, was accosted by the complainant and two other coolies, and what then ensued became the subject of the case in the Consular Court. The three coolies swore that they had simply asked for the money due to them; that Mr. FITZGERALD had at once pushed the head coolie aside and struck him heavily on the lip, and that at no time had they laid hands on Mr. FITZGERALD or otherwise assaulted him. Mr. FITZGERALD, on his side, swore that the coolies had preferred their demand at a place where a crowd of their fellows were at hand; then, on his telling them to apply to the office, the three had at once seized him, one gripping him by the throat, the other two taking hold of his arms; and that, seeing himself, as he supposed, in imminent danger, he had struck out in self-defence. He could not, however, cite any witness in support of his version, and the Court was on the point of condemning him when it occurred to him to say that he had lodged a complaint with the Japanese police at the time and had showed them the marks on his throat and his torn, crumpled collar. Mr. FORSTER, who occupied the bench, wisely suggested an adjournment for the purpose of hearing the testimony of the police, and when the trial was resumed, the main incidents assumed a very different aspect. For not only did a Japanese constable depose that FITZGERALD had come to the Water Police Station on August 17th, laid against the complainant a charge of assault, handed in a stick 2½ feet long as a weapon which had been used against him, and shown his torn collar, but two French citizens also came forward of their own accord, swore that they had seen the whole affair, that the coolies had mobbed FITZGERALD and laid hands on him before he struck out; that he had showed considerable patience, and that a heavy stick had been thrown at him. Of course the coolie's charge was at once dismissed, Mr. FORSTER thanking the Frenchmen who had volunteered such timely testimony and remarking that their intervention alone had prevented "a gross miscarriage of justice."

It is evident that had not M.M. SEUX and PRAVIEUX chanced to read a news paper report of the first day's proceedings, and had not their sense of justice induced them to take a step involving some personal inconvenience, not only would FITZGERALD have suffered a great wrong, but the coolies also would have been encouraged in a course which can not fail to lead to serious troubles and is probably responsible for the majority of the fracas that have hitherto occurred between foreigners and Japanese of the lower orders. We think it may fairly be said, of Yokohama at any rate, that the truculent, offensive coolie is the exception, the normal representative of the *jinrikisha*-man, the porter, and even the boatman being a civil, obliging, good-humoured fellow.

One of the former genus, however, works mischief which fifty of the latter can not efface, and the result is, not merely that the Japanese get an undeservedly bad name, but also that the pleasant relations which might otherwise exist between them and foreigners are unhappily impaired. The evil type of Japanese coolie thinks nothing of laying his hand upon a foreigner. He does not often impart to the process such *vim* as Mr. FITZGERALD'S duns employed, but he evidently thinks that where foreigners are in question, he is at liberty to resort to methods which, though the law of Japan does not class them with assaults, are, as he well knows, counted grossly rude by his own countrymen. That is a point which does not, perhaps, admit of immediate correction, as it demands some change of the law. But the other question, the legal helplessness of a foreigner when several Japanese combine to bear false witness against him, is vividly illustrated by this *hatoba* case. It is perfectly plain that the three Japanese coolies who gave evidence against FITZGERALD committed deliberate perjury. What is to be done with them? Will the Public Procurator cite them before a Japanese tribunal for perjury? It is his obvious duty to do so, and, if he shows any sign of neglecting it, we venture to hope that pressure will be brought to bear on him by his superiors. Indeed, the case seems well worthy of the attention of the Foreign Office in Tokyo, for it shows that any foreigner having a dispute with a coolie is liable to be mobbed if other foreigners are not present, and that, in the event of a natural effort of self-defence on his part, he is further liable to judicial punishment on the false statements of three or four unscrupulous men speaking in collusion. Contingencies of that kind are totally incompatible with the existence of friendly relations between foreigners and Japanese, and as a unique opportunity now presents itself for furnishing a useful object lesson to coolies of the evil class, we trust that it will be utilized.

PAST AND PRESENT.

CERTAIN landmarks stand out very clearly in any retrospect of the *Meiji* era. At its opening, the great bulk of the nation was enthusiastically pro-foreign. Occidental institutions were regarded with a sentiment of mixed admiration and respect. Whatever came from Europe or America must be worthy of imitation, and was imitated. It seemed as though the nation would lose all its individuality and become merely a feeble reflection of some Western people. The foreign resident in Japan at that epoch found his lot very pleasant. He was counted a kind of demi-god, infallible, omniscient. It never seemed to occur to

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the Japanese that degrees of competence might not be more marked among themselves than among the representatives of the wonderful new civilization, who came to them in company with steamers, locomotives, electric telegraphs, and printing machines. They would take a ship's steward to teach them moral philosophy and a retired coachman to instruct them in physics. Naturally this unquestioning confidence, repeatedly abused, changed ultimately into distrust. But it must be recorded to the credit of the Japanese that the latter sentiment never equalled the former in intensity. At no time did they doubt the foreigner as profoundly as they had once believed in him. The reaction from their mood of unquerying veneration was nevertheless strong. It began about the year 1873 and culminated in 1880. Of course we have to be content with approximations. Two events, however, serve in some degree as finger-posts. Both belong to the sphere of education. The first was the inauguration of a system of examinations to determine the competence of foreigners applying for "professorships" in the newly established schools and colleges of the empire; the second, the re-introduction of the Confucian system of ethics into those institutions. A peculiar idea the former, our readers will perhaps say. Yes, but not altogether an extravagant idea, as will be admitted when we record that, at one of the early examinations, an aspirant for the chair of English literature in the first Japanese college (Kaiseigakko) described himself as having "saled in a steam yott" and warned all women against becoming "intoxicated with the suttal essense of flatry;" and at another, a would-be professor of mathematics scouted the extravagant idea of being asked to solve a quadratic equation. It was like the "cheek" of the Japanese, he declared, to think that they had any business with quadratic equations, or that a foreigner versed in such arcana of algebra would come to seek employment in their double-dashed country. Mr. FUKUOKA presided at the Educational Department in 1880 when Confucianism was restored to the throne from which it had been rudely pulled down thirteen years previously. The restoration was complete. Primers, text-books, regulations, moral and ethical precepts, everything took the colour of the old Chinese philosophy. To those in authority no less comprehensive measure seemed likely to save the nation from forgetting that it had a past. For four years the pendulum remained steady in the conservative branch of the arc, and then it swung back again, rapidly and steadily. Two things were directly responsible for this reflex action: one, Marquis ITO'S return from Europe, whither he had proceeded to investigate the principles and practice of constitutional government; the other, the first passage of the Treaty Revision problem into the region of really practical politics. Thenceforth, during a second quadrennial period, Marquis ITO and Count INOUYE set the note to which the nation was expected to tune its mood. None of Japan's modern statesmen has ever known his country's needs better than these two statesmen knew them. But perhaps they were over-wise; perhaps the march of their ideas outpaced the capacities of their countrymen. At all events the nation lagged behind, and when, in 1887, Viscount TANI collected the conservative and reactionary sentiments of the time and embodied them in his celebrated memorial, the two great leaders of enlightened Liberalism found themselves standing alone, far in advance of the bulk of their nationals. It was then that the eclectic conservatism (*kokusui hoson*) of Young Japan struggled into existence. It was then that the rising generation, and the grey beards whom the wave of reaction had raised from obscurity, united their voices in a protest against codes of law modelled wholly on lines of Occidental jurisprudence; against the adoption of Christianity without Japanese modifications; against the employment of foreigners in posts which the Japanese student thought himself qualified to fill; against everything unadulteratedly alien. For a time the tide of conservatism was stemmed partially by the country's changeless hope of gaining friendly admittance to the comity of Western nations. But at last, in 1893, when conciliatory means seemed incapable of compassing that end, a new device was adopted—the device of rendering the old treaties irksome by insisting on their strict enforcement. Probably such a plan would never have received wide endorsement had it not been converted into the principal plank of a political party. The strength of the conservatives and of the eclectics alone could scarcely have popularized a manœuvre so petulant and so short-sighted. Happily its worst developments were paralysed by the strenuous opposition of the Liberal Party, but it nevertheless gave birth to one deformity which disfigured the country's foreign policy for years, the prejudice against foreign ownership of land in Japan. We are now, apparently, entering another epoch of liberal reaction. The country begins to recognise its error in the matter of land, and some of the educational bigotry which even Marquis ITO and Count INOUYE could not venture to assail, is likely to suffer short shrift at the hands of Mr. OZAKI YUKIO and Count OKUMA. Marquis ITO did not venture to extend official recognition to private schools where Confucianism was not taught, or where Christian ethics found a place in the curriculum. He showed his respect for modern learning by attaching a special value to the graduation certificates of the Imperial University, but even his courageous arm could not reach the stupendous abuse of power by which educational facilities were denied to the children of all really religious parents. If the present Cabinet accomplishes nothing beyond the removal of that abuse, it will still have justified its accession to office.

Our readers will ask, perhaps, why we recall these things. We answer that we desire to correct some erroneous ideas now finding expression in the columns of vernacular journals; ideas which, if they pass unchallenged, will surely have misleading results sooner or later. Political writers—and among them we observe with regret an authority so respectable as the *Fiji Shimpo*—are seeking to prove that Confucianism's re-introduction into the national education was a device of the Clan Statesmen to check the liberal and progressive tendency which threatened at that time to disturb their tenure of power; that the encouragement given to German philosophy and German systems, in 1883, at the expense of English and American, was another weapon of the same kind; that the special value attached to University graduation certificates had for its purpose the enlistment of learning in the cause of Clannism; and that official discrimination in favour of public schools as against private, was intended to turn students' minds solely towards Government appointments. All that is ingenious, but irreconcilable with historical accuracy. The nation was not as malleable in the hands of the "Clan Statesmen" as partisan writers of to-day would have us believe, nor did the "Clan Statesmen" ever seek to mould it in such strict accordance with their own selfish interests. If party feeling runs too high at present to permit the Japanese to be grateful to the makers of modern Japan, we foreigners, at any rate, must be allowed to separate ourselves from the unjust mob of detractors. We have watched with open eyes the processes by which this State has been raised to the position of prosperity and consideration it now occupies among the nations of the world, and when we hear the present generation blindly and unjustly inveighing against the men to whom it owes so much, the effect is only to augment our wonder that with such unappreciative materials they could achieve such results.

THE MURDER OF A GERMAN STOKER.

At the Yokohama Court on Tuesday, Katsumata Eisaku, aged 19th, living at 10, Yoshihama-cho, was charged with fatally wounding the German stoker Rischke, who was found beaten to death in the street on July 7th.

The accused denied the assault, and the Public Procurator asked for a conviction under article 299, which allows of some mitigation of sentence on the plea of self-defence.

The counsel for the accused urged that the evidence was not sufficient to justify a conviction.

Eisaku was sentenced to two years' major imprisonment.

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

The resolutions relating to the Dōshisha passed at the Annual Meeting of the missionaries of the American Board held at Kobe in July are given in No. 780 of the *Kirisutokyō-Shumbun*. President Yokoi having expressed a desire that if possible some way of bringing the Trustees and the Missionaries into harmony with each other should be devised, and having made certain proposals in reference to the School of Divinity now attached to the Institution, the Missionaries of the Board, assembled in conference, passed the following resolutions:—(1) We are much pleased to find that President Yokoi desires union. We also are actuated by the same desire. (2) We are glad to know what are President Yokoi's opinions on the subject in dispute. (3) There are some things which have been made clear by President Yokoi's explanations which hitherto were obscure to us. (4) By what has been said we perceive that our views in reference to the great difference between us and the present Trustees have not been mistaken. (5) It is quite evident that the basis of the moral education imparted at the various schools connected with the Association is not Christian. (6) We affirm that it is impossible for the Dōshisha to escape from the charge of moral culpability in changing the Rules of the Association. (7) The devotion of money given by Mr. Harris for the teaching of science by strictly Christian teachers, for evangelisation, or other sacred purposes, to the support of schools that do not make Christianity the basis of their moral teaching, is quite incapable of being justified. (8) We are unable to see in the present Dōshisha any basis of union or joint effort. Until the institution is made thoroughly Christian and evangelical it is impossible that we can connect ourselves with it. (9) In desiring that the Dōshisha should be made what it was at first, or that the money subscribed for its support should be refunded to the donors, we are at one with the American Board of Foreign Missions. (10) In order to facilitate the making of arrangements for effecting the purpose referred to above, we have appointed a Committee, whose duty it will be state the grounds of our present discontent and to propose a basis of union for the future.*

In No. 782 of the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun*, Mr. Abe Isoo comments on these resolutions in the following terms. At last the real significance of the Dōshisha question, which has been so long before the public, has been made clear. It appears that what I suspected all along is the case. What has really happened is not truly described by saying that the rules of the Association have been broken by the present trustees. It is rather an instance of the inevitable conflict between the new and old theology. In resolution No. 5 it is said that it has been clearly demonstrated that the moral education imparted at the various Dōshisha Schools is not Christian. The reason given for this assertion is that these schools make the Imperial Rescript on education the basis of their moral teaching. But what grounds are there for thinking that anything contained in this Rescript is hostile to Christianity, any more than to Confucianism or Buddhism? The Imperial Rescript only touches on the subject of practical morality, urging its necessity, but not dwelling on the means to be used for compassing this end. It is for Christians to interpret the Imperial Rescript their own way. There are other schools besides those belonging to the Dōshisha which have the status of Ordinary Middle Schools and yet which can remain Christian without lying open to the charge of neglecting to fulfil the conditions laid down in the Imperial Rescript. Resolution No. 5 does not state the real objection that the Board Missionaries have to the present Dōshisha. This is expressed in Resolution No. 8. It is not to the changing of the letter of the rules that they object, but to the altering of the character of the institution. They wish to make it an institution manned by earnest evangelical Christians. Hence it may be affirmed that even the restoration of the old rules would fail to satisfy them. They want not the name and form of the old institution merely but its substance and reality. It is Christian doctrine that they contend for. The question is a theological one, namely, shall a certain class of religious teaching be exclusively carried on in the Dōshisha, or not? But can the present Dōshisha accept the proposal made? Acceptance means submission. It will be no case of working together: the one party will lead, the other follow. Mr. Niijima succeeded in blending Japanese and foreign elements, but circumstances have altered, and it is plain that the conduct of the institution can not be entrusted to two heads—one foreign the other native. If Dr. Davis' proposal were carried out and the institution were started afresh with only evangelical Christian Japanese as teachers, it would not be long before discord arose. Men holding advanced opinions, men of liberal principles, would appear among the teaching faculty. It would be then necessary to ask those professors to resign. It would thus mean that to all time the institution would have to subject itself to a certain class of ideas, that a veto would be placed on all free theological thought. Even where only a school of divinity is concerned, the forbidding of freedom of thought must be attended with great disadvantages, and how much more would this prove the case in a school of the Dōshisha type, which has never been a mere theological seminary. The plan of requiring that an institution should always represent traditional teaching of a fixed type may answer in a country like America, where men have learnt to inherit their faith as they inherit property and other things; but in Japan where a great variety of opinion on the subject of religion is allowed, to bind an institution to teach only one set of doctrines is certainly very impolitic. Evangelical Christianity is only one form of Christianity. To ignore all other forms is to imitate the intolerance of the Roman Catholics. I feel confident that a Dōshisha thus trammelled could never develop into anything great: there could be no thorough education and even the evangelisation aimed at by the Missionaries could not but end in failure. I am in favour of choosing Christian doctrines that rest on something more than tradition and custom and of sowing Christian seed in soil that has been well prepared by Buddhists and Confucianists, and of thus securing a rich harvest. The missionaries are dissatified with the Dōshisha because it is not sufficiently conservative, evangelical, and dogmatic. I am in favour of granting to the institution, in learning and religion alike, great freedom of inquiry. If liberty of thought be guaranteed by the missionaries, I have no cause for disagreement with them. We can work together. This Dōshisha question is no other than a conflict between old and new ideas.

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The *Waseda Bungaku*, under the title of *Danjo Fuzoku Mondai*, discusses the evils connected with concubinage in Japan. It is very difficult, says this organ, to interest men in the subject. Most of them regard women as mere playthings created for the amusement of the opposite sex. For a long time past the *Yorozu Chōhō* has been engaged in publishing minute details bearing on concubinage. From July 7th to July 29th some 230 instances of men who keep concubines were quoted. The comment of the *Waseda Bungaku* on this performance is not favourable. It says that many of the facts given by the *Yorozu Chōhō* are misleading and convey impressions that are far from true. In some cases, says the *Waseda Bungaku*, there are special reasons for the existence of concubines. The indiscriminate condemnation of the *Yorozu Chōhō* is not to be commended. The *Waseda Bungaku* proceeds to notice the discussion of monogamy which has been carried on in the pages of the *Bukkyō*, Mr. Nishimura's lecture on concubinage and the various references to the subject in the columns of the *Jiji Shimpō*. Mr. Fukuzawa has rightly pointed out that the law in Japan has not in the past given to woman the rights she can justly claim. Then authorities on education are always recommending such books as the *Onna Daigaku* and the *Onna Imagawa* as furnishing suitable precepts for women—works whose teaching is all based on the Chinese view of woman's place in Society. The difficulties of effecting the proposed reform are many, but it is plain that the two principal forces to rely on are education and the law. The *Waseda Bungaku* notes that the children of concubines are recognised by the new Civil Code of Japan.

The *Yorozu Chōhō* is fond of posing as a great moral reformer, but by a large number of discerning readers it is regarded rather as a sensational scandal-monger of a most unscrupulous type, which publishes much more falsehood than truth. When sensation is the chief object to be attained by the publication of news, truth and falsehood become very secondary considerations.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The *Hongkong Daily Press* gives credence to a report of a recent rising in the island of Hainan. The report indicates a renewed success of the Triad Society, a band of thieves and rebels who have been increased and strengthened by a hungry horde of pirates from the sea-coast, and this lawless army has committed many depredations by looting and burning a number of villages in the Hoihow country. The British Consul, Mr. Butler, appealed to the Taotai on the 19th August to protect the threatened Americans, and accordingly a company of soldiers were sent to the scene of strife and they succeeded in rescuing the missionaries and their families, and escorted them from Nodoa, in the Tamchow district of Kiungchow, to Hoihow, leaving all their property to the care of the Chinese officials.

* We have shortened several of the resolutions, giving only the principal points.—(*Writer of the Summary.*)

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

On the whole the assailants of the Cabinet show some signs of weariness, though the vehemence of their onsets would still be remarkable did it not suffer by comparison. The *Jiji Shimpo* seems to have now joined the chorus of journals that recommend a separation of the Constitutional Party into its original elements. It declares that division is inevitable. The Liberals and Progressists differ from each other in all essential points and can not possibly work in harmony. But the question is —have they courage to divide? They joined hands to obtain administrative power, not because they were agreed as to the best manner of employing it, but because they coveted it. The same covetousness will prevent either of them from abandoning the prize. The *Osaka Asahi* compares the Liberals and the Progressists to an ill-matched husband and wife, who quarrel perpetually but can not agree to separate. Marquis Ito, profoundly astute, understood the dilemma in which they would be placed if they accepted the responsibilities of government in their then state of unreadiness. He set a trap for them, and they fell into it. The rivalry of Satsuma and Choshiu never exhibited such unsightly aspects or constituted such an impediment to progress as the squabbles between the two parties now in possession of administrative power. The *Kokumin Shimbun* finds another simile. It likens the cabinet to a half-killed snake, which can neither advance, nor retreat, nor remain quiet. In point of fact, a fundamental error was made. Count Okuma went wrong from the outset. He should have commenced by submitting his own views clearly to the Emperor. Then he should have ascertained whether he had the Party's mandate and whether it was prepared to place entire confidence in him. He neglected both of those essential preliminaries, and the result is disaster. The *Kokumin*, while penning these criticisms, professes friendship and admiration for Count Okuma. The *Nippon's* view is that party cabinets are a necessary outcome of the conditions of the time, and it declares that both Marquis Ito and Count Matsukata recognised the fact. But the party cabinet which the time has brought forth is conspicuously defective in two respects, namely, that the Departments of War and of the Navy stand beyond the range of its control, and that the parties supporting it are disunited and have no common platform. Further, they labour under a fatal misconception. They regard party cabinets as an end instead of recognising them to be only a means to an end. The fate of such blundering will soon find them out. We need scarcely say that the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* also runs its usual tilt at the Ministry. Indeed, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is the Cabinet's most dangerous foe, for its attacks are conceived with conspicuous ability and delivered with great adroitness. Referring to the question of political officials and administrative officials, it observes that the distinction between them is based not upon their moral qualifications or educational advantages, but merely upon rules of expediency dictated by the practice of countries having representative institutions. Now it is understood that the revised Law of Election, a draft of which has been prepared by the Government for submitting to the Diet next session, contains clauses forbidding administrative officials to be members of parliament or of political parties. Political officials, on the other hand, are to be members of parties or of Parliament, and are all to go out of office simultaneously with the Cabinet. But the Ministers of State themselves are political officials. How, then, is this rule to be applied in the case of the Ministers of the Army and Navy? Will they consent to go out of office if the Cabinet resigns? "Party politicians," concludes the *Nichi Nichi*, "see details but overlook essentials."

* * *

A good deal of journalistic attention is devoted to the projected alteration of the regulations for the appointment of officials. According to the present system, all applicants for office below the rank of *Chokunin* must pass a qualifying examination, graduates of the Imperial University being alone excepted from the rule. There are but 290 *Chokunin* officials in the civil service, and since only a fraction of these accompany an outgoing Cabinet into retirement, it follows that the number of vacancies available for an incoming party is not large. The difficulty presents itself with special force at present, for the numerous phalanx of party politicians allied with the new Cabinet have had no share in either the responsibilities or the sweets of office for some twenty years, and it seems unreasonable in their eyes that the advent of their leaders to administrative power should not immediately open a door for their own preferment. The easiest exit from the embarrassment would be to alter the regulations so as to dispense with the necessity of examination in the case of all persons who have satisfied other tests of public capacity. Were that change effected, every vacancy in the ranks of officialdom, without distinction of *Chokunin*, *Sōnin*, or *Hannin*, would be a prize coming within reach of party politicians. The question is not regarded, we need scarcely say, merely as a matter of "the spoils to the victor." It is contended that, owing to the protracted duration of the fight between the party politicians and the "clan statesmen," and owing to the former's consequent abstention from official life, the country has been deprived of the services of men competent to advance its interests but not now capable of undergoing the educational test prescribed by the regulations. The problem is understood to be under consideration by the Cabinet, but nothing can be confidently predicted about the latter's decision. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, however, says that official views are likely to favour the following modifications of the regulations:—first, that the higher offices—that is to say, *Chokunin* and *Sōnin* offices —shall be open without examination not merely to graduates of the Imperial University, but also to graduates of colleges receiving special official recognition, to members of the Imperial Diet, to barristers, and to members of City and Prefectural Assemblies, provided that these last shall be eligible for appointments in local Governments only; secondly, that the lower offices —namely, those of *Hannin* grade—shall be open without examination to graduates of Middle Schools and other educational institutions of equal status, to Headmen of Urban and Rural Districts, and to members of communal assemblies.

* * *

It need hardly be observed that these changes are condemned in the bitterest terms by the Opposition journals. They declare that instead of abolishing the abuses of patronage and favouritism which were the chief counts in the arraignment of the "Clan Statesmen," the party politicians are busily extending the arena for the exercise of those abuses, and that the spectacle presented to the nation on the inauguration of party cabinets is that of a mob of politicians scrambling for official emoluments, and so hungry for administrative posts that they have no time for anything except the devising of means to satisfy their appetite. The *Chuo Shimbun* declares that not improvement (*Kai-kaku*) but disimprovement (*kai-aku*) is the rôle of the first party cabinet, and that the nation is already beginning to grow utterly weary of this display of impotence after such loudly asserted claims to great resolves and such wholesale promises of large reforms. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* discusses the question in a more practical and detailed manner. It contends that any alteration of the regulations would be unconstitutional, because the XIXth Article of the Constitution says:—"Japanese subjects may, according to qualifications determined in laws or ordinances, be appointed to civil or military or any other offices equally"; and it denies that a cabinet has power to declare any special class of persons eligible for office, seeing that the Xth article of the Constitution reserves to the Emperor the prerogative of appointing and dismissing all officials. To this somewhat far-fetched line of argument our contemporary adds the solid and unanswerable objection that the proper discharge of official duties demands special qualifications of experience and training, and that it would be extravagantly reckless to pitchfork men into administrative posts merely because they had given evidence of political ability or party fidelity. That objection applies with special force to members of the Diet or of Local assemblies. Their qualification is simply a property one, and no person will be so silly as to pretend that the payment of a certain amount of taxes every year constitutes a proof of competence to discharge official duties. The proposal is a mere manœuvre to provide food for the hungry maws of party politicians.

* * *

Of course the telegram announcing the Czar's proposal for disarmament has evoked many comments from vernacular newspapers. They do not, on the whole, take it very seriously. Some, indeed refrain, from comment, being apparently uncertain how to treat the idea, but those that have spoken are either emphatically hostile or coldly indifferent. The *Kokumin Shimbun* scoffs at the notion that Japan should think of suspending the expansion of her armaments in deference to a proposal of the kind. Doubtless the project commends itself strongly to Russia from the point of view of her own convenience. In the sequel of her operations during the past four years she has succeeded in obtaining a unique position among the nations, and it would suit her excellently to be now insured against any attempts to disturb her. But it is not dedifficult to termine from her conduct since 1895 whether peace is the genuine object of her desires. Is it likely that the nations will endorse a suggestion framed solely in the interests of Russia's expediency? Further, is Russia a country whose uniform respect for her agreements would warrant the States of the world in trusting her to observe a covenant of the kind now proposed? An answer to that question may be found in the story of the Black Sea and the Treaty of Paris, and in the story of Batoum. "We desire peace," says the *Kokumin* in conclusion, "but it must be peace with honour, not the peace of subserviency. We do not want peace accorded to us by the tolerance of others. We want peace assured by our own strength." The *Nippon* approaches the problem by a species of catechism. Is the news credible, it asks? And if credible, is the Czar in earnest? And if he is in earnest, will the Powers take his proposition seriously? And if they take it seriously, how will their conference eventuate? What basis can be adopted for limiting a State's armaments? A financial basis will not do, neither will a territorial. It seems that population alone could be taken as a standard. For example, it might be decided that a country with ten million inhabitants should have one soldier or one ton of shipping to every 100 of its population; a country of fifty millions, one soldier and one ton to every 150, and more populous countries, one to every 200. But the trouble would be, how to enforce the rule; how to punish violations of it. Probably the real purpose of the project is to further some scheme of union. The *Hochi* attributes the Czar's action to Russia's financial troubles, but is nevertheless convinced that Japan should send a delegate to the Conference of Powers, if one takes place, especially since Count Okuma has declared that foreign policy is simply a question of upright dealing. The *Shogyo Shimpo* is still more outspoken. It attributes Russia's action to the same cause, financial embarrassment. The race has become too fast for her. She finds that her resources will not permit her to keep up with Powers like Great Britain and the United States, and she has thus been induced to advance this strange proposition. Japan can not entertain it for a moment. It is, in fact, a wholly untenable idea from the point of view of any Eastern State. Better reject it promptly and

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not sow any seeds of future regret. The *Jiji Shimpo* is altogether sceptical. It can not treat the proposition seriously, but regards it as a manœuvre of the moment. If the Powers were induced to come to some agreement, what guarantees could they give of its observances? Would not the State with which the scheme originated be itself the most likely to violate it? The *Chuo* declares that Russia can not be trusted. Japan must not allow herself to be deceived. She must pursue her own policy unflinchingly, for her own needs are her first consideration.

JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS.

Imports at Kobe are accumulating day by day, says the *Nippon*. The depression of trade in the interior and the tightness of the money market have almost crippled leading merchants in Osaka. These merchants, anticipating that the revised tariff would come into operation from September this year, had contracted with foreign firms to have their orders supplied before that period. In these orders were included muslin, Italian cloths, cotton, satin, and woollen manufactures, which altogether amounted in value to 100 million *yen*. Arrivals of these commodities have been steady and continuous, but since the date of the operation of the revised tariff has now been fixed for January next, the native merchants, beset with difficulties keener than ever, are unable to take delivery of goods imported to their order. Goods stored in the warehouses of foreign merchants on this account have reached an enormous amount. Of these commodities the principal are fine threads and yarn from England (known in Japan as *gasuito*), muslin and piece goods, paper, &c., which altogether aggregate 3 million *yen* in value. Piece goods occupy the most prominent position among non-delivered goods, being valued at over one million *yen*. The foreign merchants lately applied to the Chamber of Commerce in the Settlement, asking for the adoption of special measures. A committee of three was accordingly appointed and despatched to Osaka to urge the merchants there to fulfil their contracts. As for Yokohama, the amount accumulated there is reported to have reached 60 million *yen*.

The Governor-General of Formosa recently issued a notification for the control of tea dealers in the island. It provides for the establishment of tea-guilds which shall be charged with the duties of stopping the manufacture of spurious tea, and effecting an improvement in the quality of the leaf and an extension of markets. These guilds will also have powers of arbitration in regard to disputes connected with the tea trade. Fines are provided for.

Formosa suffers at present from want of money. A loan of 100 *yen* claims in some places a daily interest of over 30 *sen*. The establishment of a bank in the island is a pressing want, but the financial situation at present is extremely unfavourable to the inauguration of such a scheme.

On the 29th instant the brokers of the Tokyo Rice Exchange held a general meeting at which resolutions were passed agreeing that the standard of quality of foreign rice should be altered, and in order to carry out the decision a committee of five should be appointed from among the brokers and charged with the duty of making necessary arrangements.

The Japan Trading Company in Kyoto, having failed to meet a promissory note for 10,672 *yen*, has been sued in the local court by the Agricultural and Commercial Bank, and the properties of its principal shareholders have been seized. These, according to the *Nichi Nichi*, now number 35, including the Directors of the Company. The shareholders in general appear to advocate the dissolution of the corporation, which has a capital of 500,000 *yen* in 10,000 shares of 50 *yen* each. Of these, 6,000 shares are owned by Mr. Bitchin, of Osaka, and his partners. Mr. Bitchin attempted to respond to the calls on shares by the sale of a certain coal mine in Hokkaido to the Company, but as soon as the fact became known to other shareholders, they deliberately refused to pay their portion—5 *yen* per share—due on the 15th instant, and the President and Manager simultaneously resigned their posts.

According to a report from the Japanese Consul in San Francisco, the number of immigrants from Japan seems to have reached 826—768 men and 58 women—the aggregate amount of money in their possession at the time of their landing being $42,167. Of the immigrants of various nationalities those from Japan constitute the largest number. Unfortunately they have become an object of hatred to the native labourers, and the local authorities and the press have shown a tendency to condemn them by way of protecting their own working classes. Yet Japanese labour is still in great demand. The Hispano-American war, which has considerably enhanced the wages of white labourers, has also increased the call for Japanese labour. Formerly the Japanese emigrants were chiefly employed on railways in Nevada and Idaho, few being engaged in similar work in California. The Consul, however, was lately requested by the Southern Pacific Railway Company and others to arrange for 2,000 Japanese labourers, although these companies seemed unwilling to make an open application, lest by so doing they might lose popularity with their own countrymen. The wages obtained by the Japanese in Nevada and Idaho vary from $1 to $1.20. An anti-Japanese movement is growing in these two provinces in view of the steady increase in immigration. It is doubtful whether the Japanese will not encounter the same fate as the Chinese; nor is it improbable that commercial relations between Japan and United States may be greatly impaired. The problem is beset with serious difficulties, and does not permit of any hasty solution. If the Japanese Government is inclined to continue the policy of emigration, it must restrict the emigrants to such as are perfectly qualified for landing, and endeavour to avoid landing a large number at once, while at the same time steps must be taken to select, in compliance with the Immigration Regulations of the United States, a number of overseers who are not only possessed of a certain amount of property, but also are fully sensible of their responsibility, and familiar with the conditions of the country with which they are to be connected.

An interesting article from the pen of Mr. Kawashima Jun on private and government railways is published in the *Nippon*. He says that in order to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the question of State purchase, reference is necessary to the various railway systems of Europe. The railways of Japan, it must be noticed, are owned either by Government or by private individuals under State supervision. But the private companies are very powerful, and have behind them huge capitals. Their profits are insignificant as compared with the amount realized by the European lines. They have no financial strength to improve or extend their enterprises by independent resources. In order to make them thoroughly efficient for military and commercial purposes, the following programme should be adopted:—(1) A Central Railway Superintendence Bureau should be established for the control of lines throughout the Empire. (2) As to railways already completed and receiving special subsidies from the Government, arrangements may be made to entrust the Central Superintendence Bureau with the management of their traffic, the Government in this case guaranteeing a dividend of 5 per cent. on the shares. (3) With regard to Government railways already finished, shares may be issued as in the case of private railways. (4) Railways for which no special subsidies are granted should also be entitled to have their traffic carried on by the Central Superintendence Bureau. Thus all lines would be maintained and owned by the people, but traffic would be worked by the Government, so that improvement and development could be carried to the highest point. To urge the necessity of State ownership of railways from a defensive or financial point of view is an argument which can not secure public sympathy.

According to the *Shogyo*, investigations in regard to the monopoly of camphor in Formosa were recently completed. A gentleman who is familiar with this branch of trade reports that the camphor monopoly, unlike transactions in sugar, salt, &c., necessitates direct management on the part of the Government. No accurate accounts are yet to hand, but as various arrangements are required in the first year of cultivation, no profit is likely to be obtained for some time. But in two or three years the camphor trade promises to be one of the chief sources of revenue in the island. Foreigners who are at present engaged in the manufacture of camphor find that their terms will expire in February or March of the 33rd year of *Meiji*, and the Government may commence working the monopoly by that time. The recent over-production of camphor seems to have led to a serious depreciation in prices, and not a few foreign manufacturers have recognised the wisdom of suspending production for the present. The enterprise is one that should be taken into the hands of the Government.

The *Official Gazette* of the 1st instant publishes an Imperial Ordinance setting forth the organization of a Special Land Assessment Bureau in Formosa. The new Bureau is to be placed under the direct control of the Governor General, its functions being the investigation of title deeds and registers of land, as well as the preparation of maps. Its *personnel* consists of a President of *chokunin* rank (the post being held by the President of the Administrative Bureau), a number of commissioners, clerks, experts, and assistants. The right of establishing provincial branches of the Bureau is reserved to the Governor General, but the position of chiefs of these branches is to be occupied by local Governors.

The *Shogyo* accuses the present Cabinet of inconsistency. The former Progressists, it remarks, were obstinately opposed to the scheme for increased taxation if not accompanied by administrative reform. The Cabinet has already completed the necessary investigations for the latter purpose, and is now in a position to adopt measures for the proposed increase of taxes, but, strange to say, it still shrinks from carrying the project into practice. As a matter of fact, the question of administrative reform is inseparable from the proposed scheme for increased taxation. Simultaneously with the augmentation of burdens upon the people to supply the deficiency in revenue, a necessity exists for the curtailment of useless expenditures which exist in the various sections of the Government. The people's objection to increased taxation has had its origin simply in the Government's failure to effect an appropriate reduction in its expenditures. The Cabinet, the *Shogyo* adds, is torn by internal dissension, and has not courage even to curtail needless administrative expenditures or to carry out the scheme for increased taxation lest it might happen to incur the displeasure of the landowners. Nothing good can be expected from such a weak and unprincipled Ministry.

At a recent meeting of the Doshi Club the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—(1) That steps be taken to sweep out the clan elements from the central and local authorities. (2) That abuses connected with party partisans be eradicated, and a path be opened for men of talents. It was directed that the above resolutions should be "submitted to the Ministry for immediate adoption." The Doshi Club is evidently a sanguine body.

The problem of the State ownership of private railways continues to attract serious attention. In the Cabinet the question has been earnestly taken up by Count Itagaki, the Home Minister,

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and Mr. Hayashi, the Minister of Communications. It is said that they are supported by the Ministers of War and the Navy, as well as the Minister of Finance. Among private individuals the members of the Finance Investigation Society, together with the Mitsui family, are reported to be in favour of State purchase. With these names among the supporters of the scheme it cannot be lightly considered. The two Ministers—Count Itagaki and Mr. Hayashi—are stated to have resolved upon submitting the question to the 13th session of the Diet, and, although the project may fail to secure the unanimous approval of the Cabinet, it will nevertheless be introduced in the Diet in the form of a representation. The advocates of the State ownership of railways have, remarks the *Yomiuri*, accumulated a vast amount of funds for canvassing at the time of the next session, and it is not altogether improbable that the policy of "purchase" may be employed to secure a majority in the Diet. But it must be noticed that if such a result is achieved, it will inevitably lead to changes in the Cabinet, and from that point of view the issue of the railway question may be the direct cause of a rupture in the present Ministry.

Another Notification relating to Formosa states the alterations in the Opium Regulations to be enforced from the 10th instant. The prominent features are a reduction in the period of punishment and an increase in fines. Unlicensed importers or manufacturers of opium paste, for instance, are now to be subjected to major imprisonment for five years only, or to a fine of not more than 5,000 *yen*. The import or manufacture of raw or powdered opium involves major imprisonment for not more than four years or a fine of not more than 4 000 *yen*, and the cultivation or retention of poppies or the juice thereof with a view to manufacturing the same into opium, is punishable with major confinement for a term not exceeding 2 years or a fine of not more than 2,000 *yen*. Illicit importation or manufacture of opium-smoking utensils is punishable by imprisonment for not more than 3 years or a fine of not more than 3 000 *yen*. Should the above offences be committed by the Custom House Authorities, the penalty is to be increased by one degree. Any person providing another with utensils or places for smoking is liable to a penalty of major confinement for a period of not more than 4 years or a fine not exceeding 4,000 *yen*. Illegal smokers of opium are to be punished with not more than 3 years' imprisonment or a fine of not more than 3000 *yen*. The person convicted has the option of commuting any portion of the term of imprisonment by paying proportionate fines.

A certain business man—a man of wonderful ideas — writes in the columns of the *Yomiuri* in regard to the difficulty of introducing foreign capital. The necessity of foreign funds, he says, is beyond question, but nothing has yet been achieved in the way of their utilization. There must be causes for this. The high rate of interest paid in Japan is the most prominent. As a millionaire would refuse, in spite of his wealth, to lend money to the poor, so foreigners, rich as they are, could never be induced to commit the folly of issuing loans without substantial security. Moreover, the abnormal rates of interest now ruling in the market have deterred, and still continue to deter, aliens from complying with loan negotiations at low rates. Not only will they insist on the same interest as that which prevails in the Japanese market, but an attempt is also likely to be made to provide that the loans shall be unredeemed for ten or even twenty years. Rates of interest are not unchangeable, and the 7 per cent. of to-day may fall to 4 or 5 per cent. several years hence. But if foreign loans unredeemable for a long period are obtained at the present high rate, interest will have to be paid at 7 per cent. even if the market price of money falls to 4 or 5 per cent. The financial situation of Japan, however embarrassing it may appear, does not permit the introduction of foreign capital at such exorbitant rates as 6 or 7 per cent. to be spread over a large number of years. From these facts it may be inferred that foreign funds could never be expected to flow into Japan until the rates of interest prevailing among the Japanese are reduced.

The prison system under the revised treaties is a question, says the *Nippon*, which now occupies the attention of the Government. Of course no difference can be made as to the enforcement of criminal sentences between foreigners and natives; but in the event of foreigners being taken to prison they will have to be dealt with according to their own customs as well as with regard to the nature of their offences. Such discrimination, however, is not to be taken as unfairly favouring the foreign as compared with the Japanese offender. It is impossible to force foreigners accustomed to meat to eat rice mixed with barley, or to sit in Japanese fashion in jail. The result of such treatment would be, in some cases, illness, and it would invite the discontent of foreign Governments. This does not mean to say, however, that foreigners ought to be provided with ordinary full European fare; it simply means that their food must be prepared in a manner tolerable to them. Their rice gruel, for instance, may contain meat and vegetables, and common chairs may be furnished to those who are unable to sit as the Japanese. It is true that some foreigners have become perfectly habituated to the Japanese mode of living, but others can scarcely be expected to endure the hardships of prison if their customs and manners are entirely disregarded. Communications have been frequently received from Foreign Governments on this subject, and it has now been decided that the policy of prison reform shall be steadily pursued.

On the 30th ultimo, a member of the *Kokumin's* staff interviewed Count Itagaki, who expressed his views on the subject of prisons as follows:—The complaint at present consists in the imperfection of prison buildings, in consequence of which no satisfactory regulations can be established. Moreover, there is a lack of competent men, this being due to the fact that neither in emolument or credit is there anything to attract good men to the work. There may be cause for uneasiness on the part of foreigners who inspect Japanese prisons, especially those in the country. Rumour has it that many have communicated the results of their observations to their own countries, but it is extremely doubtful whether their reports have been prepared with sufficient care to show the real condition of the jails of Japan. A certain Russian, after inspecting the Nagasaki prison, published his remarks in a newspaper, but these remarks were nothing but a mass of gross errors and falsehoods, except as regarded certain quotations from reports compiled by an Englishman, which were nearly free from errors. Measures for the improvement of the prisons must be taken in the most urgent cases. When formerly I held the portfolio of Home Affairs I advocated the policy of providing separate cells for criminals, that is to say, making a distinction as to the age of culprits and the nature of their offences. I have also entertained special views in regard to giving them moral lectures for their correction, and it was my desire to have statistics compiled for each prison. I caused the materials to be collected from all parts of the empire, but the Government failed to put them into a proper shape. If these statistics be completed, it will be possible to discern the peculiarities of different provinces and provide accordingly. As a preliminary to prison reform I have determined to dismiss aged superintendents, and to convene a special meeting of wardens on the 15th instant, in order that necessary enquiries may be made or instructions issued for the adoption of a system of separation, and for the enforcement of precautions in regard to the treatment of prisoners. As for alteration in the prison regulations, steps will be taken to issue an Imperial Ordinance or to acquire the approval of the Diet. Foreigners are apt to make a needless fuss about the question of prisons. Even foreigners when they commit crime are criminals, and criminals, even in the west, belong in most cases to the lower classes who are not in ordinary times handsomely lodged. As I have already remarked, however, the present prison buildings are far from being satisfactory, and I intend making gradual improvements in them, especially in regard to those in the open ports and the leading cities. As for expenses, the Treasury, I think, ought to bear the burden, and the matter is now under investigation. Changes in this respect will probably be enforced from the 32nd fiscal year (1899).

Investigations carried out by the *Tokyo Keizai Zasshi* show that at the end of June this year the tonnage of Japanese steamers aggregated 437,413 and that of sailing vessels 65,364, a total of 502,777 tons. Compared with the tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels registered at the end of December, the 26th year of *Meiji*, the figures stand thus:—

	At the end of June, 1898. Tons.	At the end of Dec., 1893. Tons.
Steamships	437,413	110,205
Sailing vessels	65,364	44,967
Total	502,777	155,172

Thus the aggregate tonnage has increased threefold. But, asks our contemporary, how about the progress of the Navy? The following comparative figures will show the ratio of cruisers to the merchantmen placed under their protection:—

	Prior to the war with China.	At present.
Number of cruisers	9	11
Tonnage	33 024	40,051

Thus the increase in cruisers and their tonnage does not exceed 2 and 7,027 respectively. Larger expansion of the navy is not only absolutely indispensable for defensive purposes, but also as a means of protection for the mercantile marine.

With regard to the question of State ownership of railways, a certain financier, according to the *Tokyo Shimbun*, urges the following programme:—(1) The Government, after consultation with the railway companies, should issue bonds bearing 5 per cent. interest per annum. (2) The bonds to be redeemed within five years from the date of issue, with fund to be raised in the form of Private Railway Bonds. (3) The accounts relating to the above railways to be excluded from the ordinary budgets of revenue and expenditure, and reports thereof to be presented to the Imperial Diet every year.

According to the *Nippon*, the amount of coins struck at the Osaka Mint during last month was as follows:—

	Struck during August. Yen.	Total from April to August. Yen.
Gold coins	2,640,000	7,975,000
50 *sen* silver coins	296,000	3,875,000
20 *sen* do.	964 401	1,000,601
10 *sen* do.	60,551	1,000,551
5 *sen* nickel coins	120,000	218,550

As a portion of the above amount has not yet been delivered to the Bank of Japan, the same can not be included in the volume of currency. A few days ago, the Mint received from the Nippon Ginko 24 or 25 boxes of gold bullion and 39 barrels of nickel. These two varieties of bullion, the one amounting to £200,000 and the other to 181,450 *yen*, were brought from abroad by the N.Y.K.'s steamer which arrived in Kobe on the 29th ultimo. It is said that one *sen* copper pieces will be struck in conformity with the new system of coinage, and put into circulation in a few months, work being commenced at the beginning of next month. The Osaka *Mainichi*, however, refers to alterations in design being contemplated. The Mint is now busily engaged in the manufacture of 10 *yen* gold, 50 *sen* silver, and 5 *sen* nickel pieces.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PERRY INCIDENT.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Some months ago it was suggested by certain Japanese gentlemen of liberal tendencies that an entertainment in honour of Mr. T. S. Perry could appropriately be given to show their faith that the opening of Japan by Mr. Perry's grand-uncle had been of great benefit to Japan. These men wished to take advantage of the occasion of Mr. Perry's presence to strengthen the belief among foreigners that their country was friendly to foreigners and among Japanese that the liberal régime was irresistible. Mr. Perry's name was a hook upon which they proposed to hang these two purposes. When asked by one of those who proposed to give the entertainment whether or not the occasion was a good one, I replied that I thought all foreigners must consider it a graceful act, and I did suppose so until I read the notice of the "Perry Episode" in yesterday's *Mail*.

It certainly matters very little to Mr. Perry or anybody whether two unimportant Japanese papers tell a clumsy lie about him. The lie may be due in this instance to gross ignorance, gross negligence or mean and envious maliciousness. I think it must in part at least have been due to the last, because even gross negligence might have seen from the list of passengers of the *Empress of China* arriving July 25th that Mr. Perry's family did come to meet him.

But these brutal stories are forgivable and would have no influence whatever had the English newspapers (the *Times, Mail*, etc.) merely refrained from mentioning them or commenting upon them. Absolute silence on the part of the English press would have shown real consideration to Mr. Perry, and would at once have relegated these absurd stories to "innocuous desuetude." But it is much harder to see in the *Japan Mail* under the caption of "The Perry Episode" that the gentle attempt of certain Japanese gentlemen to show a kindly spirit to foreigners has resulted in ridicule. A *de haut en bas* attitude toward the entertainment and indirectly to its guest, scarcely concealing a sneer, strikes a mere observer as much worse than a stupid falsehood. An "amusing impromptu," the "Perry function," and "people laughed a little," are not quite agreeable phrases, but not dangerous, even though readers outside Japan do get a wrong impression of the affair from them. I say this in the interest of friendly relations between Japanese and foreigners not in that of Mr. Perry, who is too old a hand at the world to care what temporary gossip says about him. Surely the *Mail* and all of us might welcome any voluntary attention of the Japanese to a foreigner when it was kindly meant and pleasantly carried out.

Karuizawa, August 28th. G. D.

TO "ELTEKON."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Since most every question has two sides, and since "Eltekon" confesses that he did not know my side of this present question, it is quite reasonable to conclude that he wished to know my explanation of the name of the *Shepherd's Voice*,—a point which I did not by any means fail to consider when the publication was begun, and which I am now prepared to defend with the Bible in hand against any man who will give his name. And I might say that "Eltekon" has no reason for concealing his name in a match of this kind. It is not a point any man should be ashamed to raise. And if the gentleman will give me his name I will send him the *Shepherd's Voice*, from which he can obtain my explanation to his heart's satisfaction. We are always ready to give a reason for the hope within us.

Ed. "THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE"

August 27th, 1898.

DOUBTFUL DISPUTATIONS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—As everybody knows, certain men, prominent in Christian circles in Japan, have lately violated a solemn promise, and have virtually stolen some valuable property. The fact, if it be a fact, that their motive was vanity rather than ordinary greed of money, does not change the fact that theft (not technical theft, of course), has been committed. Yet these persons do not seem to be at all ashamed of themselves. Apparently, they have no more idea of the figure they cut in the eyes of honest men of their own creed and of no creed, than the naked coolies have of the mixture of astonishment, disgust, and contempt which their shamelessness, of another and more excusable kind, awakens in the minds of new comers from other lands.

These things are painfully obvious. But I, for one, have no curiosity to know the arguments by which these parties have worked themselves into their present state of moral obtuseness. The bare facts of the case, acknowledged by all to be facts, are more than enough to disgust a man who has any conscience or sense of honour, and to bring a blush of shame to faces of Christians, whose Master's name has been so dishonoured. Dispute about the affair is both wearisome and profitless, because it is really a dispute about tastes; or, to speak more literally, it is a dispute about the heart's affections. If these men had been governed by simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and loyalty to him, they could not have done the evil of which they have been guilty, because personal reverence and affection toward him would have forbidden such a course. If this affection be really present in any man, it will be manifested, sooner or later, in his conduct; if it be absent, what profit can there be in labouring to prove the evil of things whose evil is, to the loving heart and the tender conscience, self-evident? "Love rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; love doth not behave itself unseemly."

When Judas Iscariot betrayed the Lord, he must have somehow or other argued down his own conscience; otherwise he would have been powerless to act as he did. But would it be therefore pleasant or morally helpful to listen to Judas's arguments with himself, such as he doubtless made before remorse overtook him and drove him to suicide?

When a Christian man, or a party of Christian men, is so forgetful of what is due to the Master as to call any periodical, but especially a periodical whose general tone is like that of *The Shepherd's Voice*, by a name so shocking to the better sensibilities of every Christian of discernment, it may, possibly, be useful to call attention to the mistake. But I do not see that there could be any use at all in entering into a dispute on the subject. I have no wish to hear the editor's arguments in favour of his irreverence, nor, I think, have most of your readers.

The heading of my last letter showed that, so far as I was concerned, the question as to the name of the above-mentioned magazine was thenceforth to be left to the editor's own conscience, in the sight of God. He does not seem to have understood this, and so, Sir, I have trespassed on your space once more. I hope he will not give himself any trouble about the question of my real name, with regard to which he shows, in his last letter, some signs of curiosity; I only beg to assure him that I am no enemy of his. It is clear to me that only one person ought to be considered in connection with the question that I raised in my first letter, namely, that One who died on the Cross for our sins; who is now at the right hand of God; and whom His servants shall some day see as He is.

I remain, Sir, Yours faithfully,

ELTEKON.

September 5th, 1898.

A TRIP TO HOKKAIDO AND BACK.

(Written for the "Japan Mail.")

It may be that Sapporo, or some other place in Hokkaido, is to become the summer resort in Japan, but at present the distance and the difficulties in the way of reaching the northern island deter many from considering a visit thither among the possibilities of an ordinary summer.

Without going oneself it is difficult to learn much about the ways of going, or the accommodation to be had. Often those who know most about these matters will tell least, for the same reasons that those longest in a foreign land write least about it. "Spend six months," advised a well-known traveller, "in a new country and then begin to write about it." A vacation trip should be written about during that trip or the experiences may seem trivial and of nothing worth. For the benefit of others who may be thinking of a run to the north next year I shall put down those things that I would fain have known two months ago. It would be better, perhaps, to leave the notes unpublished till next spring, but for the hope that others will tell of their experiences, presenting other glasses than mine with which to view the trip.

In going to Sapporo from Yokohama one has the choice of a voyage of five days by sea, or a journey of some 24 hours by rail to Aomori, 15 or 18 by boat to Mororan, and finally 8 or 10 by rail to Sapporo. We chose the former, and being now at sea with no railway time tables at hand I can not vouch for the accuracy of the above figures. From Yokohama this summer the steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have left three times a week. Most of them are of about 1,500 tons register; some supply foreign food, and a few are commanded by foreign captains. I have heard the advice, with regard to steamers on this route, "Avoid those that have foreign captains." Whether it be good or not, or what grounds there are for it, I cannot say. Certainly the comfort of the voyage depends very much upon the steamer, and as the steamers on the route are changed often it would be well, just before making the voyage, to consult some one in Hakodate or Sapporo as to which steamer to choose. No general advice do I know, unless the piece given above be true, except this: "Avoid chartered steamers." We took a chartered steamer on the way back, although the agent said that the food and accommodation would not be good. But more of this in its proper place.

Leaving Yokohama at 10 a.m. on the *Kumamoto Maru*, a slow but steady boat, we reached Oginohama about 4 p.m. the next day and stayed there about three hours. Oginohama is only a little village, with an excellent and pretty harbour, to which cargo is brought from the surrounding country. No cargo was taken on, but rice from China and *saké* from the Loochoos were put off. The voyage thence to Hakodate took about 30 hours, the sea being smooth. Reaching Hakodate after midnight the boat left at 2 p.m. the same day. The cargo discharged was of a general kind, including quantities of hardware, crockery, watermelons, and squashes. Up to Hakodate the course lies mostly far out from land, so that there is little to be seen. Leaving the northern treaty port in a squall we lost the only scenery on the voyage, that within four or five hours from Hakodate. Finally we anchored at Otaru at 1 p.m. on the fifth day, having spent about 15 hours at anchor.

As to the ship, only Japanese food was furnished, but all the officers and others were most obliging and it was easy to get such a modified form of Japanese food as one can get in the hotels. Moreover we had with us bread, butter, coffee, milk, and fruit. The cabins, as in perhaps all the ships of the line, were on the upper deck and near the stern, and for the latter reason objectionable, but we were the only passengers, so the captain told us to sleep in the saloon. Perhaps one might add here to the stock of general advice:—choose one of the smaller ships, with few cabins.

From Otaru it is only an hour and a half by

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train to Sapporo and an American can have the pleasure of riding in cars at a good rate of speed, and of hearing the peculiar hum of the wheels on the rails. The farms and the scenery along the railroad all remind one of America, though the farmers seem to have taken up more land than they can well care for.

Being in Sapporo the question arises where to stay. The majority of visitors perhaps rent and keep a house. For those who know the place and who can make their plans with certainty beforehand this is probably the best way, though it seems to be increasingly difficult to get good houses.

Then there are the Japanese hotels, which are about the same there as elsewhere, though the rates are, perhaps, higher. The rates fixed by the hotel keepers' association and posted in the hotels are *yen* 1.45 a day for first class accommodation. There are the usual objections, sleeping on the floor, being awakened at an early hour by the opening of shutters occasionally noisy neighbours, primitive and most annoyingly inconvenient toilet arrangements, and food that does not exactly suit even those most accustomed to it. By taking cot beds and folding chairs, and by contriving modifications of Japanese food, as a woman, aided by the usually accommodating cook, can, some of the objections may be removed. But a holiday in a Japanese hotel is not exactly a holiday. In Sapporo there is but one hotel giving accommodation for foreigners. This hotel has but three rooms to rent. It was built for an Imperial palace and most of the upper story is reserved for the Imperial Household. The chief business is that of a restaurant, large dinners being of frequent occurrence. Of the accommodations one of the servants remarked that a foreigner who had slept in all the beds said they were all like stones, except one, and that one was, I can testify, far from comfortable. The cooking is of the usual monotonous, unsatisfying kind, and those who expect an unusual variety of vegetables and fruits in the middle of August will be disappointed. If one can go earlier he will get more fruit, and if he can stay later there will be more vegetables, and apples in abundance. Of a new boarding house opened this year I cannot speak from experience. The accommodation there this year was limited, but the food was said to be excellent and the charges low.

A stay of two weeks does not enable one to say much of the climate, but there is little question about that. It seems to be not uncommon for something to cause sleeplessness during the first week or so. For this reason as well as for others, one should not go unless he can stay a month at least. Those who have been to Sapporo always advise one to take warm clothes, but it was necessary this year, at least, to have cool ones as well. Even in the heat of the day one can walk about without much discomfort if coolly clad.

For amusement there is nothing of especial interest in the town, and, as the town is situated in a wide plain, there are no walks having good scenery. The farm of the Agricultural College near the town is a most interesting place, as is also the stock farm about three miles away. For the rest one who stays longer can doubtless find amusement enough near Sapporo and by trips on the railway.

In returning from Otaru by sea our experiences were not so pleasant as in going. In the first place we took a chartered boat, despite the warning of the agent, because it left at the time we wanted to start. The *Shigaura Maru* was the *Patroclus* of the Ocean Steamship Co. some time—probably a very long time ago. The purser and the steward belong to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, all the others belong to the ship and its owner. The purser laments that there is nothing on the ship because it does not belong to the company, and it is certainly every respect far inferior to the *Kumamoto Maru*. The chief trouble, however, is not in the ship but in the cargo, and the cargo is the same at this time of year in all the ships. It consists of sea products, and of these products the most malodorous and sickening is the dried fish which is sent in bags to be used as a fertilizer. The fact that the cargo is of such a kind should decide one to make the journey back by rail.

On the voyage back the ship spends about 42 hours at Hakodate, and while the loading is going on no one with a nose not yet rendered happily ignorant by long residence in Japan can stay on board. Fortunately the hatches were closed at night, but then the mosquitoes would not have allowed us to sleep had we not had a mosquito net. On the voyage, too, the hatches are closed usually, but there are whiffs from the ventilators, and if they are shifting the cargo, or repairing, the odours may pursue one to all parts of the ship except those given up to crew and the steerage passengers. The motion of the ship is perplexing enough, though with fresh air it may be endured, but from these odours who can escape unhurt?

In making the journey by sea there is another thing to be considered. July and August are foggy months in these seas, and what may happen is illustrated by this voyage. About six o'clock one morning after a rainy night the fog, or *gasu* as they call it, came down so that we could not see a hundred yards away. Soon after this the record of the log led the captain to believe that he was off the point which he had to round to make Oginohama. But no land was to be seen, so he stopped the ship, leaving her to be rolled by the long heavy swells till about noon. Then, the fog lifting somewhat, he steered south. The fog coming on again, the engines were slowed to half speed. Then the ship was stopped in order to sound; it probably would have taken two or three miles of line to get the depth. Then the captain seems to have suspected, what was perfectly obvious, that if he went west he must find land. So he steered south west, still at half speed, though we could see half a mile ahead. At last land came in sight; he then steered west and then veered to the south again. Finally the ship found herself steered due north and made Oginohama two hours later after drifting for six hours and steaming hither and thither for six hours. Happily, as I have said, the fog lifted after about six hours, but suppose it had not? One ship was wrecked recently because it is said the captain ran too near to the coast in a fog. To avoid such a fate the policy seems to be to steer out to sea and get lost. No use was made of the sun to get a position, and it was explained by the purser that the log was out of order. But for the possibility, amounting to a probability, of getting lost in a fog August is a good month for a voyage. There is usually a storm at the end of July, or earlier, and there is nearly always one about the beginning of September.

As to the way of making the journey then, I should say that it would not be unpleasant to go by sea if one could start by the middle of July, or after the July blow was over. Even then it seems to be as liable to be foggy as at the end of August. For the return journey one should go to Mororan by rail and then the steamer for Yokohama may be taken at Hakodate after the loading is finished. But I should advise going on to Aomori to return by rail. Certainly there is little to be gained in taking the steamer at Otaru and having to wait two whole days and nights at Hakodate when by taking train the country across Hokkaido can be seen and the start may be made two days later.

This relation of experiences, which are probably not at all exceptional, may help some contemplating the journey to make it more pleasantly than they could do had they to buy the experience.

F. M.

The British steamer *Maroa* (Capt. C. A. Adams), while on the voyage from Hongkong to Yokohama, rescued sixty-three shipwrecked Chinamen off the China coast. Fifty-six were off one large junk, and the remaining seven off another. The steamer passed several dismasted junks which were probably caught in the last typhoon off the China coast. The rescued men will be turned over to the Chinese Consul at Yokohama.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

The Silver Christ and other Stories, by OUIDA: Unwin's Colonial Library.

THE ceaseless hurry and rush of the modern literary world has chivvied Ouida into a quiet backwater, where her existence is becoming almost unknown to latter-day readers. Hers has been a strange experience. Twenty years ago she was "all the rage:" her stories were thought so improper, her impossible aristocrats so peculiarly wicked, her women so particularly Ouidaish that all the world and his wife rushed after her books—and read them on the sly. Now she would be considered tame beside the novels of the Décadent cult, and critics find fault with her syntax and style generally. In the small volume before us, the veteran authoress deals with the elementary passions as developed under the sunny skies of Italy—save in one instance, *An Altruist*, and even here the hero towards the close is looking forward to taking possession of an estate near Rome. In the tale that gives the title to the book, *The Silver Christ*, the actors are of the peasant class, and the lust of desire is painted in lurid colours. A feeling of distaste, as much with the writer as with the characters, is engendered early in the story and deepens as it draws to its close. *La Selve* is in better style, the central character being cast in a loftier mould than is the generality of Ouida's creations. *A Lemon Tree* is very pathetic, but *An Altruist* is frankly impossible. Had Ouida been writing a Saturday night melodrama for a Surrey-side theatre she could not have been more absurdly theatrical and unreal. Her knowledge of the mental processes of the lower classes of England of the present day is lamentably deficient. Possibly when Dickens was a lad, language such as she puts into Mrs. Brown's, Annie's, and Sam's mouths may have been in vogue, but to-day, no. *Toxin*, the concluding story, is equally as unpleasant as *The Silver Christ*, but from another cause. A physician, taking advantage of his position and his scientific knowledge, deliberately does to death a trusting friend in order that he may marry the women whom his friend loves, and who passionately loves his friend. Altogether one puts down the book with a sigh that such stories should be considered worth publishing.

A Voyage of Consolation, by SARA JEANNETTE DUNCAN: Methuen's Colonial Library; Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

ONE is certain of a good half-hour's enjoyment when a book by Miss Sara Jeannette Duncan (Mrs. Everard Cotes) issues from the Press. Whether dealing with the adventures of two chaperoneless globe-trotting girls, or relating the mishaps that befal a saintly maiden aunt in India, Miss Duncan's pen distils pure fun. And yet it is a fun that one likes to assimilate in homœopathic doses—in monthly parts, rather than in volume form. When we get it in one solid lump it rather palls. Yet we can honestly say that in *A Voyage of Consolation*, laughter accompanies one a long way on the journey from cover to cover, and towards the end the jokes freshen up again in a most encouraging fashion. Miss Mamie Wick, only child of Senator Wick of Chicago, quarrels with her fiancée, Mr. Arthur Greenleaf Page, of Yale,—the young American taking offence at the manner in which she pronounces the English language; Miss Mamie having picked up the "English accent" during her visit to Europe the preceding summer—and the engagement is summarily snapped. As soon as the young man has left the Chicago house Miss Mamie rings up her "poppa" by telephone—he is in bed in a New York hotel by-the-bye—and as a result of a short colloquy over the wires the Senator proposes that the family should go abroad for a few weeks—"the usual thing in such cases," as the Senator remarks. He gives Mamie and her "momma" twenty-four hours or so to meet him on the *Germanic*, and of course the connection is made. The book then relates in detail a six weeks' rush through Europe, and readers of Miss Duncan's

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former works can easily judge of the manner of conversation, observation, and general delineation of character that fills the pages of Miss Mamie's lively "note book." All ends happily, of course. The book is just the thing for holiday reading.

The Golfing Pilgrim, by HORACE G. HUTCHINSON: London, Methuen's Colonial Library; Yokohama, Kelly and Walsh, Limited.

SAID the irascible Colonel to the American stranger who had lounged out on the links and passed a remark that made the Colonel foozle his put: "Probably, as a foreigner, you know nothing whatever of the game of Golf."

"No, sir," returned the American, unabashed. "It is a form of lunacy from which I have not yet suffered. I have had chicken-pox, I have had measles, I have even had philanthropy; but, thank goodness, I have never yet had Golf."

"Then let me tell you, sir, yet again, that the time will come when every man of an English-speaking nation (and I include the American nation) will suffer from what you are pleased to call this form of lunacy."

And yet it is not necessary to know anything, even the most rudimentary principles of the royal and ancient game, to appreciate the collection of articles on golf—hitherto scattered about in the pages of *Golf*, *Golfing Annual*, *Harper*, *Blackwood*, *Murray*, *Macmillan* and *Cornhill*, —that Mr. Horace G. Hutchinson has collected and published in book form under the title of *The Golfing Pilgrim*. Mr. Hutchinson is an enthusiast, but he wields a graceful pen—a pen that is the instrument for conveying many a genial witticism, many a large-hearted syllogism upon golf, humanity, and the world in general, and his work will therefore be found a worthy solace for those hours in an exile's life when heavier literature palls and becomes a weariness to the flesh as well as to the mind.

In the course of the Pilgrimage under review we visit in fancy most of the famous Golf links of Scotland, England, France, and the Channel Islands, learning the characteristics of the various places and the trials, tribulations, and also the triumphs and the joys, that attend the golfer at one and all. Of course St Andrew's, the very cradle of the game, finds abundant space in the book; but so also do the links to be found in the Southern counties of England. At Guernsey, the Pilgrim will find "girl-caddies." And this is what Mr. Hutchinson has to say of them:—"It is a discovery, on the part of the Guernsey golfer, that the girl-caddie gives more attention to your needs, more sympathy to your misfortunes, than that most savage of all wild animals, as Plato calls him, the boy." *Apropos* of the caddie, the book has some good stories anent this strange species of the genus *homo*. As Mr. Hutchinson remarks, "The golf caddie has probably unequalled opportunities as a student of human nature." A golfer once enquired what manner of looking man a certain Mr. So-and-so was, knowing the gentlemen only by name. "Eh, weel, he's jest a bull-neckit, hog-backit, bandy-ligged chiel, and shapes fine for a gowfer." For terseness and vigour this answer would be hard to beat. A caddie once testified to his master's merits in these terms:—"He's a fine free-spoken gentleman; but, whiles, blasphemious." Another lad was once remonstrated with upon his habit of swearing. He replied:—"Sweerin', ou aye, it's awful wucked; but it's a grand set off to the conversation."

Golf, the author observes, has spread to every spot where the English-speaking race is to be found. The statement is rather sweeping. But even in the Far East one can find links at Singapore, Hongkong, Amoy, Shanghai and, we believe, at Tientsin. Japan at present is without a links, but we have no doubt an enthusiast will come amongst us one day and discover a place where it will be quite possible to pursue the game after a fashion. Until that happy day arrives we must content our souls in patience and remain envious of the folks who can follow the advice and obtain the delightful experiences so admirably set out in *The Golfing Pilgrim*.

The Crook of the Bough, by MÉNIE MURIEL DOWIE; London, Methuen's Colonial Library: Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

ABOUT the time of Her Majesty's first Jubilee Miss Ménie Muriel Dowie (now Mrs. Henry Norman) published a book of travels that for artlessness of style, descriptive vividness, and charm of language placed her easily first among the band of women writers who were then beginning to attract attention in the literary world of London. The success of *A Girl in the Carpathians* was so instant and wide-reaching that the young authoress's head was slightly "turned." At any rate her next plunge into the literary vortex was marked by the production of as strange a farrago of giddy emotionalism as the most erotic of the decadent school could have aspired to place in the hands of the printers. And in her present venture, *The Crook of the Bough*, Ménie Muriel Dowie does not exactly shine. The story lacks balance and is full of mannerisms that jar as disagreeably upon the eye as they do upon the ear.

Islay Netherdale has been brought up as a "man's girl." That is, she makes an excellent private secretary for her brother George, who has just entered Parliament: using the typewriter with the practised ease of a trained hand. She makes speeches for him at times; at times, sketches out others for him; and of course dresses — plainly as the most austere Girton blue-stocking could wish. She is, by training, an entire stranger to the impulses of love, and the ordinary amenities of her sex are as nothing to her: she doesn't know what they are, to begin with. George decides to visit South eastern Europe, Constantinople being his objective, and takes his sister-secretary-confidante with him. Here they meet a Colonel Hassan Achmet Bey, and Islay falls in love with him (quite unconsciously) and he with her. He loves her because she is a type of woman utterly unknown to him—a strong comrade, a firm friend, a woman who has discarded fine dresses and feminine fripperies and frowned upon the soft delights of laces and flounces and scents and sweetmeats such as the women he knows love. Well, the brother and sister return to London and Hassan Bey follows them to make his declaration of love. To his surprise another Islay greets him—a creature attired in the latest fashions of Peter Robinson's, a woman who has thrown over the use of the typewriter, abandoned private-secretarial work and becomes an ordinary well-dressed, well-educated, well-informed member of the upper middle class. The poor Colonel is so surprised that though he makes a flattering admission of his love for the former Islay, he renounces his dream and returns to the East. Islay meanwhile is left to ponder upon her failure—her total failure!

That is the story, and doubtless many will read it for its writer's sake and not feel too disappointed when they reach the end.

HAWAII.

The following is an extract from a private letter from Honolulu:—While the papers give a glowing account of the flag raising and paint it bright, it was a sad and impressive ceremony to see even so small a nation as this, recognized as such by the Powers, lose in the space of 15 minutes its identity and be swallowed up by a Power as great as the United States. Regardless of pressure brought to bear to keep the natives away from the scene, many were there; and, as reveillé was sounded, the [Hawaiian] flag was slowly hauled down, and the band for the last time played the National Anthem ("Hawaii Ponoi") the poor natives, old men and women, as well as the present generation, could not hold back their tears. Nor were they the only ones who were affected. Americans and others of the Anglo-Saxon race, who had lived and prospered under the Hawaiian flag, were forced to raise their handkerchiefs to their eyes.

RUSSIA IN MANCHURIA.

The Mukden correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* writes, under date of August 15th:—

There are numerous rumours as to the presence and doings of Russians in many parts of the province. A few years ago both Manchu and Chinese officers spoke in terms of warm commendation of the treatment received by them and their people generally at the hands of Russians, on the borders north and east of Manchuria. I regret to hear stories of a very different sort now. These are too persistent and from too many places to be entirely baseless. We do not know whether Russia intends or not to take formal possession of these rich provinces. If she does and if a feeble voice can reach their men of authority let me urge them to exercise a little more care over the more ignorant of their followers. Nothing rouses the enmity of Chinese more readily than the appearance of familiarity towards their women. Respectable Chinese women, however poor, should, when met, be passed as though unseen. Another easy way of rousing antipathy is by taking things, possibly of little value, without giving the market price therefor. The Japanese in both respects gained golden opinions in Southern Manchuria. Yet it is not very creditable to Europe when one hears the wish generally expressed that Japan and not Russia should rule over the people. It pays well in the long run to give the market price for everything utilised. The last story current here is one for which there should be no foundation. It is that the Russians in laying out the road for the coming railway cut down the growing grain standing on the future roadway, giving no compensation, and made the farmers cut down the tall millet which was more difficult to cut than the shorter grains. If this has been done a fair compensation given in time will be well spent money in the way of preparing for future action. Some time ago any foreign nation would be welcomed by the people. Their feelings are anything but unanimous on that matter now. The Chinaman has no particular interest in the nationality of his rulers and tax gatherers; but he has a keen sense of justice where his own personal interests are concerned.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

An employé named Suzuki (34), of Messrs Carl Rhode and Co. No. 70, Yokohama, is alleged to have stolen *yen* 2,000 belonging to the firm. On the 16th inst. he was arrested by the Settlement Police.

The large fish, supposed to be a shark, that has been scaring the Hongkong water-population for some weeks, was caught on August 28 by the chief officer of the *Honam*, who afterwards gave it to the Chinese crew for "chow-chow."

The Amateur Dramatic Club of Hongkong intend producing a lively pantomime at Christmas, and rehearsals have already begun. We wonder if Yokohama is going to run a "panto." this year. "Cinderella's" great success should induce our amateurs to try again.

For the nine days from the 11th to the 19th inst., the Yokosuka Fort Artillery will go though firing exercises, and His Majesty, as has been reported, will pay a visit on the 15th. Accommodation is prepared for him at Kuronozaki. He will visit the warships which are anchoring at Yokosuka.

A too-smart Japanese has just been committed for trial at Sydney for forging seven New South Wales stamps of rare issue. The man Takuma is alleged to have split the stamps and affixed to the back the watermark of a different denomination, producing an article which sold for £80, and passed the scrutiny of several experts.

Messrs. Winckler and Company, Yokohama, have, it is said, received a despatch from France that the Spanish Government is considering the imposition of a heavy Custom Duty on raw silk and silk goods. Native silk traders in Yokohama have held a meeting to consider the matter.

The term of subscription to the third instal-

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ment of the Nagasaki Harbour Works Loan of 600,000 *yen* expired on the 31st August last, says the local paper. Owing to the depressed state of the money market, subscriptions at first came in very slowly, but towards the close the greater part of the loan was freely subscribed. The amount tendered is said to be greatly in excess of the sum called for.

The Japanese Consulate at Foochow was opened on the 10th August, Mr. Acting Consul Suyematsu Teshima assuming charge. Some land has been purchased by the Japanese below the Ice-house for the erection of merchants' offices and godowns. There is some talk of their having a railway from this point on Nantai to Pagoda, but it is thought improbable that the matter will go any further than talk.—*Echo.*

Early on the morning of the 1st, a thief entered the house of Mr. Fukai, an official of the Accountants Inspection Board, living at Kagocho, Sugamo, Tokyo. His nephew gave the alarm, and Mr. Fukai's wife, named Miyo, screamed for help. A *jinrikisha* coolie named Kintaro (23) answered the call, and, seeing the mistress, took her to be the thief and stabbed her in the heart. He was arrested.

The *Yomiuri* reports a fracas between Italian officers and *jinrikisha* men. Six officers of the *Marco Polo*, on the 4th, went to the Yokohama Railway Station to catch the 8 45 a.m. train for Tokyo. They took *jinrikisha* from the English Hatoba, and on arriving at the station one of the officers gave a nickel to his coolie, who, of course demanded another five *sen*. The officer was greatly enraged by the request, and with a sword-stick he was carrying beat the coolie so violently that the sheath of the stock was broken and the sword is alleged to have wounded the man on the hand. A general disturbance ensued, and continued until the arrival of the police.

AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Sydney, August 6th.

The rumour of an intended Japanese settlement on an extended scale in the northern territory of Australia, occasioned considerable disquietude throughout the colonies, there being already a considerable Chinese and Malay population, largely outnumbering the whites, and practically having their own laws, manners, and customs. On the arrival of Mr. J. L. Parsons, the Japanese consul at Adelaide, in Sydney, he was at once interviewed with respect to his reported action in the matter. He declared that the whole trouble had arisen from a misconceived notion of the intentions of some private freeholders. There was no foundation for the statement that he had endeavoured to obtain offers from Japanese capitalists for any concessions of Crown lands anywhere in the Northern Territory, nor was there any truth in the report that he had sought to arrange for the settlement of any Japanese in the Northern Territory. The fact was that the owners of certain freehold lands in the Northern Territory had authorised him to place the lands which they had purchased from the Crown under offer in Japan or elsewhere. None of those lands were on the Victoria River, and they had been purchased from the South Australian Government on the distinct understanding that coloured labour could be introduced into the Northern Territory. This, he said, was shown by the fact that the provisional annexation of the Northern Territory by South Australia was obtained by the statement of Sir Dominick Daly, then Governor of South Australia, that the Northern Territory being tropical, and near to the populous nations of Asia, the labour difficulty could be easily overcome. The South Australian Government also first introduced Chinese, and it passed the act for the introduction of coolie labour. The lands placed in his hands were purchased after this legislation was agreed to, but as the South Australian Government had neglected or refused to appoint a coolie immigration agent-general for the Northern Territory the owners of land had been unable to utilise it for want of suitable labour, or owing to the threatened exclusion of such labour had been unable to dispose of it. He was not able at present to make anything public in regard to the result of his negotiations until he had reported to his principals, but they did not seem to reach the stage which points to early occupation of Northern Territory lands by any large number of Japanese. Mr. Parsons further remarked that in the face of the hostility of the South Australian Government, he would never have gone on the wild goose chase of approaching the Japanese Government to induce it to send Japanese to settle on Crown lands on the Victoria River. In addition, he never heard from the Japanese officials of any proposal to give a portion of the Northern Territory for purposes of Japanese settlement.

Recent circumstances in connection with British New Guinea have made the colonists extremely suspicious, and they are not quite satisfied with the explanations given by Mr. Parsons. They would rather have Japanese settlers than any other class of Asiatics, but as a young community, not overlarge in numbers, they naturally wish to exclude the elements of possible international difficulties. It is tolerably certain that whatever may be the ulterior views of Mr. Parsons, he will not be allowed to do as he pleases in the matter of settlement in the Northern Territory.

The immigration of Japanese women for immoral purposes is beginning to attract attention in Northern Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia. They are said to flit through Hongkong and Port Darwin. The increase is most marked at Thursday Island, and cases are reported where the women were bought and sold like sheep or cattle. No one blames the Japanese authorities for this state of things, the respective colonial governments being mainly responsible. Should Australian federation become an accomplished fact, one of the first matters to be dealt with by the federal parliament will be the traffic in Asiatic women for immoral purposes. In some places the hospital authorities are appalled at the terribly diseased condition of the Japanese women brought to them for treatment, generally too late for efficient medical assistance. The principals in the unholy trade are mostly Japanese, the others being Chinese, and of the two the former are by far the worst. In the southern cities of Australia there are numerous Japanese lady residents, and their high moral character and unimpeachable behaviour simply intensifies the public horror at the miserable fate of their degraded sisters in the far north.

It is on Thursday Island that the progress of Japanese settlement in Australia has become most marked, and the *Queenslander*, alluding to the recently published report of the Government Resident at that place, says,—"Mr. Douglas in the report before us records an increase of population at 1st March last as compared with the same date in 1897, of 358; the figures being 1,344 and 1,702. But when we look into it we find that this means almost exclusively an increase of Japanese. Europeans have increased from 571 to 608, a difference of 37 only. Excepting the Japanese, other nationalities have increased from 442 to 475, a difference of 33. The Japanese have increased from 331 to 619, a difference of 288. They have in fact nearly doubled; they are now more numerous than the whites; and they are considerably over a third of the entire population. The figures of course are small compared with the white population of Queensland, and insignificant compared with that of all Australia. The cry of the Japanese overrunning Australia, or even Queensland, and competing with us in every trade, is absurd enough. Supposing them to come in the future as in the year just past, and omitting births and deaths here (they do not as a rule bring their women), it would take them 1,600 years to equal our present Queensland population. What we are dealing with is the comparatively small question of a settlement at Thursday Island. Still we do not like the idea of even a Thursday Island Japanese settlement. We do not want white men ousted—if they are ousted—by men of colour in any corner of Australia. We do not want to see an industry monopolised by them. That this should be done anywhere, or in regard to any industry, were the admission of an evil principle which might soon be applied on a larger scale. Nor do we find much comfort in the remark of Mr. Douglas that "very few Japanese are coming from Japan; they are filtering in from Hongkong and Port Darwin." That may make it easier, as he says, to find a remedy; but in itself it matters nothing where they come from." Mr. Douglas, however, points out that the Japanese at Thursday Island do not interfere with white labour, but simply undertake duties which, otherwise, would not be performed. He says:—"However desirable it might be to have an exclusively European population, as some people think, it seems to be admitted on all hands that the pearl shell industry as at present worked could scarcely exist without the assistance of an alien population. It is conceivable, of course, that, if we had a redundant population who were willing to work in the boats, as South Sea Islanders or Asiatics do, at wages ranging from £2 to £3 10s. a month—the latter price being the rate of tenders' wages—the industry might be carried on profitably at those rates by our own people. The occupation is a healthy one, and not exposed to anything like the same risk as that incurred by many seafaring people in older countries. If, in addition to this, men could be found who would be content with a somewhat abstemious diet and the use of liquor, those who are engaged in the industry by the investment of capital would undoubtedly prefer to give employment to their own countrymen on such terms; but the men are not forthcoming. It follows that they employ what men they can get, and if the industry is to be kept alive we must employ aliens. South Sea Islanders were first employed, then Malays, then Manila men, and now Japanese. The latter have increased considerably in numbers, and have begun to command such a large share of influence in the industry that their toleration has acquired a political significance, and has attracted the attention of our legislators. My somewhat prolonged experience in these latitudes leads me to the conclusion that we may, without prejudice to our future prospects as a people, avail ourselves of such assistance as we can obtain from an alien population in order to develop our nascent industries provided we take care to build up our own native-born population in such a way as to constitute it the dominant factor in our Constitution. The distinction of colour or creed should not exist for us, so long as we secure the rightful ascendency of our race. The present population of Thursday Island is an illustration, I hold, of what may be done to plant a thriving civilisation permanently on our shores, under circumstances which would not admit of an exclusively European type. * * * I should be very sorry to see Japanese immigration encouraged, because I think that if allowed to come in too great numbers they would be harmful, but I think that on a limited scale they may be made useful. The Government of Japan is quite willing that the emigration should be controlled. The Government of Queensland can thus place any limitation they please on it." J.P.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

(From the "Japan Times.")

CZAR'S PEACE PROPOSAL.

FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE IN DANGER.

London, Sept. 1.

The French papers accuse the Czar of ignoring the continuous and strenuous preparations of France to recover the lost Provinces (Alsace Lorraine). It is beginning to be felt that the Czar's manifesto is a grave blow to the Franco-Russian Alliance. President Faure and his Ministers are hastily returning to Paris to deliberate upon the manifesto. The enthusiasm of the German official papers regarding the proposal of reducing armaments has further exasperated France.

THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR.

CHARGES AGAINST SECRETARY ALGAR.

General Miles is openly accusing the Secretary of War of gross mismanagement leading to appalling losses through sickness, and the garbling of despatches.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

COLONEL HENRY ARRESTED: ACCUSED OF FORGERY.

France has been startled by the arrest of Colonel Henry, Chief of the Intelligence Department, who confessed to writing a paper incriminating Dreyfus by name. This paper purported to emanate from a foreign attaché. It was lately read in the Chamber by M. Cavaignac, Minister of War, as positive proof of the guilt of Dreyfus.

SUICIDE OF COL. HENRY.

Later.

Colonel Henry committed suicide in prison, cutting his throat with a razor. M. Cavaignac remains convinced of the guilt of Dreyfus, but the clamour for revision of the sentence is increasing. The Cabinet is divided on the question.

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THE COAL STRIKE IN WALES.

The coal strike has been finally settled.

JAMAICA STILL TRUE TO BRITAIN.

The annexation movement in Jamaica makes no progress, owing to the opposition of the negroes. There is a lack of general support.

FRENCH POLITICS.

London, Sept. 3.

The Henry affair, coupled with distrust and resentment evoked by the Czar's Manifesto, is distracting France to an almost dangerous degree. Even the Military organs admit the necessity of re-opening the Dreyfus case, which is likely to involve the country in loosing itself in violent political passions.

THE ST. LEGER STAKE.

The St. Leger betting stands: Jedda, 1—2; Dieudonne 1,000—12; Wildflower Ninus, 10—1; Disraeli, 100—6; Batt, Dunlop, 20—1; Pheon, Wantage, 25—1; Yusser 33—1.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

KHALIFA'S DERVISH ARMY DEFEATED AND DISPERSED.

BRITISH OCCUPY OMDURMAN.

London, Sept. 5.

Sir Herbert Kitchener on Friday defeated and dispersed the Khalifa's army after five hours' fighting. The troops subsequently occupied Omdurman, the Khalifa being pursued by cavalry and gunboats. The British loss was 100, including Captains Grenfell, of the Twelfth Lancers, and Caldecott of the Warwickshire Regiment. The Egyptian troops had twenty officers killed. The enemy's losses are not stated. The 21st Lancers lost twenty killed and wounded in the course of a brilliant cavalry charge.

London, Sept. 6.

The Dervish troops in Friday's battle, charged repeatedly, regardless of the withering fire, being mowed down by thousands. Their losses are estimated at 15,000. The remnant of the Khalifa's forces has surrendered,

RUMOURED ANGLO-GERMAN ENTENTE.

FREE HAND TO ENGLAND IN EGYPT AND SOUTH AFRICA AND TO GERMANY IN ASIA MINOR.

Prolonged interviews between Count Hatzfeldt, German Ambassador, and Mr. Balfour have evoked reports in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of an Anglo-German entente having been concluded providing for an offensive and defensive alliance in certain eventualities according to the suggestion of Mr. Chamberlain. The rumoured *entente* comprises the withdrawal of the German objections to the purchase of Delagoa Bay by Britain and the abolition of the Egyptian mixed tribunals, the *quid pro quo* being British assent to German colonizing schemes in Asia Minor.

EMPEROR WILLIAM SPEAKS TO HIS TROOPS.

CHEERS FOR QUEEN VICTORIA.

At a camp service held at the foot of the Waterloo column at Hanover, the German Emperor made a speech in which he reminded the troops of their comradeship in arms with the British in the battle of Waterloo. His Majesty also referred to the victory at Omdurman, and called for three cheers for Queen Victoria.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

M. CAVAIGNAC RESIGNS.

M. Cavaignac has resigned because he was unable to assent to the revision of the Dreyfus case.

OPENING OF KIAO-CHOU.

Peking, Sept. 3.

A treaty has been concluded between Germany and China for opening up Kiao chou Bay as a public entry port, China to establish a custom house there, and be at liberty to import goods duty free.

(From the "N.-C. Daily News.")

THE KWANGSI REBELLION.

Hongkong, August 30.

The Viceroy of the Two Kwang prohibits the Canton papers publishing any news of the Kwangsi rebellion unless it is favourable to the Imperialists.

Alarmist reports, probably exaggerated, are in circulation; the rebels are said to be within two days' march of Canton. The Black Flags are encamped at the North Gate for the protection of the City.

The rebel chief Chang has issued a violent anti-foreign proclamation, stating that the object of the rebellion is to drive out the foreigners who devour the wealth of the people and to protect the Chinese.

The standard of rebellion was raised on the 24th day of the 6th moon, the 11th of August.

It is reported that the Viceroy Tan Chung-lin resigns on account of the concession to the French at Kwangchouwan.

(From the "China Mail.")

THE SITUATION IN MANILA.

Manila, August 26.

The town of Manila is gradually assuming a peaceful aspect. Public affairs are being conducted smoothly and efficiently in all the departments under the military governorship of Major-General Merritt.

Stores are being thrown open, merchant hongs opened up, and books and goods brought from their places of safety, and, generally speaking, local business is being actively resumed throughout Tondo and Binondo.

The waterworks are now in good working order.

Thanks to the energetic efforts of the American officials, the obstructions at the mouth of the river Pasig have at last been removed, and the river is open once more to steamboats and other craft.

Stringent measures have been taken to ensure the sanitation of the city and the protection of public health. The citadel—the walled city—crowded as it is with prisoners, is in an abominably filthy state, and the condition of the Spanish barracks is such as to constitute a positive menace to the general health.

Notwithstanding their recent experiences, the health of the American troops continues excellent. From the date of landing down to the present time, only seventeen deaths have occurred among the troops from disease, and the majority of these were due to diseases contracted on board the transports.

The Spanish authorities have now surrendered to General Merritt's executive 23,000 stands of arms, 10,000,000 cartridges, and an immense quantity of large ammunition. There are nearly 14,000 prisoners.

A day or two ago, the insurgents despatched an armed steamer, with 500 soldiers on board, for an unknown destination. Consequently, the local coasting steamers, manned by Spanish sailors, are afraid to venture out of the Bay until they are assured of the protection of the American fleet.

It is impossible to obtain information regarding the interior of Luzon, except along the railway where everything is quiet. Rumours are current here, and credence is given to them, that the rebels are carrying on an active campaign in the southern end of the island.

Six hundred priests, including 120 prisoners among the insurgents, will depart for Hongkong under the care of the Belgian Consul whenever a transport is procured.

In regard to the political situation, there is undoubtedly practical unanimity amongst the merchants and traders here, regardless of nationality, in favour of the permanent occupation of the Philippine Archipelago by the United States. Nobody conceives the re-establishment of Spanish supremacy possible. As yet, we are in the dark as to the intentions of the United States Government. Private advices only have been received concerning the final arrangements for the negotiation of peace.

(From the "Shanghai Daily Press.")

THE SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Manila, August 28.

Since I wired you this morning important political changes have developed. President Aguinaldo proposes to move his headquarters immediately from Bacoor to Malolos, a large town in the Province of Bulacan, on the railway line and about twenty miles north of Manila.

He intends to assemble a congress there shortly, composed of the leading Filippinos favouring the insurgent cause. He also intends to send a Filippino representative to Paris, to attend, if possible, the deliberations of the Peace Commission and argue the claims of the insurgents for the establishment of a native Republic.

Malolos has an excellent strategic position. It covers the principal rice and tobacco-growing districts, besides the route to Blacnabato, where the Spaniards were obliged to make the treaty when they purchased the cessation of hostilities last year.

This movement on the part of President Aguinaldo is probably in a measure due to the fact that he is fast losing his influence in the Province of Cavite, where the insurgents in arms confidently expected to be permitted to occupy the town of Manila conjointly with the Americans.

Considerable dissatisfaction is apparent among the insurgent troops, and a frank expression of opinion is frequently heard that Aguinaldo is selling the native cause a second time.

(From the "North-China Daily News.")

SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE PEACE COMMISSION.

Hongkong, August 30th.

General Aguinaldo intends to send a Filipino representative to attend the meetings of the Peace Commissioners at Paris.

MORE REPORTS OF GERMAN INTERFERENCE.

Hongkong, August 30th.

A German cruiser has carried Spanish despatches between Cebu and Iligan. The rebels have captured the Spanish steamer *Rosario* whilst flying the German flag, transporting Spanish troops from Iligan to Iloilo. The rebels were indignant, and have refused the German steamer *Clara* admission to their ports.

NEWS FROM MANILA.

Hongkong, Sept. 2

General Merritt leaves for Europe in the *Chusan*—the English mail steamer—to attend the Peace Conference. He recommends the retention of Luzon.

General Otis succeeds General Merritt as Military Governor of Manila.

AN AMERICAN KILLED BY THE INSURGENTS.

Hongkong, Aug. 29.

On Wednesday, the 24th inst., a collision occurred between some Americans and insurgents at Cavite, originating in a row in a shop. An American fired his revolver but did not hit any one; the insurgents replied with their rifles, and killed one American. A detachment was sent from the camp, and there were a few wounded on each side.

The insurgents have been required to move to a distance of two miles from Cavite. The situation is quiet but strained. The insurgents say they must maintain their readiness to resist the Spaniards if the islands are returned to them; otherwise they are willing to acquiesce in the American plans.

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 383.

By H. W. SHERRARD and H. F. L. MEYER.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—B to Q 6	1—K takes B
2—P takes B (R)	2—K moves
3—R to K 6 mate	
	1—K to B 3
2—P takes B (B)	2—K moves
3—R to R 6 mate	
	1—B to B 2
2—P to Q 8 (Q)	2—B moves
3—Q mates	
	1—B to Kt 3
2—P to Q 8 (Kt)	2—K takes B or moves to B 3
3—Kt mates acc.	
	1—B takes P
2—P to K 5	2—B moves
2—R to K 7 mate	

Only correct solution received from W.B.M. (Tokyo), who justly remarks:—"Perhaps the most artistic conception ever worked out on the Chess board."

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 384.

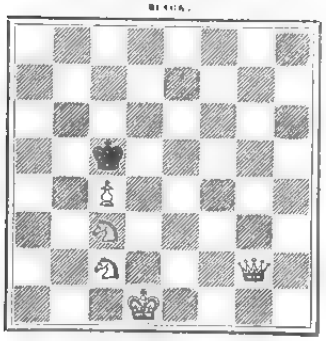
WHITE.	BLACK
1—Q to Q R 8	1—Q takes Q
2—Kt to Q 6 mate	1—Q takes Kt (B 7)
2—Kt to Q 4 mate	1—Q takes Kt (Kt 5)
2—P to K 4 mate	1—Q to Q 4
2—Q takes Q mate	1—K to K 5
2—Kt to Q 6 mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., G.H.B.W. (Miyanoshita), Marco, and Voila.

PROBLEM No. 387.

By Mrs. W. J. BAIRD.

First Prize *Hackney Mercury*.



White to play and mate in three moves.

THE COLOGNE TOURNAMENT.

The Eleventh International Tournament of the German Schachbund began on August 1st, in Cologne, Germany. The absence of Tarrasch and Pillsbury seems to have detracted somewhat from the interest, but the Chess world was well represented. Of those who played at Vienna there were Steinitz, Showalter, Janowski, Tschigorin, Burn, Schlechter, and Schiffers. The others were Charousek, of Budapesth; Cohn, of Berlin; Popiel, of Lemberg; Gottschall, of Posen; Heinrichsen, of Cologne; Fritz, of Darmstadt; Schallopp, of Berlin; Albin, of Vienna; Berger, of Gratz. This was a one-round tournament, six days a week, fifteen moves an hour. The eight prizes aggregated $850. At the time of going to press we have received the result of the sixth round, with the following total score:—

	WON.	LOST.		WON.	LOST.
Albin	2½	3½	Janowsky ...	4	2
Berger.....	2	3	Popiel	2	4
Burn	4	2	Schallopp ...	½	5½
Charousek ...	4½	1½	Schiffers	3	3
Cohn	5½	½	Schlechter ...	4½	1½
Fritz.....	2	4	Showalter ...	2	4
Gottschall ...	1½	4½	Steinitz	4	2
Heinrichsen .	1½	4½	Tschigorin ...	4½	1½

GAME No. 428.

A laudable but unsuccessful attempt to produce a new variation in the Evans' Gambit. (From the Vienna Tournament). We take the score and notes from the *Illustrated London News*.

EVANS' GAMBIT.

White—Lipke.		Black—Tschigorin.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	20 R QR2	R K-q
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	21 Q KB q	BxP
3 B B4	B B4	22 R B2	Kt Q7(d)
4 P Q Kt4	BxP	23 KtxKt	BxKt
5 P B3	B R4	24 Q QB-q	R K7(e)
6 Castles	P Q3	25 K B3	Q K5
7 P Q4	B K 3	26 P B5	BxP
8 P QR4	Kt B3	27 B KKt3	B QKt3
9 B Q5(a)	KtxB	28 P R3	B K-6
10 PxKt	Kt R4	29 RxR	QxR
11 PxP	Castles	30 P Q6	PxP
12 B K5	Q Q2	31 Q B8ch	K B2
13 R K-q	PxP	32 Q KB5	P Kt3
14 KtxP	Q B4(b)	33 Q K4	Q K3
15 B R4	P KB3	34 Q R4	K Kt2
16 Kt B3	B Q2	35 B B4	P KR4
17 Kt R3(c)	QR K-q	36 Q Kt3	B Q4
18 P B4	RxRch	37 BxP	BxKt
19 QxR	Kt K6	38 PxB	P R5(f)

NOTES.

(a) B to Q Kt 5 is better, and at least threatens a good deal. The text move enables Black to exchange a valuable piece and obtain freedom at once.

(b) It is evident later that this move of the Q is particularly good. It is immediately threatening, and the piece cannot be driven away.

(c) White is bound to develop, but this costs a pawn, as will appear.

(d) All the play here is very clever, and by this means Black keeps his pieces to the front instead of retreating, which would be the obvious course. It is merely an exchange, but a good one.

(e) This move threatens if R takes B, B takes P ch, and Black would more than regain the piece.

(f) The capture of the pawn was fatal (at move 37), but there was little else to do. White must either lose the piece or be subjected to a killing attack. This is a finely played game.

GAME No. 429.

An interesting game played by Steinitz at the Vienna Chess Club:—

White—Steinitz.		Black—Schlechter.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK
1 P K4	P K4	15 Q Q2	B Kt5 dis
2 P KB4	PxP	16 Kt K4(a)	P KB4[ch
3 K K-B3	P KK 4	17 QKt B3	PxKt
4 P KR4	P K-5	18 PxP	Cds. QR
5 Kt K5	B K-2	19 B Q3	Kt B4(b)
6 KtxKtP	P Q4	20 QR B-q	P B3(c)
7 Kt B2	PxP	21 Kt K 5	B K4
8 KtxP	Q K2	22 Castles	Kt K-6(d)
9 Q K2	QKt B3	23 BxB	QxB
10 P B3	Kt R3	24 Q R5(e)	KR K-q
11 Kt B2	B K3	25 RxPch(f)	PxR
12 P Q3	Kt B4	26 Q R6ch	K Kt-q(g)
13 BxP	QKt Q5	27 QxPch	K B-q
14 PxKt	KtxQP	28 Q R8ch	Resigns(h)

NOTES.

(a) B to K 3 of far greater defensive value.

(b) Kt to K 3 seems better, for if White then plays 20—Kt to Q 5, B takes Kt would follow.

(c) White's move was a very strong one, and there does not seem any better move at Black's disposal than this, although it has the drawback of exposing the king. Perhaps B to K 4 at once might have been played.

(d) Black hardly realised the fact that he was in danger, as otherwise he would have played Kt to Q 3 for defensive purposes.

(e) White follows up his advantage in a powerful manner. He threatens now Kt takes P ch, winning the queen.

(f) Gnethe would say such moves are always available, but you must know where to find them. The move leads to a forced win.

(g) Trying to avoid R to Q2 as long as he can.

(h) If K to Q 2, 29—Q to Kt 7 ch, K to K 3; 30—Q to B 7 mates.

GAME No. 430.

A pretty little off-hand game played by Mr. Teichmann against a Berlin amateur:—

White— ——		Black—Teichmann.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	11 B K3	BxB(c)
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	12 PxB	Cds. QR
3 B B4	Kt B3	13 Q B4	KtxP
4 P Q4	PxP	14 BxBch	RxB
5 Castles	B B4	15 Q R4	Kt B6ch
6 P K5	P Q4	16 PxKt	Q Kt4ch
7 B Kt5	Kt K5	17 K R-q	Kt B7ch
8 KtxP	B Q2(a)	18 RxKt	R Q8ch
9 Kt Kt3(b)	B Kt3	19 R B-q	RxR mate
10 QxP	Q R5		

NOTES.

The *Literary Digest* calls attention to several very interesting facts revealed in the final score of the Vienna Tournament: First, Dr. Tarrasch has made two new records in the history of Chess: (1) of the 37 games he played he lost only two; and (2) he played 20 games (from the 14th to the 34th) without being defeated. Second, while Pillsbury lost three more games than Tarrasch, he won three more. Third, Blackburn beats Schlechter as a drawing-master, for he had 20 games that gave him ½ a point. Fourth, Schlechter lost only six games.

As an evidence of the progress made in Chess in the last thirty-five or forty years, Reichelm, in *The Times*, Philadelphia, calls attention to the fact that Morphy in 1859-1860 could have given the odds of a Knight to any player in America except Paulsen and H. P. Montgomery; and declares that "now the United States has, at least, fifty players too strong for that odds, even for a Morphy. Philadelphia and New York could furnish ten each."

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 1	Sa. Sept. 10
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Sept. 12
America	P. M. Co.	Glenfarg 2	Tu. Sept. 13
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Aztec	M. Sept. 19
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	—	W. Sept. 21
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic 3	Th. Sept. 22
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	M. Sept. 26
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Sept. 28
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. Oct. 6

1 Left Shanghai on the 5th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 25th ult.
3 Left San Francisco on the 3rd inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Sept. 9
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Glenfarg	M. Sept. 12
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Tu. Sept. 13
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Laos	W. Sept. 14
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Sept. 14
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. Sept. 21
America	P. M. Co.	Aztec	W. Sept. 21
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	F. Sept. 23
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Sept. 26
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Sept. 30

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 2nd September,—Otaru via ports, 29th August, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Tennick, 2nd September,—Nagasaki 30th August, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 2nd September,—Shanghai via ports, 27th August, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 4th Sept.,—Vancouver, B.C., 22nd Aug., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Maroa, British steamer, 4,451, C. A. Adams, 4th Sept.,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 28th Aug., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Socotra, British steamer, 3,919, Thos. H. Hide, 4th Sept.,—London via ports, Kobe, 2nd Sept., General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, M. J. Curnow, 4th Sept.,—Otaru via ports, 30th Aug., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kiukiang, British steamer, 1,240, C. F. Arnold, 5th September,—Glasgow via ports, and Kobe 4th September, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Victor, Norwegian barque, 532, S. Terjesen, 6th September,—Rangoon 7th July, Teakwood.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Trenbridge, 7th September,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 22nd August, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higa, 8th September,—Kobe, 6th September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, Tibballs, 8th September,—Otaru via ports, 3rd September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, N. Mumezono, 8th September,—Otaru via ports, 4th September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 8th September,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe 7th September, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Yusen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, K. Naka-

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jima, 8th September,—Kobe 7th September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Laos, French steamer, 2,300, Flandin, 8th September,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe 8th September, Mails and General.—M M. S.S. Co.

Suminoe Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Munamatsu, 8th September,—Shimonoseki 5th September, Rice.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, E. W. Haswell, 8th September,—Sydney and Melbourne, via ports, and Kobe 7th September. Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Dardanus, British steamer, 2,992, Thos. M. Gregory, 2nd September,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hohenzollern, German steamer, 1,903, E. Wolterdorff, 2nd September,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachl.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higo, 2nd September,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, W. Brady, 3rd Sept.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Manuel Llaguno, American ship, 1,650, C. V. Small, 4th Sept.,—New York via Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 5th September,—Otaru via ports, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3 003, Gen. A Lee, 5th September,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hitachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3 800, C. Hillcoat, 5th September,—Marseilles, London, and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Macduff, British steamer, 1,881, W. S. Thomson, 5th September,—New York via ports, and Suez Canal, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, M. J. Curnow, 5th September,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taiwan, British steamer, 1,109, H. Huber, 5th September,—Moji, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Tetsuka, 6th September,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,031, S. Tsuji, 6th September,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. B. Bishop, 7th September,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 7th September,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Silesia, German steamer, 3,138, S. Behrens, 8th September,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Indravelli, British steamer, 3,152, Francis Norman, 8th September,—New York via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Trenbridge, 8th September,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Hunter Sharp, Captain K Yato, Captain Goddard, Rev. and Mrs. C. F. Sweet, Mr. M. Kusumoto, Mr. E. P. Wickham, Mr. McConnell, Mr. J. B. Pocklington, Miss Blewett, Mr. C. J. Tarsary, Mr. Harding, Mr. C. W. Baird, Mrs. A. Ealton, and Mr. C. L. Andersson in cabin; Mr. Bawnping Sang, Mr. Geo. Knowles, Mr. K. Kato, Mr. S. Asakura, Mr. M. Honda, Mr. M. Fujita, Dr. Gramsizko, Mr. T. Miyazaki, Mrs. Miyazaki, Mrs. Jenny Caumebch, and Mr K. Nakayama in second class, and 32 passengers in steerage.

Per R.M.S. *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. and Mrs. Richard Abendheim, Mr William Adams, Mr. A. Aurnhammer, Mr. John L. Bixley, Mrs. Ballagh, Mr. E de Bavier, Miss E. Converse, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Dahl, Mr. J M. Ellsworth and valet, Colonel E. H. Gorges, Mr. Geo. H. Holden, His Excellency Hon. and Mrs. Hsu, Mr. James Hilder, Rev. and Mrs. W. B Hamilton and child, Mr. Kilcullin, Miss M. Lattimer, Chevalier de Martino, Miss Mackenzie and child, Mr. H. Y. Min, Mr. Hosang Min, Mrs. John Murray and child, Miss Jessie Munn, Miss A. R. Morton, Mrs. J. M. McCauley, Mr. B Neidieck, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Parsbley, Mr. E, Young Sohn, Mrs. M. Smith and child, Mrs. A. E. Suber, Mr. K. S. Tschu, Rev. J. Wilson, Miss Wilson, Dr. Margaret Wallace, Prof. and Mrs. M. N. Wyckoff, and Miss Wyckoff in cabin; 15 Japanese, Mr. Shishkoff, and Mr. B. Gladysseff in cabin, passengers in second class, and 141 passengers in steerage.

Per British steamer *Victoria*, from Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C.:—Mr. P. Pery, Miss Pery, Miss M. E. Ward, Mr. G. Hodges, Mr. F. S. Jacob, Mr. L. D. Hilles, Mr. M. S. Hill, and Mr. J. M. T. Wormer in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. and Mrs. J. Hayward and child, Mr. and Mrs. Hardman and family, Miss Cobb, Miss Thomas, Miss A C Homberg, Miss Isabel Ross, Rev. and Mrs. O R. Wold, and Mr. C. Pedar in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. Galt and 2 children in cabin; 42 children in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. E Briscoe, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Longuet, Mr. Tsai Yenk Shau, Mr. A. Lee, Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, Mrs. Snowden, Mr. C. A. Schroth, Mrs. Wortmann, Captain and Mrs. Carrew, Master Carrew, Miss L Zuffuh, Mr. H. H Gissing, Mr. W. C. Taylor, Mr. F. Santer, Mr. G. Fullerton, Lieut. C. R. Pundoll, Captain C. Simonds, Mr. H. J. Hancock, Dr. H. Kempte, Miss Pixley, Mr. R. W. Brown, Mr. Lefroy, Mr. R. J. Kuby, Mr. J. F. Duff, Mr. R Goldkoff, Mr. Mr. N. H. Illingworth, Mr. M. Macshall, and Mr. H. B. Mourehead in cabin; 10 passengers in second class, and 267 passengers in steerage. For Vancouver, B C.:—Lieut. C J. Benton, R.N., Hon. Stewart Lockhart, Mr. G. A. Barnard, Dr. and Mrs. J. T. N. Gatrell and 2 children, Mrs. and Miss Whiting, Mrs. Cox and child, Mr. J. M. Murai, Mr. S H. Matsubara, Dr. G. Monre Graham, Mr. N. P. H Brown, Mr. W. Doherty, Mr. H. B. Dunlop, Mr. A. R. Dunlop, Mr. H. Bell, Major Langdon, R.M.L.I., Mrs Lewis, Mr. J. Harvie, Captain E. S. Smalley, and Mr. J. Coll and Wilkinson in cabin.

Per French steamer *Laos* from Marseilles, via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Schneider, Mr. Amos Exmac and daughter, Mr. Romakanta, Mr. Mohamed, Mr. d'Anjeau, Mr. L. Y. Phillipps, Mr. D. Landell, Mrs. T. Meer J. Western, Mrs. Martens, Mr. N. P Boy, Mr. and Mrs. Thislett, Mr. Y. Reich, Mrs. Kusada, and amah, Mr. Romer, Mr. Brossen, Mr. Machado, Mr. Calder, L'abbé Témeut, Mr. Hashimoto, Mr. Shima and Mr. Uji, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Hohenzollern*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. W. Schmidt, Mrs J. T. van Ryn, Mr. and Mrs. O. Franck, children and servant, Mr. A. Goberman, Mr. S. Goberman, Mr. H. Fukuda, Mr. Misao Sakuma, Mr. Kosaburo Ando, and Mr. Juro Nunakata in cabin, and 8 Chinese in steerage.

Per R.M.S. *Empress of Japan*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. E. J. Fellows, Mr. M. N. McKinnon, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Brumfield, Lieut. R. G. Parker, Mr. M. E P Frost, Mrs. Fitton and 2 children, Mrs. and Miss Smithers, Mrs. Ransome, Mr. R Walker, Capt. Wm. Dobie, Mr. H. H Read, Mr. G. Kiemsis, Mrs. Seaman, Miss Gaskin, Dr. Thos. C. Patterson, Mrs. Thos. C. Patterson, Captain and Mrs Houghton and infant, Mr. H. McPhail, Miss Melvin, Mr. A. G. Musle, Mr. D. Nakajima, Mrs. E. L. Wood, Mrs. and Miss Wright, Miss A. Wright, Mrs. Dabelstini and child, Mrs. M. Gudtrey, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ferguson and 2 daughters, Mr. Hunter Sharp, Lieut. E. F. Shewell, Mr. Kelleman, Mr. E. Oldenburg, Mr. C. J. Dudgeon, Mrs. E. Ashton, Mr. R. C. Fairbridge, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Wilkinson and child, Miss M. Robertson, Mr. N. H. Illingworth, Mr. F. Kiene, Mr. A. N. McConnell, and Mr. W. A. Whaley in cabin; Mrs. Houghton's English nurse in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hitachi Maru*, for London and Antwerp via ports:—Mr. T. Okubo, Mr. I. Tashiro, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Mayers, Staff-Paymaster Z. Nagashima, Major T. Hayashi, I.J.A., Captain H. Yamanashi, Captain H. Machida, and First-Surgeon T. Tsuruta in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. K. Haseba and children, Mrs. Saegi, Mr. Cutting, Mrs. A. Tsumatori, Mr. C. Yoshii, Mr. K. Yoshii, Rev. E W. Thwing, Mr. K. Yamanaka, Mr. G Shinsaka, and Mr. C. Maillard in second class, and 20 Japanese, 2 Europeans, and one Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. H. Hamada, Mr. Thos. C. Jennins, Mr. Lawrence Perrin, Mr. R. R. Reid, Mrs. Parmenter, and Mr. and Mrs. Kieruff in cabin; 5 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. H. Bass, Mrs. Cyril Rose, Miss M. L. Chase, Captain Rowcroft, H.K.R., Mr. J. W. Cupmann, Mr. H. Y. Sohn, Mr. H. Y. Min, Mr. Ho Song Min, Sub-Lieut. S. Mizuno, Captain K. Yabe, Sub-Lieut. T. Neiiro, Mr. T. Matsuda, Mr. Y. Dautremer, Mr. and Mrs. N. Takahashi, Mr. T. Kuroda, Mr. M. Okane, Mr. S. Nozawa, Mr. H. Matsudaira, Mr. T. Tsuji, Mr. M. Nakamuda, Mr. W. Yokota, Mr. Wu Chin, Mr. Wu Chai, Mr. Wu Dao Yue, and Mr. Tsio Kau Sum in second class, and 27 Japanese, 1 European, and 65 Chinese in steerage.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There are a few isolated sales in yarns, at very low prices; grey shirtings are still quite neglected; in fancy cottons and woollens, with the exception of Turkey reds, there is little doing. Deliveries, however, it is satisfactory to note, have improved; and this may portend the commencement of more hopeful times.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds, 40 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.85 to 3.15
T. Cloth—7lb, 7 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2 00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.75 to 2.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3 75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0 15 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.28 to 0.41
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0 15 to 0 17
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.15 to 0 50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Elysia, 54 @ 56 inches	0 50 to 0 85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb. per pr.	0 50 to 0 60

	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 55 yards, 22 inches	7 75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0 60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.25 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.72½

COTTON YARNS

	per picul.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 2 60, Plain	61 00 to 63.00
Nos. 2 80, Plain	75 00 to 76.50
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99 00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	69 50 to 76 50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	114.00 to 124.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	17.45 —
Chinese	19.00 to 19.50

METALS.

A better feeling prevails, and dealers show some inclination to invest in new material.

	per piece.
Round and square ¼ inch. and upward	3.85 to 4 10
Iron Plates, assorted	4 00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4.90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5 90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5 75 to 5 95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2 08 to 2 10
Hoop Iron (¼ to ½ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

More firmness characterises the market and prices have an upward movement. The announcement of the enforcement of the new Tariff on the 1st January has made dealers show some disposition to buy for forward delivery.

American	$2 05 —
Russian	1.95 to 2.00
Langkat	— 1.85

SUGAR.

Prices of browns show but little change. Formosa products are 5 *sen* lower. White refined, for which there is a fair demand, shows no change in prices.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$4.70 to 4.75
Brown Manila	5.30 to 6.20
Brown Dailong	3.90 to 4.00
Brown Canton	3.60 to 5.60
White Java and Penang	6.70 to 7.50
White Refined	7.70 to 9.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The demand both for Europe and the United States has fallen off considerably and offers would probably be accepted at prices considerably below the published quotations. There is an unsold stock of 10,135 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den	$915 to 960
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, 11/13 deniers	905 to 915
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den	950 to 960

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Filatures—No. 1, 10/14 deniers	$890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1, 13/16, 14/17 den.	910 to 910
Filatures—No. 2 10/15 deniers	860 to 870
Filatures—No. 2, 13/18 deniers	900 to 910
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	880
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/16, 14/17 den.	855
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	830
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	880 to 890
Kakedas—No. 1	850 to 860
Kakedas—No. 1	
Kakedas—No. 2	810 to 820
Kakedas—No. 2	

WASTE SILK.

The market exhibits a trifle more activity. Prices are firm, but buyers are unwilling to come forward at the present quotations. The settlements of the past three weeks have amounted to 635 piculs. There is a stock of 8,165 piculs on hand.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$125 to 122½
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Oshu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	110 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

The demand has been gradually decreasing the last week or two, and prices are generally lower by one *yen*. Common and good medium grades secure most demand. There are 13,000 piculs in stock, and the amount still to come in from the country must be very large. The total settlements to date are 173,364 piculs, against 188,245 at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$34 & upwards
Choice	$32 to 33
Finest	30 to 31
Fine	[illegible] to 29
Good Medium	26 to 27
Medium	24 to 25
Good Common	22 to 23
Common	20 to 21

EXCHANGE.

Rates all remain steady in the absence of any news from abroad respecting silver or quotations in China.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0 9/16
— Bills on demand	2/0½
— 4 months' sight	2 0 9/16
Private 4 months' sight	2 0 11/16
— 6 months' sight	2 0 13/16
On Paris—Bank sight	2.56
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.50½
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50½
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07
— Private 4 months' sight	2.10½
On Hongkong—Bank sight	41 9/16 dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	5/16 dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	76½
— Private 10 days' sight	77½
On India—Bank sight	153
— Private 30 days' sight	156
On Silver (London) on 5th inst.	27½

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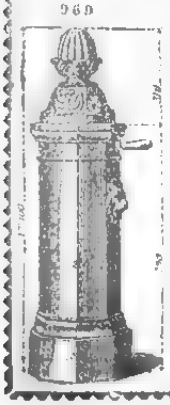

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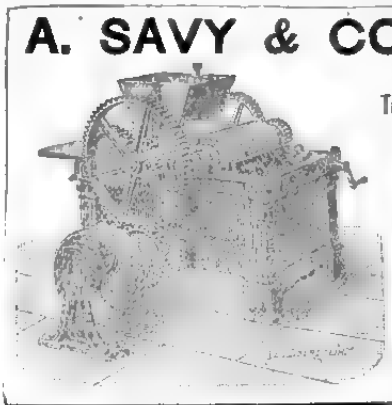

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCH QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, SEPT. 17TH, 1898.

BERTH.

On Sept. 12th, at Kanazawa, Kaga, the wife of the Rev. HARVEY BROKAW, of a daughter.

DEATH.

At the Shakespeare, Negishi, at 7 45 o'clock on the morning of Sept. 12 h, GEORGE PAUNCEFOTE, aged 78 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Dreyfus affair is again rending political and military France.

MARQUIS ITO has had a very cordial welcome at Tientsin. He is now at Peking.

THE damage done by the recent storm to the Toyokawa Railway is estimated at *yen* 10,000.

IT has been decided that the coming session of the Diet will be opened on the 5th November.

THE construction of a palace for the Crown Prince is now on the tapis, the estimated cost being *yen* 2,500,000. It will be completed within six years. The style adopted will be a mixture of Japanese and European.

THE Union Jack and the Egyptian Crescent have been hoisted on the palace at Khartoum.

GEORGE PAUNCEFOTE, a well known resident of Yokohama, died on Monday at the ripe age of 78 years.

THE cost of the scheme for constructing Mitsukado Harbour, Higo province, is estimated at *yen* 600,000.

THE amount of Loan Bonds purchased by the Bank of Japan up to last Saturday is estimated at about *yen* 34,000,000.

LAST Saturday the Empress of Austria was stabbed to death by an Italian Anarchist as she was leaving a launch on the lake of Geneva.

OWING to the urgent request of Admiral Dewey, the battleships *Iowa* and *Oregon*, accompanied by transports, will sail shortly for the Philippines.

THE Formosan Railway Company which still hungrily seeks foreign capital, is said to be now in communication with an engineering firm in France.

OWING to the recent storm, the tunnel of the Nankai Railway has broken down, and one workman named Tamura was killed and 11 injured.

SIR HERBERT KITCHENER telegraphs that 18,800 Dervishes were killed, 1,600 wounded, and 3 000 taken prisoner in the battle of Omdurman.

ON Thursday evening a series of "Gibson" Tableaux was given at the Public Hall, in aid of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. The house was crowded.

ON the 9th inst. an up-train on the Uyeno Railway ran over a man near Kamagai station. The victim was named Hara Isagoro, and lived at Kamagai.

THE Spanish Cortes have adopted the Peace Protocol after frantic scenes of vituperation against the Government, the Generals, and Admiral Cervera.

AN attempt to poison H.M. the Korean Emperor, the Crown Prince, and Lady An sang has been discovered. Lady Om-sang is suspected as the instigator of the plot.

IT is reported that the flood damages at Yamanashi amount to *yen* 200,000. At Nitazakimachi, in the same Prefecture, fifteen men and twenty-six women were drowned.

IT is reported that His Majesty will proceed on the 13th November to Osaka, where military manœuvres will take place from the 17th to the 19th. His Majesty will stay at Osaka Castle.

THE Emigrant Association intends to despatch about 3 300 emigrants to Hawaii during Sept. and October. On the 23rd inst. 700 and on the 25th inst. about 500 will be shipped.

THE steamer *Nippon Maru*, of the Toyo Steamship Company, has been completed at Sunderland and on the 8th inst. left for Japan. The steamer will arrive at Yokohama about the end of October.

OWING to the tragic death of the Empress of Austria, the proposed Jubilee celebrations in Vienna have been abandoned, and H.I.H. Prince Kanin, who was to have represented the Emperor of Japan, has been relieved of the

A SOLDIER named Yoshida Ihachi, 24 years of age, belonging to the Azabu Military Division, Tokyo, on the 11th committed suicide by shooting himself in camp. It is reported that he was in monetary distress.

ELEVEN Chinese students who were recently ordered to go though an educational course in Japan, arrived at Tokyo on the 8th instant. They took up their residence at the Koseikwan, Kobikicho, Kyobashi.

A WOMAN named Soma Riyo (28), wife of a naval engineer, living at Shiwoiri-cho, Yokosuka, committed suicide on the 9th inst. by cutting her throat with a large fish knife. Some neighbours had been circulating slanders respecting her.

ON the 10th at midnight the body of a man was found at Koganei village, Tokyo. There were several wounds on the corpse, which was found to be that of a farmer named Watanabe Shimakichi, aged 28. The police are investigating the matter.

THE British losses in the battle of Omdurman included 23 non-commissioned officers and men killed—whereof 19 belonged to the 21st Lancers—and 99 wounded. The Egyptian troops had 21 killed and 230 wounded. Twelve British officers were wounded.

MR. SHIMAMURA, the Minister to Honolulu, has been released from duty, and the Legation closed. The consulate which is to be established there will be under the charge of Mr. Sato Kan, at present Consul at Tacoma, who has already left Tacoma for his new position.

THE Hantan Railway Company intends to raise debentures to the amount of *yen* 360,000, the issue to be at 95 per *yen* 100 face value. Only *yen* 110,000 will be collected from the public, the 15th National Bank and the Kitahama Sumitomo Banks subscribing the rest.

THE report is confirmed that 600 Christians have been massacred in Candia. Admiral Noel has sent an ultimatum to the Governor to disarm the Mussulmans within 48 hours, deliver the ringleaders of the massacre, and surrender the forts commanding the British encampments.

IT is alleged that the reason why H E Li Hung-chang was released from the post of President of the Tsung-li Yamên is that Great Britain declined to open negotiations with the Yamên in presence of Li, by whom diplomatic secrets have always been divulged to the Russian Minister.

NEWS has reached Omdurman that a white force, believed to the French, is occupying Fashoda. Sir Herbert Kitchener is proceeding thither. The English newspapers comment seriously on this news, and all recall the declaration, made in the House of Commons by Sir E. Grey in 1895, that French interference on the Upper Nile would be regarded as an unfriendly act. Meanwhile the French press is jubilant at the presence of Frenchmen at Fashoda.

BUSINESS is still very slow in the import trade, though signs of an improvement are evident. Few transactions are reported in textiles, but the metal market shows a tendency to renewed activity, and the approach of winter is making the demand for kerosene more brisk. As regards exports the demand for raw silk appears to have fallen off, both for Europe and the States, and business is accordingly slack. The waste silk market is practically a blank. In sugar the usual steady trade is being done at prices practically at last week's level. The purchases of tea have fallen off, and in view of a large stock—nearly 1,000,000 catties show a tendency to decline.

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THE DEATH OF THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

The assassination of the Empress of AUSTRIA by an Italian Anarchist is the most shocking event that has occurred in Europe since the cruel murder of the Emperor of RUSSIA seventeen years ago. Her Majesty was in her sixty-first year. If anything were needed to add to the horror of the event, it is supplied by the age of the victim. No long time has passed since Europe had to mourn for a calamity which plunged the House of Hapsburg into the profoundest grief, and now this appalling catastrophe supervenes to fill the cup of sorrow. The ways of fate are always inscrutable, but certainly her mood seems more than commonly malignant when she deals such crushing blows to a SOVEREIGN who, during a long reign of fifty years, has constantly established new claims upon the respect of the world and the affection of his subjects. The pure wantonness of the crime makes it the more execrable and the more inexplicable. Even the most disordered imagination could not associate the Empress ELIZABETH with politics however remotely. What then are we to say of her assassination? Was it simply a blind and brutal display of the insanity which the fierce struggle for life is producing in modern Europe? Apparently that is the explanation. Philosophers may demonstrate the necessity of social inequality, but such subtle propositions are hard of discernment to brains numbed by toil and suffering, and so long as an immense interval separates the extremes of the scale of living, weak minds will be rendered dizzy by its contemplation. The mania called anarchy is that and only that. When the intelligence of such a barbarity is made public, men's first impulse is to wish that vengeance in some equally striking form should be wreaked on the assassin. But these mad protests against the existing order of things would only be encouraged by any straining of the criminal law to punish them. There have been five attempts, or seeming attempts, on the life of Queen VICTORIA, and in no instance was the death penalty inflicted. It is well said that the best protection sovereigns can have is not to exaggerate the danger to which they are exposed. The Emperor of AUSTRIA is too wise to lose sight of these considerations even in the moment of his supreme sorrow, which every nation of the civilized world sincerely shares.

THE "ASAHI."

The *Morning Sun*—not as euphonious a name as the Japanese *Asahi*, of which it is the translation—is to be a first-class line-of-battle ship of 15,443 tons—the monarch of the Japanese Navy—and 18 knots speed. She is being built at Lord Armstrong & Co.'s and Japanese journals say that she is progressing much more rapidly than her sistership, the *Shikishima*, which is being constructed at the Thames Iron Works, we believe. The crew for bringing out the big ship will be named at the end of November, and it is said that she will reach Japan in December, 1899.

THE TREATIES AND THE TARIFF.

The long period of doubt and uncertainty as to the date when the new Tariff would be put into operation is now at an end. The *Official Gazette* of the 10th instant contains Notifications to the effect that both the Statutory Tariff and the Conventional Tariff will go into effect from the 1st of January next. About two months ago, we referred to a special arrangement which the Austro-Hungarian Government had intimated its intention of making in order that the delay in exchanging the ratifications of the Revised Treaty with Japan might not have the effect of postponing the advantages accruing to the latter under its revised treaties with the other Western Powers. The Revised Treaty with Austria-Hungary was concluded on December 5th, 1897. Its discussion had occupied a very long time, owing to the persistent desire of the Government in Vienna that the Treaty should be accompanied by a special tariff, a concession which Japan was not disposed to make in view of the very insignificant dimensions of the trade between this country and Austria-Hungary. Finally, however, the wishes of the Vienna Foreign Office were complied with, and the Treaty, with the appended Tariff, having received the signatures of the High Contracting Parties, ratification remained the only necessary formality. But unfortunately, the domestic troubles in Austria-Hungary presented an obstacle to the smooth progress of events, and presently it became obvious that the consent of the parliaments in Vienna and Buda-Pest could not be obtained in time to allow the Japanese Government to issue a year's notice preliminary to the operation of the Treaties. July 27th, 1899, was the date fixed for the enforcement of the Treaties, provided that a year's previous notice were given by Japan. Consequently, unless the Austro-Hungarian Treaty was ratified, and unless the ratifications were exchanged, before July 17th, 1898, Japan would not be in a position to issue the required notice. It may appear at first sight that since July 17th, 1899, was, not the definitely fixed, but only the earliest date for giving effect to the Treaties, a simple solution of the difficulty caused by Austria-Hungary's delay would have been to postpone the issue of Japan's preliminary notice. But in the case of three of the Revised Treaties no latitude of that kind was provided: the 17th of July, 1899, had been fixed unconditionally as the date on which these particular Treaties should take effect. Hence if the Japanese Government had wished to make any postponement, a new arrangement must have been negotiated with the three Powers. It was to avert all such complications that the Emperor of Austria-Hungary consented to exercise his sovereign prerogative by giving binding force to the Treaty without Parliamentary ratification, and thus the Japanese Government was able to issue the necessary notice to the various Powers last July. As to the new Tariff, it might have been enforced from the close of last month, the periods of delay conceded to the various Powers having expired at that time. But the Austro-Hungarian Government stipulated that, in view of the special concession made by it, the operation of the Tariff should be postponed until January 1st, 1899, in order that Austro-Hungarian subjects might have due notice. The 1st of next January thus became the earliest date for enforcing the Tariff. A belief prevailed, however, that Japan's preparations would not be completed by that time, and that the date ultimately chosen would be April 1st, 1899, the beginning of the 32nd fiscal year of *Meiji*. But the Notifications issued on the 10th instant dispose of that idea. The Tariffs, statutory and conventional, are to go into force from January 1st. It is scarcely necessary to explain, perhaps, that by "statutory tariff" we mean the general tariff enacted by the Japanese Diet in 1897; and by "conventional tariff," the tariff negotiated with the Treaty Powers. The statutory tariff is applicable to commerce conducted by subjects or citizens of non-treaty States, and to any articles of treaty State commerce that are not covered by the conventional tariff. Copies of the conventional tariffs hitherto negotiated have already been published. The following is the text of the supplementary tariff appended to the Austro-Hungarian Treaty:—

DUTIES LEVIABLE ON AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN GOODS, &C. ENTERING JAPAN.

Kitchen utensils, plates, bowls, and other vessels made of enamelled iron or steel plates, either coloured or uncoloured...	per cent. 10
Lamps of various kinds, parts thereof made either of metal or glass, and appurtenances...	do.
Furniture made of bent wood	do.
Imitation Jewelry and gold and silver fancy articles	do.
Buttons of various kinds	do.
Glass ware, crystal glass, and glasses (excepting window glass)	do.
Insect-powder	5
Horses	free.

DUTIES LEVIABLE ON JAPANESE GOODS, &C. ENTERING AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

	Gold florins, per 100 kilo.
Silk cocoons & waste silk not made into yarn.	free.
Raw silk (reeled or twisted)...	do.
Silk waste (raw)	do.
Silk fabrics (undyed)	200
Straw braids (plain and unmixed)	2
Wall-paper	18
Porcelains:	
1 Plain	5
2. Dyed, decorated around the rim, painted, stencilled, gold or silver gilded	10
Unmanufactured copper (including pieces of old copper and waste thereof) ...free.	

We may add that a Notification has also been issued to the effect that although the ratifications of the Revised Treaty with Austria-Hungary have not been exchanged, a special arrangement between the High Contracting Parties enables the Treaty to be put into operation from July 7th, 1899—that is to say, the Treaty itself, not the Tariff referred to above. Our readers will probably find the subject somewhat confusing, but it becomes perfectly intelligible if two points are kept clearly in mind—first, that the date for the operation of the Tariff is quite independent of the date for the operation of the Treaties; secondly, that whereas some final arrangement with regard to the Treaty itself had to be come to with the Government in Vienna before July 17th, 1898, no necessity of the kind existed with regard to the Tariff. It is only fair to say that the action of the Austro-Hungarian Government in the final stages of this affair was friendly and considerate, but we can not persuade ourselves to think that an import trade of eighty-six thousand *yen* justified the Vienna Government in insisting on a special tariff in the first instance, and thus creating a lengthy delay with all its subsequent complications. It is true that Austria's import trade with

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Japan grew from twenty-four thousand *yen* in 1893 to eighty-six thousand in 1897, but if we examine the returns for the latter year, we find that among the articles on account of which special rates have now been solemnly fixed by convention between the two empires, lamps and their parts are represented by 2,082 *yen*, furniture by 1,553 *yen*, buttons by 2,105 *yen* and glass ware by 10,698 *yen*. Insect powder is not honoured with an independent heading by the Customs Authorities.

TAXATION MEASURES.

We gather from vernacular journals that a tendency to regard an increase of the Land Tax as inevitable shows signs of growing in official circles. Among the prominent advocates of the measure are now said to be counted Count Itagaki and Messrs. Hoshi, Hayashi, Matsuda, Taguchi, Kataoka, Haseba, Shimada, and Kashiwada. The fact is that the *sake* tax does not present such a wide margin for exploitation as some politicians seem to imagine. There are already signs of a large increase in the import of Chinese *samshu*, which, to vulgar palates, makes an excellent substitute for *sake* and has the advantage of being more intoxicating. There can be no manner of doubt that if the tax on *sake* be raised from 7 *yen* per *koku* to 12 *yen*, and if domestic brewing be interdicted as well as the brewing of unrefined *sake*, severe regulations being also enacted for controlling the manufacture of mixed *sake*—which is the programme of those that advocate recourse to the *sake* tax alone for meeting the deficiency in the revenue—, Chinese *samshu* will be poured into the country in large quantities, unless the import duty is heavily augmented. In short, the tariff will have to be radically altered in the matter of both alcohol and *samshu* if any considerable change is to be made in the *sake* tax.

Another point is that people may possibly take to drinking mulled claret instead of *sake*. The lower orders would doubtless be content with mixed *sake*, if they could get it, for it can be made from alcohol at a comparatively low price, and they would also be content with Chinese *samshu*, but we do not see why the upper classes should not gradually substitute mulled claret for refined *sake*, if the latter be heavily taxed. Mr. Sone, the former Minister of Justice, recently referred to this point. A barrel (*taru*) of *sake* contains a little more than 3 *to*, and consequently 3 barrels go to the *koku*. Now the cost of a barrel of Nada *sake* is about 19 *yen* in Tokyo, and if the tax be 12 *yen* a *koku*, the barrel must be sold for 23 *yen*, or 21 *yen* at the very lowest; say, 50 francs. But a barrel of claret, running 280 bottles, can be bought in France for 60 or 70 francs, and if duty and freight, &c., be added, we may safely say that a very fair claret can be laid down here for 100 francs a barrel, or 15 *sen* a bottle, which is very much less than refined *sake* would cost were the duty raised to 12 *yen* per *koku*.

Meanwhile the tobacco monopoly is proving a signal failure. We have so often written about this question that we hesitate to speak of it again. In truth it was a matter of very simple arithmetic to show that unless the duty on imported tobacco could be raised to 150 or 200 per cent., the prices that the Government intended to charge for the home grown leaf under the monopoly—the prices that it would ultimately be necessary to charge if the expensive, clumsy system of a monopoly were adhered to—could not possibly be obtained, since Chinese and other foreign tobacco would drive the domestic article out of the market. That is what is happening now. The tobacco imported during the first half of the current year aggregated 13 million *yen*, and the leaf offered by the official monopolists is simply out of the competition. Thus the country has been committed to a heavy capital outlay, and instead of the revenue's being augmented by eight million *yen*, it is doubtful whether an actual loss will not be incurred. There is time still to turn to the simple and thoroughly practical English system of passing all the tobacco through the Government storehouses and levying a fixed sum on it in transit. Under the monopoly a charge of at least 25 *sen* per lb. must be made in order to cover the heavy expenses incurred and leave a substantial profit, whereas under the English system a charge of 12 *sen* per pound should yield a revenue of from 9 to 10 million *yen*.

A POLICE MISTAKE.

Mr. Carl Ginter, a German resident of Yokohama, tells the following story on Saturday afternoon. He was peacefully watching the cricket match when a detective tapped him on the shoulder, and told him he was "wanted" by the police. Mr. Ginter, asked for an explanation and demanded to see the warrant for his arrest. This request, however, was declined, and the constable who accompanied the detective proceeded to take him into custody and to march him, protesting vigorously, in the direction of the Police Station. Mr. Ginter asked to be allowed to go to Messrs. Raspe & Co.'s, where he said he would be at once identified, and the mistake found out. This was refused, and, despite all his protests, Mr. Ginter was hurried along by the constables, who, it is alleged, used a quite unnecessary amount of force. They were followed by some coolies, who acted as a sort of bodyguard. According to Mr. Ginter's story one of the policemen who was holding him gripped him in a way that caused considerable pain and he, by a vigorous twist, freed himself from his captors. Thereupon a shout was raised, and the policemen and coolies rushed forward to seize him, the unfortunate European receiving a blow from an umbrella and several other equally unpleasant attentions from the coolies. He was finally recaptured, and the rest of the journey to the station was without incident of note. When arrived there the Chief Inspector informed him that his arrest was a mistake, and apologized for the inconvenience caused him. This is the European's account of the affair.

That one side of a story is good until the other has been heard, is well illustrated by the recent arrest of a German subject in the Public Garden. According to to the accounts published, the arrested man suffered the most grievous wrongs. When peacefully watching a cricket match, he was apprehended by the police who, refusing to give him any information about the cause of his arrest or to display their warrant, marched him off to the station, using brutal and unnecessary violence *en route* and neither paying any attention to his explanations nor listening to his request to be taken to a place where he could be identified. But the version of the police is very different. They say that their attention was drawn to the man in the first instance by his obstreperous and unseemly behaviour; that, on observing him closely, they believed him to be a German sailor for whose arrest they had a warrant; that on asking him whether he belonged to a ship, they received a most insulting answer; that they invited him to proceed quietly to the station; that he defied them to take him there; that no sooner did they touch him than he struck one of them in the face; that he was shown the warrant at the outset, and that, on arriving at the station, he refused to give his name and address and became most abusive. On which side the whole truth lies we are unable to judge, but we do not hesitate to say that the story, as first published, was a little too highly coloured. It represented the police in a light to which their general conduct has not accustomed us.

Truly it is too silly that every incident of this kind should be made an occasion for pinning another rag on the scarecrow of Treaty Revision. Whatever inconvenience or apparent injustice a foreigner suffers is immediately pointed to by the prophets of evil as an example of the horrors to which we shall all be exposed after the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. That sort of pessimism has become so hackneyed and has always been so irrational that even the leaders of the hue and cry should have grown tired and ashamed of it long ago. If the prejudice by which the critics are governed were even fractionally shared by the Japanese authorities, if the distrust and antipathy shown on one side did not immensely exceed the resentment and soreness felt by the other, there might be some reason for uneasiness. But the Japanese, despite the rude and truculent behaviour of a few coolies and students, are not really swayed by a desire to "get even" with the foreigner; and even if they were, the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction will not supply any new occasion for satisfying the wish. They would be more than human, indeed, were they not pretty weary of the reproaches perpetually cast in their teeth, from the biassed accusations of treaty-port journals to the discourteous injustice of memorialists who do not hesitate to proclaim that the Japanese Government can not be trusted beyond the limits of strict conventional restraint. It was under the influence of that natural impatience, we presume, that the *Japan Times* recently protested against the iterated and reiterated newspaper denunciations of Japanese mercantile morality. Criticism becomes unwholesome and mischievous when carried to such excesses that it betrays the critic's bias. Has not the time arrived for a little respite from these monotonous vaticinations about the pains that are in store for us after July 17th? What can be the use of crying out before we are hurt, unless, indeed, the object is to create a mood so morbidly sensitive and apprehensive as to preclude all chances of smooth relations?

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THE KOBE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF LAND IN JAPAN.

In the last issue of the *Keizai Zasshi* we find an account of the communications that have passed between the Foreign and Japanese Chambers of Commerce in Kobe with reference to the ownership of land by aliens in Japan. The Foreign Chamber assumed from the outset, and maintained to the last, the ground that unless aliens were allowed to own land and to become directors in Japanese Companies, no influx of foreign capital could be expected. The Japanese Chamber replied that, as to the ownership of land, it could not be effected except by a change of the law, and as to the question of directorship, no difficulty would present itself after the Revised Treaties went into operation. Meanwhile, since capital was urgently needed in Japan, the Chamber proposed that a bank should be established with foreign capital, the management to be in Japanese hands and foreigners to act as advisers. The Foreign Chamber expressed approval of the idea, but explained that to put it into immediate practice would be difficult, seeing that all the capital available for such a purpose was locked up in imported goods which had accumulated to an enormous degree owing to the failure of Japanese merchants to take delivery. If steps were promptly taken to correct that state of affairs, the bank project might be favorably considered, but the Chamber remained convinced that no really satisfactory result could be attained unless the privilege of owning land were conferred on foreigners.

The *Keizai Zasshi*, commenting on the above, says, in effect, that it sees no reason to take any step in the direction indicated by the Foreign Chamber. Not that the *Keizai* is opposed to the ownership of land by aliens. On the contrary, it expresses itself as emphatically in favour of granting that privilege, and would have the law amended without delay. But, so far as the influx of foreign capital is concerned, our contemporary fails to perceive what special effect the ownership of land could have one way or the other. The Kobe Chamber of Commerce does not, of course, suggest any immediate step with respect to this privilege. The foreign contention refers solely to the period subsequent to the operation of the Revised Treaties. What is claimed is that, under the system which those documents are intended to inaugurate, the conditions as to land tenure will not be such as to permit the introduction of foreign capital. Now, in the first place, although foreigners may not become land-owners, the Revised Treaties give them the right of acquiring mortgages on land, and, if land is to be taken as security for a loan, a mortgage is all that a creditor requires. In point of fact, immovable property is not a favorite form of security anywhere, but, apart from that consideration, the foreign capitalist labours under no disability if he wants to lend money on the security of land. In the second place, if the question turns on the investment of capital in industrial enterprises, there is no obstacle, for even without taking account of the long lease called *chijoken*, which is expressly designed to meet the case of factories, warehouses, or dwellings erected on hired land, there is the Treaty provision which entitles any business association of foreigners, or of foreigners and Japanese in combination, to obtain the status of a judicial person in Japan, and in that capacity to own as much land as may be desired. Finally, after the Revised Treaties go into operation, foreigners will of course be competent to become managing directors in Japanese companies. Therefore the *Keizai* thinks that as a period of ten months alone separates us from the date of the Treaties' going into effect, the best plan for all parties is to wait patiently.

There is a great deal of force, as it seems to us, in what the *Keizai* writes. But we submit two points for its consideration. The first is that a mortgage which does not carry with it right of possessing the thing mortgaged can not be regarded as thoroughly satisfactory security. That is especially true in the case of land. If the sale of the land has necessarily to follow immediately on the foreclosure of the mortgage, the mortgagee may find it very difficult to realize. It is true that a mortgage creditor is entitled to obtain satisfaction from any other property of his debtor should the sum accruing from the sale of the mortgaged immovable prove insufficient. But no lengthy argument is needed to show that a mortgage not including the right of possession greatly impairs the value of an immovable as security for a debt. The second point to which we invite the *Keizai's* attention is that the privileges attaching to the *chijoken* (superficies) and the *hojin* (judicial person), whatever character they may bear in the eyes of learned jurists, do not appeal directly to the understanding of the everyday individual. He feels perplexed and suspicious in the presence of such technical novelties, and he naturally asks why, if leases for two or three hundred years are to be permitted, and if ownership may be obtained by persons associated in business—why should not the far simpler and more intelligible form of tenure, namely proprietorship, be allowed. We believe that it will be greatly for the advantage of the Japanese to recognise these facts as soon as possible. They should do everything in their power to invite the confidence of foreign investors and to simplify the conditions of investment. The arrangements as to *chijoken* and *hojin* are very good, but the average foreigner, being quite unfamiliar with them, can not divest himself of some distrust as to the genuineness of their value.

THE FORMOSA RAILWAY.

The prospects of the Formosa Railway grew more and more obscure. On the 9th instant, the promoters held a meeting, when it was reported that the negotiations for foreign capital to build the line had virtually fallen through. Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi than expressed himself very strongly to the effect that to persist in an enterprise which they saw no hope of carrying to successful completion was foolish and unpractical, and that, in his opinion, they should at once dissolve the company. Some of the other promoters, however, urged that an alternative means of procuring capital still remained to be tried, and that no final step in the sense of dissolution should be taken pending a last effort. On that understanding the meeting was adjourned, but the Company's horizon is about as black as it could be.

A SECTIONAL ASSERTION OF OPINION.

We heard a great deal about Mr. Hoshi Toru when he was *en route* from Washington to Tokyo, but those who imagined that his return would be the signal for a political hurricane found themselves mistaken. Mr. Hoshi spoke with bated breath and declared that he had come to support the Cabinet as an outsider, not to force his way into its ranks. Still his return has evidently stiffened the backbone of the Kwanto Liberals whose leader he is. They held a meeting in the Kaikatei on the 6th instant, and came to the conclusion that application should be made for the summoning of an extraordinary general meeting of the Constitutional Party, in order to submit to it the following questions:—First, that since many "clan elements" remain in the central as well as in the Provincial Governments, determined steps to eliminate them must be taken at once. Secondly, that the Regulations for the Appointment of Officials ought to be abolished *in toto*. Thirdly, that the Departments of War and of the Navy must be brought within the same financial control as all the other offices of State. And fourthly, that a council should be appointed in order to complete the machinery of the Party.

These proposals are excellently calculated to produce a rupture in the Party, if they really have the earnest support of the Kwanto Section, and inasmuch as the latter has appointed an operative committee of ten to propagate its ideas, we must assume that it is not merely sending up a trial balloon. The wholesale elimination of the "clan elements" might be popular with the rank and file of the Constitutionalists, but the leaders of the Party—responsible statesmen like Counts Okuma and Itagaki—must be well aware that such heroic measures would completely discredit them in the eyes of the nation. The same remark applies with even greater force to the repeal of the Regulations for Official Appointments. The result of that step would be to bring all official appointments within the gift of the Cabinet Ministers, abolishing *in toto* the educational qualifications now required. Nothing could be more retrogressive. The so-called "Clan Statesmen" reduced the abuses of favoritism and patronage almost to a minimum when they introduced the system of appointment by examination, and if the Party Statesmen remove that safeguard, they will be deliberately re-opening the door to the very evils which they have always professed themselves so anxious to remove. We can not believe that the Kwanto politicians contemplate anything so suicidal, or would think of seceding from the Constitutional Party on such a platform.

ASSETLESS CHEQUES.

It is a curious thing that since the Japanese law for dealing with persons who circulate cheques which they know to be valueless, was promulgated in 1894, the number of offences of that nature has increased rather than diminished. The figures stand thus, according to the *Yomiuri Shimbun*:

	Persons offending.	Number of cheques.	Amount involved.
1895	12	17	2,020 *yen.*
1896	8	25	4.194 "
1897	66	101	62,553 "
1898 (to end of Aug.)	67	79	54.961 "

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THE STORM.

The track of the recent storm lay through populous and prosperous districts of the country, and the havoc wrought by it has been correspondingly serious. Aichi Prefecture seems to have suffered most, as might have been expected, seeing that the tempest entered the mainland at Hamamatsu. The record for that prefecture alone is 35 houses washed away, 1,195 overthrown, 172 partially overthrown, 412 injured, and 5,578 inundated; 7 lives lost, embankments broken in 78 places, and arable land flooded to the extent of 11,825 acres. Chiba Prefecture, although it lay on the edge of the storm, suffered from heavy floods in the Tone and Yedo rivers, so that 1,165 houses were inundated, and 4,492 acres laid under water. Higher up also, the big Tone-gawa worked much mischief. In the Shimotsuga District (near Utsunomiya) it swept over its banks and the current, turning back, as it generally does in that region, laid a large expanse of country under water. The purifying reservoir of the Ashiwo Copper Mine was destroyed, and we shall doubtless hear another piteous tale of lands rendered barren by the poison. In Kofu Prefecture, 133 lives were lost—the heaviest record of all—and many houses and banks are reported to be destroyed as well as fields inundated, but exact figures are not given. Niigata suffered grievously. Twenty-six lives were lost; 128 houses were washed away, 948 injured and 6,000 inundated. From Nagano Prefecture "many dead" are reported, and in Hakodate and its environs 2,130 houses were inundated. Other parts of Hokkaido must also have suffered severely, but only 86 deaths are reported. Adding together all the figures thus far received, we obtain these results:—

Deaths	250
Houses swept away	164
Houses overthrown	1,195
Houses partially overthrown	1,460
Houses inundated	15,597
Banks broken	78
Arable lands inundated	15,317 acres

The last figure is undoubtedly much below the mark, as in some instances no attempt has been made to estimate the area under water.

On the 10th instant the Meteorological Authorities published a statement to the effect that, although their usual sources of intelligence were, for the most part, closed by the injury done to the telegraphs, they gathered that the atmospheric conditions throughout the country were disquieting, and that, although a short spell of fine weather might be expected, another storm was not unlikely to be felt in a few days. On the 12th instant, this warning was supplemented by a statement that low barometrical readings were reported from the south of Korea, from Riukiu and Hokkaido. In the case of Korea and the Riukiu Islands, however, there did not appear to be much reason for apprehension, but the Hokkaido depression suggested unpleasant consequences. This forecast seems well founded, if we may judge from present appearances.

Various statements, more or less contradictory, have been published with regard to the Banyu River and the possibility of crossing. Our Tokyo contemporaries unanimously alleged, in their issues of the 12th instant, that the river became impassable by boat on the 12th instant, and that all traffic by the Tokaido was suspended from that day. We presume that for some hours on the 12th the river was too heavily flooded for crossing by boat, but the interruption certainly did not continue long, for we have spoken with travellers who came through from Kodzu on the 13th and the 14th. The Railway bridge over the Banyu is badly injured—it is said that two of the pillars require partial re-building—, and several days will probably elapse before trains can pass. But, in the meanwhile, there is a service of boats. Passengers have to alight at Hiratsuka and find their way to the bank of the river either on foot, by carriage, or by boat. No difficulty is experienced in crossing, and a short walk on the other side brings one within reach of some means of conveyance to Chigasaki, where the train can be again taken. Japanese travellers complain bitterly of the failure of the police to exercise proper supervision during the early days of the ferrying operations. In the absence of all control, the boatsmen resorted to gross extortion and even intimidation. In one case it is alleged that a boat was stopped in mid-stream, and the voyage was not resumed until the passengers had paid up three *yen*. The sum is not appalling, but the method of obtaining it may have been disgreeable. Order has since been established.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF WHAT?

It has been suggested that an international exhibition in Tokyo should be organized in 1902, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Japan. Never yet did a suggestion of that nature find its way into print without provoking some criticism. The objection raised on this occasion seems to us not wholly unreasonable. It is that the credit of introducing Japan to the world should not be given to Commodore Perry. Others countries had preceded him in endeavouring to make her emerge from her isolation. Perry came on March 6th, 1853, and went away on March 12th. A much more memorable event happened in that year, namely, the rescinding of the edict against sea-going ships. That was Japan's real emergence from her seclusion. The year 1902 will therefore be the 50th anniversary of her re-establishing communications with the outer world, not of the coming of Commodore Perry. Perry did not come here for Japan's sake. Not one little bit. If the plain truth be spoken, he came to force Japan to do a thing which she greatly objected to do, and his act was prompted, not by the smallest solicitude for Japan's welfare, but simply by a desire to benefit America. From an outsider's point of view, the Commodore's coming may seem to have been a very fine thing for Japan; from Japan's point of view the treaty that she was compelled by *force majeure* to sign can only be regarded as a national humiliation. The exponents of that view, headed by the *Nippon*, are strongly in favour of marking 1903 by an international exhibition, but they propose to call it "the celebration of the 50th aniniversary of the re-opening of communications." The argument will appeal to many minds. We ourselves have not the smallest faith in sentiments founded on unreal bases. Only an unthinking Japanese can regard Perry's coming and the course adopted by him as a fitting cause for national rejoicing. We celebrate our recovery from a malady, not the fact that a physician administered to us some doses of very nasty medicine. But, after all, has there been any talk of a great national fête to commemorate Perry's advent? We have not heard it. What we have heard is a proposal to commemorate the opening of Japan. Whether that was accomplished by the coming of a foreign envoy or by the signing of a treaty or by sanctioning the construction of sea-going ships, is not a question under discussion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION.

It is alleged that Mr. Ozaki Yukio has tendered his resignation. The statement does not come from an Opposition journal, but from the Liberal organ (*Tokyo Shimbun*). The Minister of Education is said to have visited Count Okuma on the 5th instant, and expressed a desire to give up his portfolio on the ground that he felt himself unworthy of, and unsuited for, the office. He explained that he would never have thought of soliciting, still less of claiming, such an honour, inasmuch as he was fully sensible that many members of the Party were much better entitled to it than he, but when he found that his name had been included among those of the men selected by the General Committee for recommendation to the Emperor, he had been unwilling to make himself exceptional by declining. Of course Count Okuma endeavoured to remove his scruples, but he is said to have remained firm in his purpose.

The above rumour is confirmed by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Chiuo Shimbun*. Indeed, it was published by those two journals on the 7th instant—that is to say, the day before it appeared in the columns of the *Tokyo Shimbun*—but as they are both Opposition papers, we did not attach credence to the story. The *Nippon*, an independent journal, denies it altogether, and we sincerely hope that the denial is correct. Mr. Ozaki, during his brief tenure of office, has proved himself not merely a man of exceptional ability—that he was always known to be—but a statesman of most liberal and enlightened convictions, with all the courage of them. It is not for that reason, however, that his resignation would be particularly regrettable, but because the public could not fail to attribute it to a cause so paltry that to attach any serious importance to it would make the nation ridiculous. The newspapers giving vogue to the rumour frankly, assert that Mr. Ozaki's reason is his unwillingness to increase the difficulties of the cabinet by saddling it with the unpopularity of his recent reference to a republic in Japan. A section of the House of Peers is understood to have taken up that question somewhat vehemently, and as the relations between the Ministry and the Peers are already of a nature to render the legislative outlook decidedly gloomy, the Minister of Education thinks it right to sacrifice himself rather than increase the tension. One can admire such a spirit on the part of Mr. Ozaki, while doubting very strongly whether, as a public man, he is justified in seeming to attach any value whatever to such a farcical

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pretext as that of which some of the Peers are supposed to be making political capital. What Mr. Ozaki said was that the sway of money had become more potent in Japan than even in the so-called home of plutocracy, America, for while the Americans never think of making a Gould or a Vanderbilt President, the Japanese, if they had a republic, would probably place an Iwasaki or a Mitsui in the Presidential chair. If that be counted a disloyal utterance, or regarded as displaying disrespect to the Emperor, we can only say that the sentiment of reverence towards the Throne has become morbidly diseased, and that men like Mr. Ozaki should endeavour to correct it rather than defer to it.

YOKOHAMA'S COMMERCE.

The Commissioner of Customs at Yokohama has made some interesting comments on the present and future of the port's commerce. The excess of imports, he says, during the first six months of this year, aggregated 27,614,164 *yen*, whereas, during the corresponding period last year, the balance swung the other way, exports exceeding imports by 2,932,414 *yen*. The statement may perhaps surprise some of our readers, but the fact is that the trade of Kobe, not the trade of Yokohama, was responsible last year for the heavy balance against Japan. The total value of Yokohama's trade was 177 million *yen*, in round numbers, and the total value of Kobe's trade, 161 millions, but while the imports at Kobe exceeded the exports by nearly 60 million *yen*, the exports from Yokohama exceeded the imports by 3½ millions. This year, however, a portion of the very large balance against Japan stands to Yokohama's account. The unfavourable feature of the commerce was, not that exports increased, in the January-June period, by 22½ million *yen* —that is a matter for congratulation rather than regret—, but that the bulk of the exports diminished by nearly 8 millions. After May, however, signs of improvement began to show themselves in the export trade, whereas the import trade plainly commenced to suffer from the general tightness in the money market and the paralysis that overtook all enterprises, while, at the same time, the prospect of a fine harvest at home checked the inflow of foreign rice. The Superintendent says that at one time the glut of imported goods was enormous. It seemed almost impossible that they could be worked off. But gradually the stock was diminished, and daylight is now visible. The fault lay primarily with Japanese merchants, who, unless they can see their way clearly to a profit, are always reluctant to implement their contracts by taking delivery of goods. Foreign traders, however, probably showed an over-sanguine trustfulness, and will be more cautious in future. Mr. Mizukami ridicules the notion that large imports have been made, or will be made, in anticipation of the operation of the new Tariff. He says that the interest on money is much too high to permit anything of that kind, but we find difficulty in following his argument, for a respectable foreign merchant does not pay more than 8 per cent. for accommodation, and if, by anticipating the Tariff, he had to lose three months' interest—or 2 per cent.—he might stand to gain 5, 10, or even 15 per cent. by avoiding the increased duties. However, it is doubtless true, as the Superintendent remarks, that when business is brisk, an increase of duty within certain limits has little, if any, effect upon demand. Mr. Mizukami deprecates the Government's policy of purchasing bonds. He thinks that it has the effect of checking the decline of prices to a normal level, and that the wiser plan would be to let things take their uninterrupted course.

DISTURBANCE IN KOSUGE PRISON.

A serious fracas between warders and prisoners occurred on the 9th instant in the jail at Kosuge, a suburb of Tokyo. The origin of the trouble is somewhat obscure, but it would appear that two or three of the convicts harboured some grudge against a warder called Sugi Seizaki. One of them engaged him in conversation and another, approaching from behind, knocked him down with a spade. In the commotion that ensued, a convict under sentence for robbery and manslaughter obtained possession of the warden's sword and struck him with such effect that his left arm was nearly severed at the shoulder. Several warders who came to the assistance of their comrade were ultimately obliged to draw their swords, and the convict who had wounded Sugi received an ugly gash in the affray. The unfortunate warder's life is despaired of.

DYSENTERY.

August is the fatal month of the year *par excellence* when dysentery is in the field. Last year, the number of cases from January to July was 8,633, and the number during the month of August 33,443, making a total of 42,126. This year, the corresponding figures are 14,998, 28,115 and 43,113 respectively. Judging by the records for the first seven months, August of the current year should have been much more disastrous than August, 1897. In fact, had the proportion of 1897 held in 1898, there should have been 58,187 cases in August, instead of only 28,115. It appears to be thought that the comparatively favourable record is due to the great exertions of the Sanitary Authorities—a reasonable theory, for, judging by Tokyo, the hygienic precautions adopted are most thorough. Yamagata, Nagano and Niigata Prefectures are suffering most at present, but there are happily signs of a diminution everywhere.

THE SÖUL FUSAN RAILWAY.

Particulars of the charter granted by the Korean Government for the construction of the Söul-Fusan Railway have been communicated by telegraph to the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. The conditions are these :—(1) That the work of construction must be commenced within three years. (2) That the building must be finished within 15 years. (3) That the concession must not be sold except to the Government of Japan, or the Government of Korea, or to Japanese or Korean subjects. (4) That Korean subjects shall have the privilege of becoming shareholders. (5) That the Korean Government shall have the right to purchase the road should the finances of the State permit. (6) That all other conditions shall be identical with those operative in the case of the Söul-Chemulpo line.

STREET RAILWAYS IN TOKYO.

Referring, some time ago, to the matter of street railways in Tokyo, we noted that the Tokyo Municipality had decided to take up the work itself, it being understeed that the Central Government also was in favour of that course, rather than of abandoning such enterprises to private initiative. We read now, in vernacular newspapers, that application for a charter was recently presented by the Municipal Council to the Minister of Home Affairs, and that Count Itagaki has rejected it as irregular. Such a *dénouement* naturally creates some astonishment, but the explanation appears simple enough. The fact is that the Home Department's competence to grant applications of the kind is not unlimited. If the motive power employed in the projected system be electricity, the right to give permission is restricted to the Department of Communications, by regulations enacted only last year. Hence as the applicants failed to specify the exact nature of their scheme, the Home Department was, of course, unable to grant to them a charter which would have conferred the general privilege of building and working any and every kind of line. They are not a little laughed at for their ineptitude in disabling themselves by ignorance of a fundamental technicality, and it seems to be thought that there is no way of retrieving the error. The latter conclusion, however, is evidently extravagant. We presume that Tokyo will emerge, some day or other, from the unprogressive slough in which it has wallowed for so many years. This blunder of the Municipal Council helps to explain the perpetual deadlock.

It appears that the Municipal Council of Tokyo did not bungle quite so badly as was originally supposed in the matter of their application for permission to build street railways. They stated clearly enough that the system they proposed to adopted was atmospheric, but they failed to furnish the details required by regulation, and when the Home Department asked them for fuller particulars, they were only able to reply that they had transmitted *verbatim* the resolution passed by the City Assembly. It will be necessary for the Assembly to develop a more practical mood, and doubtless the next attempt made by the Council will succeed.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

All the vernacular journals report that Mr. Komura, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, is to go as Japan's Representative to Washington, and that he will be succeeded at the Foreign Office by Dr. Hatoyama Kazuo. They add that Dr. Hatoyama does not accept the post of Vice-Minister unconditionally. He has been promised the position of Ambassador to an European Court. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* makes a different statement: it alleges that he is to have a portfolio by and by. With regard to the former rumour, it is to be observed that Japan has no Ambassadors in Europe, and that she is very unlikely to send any unless the European Powers also accredit Ambassadors to her Court.

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COUNT OKUMA'S PARTY.

Count Okuma's *séance* on the 12th instant was by no means so solemn an affair as some of the published accounts suggest. The object seems to have been quite frankly indicated. It was to establish good relations with the members of the House of Peers and to avert the collision which seems not unlikely to occur next session between the two Houses. About a hundred and ten persons attended. The number is alleged to have been only half of those invited, but whether the smallness of the response is to be considered significant we do not know. Count Okuma spoke with his usual eloquence and directness. Eight years, he said, had passed since the Diet came into existence, and throughout the whole time collisions between the Administration and the Legislature had been frequent. Again and again the Diet had been dissolved, and five times the ministry had been changed, greatly to the detriment of the national interests and the discharge of State business. He himself had been called to office at a time when the administration was more or less dislocated and the finances out of order, yet, though sensible of his inability, he had not ventured to escape the responsibility and had the firm resolve to work to the utmost of his capacities. Happily the disposition of the House of Representatives was favourable, and no apprehension need be entertained of any repetition of past troubles. But—and here the Count spoke with great emphasis—a collision with the House of Peers might have the same fatal effect in impeding the progress of public business as a collision with the House of Representatives. That contingency caused him much concern. It had been his desire to submit all the Government's intentions for the consideration and approval of the Peers, but to his great regret so many matters had called for urgent attention during his still-brief tenure of office, that no such step had hitherto been possible. The opening of the session was now close at hand, but nevertheless an interval remained, and he intended to utilize it for placing before them the drafts of all the Government's Bills and discussing their details. On the other hand, he trusted that if they had any proposals to make, they would formulate them without reserve, for he undertook, on his side, to give them the fullest consideration as bases of reform.

The Premier's speech, it will be seen, was very much to the point, and is said to have produced an excellent effect. Only one person thought of replying to it, and that was Professor Toyama. As usual he framed his remarks so that the strain of irony underlying them was apparent only to the shrewdest of his hearers. Marquis Ito, he said, had handed over the Administration to the political parties, thereby running counter to the views of all his friends and partizans, and for thus severing himself from his followers he had been compared by the *Mainichi Shimbun* to Sir Robert Peel. If the comparison held in Marquis Ito's case, then Count Okuma might be likened to Lord Grey. Grey had organized his cabinet with Russell, Brougham, Durham, and so forth, and had undertaken a large scheme of reform, which involved first an appeal to the country and then a collision with the House of Lords. But Grey's manner of dealing with the Lords was conclusive. He created a sufficient number of new peers to secure a majority for his measure. Why should not Count Okuma follow that precedent? Japan needed reform now more than England needed it in Grey's time. Besides, there were ample reasons for creating new peers. Count Okuma ought to take his courage in both hands and do the thing boldly. The Professor declared himself able to indicate several suitable recipients of such a distinction. There was Mr. Mayejima, for example, who had rendered such good service in connection with navigation, and there was Mr. Yano Fumio, who had all the mien of a peer. Lord Grey's device was the best exit from the dilemma.

While the Professor's hearers were looking at one another uncertain how to receive his speech, Count Okuma replied laughingly that although he had been advised to do as Peel had done, no one had previously recommended him to follow Grey's example. Many good people urged him to adopt the policy of increasing the Land Tax, in spite of his Party's objection, just as Peel had repealed the Corn Laws in the teeth of Conservative opposition, but he found himself unable to be even a Peel. How was it to be expected, then, that he could be a Grey?

The Professor, of course, had his reply ready, and would have spoken again, but Baron Suzuki interfered, suggesting that they had not met for the purpose of debating. Thereat the Professor turned on him and said:—"Quite so. It's all very fine for you who are the happy possessor of a Baron's patent. You may have nothing to say. But remember that I am not so fortunately circumstanced."

THE RICE CROP.

Just before the recent storm, an estimate of the probable yield of rice this year was made by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Collating the reports received from the various producing districts, the Department arrived at the conclusion that the crop would amount to 45,760,000 *koku*, which is 12,760,000 *koku* greater than last year's yield—that is to say, an increase of 38.69 per cent.—and 7,200,000 *koku*, or 18.68 per cent. greater than the average crop of the past seven years (the average is calculated by omitting the best year and the worst in the seven, and considering the remaining five only). This estimate will be more or less disturbed by the storm, but it is not expected that there will be any very great difference; certainly not enough to reduce the crop to 40 million *koku*. Forty million *koku* would still be 7 millions more than last year, and 7 million *koku* of rice represents at least 90 million *yen*. The agricultural classes ought to find themselves prosperous this fall, though the crops of millet and cotton have suffered severely.

THE PURCHASE OF LOAN BONDS.

The Bank of Japan continues its purchases of Loan Bonds. Sellers have become very scarce, however. In Tokyo they are practically *nil*, but applications still continue to be received on a small scale from country districts. Up to the 9th instant, the total purchases effected by the Bank were 35 million *yen*. It is stated that the Government intends to continue the policy in order to maintain the market price of the Bonds at 96, which is the minimum figure paid by the Bank.

COURT MOURNING.

It is now evident that the Court of Japan does not intend to go into mourning for the Empress of Austria. We can not be surprised that such a resolve has been taken. When the Empress Dowager Yeisho died last year, the only European Court that observed the ceremonial customary on such occasions where friendly States are concerned was the Court of Madrid. It was well understood that the Emperor and Empress of Japan were considerably pained by such neglect, especially as the Japanese Court had punctiliously discharged its duty towards European Courts in this respect. Some attempt was made to rebut the charge of discourtesy naturally preferred on Japan's behalf—preferred, not by the Court, of course, not yet officially, but by public opinion. The excuse offered was that the Japanese had themselves to blame, since, when about to announce mourning for European Royal or Imperial personages, they had failed to stipulate for a reciprocal mark of respect from the Court concerned, should occasion arise. Perhaps the Japanese code of politeness does not contemplate such stipulations. This country's conception of civility, we imagine, is that the right thing should be done without bargaining for a return. At all events, the plain facts are that, between 1881 and 1886, the Japanese Court went into mourning twelve times for European potentates, and that when the Empress Dowager of Japan died in 1897, not one European Court, except that of Spain, showed a corresponding mark of respect. Two out of the twelve acts of mourning had been on account of the Austrian Court; one for the death of the Crown Prince in 1889, and one for the death of the Arch-Duke Charles in 1896. Yet the Austrian Court failed to pay similar respect to the memory of the Empress Dowager Yeisho. It was very natural, therefore, that Japan should have hesitated on the present occasion. We say "hesitated" advisedly, for, after she had uniformly, throughout a period of 15 years, afforded practical proof of her readiness to comply with the dictates of civilized etiquette, it is not to be supposed that her one experience last year would have finally deterred her from further observance of the graceful custom. She would assuredly have adopted the same course on the present occasion had she been duly approached, though she might be unwilling to adopt it without some assurance that no repetition of last year's neglect should be practised towards herself. We are driven to conclude, therefore, that the Austrian Court did not find itself in a position to offer any such assurance; in other words, that Austria is not prepared to abandon the attitude hitherto observed by all European States except Spain towards Oriental Powers. Last year, it was simply a sin of conservative omission. Mourning had never been worn by a Western Court for an Eastern potentate. The neglect had the sanction of custom and the excuse of inadvertence. But no explanation of the kind can now be urged in view of the discussion which took place after the death of the Empress Dowager Yeisho. The responsibility rests with Austria. We do not care to express in words the full import of her procedure.

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LI HUNG-CHANG.

A telegram from Peking assigns a curious reason for Earl Li's removal, or dismissal, from the Presidency of the Tsung-li Yamên. It is said that whenever the British Representative had any occasion to consult the Yamên, everything that passed was immediately reported to the Russian Legation, and that Li was the channel of communication. The cause and the consequence having been clearly discovered, the British Minister naturally declined to have any further dealings with the Tsung-li Yamên so long as Li remained a member of it. Hence his fall. Is that story true, we wonder? It sounds scarcely credible. Yet there seems to be no doubt that Lord Salisbury directed Her Majesty's Representative in Peking to prefer some kind of complaint against Earl Li, and there are equally good reasons for thinking that the old Viceroy had been playing into Russia's hands ever since the Liaotung coup of 1895. Some people do not hesitate to say that he was bribed, magnificently bribed; and others, without attaching great credence to the bribery tale, are disposed to call him a traitor to his country. We can not see that it is necessary either to believe the former view, or to endorse the latter. His wealth is already so great that he ought to be beyond the reach of bribes, even supposing him capable of selling his country, and he has served her in such a way throughout a long life that no supposition of the kind should be justly entertainable. He is said to be immensely rich, and an exceptionally rich official in China is generally assumed to be exceptionally corrupt. It is a nice problem, however, to determine the exact significance of the word "corrupt" in China's public vocabulary. A very large amount of what we call peculation and even robbery is recognised as part of the Chinese administrative system. The great offices of State are virtually farmed out, and their holders are expected to make as much of them as they can without provoking the people to rebellion or the censors to protest. Earl Li may have utilized his opportunities adroitly without ever forfeiting his self-respect. But between that and taking a bribe from a foreign Power against the interests of his own country, there is an immense interval. Did the old statesman cross it? We can not think so. As to his playing into Russia's hands, the idea is not in the least incompatible with genuine patriotism. He may have deduced from his long experience the lesson that China's only chance of retaining some shreds of independence is to court Russia's favour and forbearance. We Englishmen naturally think that he should have thrown himself into British arms, but how do the Russians view that notion? They doubtless think that Li has been behaving like a genuine patriot, and that if he preferred the Bear's hug to the Lion's jaws, he made a wise and statesmanlike choice. At all events, without applying any offensive epithets to a man who in his day, and that a long day, towered head and shoulders above all his countrymen, who certainly tried to make China great, and who was once a sincere friend of England, we may be permitted, as British subjects, to express satisfaction that he no longer presides at the Tsung-li Yamên.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FORESTS.

There is a good deal of talk just now about the forests possessed by the State in Japan. According to Mr. Oishi, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, these forests cover an area of 18¾ million acres and are worth three hundred million *yen*. Yet the gross revenue derived from them is only 1½ million *yen*, of which about a million goes to defray expenditures. Of course that is a ludicrously small return. Mr. Oishi has a plan to propose. It is that the finances of the forests should be relegated to special accounts—that is to say, made independent of the ordinary incomings and outgoings of the Treasury—and that the small forests, namely, those covering an area of less than 125 acres, should be sold, and the proceeds devoted to purchasing private forest lands which now break the continuity of Government forests, as well as to planting and to the repairing of river banks. His Excellency calculates that the small forests coming into this category would sell for about 24 million *yen*, and his idea is to spread the sale equally over ten years. Specially low rates would be granted to public associations (*kōkyō dantai*), and to temples or shrines having exceptional claims to a particular forest, but in all other cases the method of public tender would be resorted to. Referring to this subject, the *Yomiuri* says that the net income derived by Japan from her forests is only 3.3 *sen* per *cho* (2½ acres), whereas in Europe the income varies from 80 *sen* to 10 *yen*. There is also the question of moors. Those cover an area of 5½ million cho, or 13¾ million acres, and apparently produce nothing at all. It is certainly time that some step was taken to derive a reasonable profit from such a valuable asset.

TAXATION.

The party that favours an increase of the Land Tax seems to be gaining strength. It now includes, according to the *Kokumin*, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Home Affairs, Baron Kusumoto, Messrs. Kataoka, Yehara, Shimada, Haseba, Kaino, Taguchi, and Hoshi, so that, out of the 11 members constituting the General and the Finance Committees of the Constitutional Party, the opponents number three only, Messrs. Inugai, Taketomi, and Komuchi. Meanwhile the Cabinet is supposed to be in favour of making no change in the tax on agricultural lands, but of increasing the tax on urban building lands by a thousand per cent. There is no doubt that such an increase would not be excessive in the case of some parts of the principal cities, Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto, where the market value of land is immensely higher than the value assessed for purposes of taxation; but it would be unjust if applied to other parts even of the Three Cities, and more still more unjust in many of the urban districts throughout the provinces. The fact is that no drastic measure can be properly taken without careful reassessment. A small increase of the Land Tax, such as that contemplated by the last Cabinet, might be carried out without too onerously accentuating the inequalities that now exist in the incidence of the impost, but when it comes to multiplying the tax by ten, differentiations which are now insignificant might become intolerably excessive.

MR. OISHI'S SPEECH.

We have already referred to the speech recently delivered by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce, in which his Excellency took the line that the forces of European international disturbance find their alternative lines of least resistance in Turkey and the Far East, so that when any question connected with Turkey is on the tapis, the Far East enjoys tranquillity, and *vice versâ*. Only the outlines of the speech were published originally, but it subsequently appeared *in extenso* in the organ of the Constitutional Party, and it proves to be an oration not distinguished by the reserve that the public utterances of responsible statesmen usually display. Germany is evidently regarded by Mr. Oishi as chiefly responsible for the state of unrest prevailing in the Far East. She is accused of having, by her action at Kiao-chou, virtually invited Russia to exercise a free hand in Manchuria; she is spoken of as having truckled to Russia in order to separate the latter from France, and she is said to have deliberately fomented a Far-Eastern question so that the lists of combat might be as distant from Europe as possible. There are plenty of combustible materials lying around in Europe, the Minister thinks, and if a spark were thrown among them, the smoke of the explosion would effectually conceal from the eyes of the continent everything beyond its own borders. Mr. Oishi does not actually say, in so many words, that Japan should endeavour to throw the spark, but it is difficult to interpret his speech in any other sense, seeing that, after clearly declaring the importance of making Europe look at home instead of abroad, he counsels the despatch of Japanese Ministers to Turkey, Roumania, Greece, Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro.

This speech is vehemently criticised by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which, as we have already observed, is now the Cabinet's most trenchant censor. The Minister is charged by our contemporary with exceeding the limits of legitimate comment, and with using language calculated to inspire uneasiness about Japan's designs and to discredit her foreign policy. But in truth the *Nichi Nichi* seems a little hypercritical. Japan's doings in the Balkan Peninsula are not likely to be seriously considered by any European Power. The unpractical character of the Minister's speech is the only point to which attention will be paid.

HOKKAIDO.

Hokkaido comprises 6,137 square *ri* of territory and has an area 18 square *ri* greater than that of Shikoku, Kiushiu and Formosa combined. It arable land is said to measure 7¼ million acres, and it could probably support from 20 to 30 million people. The growth of its population since 1891 is shown in the following table:—

	Number of Houses.	Number of People.	Rate of increase of pop.
1891.....	92 422	469,088	—
1892.....	99,979	509,649	9 p.c.
1893.....	111,184	559 959	10 ,,
1894.....	125,112	616 650	10 ,,
1895.....	136 860	678,215	10 ,,
1896.....	149,140	690 002	12 ,,
1897.....	164 406	787 990	14 ,,

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ALCOHOL SMUGGLING.

The police are said to have made a seizure of smuggled alcohol in Tokyo. They received information from the Customs authorities in Yokohama that eight or nine boats, carrying some three thousand cases of alcohol, had left Yokohama on the 7th instant. Steps were therefore taken to intercept the boats on arrival, but after the various steam-launches and other craft employed by the police had lain in wait until the evening of the day when the boats should have passed the forts, they learned by telegraph that the storm had probably dislocated the smugglers' programme. Strict watch was kept, none the less, and on the 10th inst. a suspicious-looking boat was observed at the bank of the Sumida River near the Namiyoke Inari in Tsukiji. Before any seizure could be made, however, the boat effected its escape. On the evening of the 11th, a cargo-boat manned by three *sendo* entered the Kanasugi River, and, when the police made their appearance, one of the men fled forthwith. The other two were arrested, and in the boat were found 20 cases of alcohol, addressed by Hitachi-ya of Masago-cho in Yokohama to Kameda Shōten of Shikoku-machi, Shiba. It is alleged that a foreign house in Yokohama is connected with this affair, but the whole story is somewhat vague.

It appears that 8 cargo-boats loaded with cases of alcohol left Yokohama on the 5th instant for Tokyo, but, owing to heavy weather, they put into Kanagawa for shelter. Two, however, were almost immediately sent on, as the speedy delivery of a portion at least of the goods was an object. Of these two, one was captured at Kanasugi, as already related, and the other barely escaped seizure when about to land its cargo at Tsukiji. The Kanasugi boat contained 140 cases of alcohol, 28 of which had duly passed the Customs and were properly consigned to the Kameda firm. The remaining 112 were smuggled. It is now alleged that the foreign firm concerned in the business is No. 29, Yokohama, but no evidence is published in support of the assertion. We read in a Tokyo journal that the capture of the Kanasugi boat was due to a detective on duty at the Shinagawa forts. He observed two suspicious-looking craft pass the forts coming from the direction of Yokohama, and he followed the one that made for Kanasugi. Rumour says that the police have succeeded in seizing the six boats which put into Kanagawa.

THE KOREAN POISONING AFFAIR.

Another "episode" has been added to the Sovereign of Korea's chequered record. When the telegraph announced, on the 13th instant, that an attempt had been made to poison His Majesty on the 11th, that for a time his life had been in danger, and that the remedies applied had been so far successful, most people concluded, we imagine, that the end had really come, and, that official expediency alone prevented a frank announcement. That apprehension seems to have been baseless, however. It would appear that the Emperor's life has been saved, and that he is out of danger so far as this particular attempt is concerned. With regard to the author or authors of the crime and the motives inspiring it, there is as yet no information. The impression naturally is that some connexion exists between this attempt and the conspiracy discovered in July to bring about the Sovereign's abdication. But we need not discuss impressions. The July affair entailed disastrous consequences for the plotters and it is permissible to hope that the criminals will fare equally badly on the present occasion.

It is now said that the Korean poisoners aimed at the life not merely of the Emperor, but also of the Crown Prince and of one of the Imperial "Vice-Wives." The first telegram—received by the *Asahi Shimbun*—spoke of the Emperor only, but subsequent messages included the Prince Imperial, and now Lady An is added to the list of intended victims. Some irreverent folks whisper that the poison may have had no existence outside the imagination of the courtiers: that, in short, His Majesty supped upon unwholesome fish, and that the assassin theory was suggested either in the interests of the cook or in obedience to political motives. Another hypothesis is that the crime had its origin in the discontent of the pro-Russian party, who are chagrined at the growth of Japanese influence; and yet another that Lady Yuen was the deviser of the plot. A certain interest attaches to these conjectures, but their bare statement is sufficient.

THE BOURSES.

The bourse system is making a bad record in Japan. In 1893, when Count Goto held the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce, quite a mania developed itself for the new enterprise—not new in nature but only in organization—so that, in the course of a few years, bourses were established at no less than 132 places, the number of brokers connected with them being 2,761, and their aggregate capital 10,293,000 *yen*. The law forbids transactions in margins, but it is easy to see that the law is a dead letter in that respect, if the figures showing the transactions in rice be examined. We take them from a vernacular contemporary, which quotes the latest statistics of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce:—

	Quantity of Rice dealt in at the Exchanges. Koku.	Rice crop of the preceding year. Koku.
1891	44,144,380	43,037,809
1892	41,673,210	38,123,548
1893	40,745,740	41,378,956
1894	76,832,000	37,199,663
1895	73,743,510	41,865,896
1896	75,504,950	39,878,629

These figures are sufficiently significant as they stand, but they become doubly striking when we remember that only a very small fraction of the year's yield of rice is disposed of at the bourses—not more than a thousandth part, according to the general calculation. It is evident, therefore, that enormous transactions in margins are carried on. Public attention is drawn to the subject at present owing to heavy defalcations that have recently taken place on the part of the brokers, and it is urged that the system wants complete remodelling.

The *China Mail* says that Aguinaldo has resolved to send a number of ambassadors to the courts of Europe to plead the cause of the Philippine natives. It is said the people of Batangas and neighbouring provinces are rallying round their leader, and supporting a policy of independence. The steamer *Pasig*, which has been renamed the *Abbey*, has landed a cargo of arms for the rebels at Batangas.

POLITICS.

It is plain that a resolute attempt is being made in some quarters to bring about a rupture between the Liberals and the Progressists. The material employed just at present by the sowers of dissension is the action of the *Kwanto* section under the leadership of Mr. Hoshi Toru, and an apparent re-establishment of good relations between Count Itagaki and certain prominent men who seceded from the Liberal camp last year. The *Kwanto* section—which commands thirty votes in the Lower House—is certainly taking a very resolute stand, and the radical proposals attributed to it—*e.g.* the elimination of all "clan elements" from the Administration and the compete repeal of the regulations for Official appointments—, are pretty sure to produce discord if they are persistently pushed. But as to Count Itagaki's renewal of his old friendships, we see no reason to draw any sinister inferences from it. The Liberal organ (*Tokyo Shimbun*) insists, and has repeatedly insisted, that all these stories are the inventions of folks who wish them to be true, and that there is not the slightest fear of a rupture between the two parties, since they both realize that to fall asunder now would be to sacrifice the results for which they have worked during nearly a quarter of a century and to imperil the success of party government.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

(CONCLUDED FROM LAST ISSUE.)

We take from the *Gokyō* some statistics bearing on the progress of the Methodist Mission, which did not appear in the report of the Annual Methodist Conference published in these columns. It is stated that the following figures represent the growth of the Church during the year:—At Sapporo, among 247 attendants at services there were 14 baptisms. In Sendai the attendants were 425 and the baptisms 37. In Hakodate there were 78 baptisms among 445 attendants. In Kagoshima 83 attendants and 8 baptisms. In Nagasaki 570 attendants and 72 baptisms. In Nagoya 281 attendants and 40 baptisms. Infant baptisms are not included in these figures. In addition to these there are 1,558 catechumens, being 360 more than last year. The total number of baptisms is 483,* being 35 less than last year. Sunday School scholars number 8,195, being 140 more than last year. The total amount of money subscribed for religious purposes, exclusive of money given for the repair of churches, was 9,349 *yen*, being an increase of 1,027 *yen* over last year.

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The *Fukuin Shimpō* has an article entitled "The Union of the Churches," in which the great difficulties in the way of union are enumerated and certain schemes of joint action are discussed. One proposal made is that the churches create a legislative assembly, a kind of House of Reprsentatives, each member representing 1,000 Christians, and that to this body be entrusted the forming of a Constitution and the drafting of ecclesiastical canons; that the aim be to give to individuals as much liberty as possible, and yet to require faithful observence of the provisions of the Constitution. It is contended in the organ we are quoting that the

* We premise that infant baptisms are included in these figures.

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difficulty of getting such a scheme to work harmoniously would be very great. Japanese Christians are accustomed to their own sects and echo and re-echo their own watchwords. The doctrinal differences that exist it would be very hard to get rid of. Mr. Honda Yoichi thinks that there is no plan better than a union of foreigners and Japanese in evangelistic efforts as heretofore and that there is little use in attempting what is bound to prove impracticable.

* * *

No. 160 of the publication we have just quoted contains an interesting article by Mr. Uemura Masahisa, in which he contends that the stage of progress which religious thought has reached in any country may be determined by examining the wording of the prayers which it is customary to offer up. The mass of worshippers who assemble at Asakusa to pray to Kwannon, at Narita to supplicate Fudō and at the grave of Nezumi Kozō,† to pay tribute to his departed spirit are all in search of earthly gain of some kind or other. The 古事類苑 *Kojirutyen*, under, the heading of *Kami* (gods), furnishes the texts of a number of prayers used in ancient times and the middle ages. These prayers are permeated with a mercenary spirit. Their object, in a large number of instances, is worldly benefit to the supplicant. The origin of the Japanese word for prayer, *inori*, is said to be *imi noru*‡, the declaration of what is disliked or abstained from. Hence we see the prayer was of a purely personal type. A kind of bargain was made with the god by the worshipper that a *quid pro quo* should be given in the form of some offering or the erection or repair of a shrine. Accustomed to this idea of prayer, many Japanese even after they have become Christians regard religion as one of the means of attaining worldly ends; the spirit of the trader still remains, as is constantly evidenced by remarks made by Christians. The believers who are overawed by the greatness of God, who are impressed by the sublimity of Christianity are few. By the majority religion is regarded only as the supplier of certain wants. On the lips of these Christians the words "God's grace," and "Providence," "the mercy of God," all have a personal and very limited reference. This is their way of confessing that they have got their own desires gratified by worshipping God. It is the old mercenary spirit of the ancient Shintoist or Buddhist over again. The horizon of the supplicant is bounded by his own personality. This we consider one of the defects of Japanese Christianity, says Mr. Uemura.

Another undesirable characteristic of prevailing belief and practice in the Christian Church is a consequence of the feudalism to which for so many centuries the Japanese were accustomed. God is regarded as a kind of lord whose duty it is to lead his followers against their many foes, and faithfulness to the leader is not the result of admiration of His character, but savours of the blind loyalty which in ancient times was both practised and enjoined even though the masters served were wicked men. To many Christians God has merely taken the place of the *tonosama* that they used to serve. Slavish subservience of an undiscerning, bigoted and servile type is all they have been accustomed to and this they still manifest. Many years ago, the catechisms and manuals in use in the Christian Church set forth the perfections of the Godhead. He was represented as the all-wise and all-powerful God, without beginning and without end. Those who entered the Church at that time, like myself, were much impressed by the grandeur of the Christian conception of Divinity. But in modern times these descriptions are not often to be met with. It is rather the fashion to discourse of the grace of God, of the help He gives to man, and of His guidance. God has been lowered and represented as very near to man. Access to him has been made an easy matter. He is no longer enshrouded in an awe-inspiring grandeur. Along with this lowering of the conception of the character of God there has been the prevalence of religious mercenariness, the use of Christianity for utilitarian purposes of a purely personal type. All this is to be regretted.

* * *

Two other articles from the pen of Mr. Uchimura Kanzō lie before us. Both alike are extremely pessimistic in tone. Mr. Uchimura's writings, however, are usually interesting and instructive. There is no doubt that he is very earnest and very sincere, in addition to being well informed on the history of Christianity in Japan. An essay entitled *Konnichi no Konnan* dwells on the general unrest of the Japanese mind and the wrong use that it has made of principles borrowed from Western lands, such as the principle of liberty, for instance. In the other article to which we have referred the want of thoroughness and perseverance in the work of the Church is dwelt upon. So many different enterprises are begun, observes Mr. Uchimura, only to be allowed to collapse after a few months or a few years, or to be eclipsed by undertakings that have no greater promise of permanency and efficiency. The excitement of starting something fresh gives an appearance of zeal to the persons who interest themselves in it, but such people soon weary of well-doing. Notwithstanding all that has been done in the way of works of benevolence during the past two years, I cannot say that I see any signs of great growth in the minds of the workers, says Mr. Uchimura. One great cause of the lack of real influence exercised by Christians is the spirit of compromise that is abroad, the "give and take" policy *vis-à-vis* the outside world. A Christian will say to a man of the world, "I will teach you English, and as a return for that, do you yield your heart up to me." This is trading, but there is no religion in it. The Christianity that we need is that which comes with an authoritative message and never dreams of proposing terms in order to ensure acceptance. The professing disciples of Christ do not realise that they have to transform the world, but not to conform to it, that they must fight a life battle with the world, the flesh, and the Devil, and not yield an inch. The spirit that knows no defeat is what needs cultivating. Rather than with Byron expend all our energy in a temporary fit of zeal on behalf of a body of men who are fighting for independence, we should with Wordsworth live among nature's beauties and amid quiet rural scenes deepen our convictions and solemnise our thoughts.

* * *

Mr. Miyoshi Taizō has published an article in the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun* entitled *Tsuyoki wo kujiki, yowaki wo tasukubeshi.* "The strong must be crushed and the weak helped," and another in a periodical called the *Fujin Shimpō* on the "Rights of Women" in both of which he writes earnestly on the oppressed condition and absolute slavery of women in Japan, of the insults they are called on to bear with no hope of redress. He relates that while he (Mr. Miyoshi) was in Berlin a man was fined 15 marks by the police for kissing a woman in the street, and that when he appealed to a Higher Court the fine was increased to 30 marks, on the ground that women's right to walk the streets at all times, even after dark, without molestation must be maintained by Courts of Justice at all costs.

What a contrast is this to what we see and hear in Japan, says Mr. Miyoshi, where even *jinrikisha* coolies think they are at liberty to make insulting remarks to the girls they are driving or to women passing by.

* * *

No. 74 of Dr. Katō's Hundred Short Essays compares the effects of Buddhism and Confucianism on the minds and lives of devotees. Buddhism is a religion whose chief interest is the next world, Confucianism a creed exclusively devoted to the affairs of this life. Both religions aim at making men more benevolent and more upright, and hence may both be pronounced good. But if asked which of the two religions is best suited to teach a man how to combine egoism with altruism so as not to do violence to either, I unhesitatingly reply, "Confucianism." The undue exaltation of the future, which is a characteristic of Buddhism, necessarily implies indifference to the present. Hence the invariable attitude of the devout Buddhist to this world and its concerns is that of the pessimist. Even the virtues of the five relationships of life occupy in the Buddhist scheme a very subordinate position. Confucianism utterly ignores the spirit world. Neither the future nor the past intimately concern us, according to this creed. All our thought is to be concentrated on the present. How we are to govern ourselves and govern others; how society may be benefited, how harmony between different classes of man may be established, how happiness is to be attained and men's chief interests promoted—these are the vital questions it discusses. Now the effect of a creed like this on men's minds is far healthier than that of the Buddhist or any other religion that exalts the future at the expense of the present. Christianity differs little from Buddhism in the prominence which it gives to the concerns of the soul and to the preparation for a future life. There are those who say that Christianity is optimistic and Buddhism pessimistic, but in reality they are both pessimistic, in that they both dwell on the inferiority and insignificance of the present life and its many concerns. It is for this reason that I have no hesitation in saying that as a working creed Confucianism is superior to both Christianity and Buddhism. Whatever the followers of Christ and

† A famous highwayman, who like our English "minions of the moon," stole from the rich and fed the poor, whose robbery is extenuated by applying the term 義賊 *Gisoku*, "just robbery" to it. This hero still has many admirers, as may be seen by the number who worship regularly at his tomb.

‡ The full meaning given in Japanese is *Mono imi shite Kami ni tsugeru (noru)*, the declaration before God of the things from which one abstains, or which one dislikes.

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Shaka may say in opposition to the views I have expressed, the characteristic of their teaching to which I have drawn attention cannot be gainsaid.

* * *

The *Shinseiki* has a number of solid articles from the pens of the Reverends Kosaki, Ibuka, Motoda, Uemura, Japanese and others. It is stated that the sum subscribed to the Dōshisha by the American Board was 346,910 *yen*, and that an application for the refunding of the whole amount has already been sent to the Trustees by the American Board, and that the services of a former American Consul-General in Yokohama, who is now practising as a barrister, have been engaged to represent the Board at the Japanese Court at which the case will be tried. The *Shinseiki* regrets that the Trustees should have allowed things to come to this pass, and thinks that unless they now act promptly the very existence of the Dōshisha will be imperilled, for the trial will certainly bring no small amount of obloquy on the men into whose hands its destinies have been committed.

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The *Tōyōtetsugaku* thinks a great deal of undiscerning criticism and claptrap are written and spoken in reference to the amount of Christian energy and spirit prevalent in Japan. It is difficult to know what is expected by the many fault-finders who undertake to pen lamentations over the present state of affairs, says this organ. It is of course perfectly true that Christianity cannot be said to have prospered in Japan as it has in some other countries. But the charge that there is no spirit in Japanese Christianity is not true. Take the history of the founding of Christian Churches in this country. You will find that numerous have been the men and the women who have givea their lives unreservedly to the cause. The cases of devotion that can be quoted from the annals of the Christian Church in Japan are equal to those given in the brightest records of Occidental Christendom. The early Christians here willingly gave up their bodies to the swordsman, were willing to have their names cast out as a byword, to be hated of all men for Christ's sake. Thus was the Christian church founded in Japan, and in the same spirit has it been built up stone by stone. Owing to the free use made of money by the missionaries, unscrupulous adventurers have entered the church, but there has been nothing like the general corruption common among Buddhists. There are many things connected with the Christian church of which I do not approve, says the writer in the *Tōyōtetsugaku*, but as regards spirit and energy Japanese Christians will bear comparison with any body of religious devotees that can be named. The present quiet unassuming attitude of Christianity in Japan may be attributed to a variety of causes, one of which is the conflict that is going on between educationists and Christians and another the value placed on real work as compared to mere talking by earnest Christians. One of the principal charges against modern Christians in Japan is that their teaching is anti-national in tendency—an utterly absurd accusation, since the Japanese are not a people to tamely submit to the alienation of their minds from national interests and concerns. Christians can afford to treat such charges with silent contempt. They are quite impossible assumptions. The conclusion I have come to is that the inactivity of which Christians are accused is something very different from the mid-day slumbers of the Buddhist priest who has retired to his temple. Without stir or ostentation Christians are doing the work they have set themselves to do.

* * *

The *Shinseiki* says that it is constantly remarked by literary men that, considering the number of its adherents, Japanese Christianity makes no small stir in the literary world. Christians seem to realise that "the pen is mightier than the sword." There were last November, observes the *Shinseiki*, no fewer than 39 Christian periodicals in circulation. Some of these are of course very insignificant and have a limited circulation, but, leaving these out of account, there still remains a large number of well-edited serials. Then if the number of Christian writers who contribute to secular magazines and newspapers be considered, it will be seen that Christian literary activity is a force that is accomplishing a vast deal in the way of enlightening public opinion as to the real teaching of the creed. It was proposed at the Hayama Summer School opened a short time ago to form an Association of Christian writers. This is an excellent idea and would doubtless yield great results, observes the *Shinseiki*. We (the editor of *Shinseiki*) while in America were struck with the prominence of the Roman Catholics of New York as compared with Protestants. We subsequently learnt that the Roman Catholics combine and supply the newspapers with articles and comments embodying their views. United effort of this kind among Protestant Christians in Japan might effect a great deal.

* * *

L'Abbé Francois Ligneul has published a work in Japanese entitled *Kyōkai no Kenri Shugi to Jiyu Shugi*, "The principle of Church rights and authority and the principle of liberty," which the *Shinseiki* describes as full of fusty dogmatism and abuse of Protestants and Greek Church Christians. In this work the Roman Catholics alone are represented as the true successors of Saint Peter and all other Christians are described as rebels and robbers (賊 *zoku*). It is amusing to find it argued that Japanese nationalism and Roman Catholicism have great affinity to each other and that at the present juncture the Catholic form of belief is the only one that is suitable to Japan's needs. There is little doubt that the book is quite 30 years behind time as far as Japan is concerned, says the *Shinseiki* reviewer, but still one cannot but admire the author's faithfulness to the creed which he professes.

A FEARFUL VOYAGE.

The British barque *Heathfield*, which put into Yokohama on Monday afternoon, had a rough experience. While on a voyage from Shanghai to Tacoma she was caught in the typhoon about 80 miles off the Japanese coast. Her sails were blown away, the stanchions of her hold broke, and the ballast shifted. The crew were set to work to put this right, but in trying to do so, through a heavy lurch to starboard, the mate (Mr. Grant) and a seaman were buried above the waist in ballast. They fortunately escaped serious injury, but it took some time to dig them out, and meanwhile every hand was badly wanted on deck. Some of the ship's boats were washed away, and she lay for a long time in the trough of the sea with her main yard buried in water and frequently seas washed over her topsail yard arms. Fortunately the gale moderated, or the barque would probably have been lost. When the weather cleared all hands were set to trim ballast, and to pump out the large quantities of water which had got into the starboard bilge. The voyage into Yokohama was made with difficulty, as the steering gear had suffered badly. The bad weather lasted altogether some four days, and the Captain, Mr. McKenzie, has seldom in a long experience seen such heavy seas. He was accompanied by his daughter.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

According to the investigations of the Finance Department the figures for staple imports and exports during last month were as follow:—

EXPORTS.

	Original value.	I. or D. in comparison with the previous month.
	Yen.	*Yen.*
Raw silk	5 515,709	—1,179,169
Noshi and floss silk	54 805	— 7 873
Habutae	973.798	392.664
Kai silk	3.525	— 6,961
Silk handkerchiefs	374 502	72,125
Cotton yarns	1,856,150	606,128
Cotton stuff	210.792	28,807
Ground carpet	56 039	— 15,055
Matches	602,863	186 883
Ground matting	334 649	276 735
Porcelain and earthen wares	171 148	6 113
Lacquer wares	77.799	2 825
Straw braids	207,167	42,064
Umbrellas	44.003	9 489
Tea	723 821	— 47,613
Rice	38,175	— 10,365
Dried cuttle-fish	118,282	34 228
Sea weeds, plain and cut	105 905	— 93.858
Fish oil	16 884	— 32,266
Mushrooms (*shiitake*)	46 432	— 10.007
Camphor	108,901	6.166
Crude & wrought copper	869 078	352,131
Coal	1,288.176	308 588
Vegetable wax	34.436	— 23 323
Miscellaneous	2,039,904	365,455
		(Net Increase.)
Total	15,869,843	1,262,911

IMPORTS.

Cotton	3 376.424	—1.861,705
Yarns	386 796	— 542,793
Shirtings and chintzes	750.951	2,681
Cotton satin and cotton velvet	191,647	— 16 771
Wool	134.568	65,632
Muslin de laine	283 607	59 641
Italian cloths	194.900	9 505
Flannel	340,688	196,601
Woollen cloths	692.430	476.260
Watches	446,277	318,629
Machinery	863.862	— 861,413
Locomotives and cars	352.313	— 180.349
Iron, bar and sheet	184.017	137,123
Rails	222,268	224.085
Iron nails	82.230	— 45,800
Other iron and steel	319.165	— 30,666
Sugars, brown and white	2,119.173	— 472,080
Rice	2,960 002	2,156,610
Peas and beans	205 232	— 67,412
Kerosene	754.269	— 29 408
Oil cake	113,991	31,879
Indigo	55.466	— 35,306
Spirits	127.082	65,736
Cigarettes	85.592	11,549
Miscellaneous	5.413.519	— 742,623
Total	20,656,469	—1,851,811
Total of exports and imports	36.526,312	— 588 900
Excess of imports	4.786,626	——

The above table does not include distant ports such as Itsuhara, Shikami, Sasuna, and Otaru, and the reports from Nagasaki and Kuchinotsu are limited to those received up to the 28th ult.

The remains of the late Mr. Rawson Walker, British Consul at Manila, which had been temporarily interred in the Paco cemetery, were exhumed on the 30th August and reinterred in the foreign cemetery at San Pedro Macati. The whole of the English colony was present and also Admiral Dewey.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

One of the sentiments of the time is a feeling of discontent because the Imperial University does not take a more prominent part in the questions that occupy the nation's attention. The complaint would be intelligible were it directed against the faculty of the University and its professors and instructors, for, on the whole, it is perhaps true that the contributions made by these learned men to the solution of financial, political, social and religious problems are not in proportion to their educational equipment or intellectual endowment. The Teikoku Daigaku does not occupy in Japan such a place as Oxford or Cambridge occupies in England. But it does not appear to be in that sense that the *Mainichi Shimbun*, for example, criticises the University. Our contemporary's remarks seem to be directed rather against the students, for it charges them with having only one aim in life, that of becoming officials; declares that whereas they are all supposed to be specialists, they never give the nation the benefit of their special knowledge; calls the University a place for educating followers of the Clan Statesmen, and urges the students to come out of their shells and make appropriate contributions to the discussion of the burning questions of the time, now that the regulations by which their tongues were tied have been rescinded.

* * *

The same subject is treated by the *Jiji Shimpo*, but in a different fashion. Its arguments are directed to proving that the University ought to be placed on an independent basis. Learning, it says, should be entirely beyond the range of vulgar influences, and scholars should have no concern with ranks or titles. That principle has been persistently violated in Japan. The Government has made learning a political weapon. Graduates of the University have been eligible, without examination, for the highest administrative posts, and to students of officially recognised schools there have been granted valuable privileges which are denied to students in private schools. The result is that the young men educated in public schools and colleges have developed a parasitical, office-seeking spirit, and intellectual progress has been seriously checked. But the people no longer stand in need of official protection. They resent rather than desire it. The growth of genuine learning was never an object with the Clan Government. It consulted its own convenience in directing the course of education. Thus, when the voices of liberty and progress began to be embarrassingly loud in 1880, the Confucian philosophy was once more introduced into the Schools. Then, a few years later, the Clan Statesmen went to the waters of the Rhine in search of the elixir of life, and borrowed everything from Germany to the exclusion of everything English or American. Learning, in short, became the slave of officialdom, and scholars were nothing more than aspirants for office. To establish the independence of education is the pressing need of the time. The first step should be to make the University independent of State aid. Organize a University Council and let it appoint the President. Abolish the official ranks of the Professors. Endow the institution once for all, and leave it thereafter to take care of itself. The trouble is, however, that the University folks do not want to be independent. They are like a bird that has passed its life in a cage: when it is set free, it flies back to its prison.

* * *

There has not been any evidence, visible to outsiders, that the present Cabinet is disposed to shelter itself under the ægis of the Throne, but the *Jiji Shimpo* obviously detects some such disposition, unless, indeed, an article in one of its recent issues be entirely meaningless. It demands that Ministerial responsibility should be placed beyond the reach of doubt. Hitherto, the custom of Cabinets has been to hold themselves directly responsible to the Sovereign and indirectly responsible to the people. On the other hand, an idea now prevails that since party government has been established, the Cabinet has no longer any responsibility to the Emperor and must hold itself answerable to the people only. That is a total misconception. Responsibility to the Throne exists beyond all question. But there must be no hiding under the Emperor's sleeve, no seeking to employ the Imperial shield for averting the shafts of public criticism from the consequences of administrative acts. We really do not know what the article means. It is sound doctrine but pointless. The finale is a weak reference to the now celebrated speech of Mr. Ozaki Yukio. Readers of the *Jiji* are informed that his words were blameless, since he spoke of a Japanese republic by way of illustration only, yet, at the same time, Mr. Ozaki is censured for want of caution!

* * *

Perhaps we may bracket with the above utterance of the *Jiji* an article in the *Kokumin* which attacks military folk for being too masterful and proud. Since the war, everyone has treated the men of the Army and Navy with special courtesy and deference, and they, in return, should display similar politeness and consideration. But they do not. That is practically the gist of the *Kokumin's* writing. We have never before heard such a charge preferred against soldiers and sailors in this country. Apparently it is a general homily hung on a particular peg, namely, the violent behaviour of Major-General Nagayama during Mr. Kudo Kokan's speech in Sapporo. The *Kokumin*, while blaming the General, admits that Mr. Kudo forget himself, an admission not easy to reconcile with the previous assertion that the fault of discourtesy is all on the military side. The truth is that where a sermon has always to be preached journalistically, however slight the text, the preacher's utterances are apt to become a little thin.

* * *

Mr. Oishi, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, said in a recent speech that the key to the Far-Eastern Question was in the Nearer East; in other words, so long as Europe's attention could be kept fixed upon Turkey, there would be peace and quiet in the Orient. He therefore suggested the advisability of endeavouring to shift the venue to Turkey, and as a means to that end he advised the conclusion of a Treaty with Turkey, and the despatch of a clever diplomat thither as well as to the Balkan Peninsula. *Naruhodo!* says the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. Certainly it is true that when a storm prevails in Turkey the Far East enjoys a calm; but how are those atmospheric conditions to be produced at will? To make a treaty with Turkey and send a Minister to Constantinople are not the kind of steps that one necessarily associates with a re-opening of the ancient "Eastern Question." The Red Sea seems to be nearer to the centre of probable commotion. Conclude a treaty with Turkey by all means, but let Cairo, not Constantinople, be the place for a Japanese legation.

* * *

There are some subjects so unsavoury that we hesitate to touch upon them in these columns, yet to pass them over in silence would be to hide from our readers a part of the working of Japanese contemporary thought, which it is the object of our weekly and monthly summaries to expose. That must be our justification and our apology. *Chikusho* is a word familiar to many—too many—foreign residents. They have often used it to the offending or unoffending coolie. But *Chikushō* is probably new to them. It means to keep a mistress. Japan's one "Yellow journal," the *Yorozu Choho*, has lately been drawing much attention to this immoral custom in a thoroughly immoral manner. The *Mainichi Shimbun* is moved thereby to take up its parable. Very often the writings of this *Mainichi Shimbun* are palpably permeated by a Christian spirit and a Christian style, but sometimes it shows almost fanatical narrowness of creed. In this case it declares that the plan pursued by the *Yorozu Choho*—namely, the publication of the names of the Corinthians in Tokyo—is an obvious waste of time. The economical and sensible method would be to publish the names of men that lead clean lives, for 80 or 90 per cent. belong to the soiled schedule. Yet the *Mainichi* thinks that this evil record is due not to the promptings of the flesh so much as to the dictates of vanity. To be the proprietor of that particular kind of pretty chattel is to posses a sign board advertising to the world one's well filled purse. The lists paraded in the columns of the *Yorozu Choho* only pander to the depraved pride of those whose names appear there. It would be better to tell the public something about the results of such indulgence—wasted lives, dissipated fortunes, domestic misery, fruitless repentance. Would not that be the true medicine to cure the disease? Two other recommendations are made by the *Mainichi*, and it is in the second of them that we detect the narrowness spoken of above. The first is that, instead of agitating against the keeping of concubines, a habit which will gradually be corrected, every effort should be directed to abolishing licensed prostitution; the second, that children born out of wedlock should bear the perpetual stigma of their birth; should be excluded from schools where legitimate children are taught, and should be made to carry through life a disabling burden of disgrace. A more appallingly cruel and unreflecting proposition was never advanced, we think.

* * *

There has been a decided change of journalistic opinion about the Czar's peace proposals. When we wrote our last summary, the vernacular papers, with the solitary exception of the *Mainichi Shimbun*, were disposed to ridicule the incident and treat it as piece of trickery. They could not understand what it meant, but they had a kind of *timeo-Danaos* instinct about it. The *Nippon* especially distinguished itself by its bitter sarcasm. Yet the same *Nippon* now deprecates any light treatment of such a proposal, and as for the *Hochi*, it adopts the Biblical phraseology of the *Mainichi* and calls the Russian Emperor's announcement "a blessing" (*fuku-in*). The Sovereign of Japan, adds the *Hochi*, will certainly sympathise heartily with the idea.

* * *

It is confidently asserted that the office-hunting fever has again broken out with wasting heat. The malady was responsible, say the critics, for all the difficulties that beset the Cabinet at the beginning of its career. After the general elections, there was a fall of temperature, but now, unhappily, the thermometer stands again at 40°. This diagnosis is based on the anxiety shown by party politicians to bring about a radical modification, if not the total repeal, of the Regulations for Official Appointments. There are said to be no less than 3 000 applicants for office—according to the *Nippon*—and unless the qualifications for appointment be greatly reduced, no means of satisfying this hungry crowd can be found. It is all very well to doctor the fever, says the *Nippon*, but the cure must not be of such a nature as to hurt the whole country. A Cabinet which sacrifices the interests of the nation to the appetite of its political partizans, illustrates the evil of party government, not the good. The *Nippon* has always been hostile to the present Ministry, so its statements must be taken with all reserve. But the *Yomiuri Shimbun* (Progressist organ) is equally emphatic and more precise. It uncompromisingly condemns the idea of changing the Regulations for Official Appointments, and urges that the examination system should be extended so as to embrace special subjects. It would even have the private secretaries of Ministers pass an examination before being admitted to office, and it would abolish the provision sanctioning the nomination of University graduates without examination. It is reassuring to find that one of the Constitutional Party's organs has the courage to raise its voice against the unhappily retrogressive step contemplated by a majority of the *Kensei-to*.

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HARBOUR REGULATIONS FOR THE OPEN PORTS.

An Imperial Notification was issued on the 2nd Sept., embodying the new harbour regulations in the open ports of Japan. The following is the official translation as exhibited at the British Consulate-General :—

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE NO. 130.

Art. I.—The limits of the undermentioned ports open to foreign commerce are defined as follows :—

Yokohama—The Harbour limits are comprised within a line drwn from Juniten (Mandarin Bluff) to the Lightship, and thence due north to a point on the coast east of the mouth of the Tsurumi-gawa.

Kobe—The Harbour limits are comprised within an area bounded by two lines, one drawn from the former mouth of the Ikuta-gawa due south, and the other running in a south-easterly direction from the point of Wada-no-misaki.

Niigata—The Harbour limits are comprised within an arc of a circle, the centre being the Lighthouse and the radius being 2½ nautical miles.

Ebisuminato—The Harbour limits are comprised within a line drawn from Shiidomari-mura to Isori-mura on the outside, and a line drawn from Minato-cho on the east shore of Lake Kamo to Kano-mura, on the north-east shore of the same lake.

Osaka—The Harbour limits are comprised within a line drawn from a point (Tree Point) at the mouth of the Muko-gawa south by west, and a line from the mouth of the Yamato-gawa, the two lines cutting each other at a distance of 6 nautical miles from the point (Tree Point) and a nautical miles from mouth of the Yamatogawa.

Nagasaki—The Harbour limits are comprised within a line drawn from Kanzaki to Megami.

Hakodate—The Harbour limits are comprised within a line drawn from a point off the coast ½ nautical mile south of Anoma point, to a point on the east bank of the mouth of the Arikawa Kami-iso-mura.

Art. II.—Every vessel on entering a port shall hoist its ensign and its signal letters. Regular Mail Packets may hoist the Company's flag in lieu of signal letters.

The ensign and signal letters or Company's flag must not be lowered until the vessel's arrival shall have been duly reported to the Harbour Master.

Such report shall be made within 24 hours after arrival, Sundays and holidays excepted, and no customs facilities shall be extended to any vessel until such report shall have been made.

Art. III.—Every Master on arrival in port shall prevent all communication between his ship and other vessels or the shore until it shall have been admitted to "free pratique."

Art. IV.—The Harbour Master's boat will be in attendance near the entrance of the Harbour, and the Harbour Master will assign a berth to every ship on entering, which berth it must not leave without special permission, unless forced to do so. The Harbour Master may cause a vessel to change its berth should he consider it necessary.

Art. V.—The Harbour Master shall always wear a uniform when on duty, and his boat shall carry a flag of the pattern hereto annexed.

The Harbour Master may at any time satisfy himself that his directions as regards anchorage, the movement of ships, and the proper condition of moorings are carried out.

Art. VI —No vessel shall anchor in the public fairway, or otherwise obstruct free navigation. Vessels which have run out jibbooms shall rig them in at the request of the Harbour Master, if they obstruct navigation.

Art. VII.—Every vessel either at anchor or under way, within the Harbour limits, shall carry between sunset and sunrise the lights required by the Laws, Ordinances and Orders relating to the prevention of collisions at sea.

Art. VIII.—When bad weather threatens, or warning signals are exhibited, vessels shall immediately get ready one or more reserve anchors; and steamships shall, in addition get up steam.

Art. IX —Any vessels carrying explosives or highly inflammable materials in excess of ordinary requirements, shall come to outside the Harbour limits and there await the Harbour Master's orders. Such vessels, while so waiting, shall between sunrise and sunset fly at the foremast head the signal letter "B," and between sunset and sunrise shall hoist in the same place a red lantern.

No vessel shall ship or discharge any such materials except at such places as the Harbour Master may indicate.

Art. X—Every ship which is laid up, or undergoing repairs, and all yachts, store-ships, lighters, boats, etc., shall be moored in special berths designated by the Harbour Master.

Art. XI.—In case of fire breaking out on board a ship within the Harbour limits, the ship's bell shall be rung until the arrival of assistance, and the signal letters "N.M." shall be hoisted between sunrise and sunset, or a red lantern shall be continuously hoisted and lowered between sunset and sunrise.

If police assistance be required, the signal letter "G" shall be hoisted between sunrise and sunset, and between sunset and sunrise blue or flash lights shall be shown.

All discharging of fire-arms, or letting off of fireworks within the Harbour limits is forbidden without permission from the Master except as above mentioned for the purpose of signalling.

Art. XII.—Any vessel arriving from a place which has been declared by an official declaration of the Imperial Government as being infected with an epidemic disease (such as cholera, small-pox,, yellow-fever, scarlet fever, or pest) or on board of which any such disease shall have occurred during the voyage, shall come to outside the Harbour limits and shall hoist the yellow flag at the foremast head between sunrise and sunset, and shall show a red and a white light one above the other in the same place between sunset and sunrise. Such vessel must undergo inspection by the proper sanitary authorities.

The sanitary authorities shall, on approaching the vessel, be informed whether any cases of any such diseases have actually occurred during the voyage, and the nature of such diseases in order that suitable precautions may be taken.

The said ship must not lower the yellow flag or the above mentioned light until it shall have been admitted to "free pratique," neither shall any person land from, nor shall any communication be held with other ships without the permission of the sanitary authorities.

The provisions of the preceding paragraphs apply to vessels anchored within the Harbour limits on board of which any of the above mentioned epidemic or contagious diseases have broken out.

Such vessels must change their berths on receiving an order to that effect from the Harbour Master.

Any vessel arriving from a place infected with cattle disease, or on board of which such disease has broken out during the voyage, shall not land or tranship either the cattle, their dead bodies, skins, hides, or bones without permission of the proper sanitary authorities.

Art. XIII.—No carcases, ballast, ashes, sweepings, etc., shall be thrown overboard within the Harbour limits.

Whilst taking in, or discharging coal, ballast, or other similar materials, the necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent their falling into the sea.

If any materials detrimental to the Harbour shall have been thrown into the sea, or shall have been allowed to fall in through negligence, by any ship, they shall be removed by the ship upon receipt of an order to that effect from the Harbour Master; and if not so removed, the Harbour Master shall cause them to be removed at the ship's expense.

Art. XIV.—Any ship intending to leave port shall give notice at the Harbour Master's Office, and hoist the Blue Peter.

Steamers which have fixed dates of departure, need only make one declaration for their arrival and departure.

Art. XV.—All wreckage or other subatances which obstruct the public fairway in a harbour or its approaches, must be removed by their owner within the time indicated by the Harbour Master. If this order is not complied with within the time specified by the Harbour Master, the Harbour Master may cause them to be removed or destroyed at the owner's expense.

Art. XVI.—A suitable and sufficient number of buoy moorings for regular Mail steamers shall be provided by the Harbour Master's office. A prescribed fee shall be charged for the use of such moorings.

Art. XVII.—No chains, ropes, or other gear shall be attached to any lightship, signal buoy, or beacon.

Any vessel running foul of or damaging a lightship, beacon, jetty, or any other structure shall pay the necessary expenses for repairs, or replacement.

Art. XVIII.—Any infringement of the present Regulations shall render the offender liable to a fine of not less than *yen* 2, and not exceeding *yen* 200.

Art. XIX.—The Master of a vessel shall also be held responsible for any fines, fees or expenses which may be imposed, or charged on, or in respect of, the vessel.

Art. XX.—No vessel shall be allowed to depart until all fines, fees and expenses imposed or charged under these Regulations shall have been paid, or until security therefor to the satisfaction of the Harbour Master shall have been deposited with the Harbour Master.

Art. XXI.—The word "Harbour Master" as used in these Regulations is also meant to include the Harbour Master's assistant deputies; and by the word "Master" is meant any person in command of, or having the direction of a ship, whatever his designation may be; and by the word "Port" or "Harbour" is meant one of the ports or harbours enumerated in Article I. of these Regulations.

Art. XXII.—A portion of each Harbour shall be reserved as a man-of-war anchorage.

Art. XXXIII.—The only provisions in these Regulations which shall apply to men-of-war are those contained in Articles IV., VI., XII., XXI., and in the first and second paragraphs of Article XIII.

Art. XXIV.—The time when, and the localities where, these Regulations are to come into operation shall be notified by the Minister of Communications. The Minister of Communications shall also issue detailed rules for the due enforcement of these Regulations.

JAPANESE FACTS AND COMMENTS.

The financial administration of Japan, remarks the *Yomiuri*, is now in a state of serious disorganisation. The Matsukata Cabinet fell on this account, and its immediate successor—the Ito Ministry—also incurred the same fate, and a similar catastrophe threatens the new Constitutional Administration. Some critics urge that the financial embarrassment is due to an expansion of armaments disproportionate to the national strength, and that so long as the armaments' expansion programme is not curtailed the adjustment of the finances is a matter of impossibility. They say that the question of increased taxation is of secondary importance. Those who are opposed to these views contend that the scheme for the expansion of armaments can not possibly be reduced, but ought to be pushed forward even at the expense of increased taxation. To ascertain the cause for financial distress and then find the means of redress—these are two important problems which require immediate solution. The *Yomiuri* thinks the increase of national taxation is the only hope, and it recommends a singular programme. In the first place it makes allusion to Switzerland,

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where a net profit of 42,326,244 francs is realized by inns and hotels. The *Yomiuri* thinks some use should be made of the beauties of nature in Japan; that is to say, that steps should be taken to induce millionaires and tourists to empty their purses in exploiting the lovely scenery of the Japanese mountains and sea-coasts. If the Alps and Lake Como attract so many visitors why should not Mount Fuji and Lake Biwa? But the sanguine *Yomiuri* forgets that one can get from London to Basel in less than 24 hours, while Japan is a month's journey.

The *Nichi Nichi* publishes a note on the scheme of naval construction now undertaken by Russia. On the authority of the *l'Italie*, a French journal published in Rome, our contemporary alleges that Russia has sent orders to Messrs. Jo Anthard & Co., Genoa, for the construction of a huge war-vessel 130 metres in length, provided with six boilers and four funnels. In addition, Russia is reported to have entrusted the Company with the repair and reconstruction of a number of other vessels.

The budgets for the 32nd year, submitted to the Cabinet by the Minister of Finance, were discussed on the 7th instant, when the estimates of the various Departments were settled as proposed by the Finance Minister. A strong protest was made in regard to the new claims advanced by the War, Navy, Communications, and Education Departments, and to a portion of the outlays to be made in advance for the settlement of accounts in connection with the public bonds and Indemnity. Further discussion on these points was left to another Cabinet conference.

A politician—one of those convenient creations of Japanese journalists—remarks in the columns of the *Nippon* that the Liberals and Progressists now forming the Constitutional Party are as hostile to each others as dogs and monkeys. Every question affecting the State is a source of strife between the two parties, but the greater influence seems to rest with the Progressists. The Liberals, in view of these circumstances, have begun to devote their energies to securing the assistance of a section of the Clan statesmen. They have in vain attempted to bring Baron Ito into the Cabinet, and have even tried to secure a portfolio for Mr. Hoshi, by recourse to the assistance of the Minister of the Imperial Household, the military circles, and the brokers in the share market. The writer attributes dark and sinister designs to Marquis Yamagata and Count Inouye who, he alleges, are now in Tokyo meditating a plan of campaign against the Cabinet. Moreover, a number of politicians under the leadership of Viscount Takashima are busy with secret conferences, while the Kwanto clique, headed by Mr. Hoshi, is ready to rise at a moment's notice. One thing is certain, and that is the formation of a Coalition Cabinet of Liberals and Clan statesmen.

Investigations as to the prices of commodities in the leading cities and towns throughout the Empire have been made independently by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Finance Department, and the Nippon Ginko. The results are as follow:—

Year.	Result of investigations by Agr. and Com. Depart.	The same by Finance Dep't.	The same by Nippon Ginko.
1887...	100	100	100
1888...	102	100	104
1889...	111	96	109
1890...	116	111	114
1891...	111	106	106
1892...	114	107	112
1893...	121	104	116
1894...	134	111	122
1895...	142	118	131
1896...	159	130	141
1897...	—	—	161

In making the above calculations the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has taken the average of 36 commodities, the Finance Department that of 15, and the Nippon Ginko that of 43. That prices have risen considerably during the past ten years is an undeniable fact, but it is curious to observe the considerable differences in the estimates. Comparing the figures for 1896 with those for 1887, it may be noticed that, whereas the Finance Department shows the enhancement in prices to have been only 30 per cent., and the Bank of Japan indicates it to have been 41 per cent, the Agricultural and Commercial Department places it at almost 60 per cent. On the whole, the appreciation in the provincial cities and towns seems to have been greater than in Tokyo.

A Formosan Notification published in the *Official Gazette* indicates the establishment of a school where common and technical education is imparted to women. The course of general study is to extend over six years, and the term fixed for the technical course is three years only. The students for the general course must be above 8 and below 14 years of age; those for the technical course above 14 and below 25. The principal technical subjects are tailoring, embroidery, flower manufacture, drawing, and various branches of art.

Not many years have elapsed since Japanese flour manufactured in Hokkaido was first exported abroad. The chief market, according to the *Mainichi*, was Vladivostock, and last year 25 495 piculs were exported from Hakodate and Otaru. The latest investigations show the number of factories to be nine, producing in all 1 348,750 lbs. valued at 46,650 *yen*.

The following is a list of railway companies which have decided on issuing debentures:—

Railways	Gross amount of debentures. yen.	Sale price, per 100 yen, fair value. yen.	Interest. Per cent.
Hantan ...	360,000	95	10
Tojokawa.	100,000	100	12
Chuyetsu.	150,000	95	12
Koya	800 000	—	10
Chugoku .	600,000	—	—
Kishin ...	1,000 000	—	—

It is a striking commentary on the present financial situation to find such a high rate of interest as 12 per cent offered on railway debentures. Any undertakings which are not of immediate necessity should be suspended or postponed. By taking the above measures the necessity for the introduction of foreign capital is avoided; if it should become necessary to appeal to the shareholders for funds in connection with some unavoidable expenditure, the amount can be reduced to the lowest possible figure. Another vernacular paper has something to say about the changes contemplated by the Nippon Railway Company. It asserts that the personnel of the company will be reduced to one-third of the present number, and that the salaries of the highest officials will be reduced, from 3 000 *yen*, to 2,000 *yen*, those of second class officials from 2,100 *yen* to 1,800 *yen*, and those of the third class officials from 1,200 to 1,000 *yen*. Then the expenditures in the workshops at Omiya and Morioka are to be transferred to special accounts. The present one Department and seven Sections are to be entirely abolished, and two new Departments to be designated *Eigyobu* and *Hommubu* respectively are to be substituted. The former, or Business Department, will consist of three Sections—Transport, Carriages, and Preservation of Lines; the latter, or Main Affairs Department, will include the two Sections of Warehouses and Accounts. In addition to the above changes, the abolition of the Department of Construction is also under contemplation, Chief Inspectors and Auditors are not to have mere sinecures, and the sale of useless stores out of the quantities now in the godowns to the value of 3 million *yen*, is to be carried out.

The inauguration of Viscount Soga as President of the Nippon Railway Company has, says a Japanese paper, led to radical measures being taken for the reform of gross abuses now besetting the institution. As a preliminary, a reform committee of five was appointed on the 19th ultimo at a special meeting of the principal officials. The investigations with which they were entrusted were speedily completed, the result being reported to a meeting of officials on the 2nd instant. The first step in the direction of reform is said to be the immediate dismissal of three influential Directors—Mr. Adachi Taro, of the Section of Transport, Mr. Suirasugi Seiai, of the Section of Accounts and Warehouses, and Mr. Uchida Naozo, of the Section of Miscellaneous Affairs—and the substitution of Messrs. Kubo Fuso, Kobe Kiochi, and Yamada Eitaro. There will be other sweeping changes in the personnel. The programme of reform is as follows:—(1) The general expenses of the Company will be decreased by the dismissal of useless employes, and a reduction in other outlays in the interests of the shareholders. (2) A negative policy will be adopted in regard to the extension of business and the inauguration of special enterprises.

The *Tokyo Asahi* is surprised at the rapid increase in the number of prisoners in Taipeh, Formosa. Statistics recently compiled by the Government show that the number in January last year was only 284, whereas it had increased in July this year to 787. The monthly average of new prisoners is 177, and the average number of released does not exceed 81. This means at increase of 33 per mensem. The number of prisoners in August was 803, of whom about 33 per cent were detained for armed robbery—an offence which is only expiated by several years detention.

According to the *Tokyo Asahi*, a special meeting of prison superintendents is to be held at the Home Department, when the following problems will be introduced for discussion:—(1.) The Home Minister's instructions in regard to the treatment of foreign criminals. (2.) Methods of training prison Inspectors. (3.) Moral lectures to prisoners. (4) Legitimate functions of warders. (5) Method of dealing with prisoners in separate cells. (6.) The selection of criminals for this treatment. (7.) Inauguration of prison assembly. (8) Surveillance of convicts released from imprisonment. (9.) Method of dealing with unconvicted prisoners charged with criminal offences. (10.) Preparation of prison statistics. (11.) Treatment of criminal lunatics. (12.) Moral instruction to foreign convicts. (13.) Food for foreign criminals and other important topics in connection with the adjustment of prison affairs. Those references to "moral lectures" and "moral instruction" show a delightful faith in the perfectibility of the species.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"AN ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In a recent issue you referred to the year 1899 as "the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of modern Japan to foreign intercourse and to a proposition to celebrate it by holding an exhibition in Tokyo. Now, if my memory serves me correctly, it was only forty-five years ago (1853), when Commodore Perry made his first visit to Japan; and it was just forty years ago (1858), when Townsend Harris, U.S. Minister to Japan, negotiated the first commercial treaty with this Empire. There is evidently a mistake somewhere. Of course, the year 1859 was one in which some foreign treaties were negotiated; so that it may be the *fortieth* anniversary which is to be celebrated. Nor will 1902 be the fiftieth anniversary, as stated in some papers, except by a false method of reckoning. The only proper time for that celebration is, of course, in 1903.

Your respectfully,

ERNEST W. CLEMENT.

Tokyo, Sept. 5.

[The statement to which our correspondent refers was taken from a Japanese paper, and has since been corrected by us. As for 1902, it will be the fiftieth year according to Japanese reckoning. Mr. Clement, who is well versed in things Japanese, need scarcely be reminded that 1854 is the second year from 1853, by Japanese arithmetic.—Ed. *J.M.*]

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA EXPESS TRAINS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I like those fast trains which run twice daily each way between Tokyo and Yoko-

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hama without stopping. They must be so convenient for busy people who can't afford to spend much time in travelling, as they are scheduled to make the trip in 38 minutes. I have just come down from Tokyo on one of those trains. It left Shimbashi at 9 o'clock, and reached the signal station in the Yokohama yards at 9.28. It was very delightful to sit proudly in one's seat as the train sped past Shinagawa, Omori, Kawasaki, Tsurumi and Kanagawa, and to anticipte breaking the record by making Yokohama station in 30 minutes. But unfortunately we were stopped at the signal-station to wait for the train which had left Shimbashi at 8.30 to go on her way westward. And she too was waiting for the train, due from Numazu at 9 28, to get in. The latter finally arrived, rather late, so that we were able to get away from the signal station after waiting 30 minutes, and reached Yokohama station at 10 o'clock, just one hour from Tokyo by fast express! Better half a dozen stops at way stations than half an hour of waiting in the Yokohama yards so near and yet so far from the station. I repeat that I appreciate those express trains as time-savers!

Yours respectfully, TRAVELLER.

Yokohama, 9th September.

TO ELTEKON.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The Editor of the *Shepherd's Voice* appreciates the kindly attempt of "Eltekon" to awaken our conscience to the impropriety of our name. However, it is not pleasant (as in your issue of the 8th) to be classed with Judas Iscariot and the Doshisha Trustees, and to be charged with obtuseness of the sense of pious propriety. Were we to retaliate we might say that such criticisms as "Eltekon's" have almost invariably emanated from sectarians guilty of the violation of some plain Scripture. We venture to say that "Eltekon" is a sectarian, a member of some denomination not heard of in the Bible. We are glad to say that our writing at the head of the only undenominational magazine in Japan the name *Shepherd's Voice*, and our efforts to teach and follow that *Voice*, and induce others to do the same, meet with the sincerest approval of minds as pious as any brought up in denominations utterly unknown to that *Voice* which spake as never man spake. We would be glad to send "Eltekon" the *Shepherd's Voice* if we knew his habitation.

We thank you, Mr. Editor, for so much space in replying to this question, which under proper conditions might be made profitable.

Very truly,

Ed. "THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE."

(We can not publish any further correspondence on this subject.—Ed. *J.M.*)

AN APPEAL.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Will you very kindly allow me to appeal to the public through the columns of the *Japan Mail* on behalf of those Ainus who have lately been brought to great want and distress through the recent floods in Hokkaido. The rains have been exceptionally heavy in some parts of the Island this summer, and the rivers in some districts have overflowed and done very much damage. The garden produce of no less than eighty Ainu families in one district has been completely washed away and the people brought to the last extremity. Unless something is done to help these poor sufferers there will be nothing left for it this winter but starvation or crime, I fear. After careful inquiries I estimate that in one district alone there are 480 persons who are absolutely destitute and require assistance. The help to be given will consist in food for the present and seeds for planting in the spring. Besides those in immediate and absolute want, there are hundreds of others who have suffered, some more, some less, by the floods. These latter, however, will not require help to anything like the same extent as the former. Will not some of your many charitably disposed readers kindly stretch out a helping hand at this time of need to these poor sufferers? Any contributions entrusted to me shall be faithfully expended, and if any contributor of five *yen* will kindly forward me his or her name and address I will gladly, if he wishes, send in return five Ainu photographs taken by myself, or in the case of ten *yen*, ten photos shall be sent.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, and earnestly hoping that help will be forthcoming.

I am, your sincerely,

JNO. BATCHELOR.

Sapporo, Sept. 6th, 1898.

"SHADOWS WE PURSUE."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—An editorial article in to-day's *Mail*, dealing with a contemplated international exhibition "to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Japan," strenuously denounces the idea of commemorating Commodore Perry's coming and endeavours to demonstrate that this coming, instead of being "a fitting cause for national rejoicing," was in fact "a national humiliation," equivalent to "a dose of very nasty medicine." This having been made clear, from the *Mail's* point of view, by a line of emphatic assevera tions, we find the following naïve question and answer:—"After all, has there been any talk of a great national fête to commemorate Perry's advent? We have not heard it." Well, it no suggestion of the kind has been advanced, and if the *Mail* has not heard of one, it may be within the limits of pardonable curiosity to inquire why it is deemed necessary to take up arms against it, to the extent of nearly half a column of vehement argument. To employ so much rhetorical energy in condemning a proposition, and then to announce that the proposition has never been heard of, seems as complete a *non sequitur* as can be imagined.

I am, Sir, Yours truly, E H H.

Yokohama, Sept. 13th.

(Surely there is not the smallest obscurity. Certain persons object to the exhibition project as a celebration of Perry's coming. We quote their objections and comment on them. At the same time we remind the objectors that the projectors of the exhibition did not say anything about Perry; they spoke merely of celebrating the opening of the country. "E.H.H." will further perceive, if he refers again to the paragraph, that most of the objections set forth there are not ours, but merely taken from the *Nippon* and other sources. The "half column of vehement argument" contains just eight lines of our contribution to the discussion.—Ed *J.M.*)

MR. OGAWA ON PRISONS.

In a recent issue of the *Kokkagakkwai Zasshi*, Mr. Ogawa Shigejiro, who is the greatest expert on prisons in Japan, discusses the improvement of Japanese jails. In Europe and America, he says, the necessity of the improvement of prisons has already been recognized by the public, and much money and labour have been expended by governments for carrying out new scientific opinions concerning the building of prisons and the mode of treatment of prisoners. But the decrease of offenders, the chief object of prison improvement, has not yet been attained. On the contrary, offences increase year after year according to the progress of society. The latest German criminal statistics show that the total number of crimes and misdemeanours in Germany was 329,000 in 1882, but increased to 430,000 cases in 1893, and still further increased to 446,000 in the next year 1894. Population during this period increased by 13 per cent, while crimes increased by 35 per cent. The same increase is traceable throughout the Continent of Europe. Thus people are beginning to doubt the efficacy of the present system of prisons, and an impetuous class of Italian thinkers are crying out for a wholesale revolution and the substitution of such punishments as hanging, whipping, or transportation for imprisonment. Nay, even thoughtful scholars are considering whether the increase of offenders is owing to the imperfect progress of prison improvement or to a fundamental error in the system. Mr. Ogawa, however, firmly believes that the policy of prison improvement is just and proper; it is the right means to its end, the prevention of crime. Why, then, do statistics show an increase of offences instead of a decrease? It is because the progress of society increases the various social factors which are the cause of offences, and which consequently multiply the cases of offence. If prison improvement in European States had not been carried out as it has been, the increase of offences must have been far more. The case of England is striking because it shows, contrary to the experience of the Continent, a decrease of offences, notwithstanding the great increase in her population. There were 11,710 persons punished with penal servitude or imprisonment in 1871, but only 8,504 in 1891. The statistics of infant criminality show a striking decrease; 10 314 offenders in 1836 had shrunk to 3,855 in 1891. The most noticeable point in the case of England is a decrease of criminals and of prison expenses after the year 1877, in which the scheme of prison improvement and the disbursement of prison expenses from the Treasury were inaugurated. Despite the extraordinary outlay on account of new edifices, rebuilding, etc., disbursed during the seven years from 1878 to 1884, the expenses of the prison system during these years show, as compared with the years from 1870 to 1877, a decrease of above £500,000; while the 20,442 prisoners in 1878 had shrunk to 14,966 prisoners in 1887. During this period, too, the increase of population was over 4,500,000 persons.

To take the example of Japan, where the improvement of prisons is only in a nascent state, there were 43,000 accused persons in the houses of detention in 1882, and 78,000 in 1894. From this last example it is clear that the comparatively small increase of offences in Continental Europe, where the struggle for life is very keen, must entirely be attributed to the effect of the improvement of prisons on the continent. Thus it may be concluded that the improvement of prisons is the right and proper method. Mr. Ogawa, after stating the so-called social factors which are the causes of offences, and adding a brief statement of the new régime in European prisons, says at the end of the essay that the condition of Japanese prisons shows an immature state of improvement, and points out that much has to be done in the future beyond what is merely necessary as preparation for the revised treaties.

Apropos of this, the remarks of Mr. Ogawa on the Draft of the Revised Japanese Penal Code (which, though not submitted in the last session of the Imperial Diet, will appear before the Diet sooner or later), published in another number of the same magazine, may be interesting to our readers. He says, referring to the revision of the Penal Code:—It is one of the marked reforms of the Draft Penal Code that the varieties of punishments prescribed in it are much fewer than those in the present Penal Code. Still it is desirable to go a step further, and to exclude the distinction of *choyeki* (penal servitude) and *kinko* (imprisonment) maintained in the Draft Penal Code, and restrict the punishment as regards detention to one class *i.e.* imprisonment. The Draft Code provides the infliction of *choyeki* for crimes of a depraved nature, and *kinko* for the others, the difference in these two punishments being that in one hard labour is inflicted and in the other it is not. Such a distinction can not, however, be actually realized, because according to the provisions of the Draft Code, and conformably to general experience up to the present, the number of the criminals punishable with *kinko* (imprisonment) will not be numerous, and no special prison could be established for them. They should be treated in every point just in the same way as the criminals sentenced to *choyeki* (penal servitude). Moreover, the distinction is against the practice and theory of punishments in prisons. The persons sentenced to *kinko*, at least ninety out of every hundred of them, will, though they are not punished in the Draft Code with hard labour, ask for labour, and

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such work, after their application is permitted, must be strictly carried out for settled hours almost in the same manner as the work of the convicts punished with penal servitude. That is necessary for preserving order in prisons. Of course there will be some convicts who with not ask for labour. But such the prison authorities must urge and encourage to work for the sake of their health, their good behaviour, and the possibility of making a living after the expiry fo their sentence. There is no doubt that ninety-nine out of a hundred convicts will take to work, and the distinctions referred to in the Code will be broken down. Besides, it is a great and ignorant blunder of legislators to have chosen laborious work as a means of correction for crimes of a corrupt nature, Labour is holy, and ought not to be despised. Its enjoyment is man's natural right as well as duty. In olden days this truth was ignored, and labour was despised. But now, though penal laws of various nations still provide laborious work as a means of punishment, it has become recognized generally that labour should be encouraged in prison for the health and good conduct of convicts, as well as for giving them means of living after their exit from jail. Nay, convicts are sometimes punished in prison by depriving them of their right of working. For these reasons it is impossible to agree with the provisions of the Draft Code which use labour as a means of punishment.

UNEARNED INCREMENT IN JAPAN.

One of Count Okuma's arguments in favour of increasing the taxes on urban lands is the great increase in their value during the *Meiji* period. The Count, remarks the *Tokyo Keisai Zasshi*, ought to take a similar view in regard to wet and dry fields and forest lands, the value of which has also risen considerably in proportion to the general progress and development of the country. In proof of these facts our contemporary adduces the following table :—

	Market value of wet fields per *tan*.	Ratio of market value to every 100 yen of the taxable value of the same.	Market value of dry fields per *tan*.	Ratio of market value to every 100 yen of the taxable value of the same
	yen.	*yen*.	*yen*.	*yen*.
Tokyo	205.833	488	106	669
Kanagawa	190	402	118 333	740
Saitama	104 167	229	84 444	510
Chiba	129 365	338	56.988	409
Ibaraki	90	249	25 444	277
Tochigi	118 305	246	54.633	328
Gumma	134 444	276	78 889	396
Nagano	233 889	438	157 778	640
Yamanashi	226.625	416	70 420	287
Shizuoka	126 433	742	130 391	897
Aichi	61 593	216	179 990	604
Mye	125 086	239	63 333	198
Gifu	175 529	415	120 369	327
Shiga	195 587	344	87 398	302
Fukui	105	235	63	251
Ishikawa	187 333	437	91 167	330
Toyama	110 872	232	61 309	210
Niigata	134 847	372	55 386	334
Fukushima	183 667	425	139 222	605
Miyagi	92.872	378	63.778	613
Yamagata	160 259	401	70 786	415
Akita	190.832	787	99 333	770
Iwate	103 111	367	56 667	530
Aomori	148 880	473	60	591
Kioto	238 667	423	118	405
Osaka	138 833	211	60	147
Nara	153 833	313	65.500	247
Wakayama	126 500	201	55 167	186
Hiogo	117.667	217	73 833	358
Okayama	142 822	239	58.441	172
Hiroshima	231.111	378	162.222	382
Yamaguchi	228 889	494	80	616
Shimane	101.144	226	54 209	276
Tottori	105.841	262	55 002	265
Tokushima	173 983	319	120 833	336
Kagawa	109 889	200	59	215
Yehime	176 212	314	69 333	320
Kochi	200 129	296	88 793	332
Nagasaki	223 684	477	155 049	1187
Saga	145.205	289	67.042	284
Fukuoka	107 920	284	40 389	304
Kumamoto	99 167	197	66 667	257
Oita	115	347	50 167	304
Miyazaki	104 333	273	49	397
Kagoshima	114 794	222	49 085	271

The above is the result of investigations made by the Finance Department. Are not the increases in value shown by it extraordinary? Nothing, in view of these circumstances, can be more absurd than the policy which advocates the increased taxation of urban land, but condemns the adoption of a similar resolution with respect to wet and dry fields.

Another table is published in the *Keisai Zasshi*, showing the reduction in the rates of land tax paid by freeholders in Japan since the commencement of the *Meiji* Era. This shows that the average taxation for the 5th, 6th, and 7th years was *yen* 49 462,945, while the amount paid in the 29th year was only *yen* 38.500,000, and if we add to that sum the supplementary taxes of all descriptions collected in the various cities and prefectures, the total does not exceed 45.500,000 *yen*. Rice, too, fetches three times the price it did formerly, and that standard appears likely to be maintained. From these facts it is clear that the landlord should be called on to contribute a larger portion of their abnormal profits to relieve the present embarrassment of the State.

THE LATE GEORGE PAUNCEFOTE.

A well-known personality passed out of the ranks of Yokohama residents on Monday morning when George Pauncefote died. The veteran had reached the ripe age of 78 years and his end came quite peacefully. He was a man with a history. In his youth a member of a stock theatrical company, he was soaked in the lore of the wearers of the sock and buskin, and many were the interesting reminiscences of provincial theatres and green-rooms and their habitués in the England of the early fifties, which he would call to mind when interested auditors pressed him to go over the tale of his youth He toured the United States with success and was in California in the sixties. From thence he drifted to Japan where he spent the remainder of his life, first at Totsuka, but later at the Shakespeare, Negishi. He was a man that won many friends, for his life, even amid humble surroundings, seemed to reflect the fine spirit of the dramas he had studied with such loving diligence.

The funeral took place on Monday evening, the mournful procession leaving the General Hospital at 5.30 o'clock. The widow, Miss Pauncefote and Mr. Pauncefote were the chief mourners, with Mr. Geo. Booth and close personal friends. Among those who followed were the Worshipful Masters of the Yokohama Lodge, No. 1092, E.C., Mr. Alf. Woolley, and the O'Tentosama Lodge, No. 1263, E.C., Mr. A. Bellamy Brown; the I.P.M. of the Star in the East, S.C., Mr. A. R. G. Clarke; Wardens, officers, and members of the various Masonic Lodges in Yokohama; Mr. R.G.E. Forster, Acting British Consul-General; Mr. C. D. Moss, Mr. F.O. Eustace, Mr. F.Townley, Rev. E. C. Irwine, M.A., Captain Harrison, and many others. Among the wreaths which covered the coffin, or were carried behind the bier by the bereaved family, were the following :—Mr. F. O. Eustace. Mr. Louis Eppinger, the Officers and members of the Yokohama Lodge ; the Master, Wardens and members of the O'Tentosama Lodge ; the Master and Officers of the Star in the East Lodge ; Mr. A. R. G. Clarke, Captain Weston, Mr. O. Keil, Mr. R. G. E. Forster, "C.L.O.," Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Booth, Messrs. Kobayashi, K. Nakazawa, K. Kobukata, T. Mizawa, Kawaguchi, T. Makita, Matsuda, Y. Yokota, S. Tanaka, H. Katsu, Kaneko Tatsugoro, Ogawa Yotaro, Kitami Tetsugoro, Suwao Tosuke, Suzuki Mosuke, Tsutsumi Sada, Kuwaibara Tokujiro, Yishikawa Zusaburo, Hattori Montaro, Tanaka Risa, Okada Genbei, Sakai Tanesaburo, Kameki Haizo, and Taki Kichigoro. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. S. Worden.

During July, Mr. C. B. Fry, of Sussex, took part in eight matches, and went to the wickets 14 times, making an average score of over 79 runs per innings.

"GIBSON" TABLEAUX.

The Public Hall was crowded to the utmost limit on Thursday evening, when an entertainment was given in aid of the funds of the Ladies' Benevolent Society. The principal portion of the programme consisted of a series of tableaux taken from the works of Gibson, the American black-and-white artist, and very successful they turned out to be. Gibson is popularly supposed to have discovered and then made perfect the ideal type of the American girl. To a lover of fine line-work his studies of the female form divine, as they appear weekly in *Life*, have appealed with peculiar force, for behind the mere draughtsmanship lay a great artist's peculiar *motif*: he has ever a story to tell, always of the sarcastic sub-acid order, which we associate with certain qualities of Transatlantic humour.

To Mr. Hubbard Smith, we believe, the community is principally indebted for last evening's amusement. He set the idea in motion and then superintended its practical execution to the end. Of course others shared the labour with him in various degrees, but they prefer to be nameless, their reward lying in the genuine fun which was distilled during the evening. The various tableaux have all been advertised, and it is needless here to go into a description of them or dilate on their varying merits. Suffice it to say that those who took part in them included the Misses Moss, Wheeler, Powell, Coppmann, Eldridge, Thomas, Poole, and Varnum; Mesdames McWilliams, Anderson, and Clark, and Messrs. Morse, Ross, Hubbard Smith, Martin, Plummer, Howard, Janion, Stuart, McWilliams, Mowrer, Leather, Langberg, and Davis, and Master Coppmann. Songs were contributed during the evening by Messrs. McChesney and Morse, and Miss Thomas, the latter's contributions being very charming. The mandoline and guitar selections by members of the band of the *Marco Polo* were very pleasing and received encores. The band of the Italian cruiser *Marco Polo* gave some capital selections in the intervals.

DEATH OF MR. HENRY HENNESSY.

Many in Yokohama, Kobe, and Nagasaki —in fact all along the line to Hongkong— will regret to learn of the death of Mr. Henry Hennessey, purser on the *Doric*, who had for fully thirty years been in the employ of the Pacific Mail & O. & O. Companies. Mr. Hennessy was taken sick a few weeks ago, and the steamer *Doric* sailed from San Francisco without him. He gradually grew worse, and the end came on Aug. 22nd from a complication of troubles culminating in Bright's disease. In his many voyages across the Pacific Mr. Hennessey gained the friendship of a large circle, both on the American coast and in the East. He was a native of New York, where he was born in 1840. His wife, Mrs. Mary Hennessey, and a daughter, Miss Minnie Hennessey, survive him. The funeral was made the occasion of a demonstration of respect on the part of San Francisco Masons, the members of the Doric Lodge attending in large numbers. The ritual of the order was observed and the music was furnished by a choir of Masons. The officers of Mr. Hennessey's old ship, the *Belgic*, which happened to be in port, attended the funeral service in a body. The officers of the steamship *Doric* sent a Maltese cross, wrought in great waxen-cupped begonias shading from snowy white to palest rose, interspersed with maiden's-hair fern, with the name of the ship written in purple immortelles on a ground of white daisies. From officers and employés of the Occidental and Oriental Steamship Company came a facsimile of the ship's flag at half-mast, the red white and blue colours meeting in diamond points in the centre, and wrought in violets, white carnations, and coral-tinted begonias.

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OUR BOOK-SHELF.

Helbeck of Bannisdale, by Mrs. Humphry Ward. Macmillan's Colonial Library, London: Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh.

MRS. HUMPHRY WARD has already a large circle of admirers, and that circle is, we think, likely to be extended by her last achievement in literature. Mrs. Ward is not an authoress to be taken lightly, and those frivolous persons—there are a few still, even in these days of universal intelligence, electric light, and University Extension lectures—who read a novel simply to be amused or excited, will have to go further. And they may fare worse. Mrs. Ward has advantages over the many self-appointed apostles who now-a-days preach at the public from Mudie's bookshelves. Her writing is absolutely clean, and free from the irritating mannerisms which are the modern equivalent for originality. She deals in searching analyses of character, but the dissecting knife in her hands is not so brutal a weapon as in the grip of some of her contemporaries. Her style is vigorous and elegant; she has the gift of handling a pathetic situation strongly, and, just as she can minutely analyse the sexual passion without offence, so she can deal with serious questions of religious belief and unbelief without the smallest trace of irreverence. The faint aroma of the Superior Person—once the flavour was very pronounced—still hangs about her work, but it is no longer disagreeable. "Helbeck of Bannisdale" is real literature: its leading ideas are admirably conceived, and the unfolding of the tale, and its progress towards the tragically logical conclusion, are done with an admirably dramatic instinct.

The story is simple, and derives its interest, not from any complexity of incident, but from the essential strength of the characterization. The action centres, of course, round a man and a woman—Alan Helbeck, the descendant of an ancient race of Catholic gentlemen, impoverished by persecution, isolated by Protestant bigotry, proud of their sacrifices for religion; and Laura Fountain, the daughter of a free-thinking Cambridge Professor, of plebeian origin and democratic ideas, a mind of the modern scientific cast, and a contemptuously-bitter feeling for all kinds of religion. The girl's memory of her dead father—her hero, oracle, and idol—is one of the strongest motive forces of her life. She has unconsciously absorbed his theories of the universe from the cradle. A man but little known to fame, excluded, as he thinks, by clerical party influence from prizes that should be legitimately his, his mental attitude towards the Churches is more that of militant enmity than of philosophic and contemptuous indifference.

> She felt to her heart's core that he was unsuccessful, there were prizes he should have had, but had failed to get, and it was the religious party, the "clerical crew" of Convocation, that had stood in the way. From her childhood it came natural to her to hate bigoted people who believed in ridiculous things. It was they who stood between her father and his deserts. There loomed up, as it were, on her horizon, something dim and majestic, which was called Science. Towards this her father pressed, she clinging to him, while all about them was a black and hindering crowd, through which they clove their way—contemptuously.

Besides the Professor and Laura the little Cambridge *ménage* includes another person—Fountain's second wife. She is no other than the elder sister of Helbeck of Bannisdale; she has married Fountain in face of her brother's sternly expressed disapproval; and she lives for years as an exile from the paternal home and a backslider from her mother Church. Her weakness of character prevents her making any active assertion of her Catholic convictions, but, though dormant, they are still powerful; and when the Professor dies—"he would not say even to comfort Laura, that they would meet again; he had not believed it, and so she must not"—Mrs. Fountain re-takes to confession, is reconciled first to the Church and then to her brother, and finally goes back to her old home in Westmoreland, to live with Helbeck again. With her goes Laura as companion and nurse—in a spirit of protest and rebellion, making two homes out which to sink.

conditions that she shall never be asked to prayers or Mass, determined to keep aloof from all the religious life of the house, and with a light contempt for the puerilities of Catholicism as she sees it. She meets Helbeck—narrow, enthusiast by nature and ascetic by habit, bigoted but noble and high-minded, his whole life and most of his means spent in what he considers his duty as lay head of Westmoreland Catholicism. The two strong natures are at once attracted and repelled by each other; but finally love holds the mastery, and they are engaged to be married. But, in all the strength of a sincere passion, the theological shadow comes between them. Helbeck is firm in his devotion to his old faith; the girl, at first petulantly jealous of something that she feels has still the first place in his heart, then genuinely anxious to become a Catholic in order that she may share his whole life, finds the influences of her youth and childhood too strong to conquer. Her very soul rebels at the restraints Catholicism places over liberty of will and judgment; in heart she despises the abjection of its devotees, she finds in the Church's saints only insane fanatics or fantastic prudes, she scorns its machine-made miracles and its manufactured relics, and by the side of all these she glories in the Liberal Tradition of her father and the elect of science. She feels how impossible, since she cannot conquer her aversion, life will be for her as the wife of a man who holds sacred what she mocks; her honesty will not allow her to be a hypocrite and lie to her conscience, even to please him. And so she leaves him. Months pass away—months of misery to both—and then Laura is called back to the deathbed of her step-mother. There she meets Helbeck once more; in the melting mood which the occasion brings about she promises again to be his wife, to give up her long conviction, and to become a Catholic. But, in her own words:—

> Something was said to me that reminded one of my father. I had forgotten him for so long. But when they left me with her (her dead step-mother) I seemed to be holding not her hand, but his. I was back in the old life—I heard him speaking quite distinctly, "Laura, you cannot do it—*you cannot do it.*" And he looked at me with sorrow and displeasure. I argued with him so long, but he beat me down. And the voice I seemed to hear was not his only; it was the voice of my own life, only far stronger and crueller than I had ever known it. . . . Oh, my best, best beloved, cruel to open an old wound. But to live a lie—upon his heart, in his arms—that would be worse. . . . There is no other way. Because death puts an *end*.

And so she drowns herself and goes to her own place. And Helbeck goes to his own place—a Jesuits' college. Both characters are drawn with singular strength; one is interested and sympathetic from beginning to end, and when the last chapter is reached one feels inclined to be angry with the authoress for killing the girl and immuring the man. "If there were only some other way out! Oh the pity of it! the pity of it!"

Much of the charm of the book lies in the setting of the story among the bleak fells and honest north country men of Westmoreland, with their rough brogue and good, narrow notions. Laura's cousin Hubert, a lout redeemed by a passion for music; her aunt and the country person, with anti-Papist notions that would have done credit to Salvation Yeo, but are three hundred years belated now; the Jesuit-artist who finds his passion for painting too strong for his religion—these minor characters are all real men and women sketched by no feeble hand.

The recent typhoon wrought terrible havoc among the fishing fleet on the China coast, and there is no doubt that the loss of life has been appalling. The centre of the trouble seems to have been between Amoy and Ningpo. Nearly a hundred lives were saved by the two steamers *Kasun* and *Loksang* alone. The abandoned steamer *Trinidad* was reported on Sept. 1st drifting in the neighbourhood of Oksan. The Captain of the *Rohilla* gave her

KOREAN NOTES.

Kim Hongniuk, the once all-powerful Interpreter at the Russian Legation, Sŏul, sometime Governor of Sŏul, Vice-Minister of Education, Chief of the Bureau of Nobility, etc., has fallen. On the 25th August an Imperial decree was issued banishing him to Black Mountain Island, off the coast of South Chullado. This man is another specimen of the wonderful class that once ruled Korea, if the statements—some of which are certainly very remarkable—published about him in the *Independent* are correct. Our contemporary avers that the banished man could not read either Chinese, Korean, or Russian, and spoke the last language very badly, yet he was interpreter at the Russian Legation for years. The *Independent* then says:—"The affair of the Feb. 11th, 1896, was a turning point to his life. His Majesty, not from choice, but of necessity, had to take Kim into his confidence. Wealth and honours were heaped on him. He fibbed on both sides, but nobody dared to expose his villany because some thought him to be an angel of light, incapable of any meanness! For over two years much of the government of Korea was practically in the hands of Kim Hongniuk. No Minister of State or Governor of a Province was appointed without his consent, direct or implied. His insolence, intrigues, rascality filled the country with his creatures, the city with his sensual scandals, and the people with indignation. In the meanwhile he was made the Vice-Minister of Education, though he could not sign even his name in any language! He was made the Chief of the Bureau of Nobility! He was appointed the Governor of Sŏul! All this while retaining his position in the Legation as an interpreter. Some time in last April, his dismissal from the Russian service gave great pleasure to all except those Ministers and Vice-Ministers who owed their promotion to the notorious man."

Marquis Ito had a busy time in Sŏul. He was met by the Japanese Minister and the staff of the Legation and deputations of Clubs and merchants, on his landing at Riongsan, on the 25th ultimo. A special sedan chair was sent from the Palace for the use of the Marquis, and a score of Palace constables escorted him to the city. An immense crowd of spectators lined the entire length from the river to the city. An Imperial audience took place about 5 p.m. Next day, the Nam San Poetic Association entertained Marquis Ito in a Japanese restaurant. Among the guests were several high dignitaries of the Korean Government, besides a large number of members of the Society. Most of the guests presented complimentary verses to the distinguished visitor, who was too courteous, says the *Independent*, not to read them all. On the 29th, the Marquis addressed the students of the Sŏul School, an institution under the control of the Japanese Education Society. He emphasized the importance of education as the best foundation for individual welfare as well as for national prosperity. An elaborate banquet was also given in the distinguished visitor's honour at the Palace. And on the evening of the 29th, the Japanese Minister gave an At Home. We learn that Marquis Ito was in excellent spirits, seeming to be none the worse for the fatigues of the journey of audiences and receptions, when he left for Tientsin on the 30th.

The first locomotive on the Sŏul-Chemulpho railroad was run on a portion of the line on August 17. There were no formal ceremonies on the occasion.

Mr. McLeavy Brown is now Superintendent of Railways in Korea. He is regaining all his former influence.

Mr. Yi Yuin, an ex-Minister of Law, was arrested on the 23rd August on a charge of having sent Yi Tai-jun with a forged Imperial letter to the Hon. Mr. Matsuoka when the latter Minister arrived at Fusan last April.

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CHINESE AFFAIRS.

The Blue-funnel steamer *Antenor* went ashore at Woosung bar on the 4th inst., but was successfully floated the same day with the assistance of tugs at high water.

It is reported from Tientsin that at a recent inspection and trial by the Peiyang Naval Board Commissioners of the new German-built cruisers *Haiyung* and *Haichêng*, the speed attained by the two vessels was over 21 knots an hour, being more than the speed contracted for.

An Imperial edict of the 1st instant may, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, be taken as an indication of the struggle that is now going on at Peking between the advocates of reform, headed by the Emperor himself, and the bulk of the conservative party. It appears that a 2nd-class secretary of the Board of Rites, named Wang Hsün, composed a memorial containing suggestions for reforming his Board, and this paper the secretary asked his superior officers, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board of Rites, to hand to the Throne on his behalf. The plain language of the writer, denouncing the laziness of his superiors, evidently gave great offence to them and resulted in Huai Ha-pu, the Manchu President of the Board, heading a joint memorial of his colleagues denouncing in no measured terms the audacity and revolutionary ideas of their subordinate and asking that he be severely punished as a warning to others. It must have been like a bolt from the blue when the above-noted edict was issued commanding the memorialists to be handed to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of adequate penalties, "for trying to prevent people from making suggestions to the Throne in contravention of his Majesty's previous edicts calling for suggestions from all his subjects, irrespective of rank." The edict also went on to say:—"We are the best judge whether a man's memorial is audacious, traitorous, or not, and we will not trouble our Ministers in the future to consider such matters for us. Henceforth, Ministers and high provincial authorities are forbidden to open and read the memorials which they are asked to present to us on behalf of the writers, and the delinquent President of the Board of Rites is now commanded to hand up to us the alleged offensive memorial of the said secretary Wang Hsün." The Reform Party may therefore be said to be triumphant over their old foes at the present moment.

The China Mutual S. N. Co. announces the intended payment on the 1st prox. on Preference shares in the company of the usual half-yearly dividend of 3 per cent.

M. Pavloff, Russian *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking, has been appointed Russian Minister to Korea, and will pay a brief visit to Söul before going home on leave. Mr. de Giers, the new Russian Minister to China, will arrive in about a month's time.

The *N.-C. Daily News* has every reason to believe, in spite of doubts expressed by the home papers, that Captain W. M. Lang, R.N., is coming out to undertake the reorganisation of the Chinese Navy. Captain Lang will in all probability leave England some time next month, bringing with him a staff of some 35 instructors. Captain Lang was retired from the English Navy last month.

H.E. Huang Chun-hsien, Minister Designate to the Court of Tokyo, arrived at Shanghai from Hunan on Sept. 7th, having stopped *en route* at Wuchang on a visit to his patron, Viceroy Chang Chih tung. H.E. has been Acting Provincial Judge almost all the time since first he went to Hunan in the capacity of Intendant of the Salt Gabelle, two years ago, and had every chance, says a Shanghai paper, of being made substantive Provincial Judge, but for the Viceroy Chang's opinion that H.E. would be of more use to his country as Minister to Japan, with whose [illegible] by now a [illegible] desire

among the Emperor and his Ministers and high officers to maintain closer and more friendly relations.

A telegram has been received in Shanghai by Messrs. Morris & Co. to the effect that Captain and Mrs. Broadhurst and the mate of the barque *Comet*, news of the wreck of which was telegraphed to the *N.-C. Daily News* on the 4th instant, have been saved and conveyed to Tamsui. It is conjectured that when the vessel went to pieces they must have drifted ashore on some of the wreckage, and fallen into the hands of the Japanese authorities, by whom they were sent on to Tamsui.

"An Occasional Correspondent" writes from Tientsin to the *N.-C. Daily News* that His Excellency Sheng, the Chinese railway magnate, has given out that the three special objects of his mission to Peking are assured, *viz.* (1) The confirmation of the Belgian Syndicate in the Lu-Han railway, (2) the assurance that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. have got the Nanking-Hankow line, and (3) the definite assertion that the Great Southern track from Hankow to Canton will go to the Americans.

The Taungli Yamên has been commanded by an Imperial decree of the 6th instant to report upon a memorial by Liu Ch'ingao, a first-class Secretary of the same Yamên, upon the necessity of establishing copper cash mints (with foreign machinery) throughout the Empire, in order to obtain a constant supply of the coins, of a uniform size and weight.

According to Reuter's telegram, as it appeared in our Shanghai contemporaries, the trouble in Crete arose out of the British taking over charge of the Tithe office, which the Mussulmans resented.

On 1st ult. a supplementary estimate for £25,000 was issued to Members of the House of Commons in respect of expenditure on Diplomatic and Consular buildings, says the *London and China Express*. The amount which the Treasury originally asked for in China, Japan, and Korea was £12,500, but an additional £2,000 is now required in order to purchase sites at the new China Treaty ports.

The *Universal Gazette* has received intelligence from Peking that in all State matters the Emperor decides himself and the Ministers of the Council and Boards are not suffered to do so on their own authority. During the interview of a high official the Emperor commanded him to formulate and report immediately on a scheme for the re-organization of the army, also telling him that he was much disgusted with the Viceroys and Governors, most of whom are inactive in their administration. Viewing from the present circumstances, His Majesty continued, China will fall into a state awful to imagine in less than ten years, and it is essential for the officials to bring their energy to bear upon their actions and discard all former evil practices in order to remedy the position of the country.

FRENCH NOTES.

The *Débats* comes to the conclusion that the accordeon is an article of the first necessity in France. Since 1896, official figures show, there have been imported into that country 69,114 accordeons, which (hateful fact) chiefly come from Germany. Who would have thought, asks the *Débats* with some pathos, that in France there could be 60,000 individuals capable of employing their leisure hours in filling with and emptying of wind the most mournful (*la plus lamentable*) of musical instruments? Nay, many more than 60,000, for that is simply the number of buyers annually. It is to be hoped, for the sake of France's ears, that the passion is a secret one, indulged clandestinely and away from the madding crowd. But, if France cannot do without accordeons, if a deplorably depraved taste demands them, why can they not be manufactured at home?

French papers have an amusing way of [illegible] ing with the British sporting mania. The *Débats*, speaking of Grace, says:—"A grandiose English figure, and one of the most popular, is about to enter the obscurity of private life. For years Dr. Grace has known the intoxication of triumph. Princes, Ministers, Bishops, have vied in honouring him. A descendant of the Plantagenets, the Duke of Beaufort, now honours himself by presenting to the illustrious cricketer a grand bouquet subscribed for by his admirers. England extends to him adieux worthy of him. It is the retirement of a hero." Here again:—"An English celebrity has just died—Fawnes, the famous coach-driver. His beginnings were modest but precocious; he started at fourteen as a common "cabmann." But gradually his extraordinary gifts brought him fame. His driving astonished the greatest whips. He could drive a coach and four through a wedding ring. He had a succession of aristocratic pupils. He trained coachmen of the greatest distinction, among whom were the Prince of Teck, the Count of Turin, Baron Alfred de Rothschild, and Mr. Clarence Mackay, who, on the occasion of his Jubilee (for, like the Queen, he had a Jubilee) gave him a coach of fabulous price. His funeral was worthy of him. His coffin was placed in a four-in-hand, and was followed by six other carriages with the whips in mourning, the horses in black harness, and the guards blowing their bugles like the trumpets of Judgment Day. The pomp and display were not less than at the funeral of Gladstone. England knows how to honour her heroic dead."

The pupils at the municipal school of Hanoï, French Indo China, have petitioned that half-caste children shall be educated in future apart from Europeans. They say that the Eurasian boys are more Annamite than French. They have all the faults of the Annamite race, and "lack the most elementary principles of morality." In short, they lower the intellectual standard of the class. The Annamites must be a bad lot if they have accomplished a feat hitherto regarded as so difficult—shocking the French sense of morality.

There are two men, said the *Journal des Débats* recently, in Mr. Bebel, the famous German Socialist. There is, in the first place the exterior man,—the agitator, the apostle who goes everywhere sowing the good seed, that is to say preaching the abolition of private property, and the State ownership of sources of wealth. But there is, besides, the private Bebel, the far-seeing family man who has no other preoccupation than to assure himself of a comfortable journey through life, and to bequeath to his family enough to enable them to live in middle class comfort (*largement et bourgeoisement*) like himself. In France this contrast between the political man and the private man is so common as not to excite remark, or only to be the subject of a passing joke. But the Germans do not treat it as a matter of pleasantry, as Mr. Bebel has just found. They discovered that this demolisher of private property was himself a proprietor, even as any other. Yes, he actually possessed a pretty little villa which was secured to him by all the ordinary legal formalities. This revelation caused a scandal in the Socialist camp. Called on to explain himself, Bebel confessed his crime; he admitted that the villa belonged to him; but pleaded in mitigation that he lived there very little, that he preferred to let it to the accursed *bourgeois* who went into the country in search of health; and finally that this villa was not inherited by him, but was the result of his own thrift and industry. These explanations did not appear altogether luminous to the hecklers, and capitalist Bebel passed a bad quarter of an hour. The Germans are naive if they expect such perfect consistency in a modern Socialist.

M. Barrès was a French Isaac Pitman, the apostle of a spelling reform movement, and the founder of a paper called the *Réformiste*. In his will he leaves 30,000 francs a year for the maintenance of the journal; 12,000 francs a

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year for six prizes to be awarded by the directors of the *Réformiste* to persons who have done most in the cause of French spelling reform; and 12,000 francs a year to be distributed to institutions. Other big sums are left to "benefactors of humanity" generally, without reference to their orthographical convictions.

Several Parisian papers make themselves merry over a recent case in Vienna, in which a dentist sued a worthy citizen for 100 odd florins for his wife's new set of teeth. "My wife has no need of such a luxurious set," cried the honest bourgeois to the Judge. "She had an old set, which was quite good enough. I am willing to keep her; I must nurse her if she is ill; but I am not forced to pay for her prodigality." The Judge pointed out that the wife was not thirty, and appearance as well as utility were to be considered. But the citizen was not touched, and persisted in his refusal to pay. And now all the world knows about the poor wife's bad teeth and her sybaritic dental arrangements. It would be interesting to know what she said to the husband when she got home! If she had a tongue of ordinary feminine pattern her spouse must have thought his 100 florins hardly earned. As one paper says:—Ces deux époux ne sont pas séparés, ils vivent ensemble; mais dans quel état d'esprit, grands dieux?

GERMAN NOTES.

The German naval authorities are said to be profoundly convinced of the necessity of using non inflammable wood in the construction of their warships, and they have made numerous experiments in this direction during the past four years, but the results so far have not been altogether satisfactory.

German papers report that the *Independance Belge* and the *Soir*, Brussels papers, have instituted lawsuits against Rochefort's paper, the *Jour*, for slander. The latter stated that they were bribed by the German Government to agitate in favour of Dreyfus. The plaintiffs claim damages to the amount of 150,000 francs.

The *Schlesische Zeitung* states that in consequence of the high price of coal in the Far East arrangements have been made to transport coal direct from Germany to Kiaochou. The first shipments of 5,000 tons left Germany in May. Meanwhile Diederichsen & Co. have undertaken to run a line of steamers for this purpose between Germany and China, and have already established a coal depôt at Tsingtau. This arrangement is to continue until the coalmines in the Shantung *hinterland* supply the demand.

The late Reichstag election seems to be fairly satisfactory to all parties. The Socialists have lost some seats and gained others—their clear gain being eight seats. With this they declare themselves satisfied. But in view of the fact that they put up candidates in every district of the empire, their vote, on the whole, was not as large as they had anticipated, and they lost some of their important strongholds, including two manufacturing districts in Berlin. The Centrists gained six seats, they will occupy 104 seats in the new Reichstag, while the National-Liberals have merely held their own, with 49 seats. The South-German party, which had 12 seats, lost four, and the Conservatives 9 they retain only 80 seats. The Poles, who had 20 seats, lost 6; the Alsace-Lorraines lost 1 and retain 8; the Anti-Semites have 12, formerly 16; the Guelphs 9, formerly 8; and the Radicals 40, formerly 44. Politically the new Reichstag will not materially differ from its predecessor, and the Government has every reason to be satisfied.

In view of the recent telegram regarding an alleged agreement between Great Britain and Germany, with reference to Africa and Asia Minor, it may be of interest to note that, according to recent information, the German Anatolian Railway Company has secured a concession from the Turkish Government for the construction of a railway, of 230 kilometers, from Haider Padra to Cæsares, and the same company has received a concession for the construction and maintenance of a harbour at Haider Padra. Other railway projects are connected with these, and eventually the Anatolian railway is to be prolonged to the sea. The Turkish Government, as is well known, is far more friendly to Germany than to Russia. The Russian papers are now beginning to agitate against this so-called "German policy of expansion," though the two governments seem to be on the best of terms. The *Novoe Vremya*, in a recent leader, said:—"There is good ground for the supposition that the railways that have been built with German capital, or are now projected, are intended as centres around which great German colonies will be established, for the concessions carry with them enormous tracts of land. The Germans are establishing agricultural schools, teach the Turkish employés the German language, and in every way promote German interests. Thus, gradually and without much ado, the Germans are taking possession of Asia Minor and are acquiring supremacy at Constantinople. The matter is simple enough. If Germany makes an attempt to acquire a port in Asia Minor, Russia must either pass it by without protest or else lose patience and occupy the Bosphorus." The *Novoe Vremya* has evidently not troubled to consider English opinion on the latter point.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

On Wednesday morning at 1 o'clock another fire occurred at a godown belonging to a merchant living at Shiwo-cho, Nihonbashi.

A case of cholera has appeared in Yokohama, the victim being a rice dealer named Kama, Heizo, 37 years of age, living at Ogimachii 4-chome. He was sent to the hospital.

On Tuesday morning fire broke out at the Chitose restaurant, near Shimbashi station, Tokyo, and two houses were totally destroyed and one injured. The houses of the Komparu *Geisha* being close by, great excitement prevailed for some hours.

On the 11th, at 4.30 a.m., a man named Akimoto Yonosuke (39), living at Iida-machi, Kojimachi, Tokyo, murdered his concubine and their infant, and then committed suicide by stabbing himself with a sword. The man is said to have been temporarily insane.

Says the *China Mail*, with fine sarcastic terseness:—To judge from the agitation in some of the foreign newspapers in Japan for the improvement of Japanese prisons, one would imagine that the whole of the foreign population was about to be committed under life sentences.

The lights on Corregidor Island and at the mouth of the Pasig were restored on 26th August, and the obstructions in the Pasig River removed so far as to give a practicable channel of 15 feet depth at high water. Work is still going on for the removal of wrecks from the river.

When the M. M. steamer *Laos* arrived off Socotra on her voyage out, it was discovered that a fire had broken out in one bunker. The vessel was anchored off the island, and in ten hours the fire was extinguished. Another delay occurred at Djibouti, in receiving Cardiff coals to supplement an inferior kind she had received.

News has been received in Yokohama to the effect that Mr. Freeman, the Chaplain of the U.S.S. *Baltimore*, drowned himself at Nagasaki on Monday. His state of mind has given anxiety for some time. The body has been recovered, and will be embalmed and taken to the States. Mrs. Freeman, who left for San Francisco on the *Gaelic* on Tuesday, received a brief telegram conveying the sad news.

The Yokohama Specie Bank held its general meeting on the 10th at 2.30 p.m., Mr. Iwasaki presiding. The report for the half-year showed that the total profit amounted to *yen* 1,434,399.59. Of this *yen* 300,000 was passed to reserve account, *yen* 69,582 distributed as presents among the employés, *yen* 676,000 appropriated as dividend, *yen* 50,000 aside for the expenses of the new office, and *yen* 329,817.59 carried to the next account.

When the P. & O. steamer *Rohilla* sighted the *Trinidad*, after the typhoon, the now abandoned vessel was showing a board on the bridge bearing the words, "Ship Full of Water," also an American Ensign, Union down, at the main, the English Pilot Jack with a knot in it forward, and the Greek Ensign underneath. It appears that during the typhoon the after house was washed bodily overboard, with all the signal flags, and this accounts for the extraordinary distress signal hoisted. Two steamers passed before the *Rohilla*, apparently without observing the distressed steamer. For two days the crew subsisted on biscuit and water.

Education is progressing among the masses of the old country. The following effusion, which was read at a country Police Court, is from the brain—or its equivalent—of a housemaid aged seventeen:—

> Oh, my darling. To be with you is the only hope and desire of my heart. No flower on earth ever grew that can be compared to thy imperial beauty. Oh, to be on some high mountain alone with thee taking sweet kisses from thy lovely lips.

It was a letter to her lover, a bus driver. The latter, accepting the invitation expressed in these fervid lines, pressed his "lovely lips" on the poetic Mary Ann's as she rode on the top of his bus. And then she summoned him! Feminine, quite feminine.

TERRIBLE BOAT ACCIDENT NEAR CANTON.

(From the "China Mail.")

Canton, Sept. 3.

In the Tung Koon District is a large village called Tai Fan Heung, containing a temple dedicated to Hong Kung Chue Shui. Worship at the shrine of this god is said to be most efficacious, and thousands of worshippers visit the temple every year. Once every ten years, a great and special festival, which draws a vast number of people from far and near, is held. The tenth anniversary fell this year, and has just closed under very sad circumstances.

On Wednesday night (August 31st), while the theatricals were in full swing, one of the mat-sheds caught fire. Fortunately, the fire was soon extinguished, otherwise a loss of life ten times greater than that which we report would have to be chronicled.

The following morning a large number of Chinese, scared by what they regarded as a bad omen, left Tai Fan Heung for their homes. The passage-boat for Canton was especially crowded, and every available spot had a passenger. All went well on the way down the East river till the main stream was reached. Here one of those sudden squalls so common on this river came on before the great bat-wing sail could be furled, and over the vessel heeled with its living freight. Only a few of the passengers on the deck or upper part of the ship escaped, while not one of those boxed up in the cabins has survived to tell what the awful sensation must have been when they felt the ship turning over and saw the rush of water which cut off any possibility of escape.

Yesterday, the Benevolent Society of Canton sent a boat to the scene of the disaster, which is said to be near the Ap Tun Customs station. A terrible and indescribable sight presented itself when the bottom of the passage boat was broken open. The bodies were arranged on the bank of the river, and afterwards placed in coffins, supplied by the Benevolent Society. One notices with interest a new departure. Photographs are made of the coffins with their occupants to facilitate the identification of the deceased by

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TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

[From the "Japan Times."]

LOSSES IN THE BATTLE OF OMDURMAN.

London, Sept. 7.

The British losses in the battle of Omdurman included 23 non-commissioned officers and men killed, whereof 19 belonged to the 21st Lancers, and 99 wounded. The Egyptian troops had 21 killed and 230 wounded. Twelve British officers were wounded.

Sir Herbert Kitchener telegraphs that 18,800 Dervishes were killed, 1,600 wounded, and 3,000 taken prisoner in the battle of Omdurman.

London, Sept. 13.

News has reached Omdurman that a white force, believed to be French, is occupying Fashoda. Sir Herbert Kitchener is proceeding thither. The newspapers comment seriously on this news, and all recall the declaration, made in the House of Commons by Sir E. Grey in 1895, that French interference on the Upper Nile would be regarded as an unfriendly act. Meanwhile the French press is jubilant at the presence of Frenchmen at Fashoda.

KHARTOUM OCCUPIED.

The Union Jack and the Egyptian Crescent have been hoisted on the palace at Khartoum.

The British troops in Khartoum are returning northward as fast as transports permit.

SPAIN'S COLONIES.

SECRET SITTINGS OF THE CORTES.

The Cortes have re-assembled and resolved to discuss the cession of the colonies in secret sittings.

THE FRENCH CRISIS.

General Zurlinden has replaced M. Cavaignac as Minister of War.

BRITISH ACTION IN CRETE LEADS TO RIOT AND BLOODSHED.

London, Sept. 8.

In pursuance of the decision of the foreign Admirals at Crete the British on Tuesday took over the town of Candia. The Mussulmans showing active opposition, the British soldiers fired, wounding several. The Mussulmans, exasperated, set fire to the Christian quarter. It is reported that many were killed, including the British Consul and several soldiers. The gunboat *Hazard* subsequently bombarded the city, part of which is in flames. Several men-of-war are hastening to Candia.

London, Sept. 9.

Twenty British soldiers and bluejackets were killed at Candia and fifty wounded, by the Mussulman mob suddenly opening fire from the houses. The British Vice-Consul was burnt to death in his house. It is feared many Christians perished. Two companies of the Dorsetshire regiment from Malta have gone to Crete and the men-of-war are landing detachments.

London, Sept. 10.

The *Times* correspondent writes from Candia that 800 Christians have been massacred and the town pillaged by Bashi-bazouks. The Turkish troops were seen firing on the British. Two hundred and fifty Borderers and a Company of the Medical Corps have left Malta for Crete. The 8 warships before Candia are ready to bombard it if needful.

London, Sept. 13.

The Admirals have requested the Powers to insist on immediate reinforcements of 15,000 Bashi Bazouks and the recall of Turkish troops from Crete.

London, Sept. 15.

The report is confirmed that 600 Christians have been massacred in Candia. Admiral Noel has sent an ultimatum to the Governor to disarm the Mussulmans within 48 hours, deliver the ringleaders of the massacre, and surrender the forts commanding the British encampments.

THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA MURDERED BY AN ITALIAN ANARCHIST.

London, Sept. 10.

An Italian anarchist named Luccheni murdered the Empress of Austria with a stiletto on Saturday in a street of Geneva. The murderer has been arrested.

London, Sept. 11.

The Empress was stabbed in the bosom with a slender triangular file while proceeding in a steamboat to the pier from the hotel. Her Majesty was at first unaware that she was wounded. She imagined that the ruffian simply attempted to steal her watch. Her Majesty died about three hours after. Intense excitement prevails in Vienna. The crime is an outcome of the Anarchist conspiracy.

SPANISH SENATE.

The Spanish Senate has decided to adopt the peace protocol.

THE ST. LEGER.

London, Sept. 9

The following are the results of racing in the St. Leger:—1 Wildfire, 2 Jeddah, 3 Bridegroom.

THE DREYFUS QUESTION.

MINISTER OF WAR THREATENS RESIGNATION.

London, Sept. 14.

Colonel Paty Duclam has been compelled to retire and has been dismissed from the Staff owing to his machinations with Major Esterhazy in connection with the Dreyfus case. General Zurlinden, the Minister of War, having examined the Dreyfus papers, is convinced that the ex-Captain is guilty. He has threatened to resign if the Cabinet persists in the matter of a revision of the trial.

SPAIN ADOPTS PEACE PROTOCOL.

WILD SCENES IN THE CORTES.

London, Sept. 15.

The Spanish Cortes have adopted the Peace Protocol after frantic scenes of vituperation against the Government, the Generals, and Admiral Cervera.

AMERICAN BATTLESHIPS TO SAIL FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

Owing to the urgent request of Admiral Dewey, the battleships *Iowa* and *Oregon*, accompanied by transports, will sail shortly for the Philippines.

THE SÖUL-FUSAN RAILWAY.

Söul, Sept. 9.

The treaty relating to the laying down of the Söul-Fusan Railway was concluded on the 7th inst., being signed by Mr. Kato, Japanese Minister at Söul, of the one part and the Foreign Minister of Korea on the other.

H.E. LI HUNG-CHANG DISMISSED.

Peking, Sept. 8.

H.E. Li Hung chang, President of the Tsungli Yamen, was released from his office to day.

Peking, Sept. 12.

It is alleged that the reason why H. E. Li Hung-chang was released from the post of President of the Tsung-li Yamên is that Great Britain declined to open negotiations with the Yamên in presence of Li, by whom diplomatic secrets have always been divulged to the Russian Minister.

THE ATTEMPT TO POISON THE EMPEROR.

Söul, Sept. 13.

An attempt to poison H.M. the Korean Emperor, the Crown Prince, and Lady An-sang has been discovered. Lady Om-sang is suspected as the instigator of the plot.

THE "SIVOOTCH."

Jinsen, Sept. 15.

The Russian warship *Sivoolch* weighed anchor from this port to-day.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Arabic 1	M. Sept. 19
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Natal 2	W. Sept. 21
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic 3	Th. Sept. 22
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Sept. 26
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. Sept. 26
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Sept. 28
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Th. Sept. 29
America	P. M. Co.	Glengyle	Th. Sept. 29
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. Oct. 6

1 Left Hongkong on the 12th inst.
2 Left Shanghai on the 14th inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 3rd inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. Sept. 21
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. Sept. 21
America	P. M. Co.	Aztec	W. Sept. 21
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	F. Sept. 23
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Sept. 26
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Natal	W. Sept. 28
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Sept. 30
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Glengyle	F. Sept. 30
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa. Oct. 1
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Oct. 7

CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

Solution of Problem No. 385.

White.	Black.
1—Q to K 8	1—Kt takes Kt (Q 5)
2—Q takes B mate	
	1—K takes Kt (B 5)
2—Q to R 5 mate	
	1—B takes Q, or moves,
2—P to Kt 4 mate	or R moves

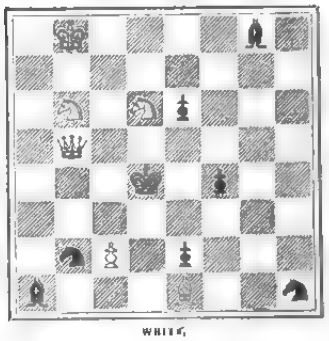
Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Marco, G.H.B.W. (Miyanoshita), and S.S.

H.B.N.—A problem if it be correct, should have but one key move. Your solution has four and the right one is not among them.

Problem No. 388.

By B. G. Laws.

Inscribed as a Tribute of Respect to the Late Mr. James Rayner.



White mates in three moves.

Mr. James Rayner, to whom this problem is inscribed, was the Problem-Editor of *The British Chess Magazine*, and for the last sixteen or seven-

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teen years has been inseparably connected with every movement for the furtherance of the game." His death, which occurred on June 4th, is universally mourned in England, where his work as an editor and his achievements as a player were so well known and so highly appreciated. This problem, taken from *The British Chess Magazine*, "was composed," so we are informed, "about the hour Mr. Rayner was passing away."

Answers to Correspondents.

G.H.B.W.—The pieces are quite clear in all the copies we have seen. But we will consider your suggestion.

W.B.M.—Best thanks, will use it soon!

H.B.N.—"The Hastings Chess Tournament" edited by Horace F. Cheshire contains perhaps the best collection of modern master games. Re problem, see above.

W.H.S.—Yes, it is a 2 mover and the position correct.

Shadow-Pictures of the Vienna Players.

Speaking of the masters who played in Vienna, Herr Armin Friedmann, writes in the *Pester Lloyd* as follows:—

"Only two famous names are missing—Emanuel Lasker, of Berlin, the giant-killer, and Rudolph Charousek, of Budapest, the genial victor at Berlin, of last year.

"The Master is carefully nursing his young fame and wraps it in wadding so that it may not suffer damage, and evidently does not dare to subject it to the sharp draught of an international tourney. The young matador of Budapest is evidently more courageous and more cautious of triumphs, but a malignant and serious sickness prevents his playing. . . .

"There he is, the old, the great William Steinitz, for fully thirty years the sole, supreme ruler in the realm of Chess, who held the world's record with an iron hand until there came along young Lasker, who compelled him to abdicate. Blooming youth conquered decaying age. The health of Steinitz is no longer of the best, and to this is added the grueful cares of daily life, which cause him anxiety. He began in Vienna in the brilliant form of his palmiest days. At the very outset he conquered his old antagonist, Tschigorin; then followed victory upon victory, until at last the powerful swing of his wings grew weaker and his mighty flight was checked. Since then he does not make the same progress, but is among the possibilities. The hoary veteran may still pull himself together, and, recovering his strength, may forge ahead. Let me give fair warning: Steinitz will deprive many a contestant of an important game in this pending contest, because even one half of Steinitz would make a formidable enemy, and when the old lion is aroused he is dangerous. 'Although I am old, no one must put his finger in my mouth, or I'll bite,' he said in 1892, and it is still true of him to-day.

Steinitz is a small man, his great head resting upon a strong body, which, however, his weak limbs can hardly bear. . . . The full face, enframed by a thin, reddish beard, is almost beautiful, especially when the left profile is observed, and he gazes thoughtfully upon the Chess-board. The mighty domelike forehead predominates over all. In his intercourse he is amiable, modest, pleasant. One wishes he may gain the victory; he is so accustomed to victories that without them he can not live. His is, indeed, a deeply tragic fate. Almost for half a century, to countless people, he has given pleasure and joy, and for his ceaseless toil and almost superhuman intellectual efforts he received almost nothing in return. . . .

"Old Mr. Blackburne, of London, is also present—a chieftain with the most immovable quietude of soul, whom nothing on earth could throw out of his equanimity. He too, was at one time a mighty victor, and in many an important contest did he carry off first honors. He bears his misfortunes less tragically; he smokes his short-stemmed pipe, and quietly addresses his victorious antagonist in German, using the only two German words he has learned here—one of which is not German at that—*Grosser Ganef*. . . .

"One of the strongest Vienna players is the officious, busy Secretary of the Club, George Marco, and his system of annihilating and crushing his opponents is feared by all. Unfortunately, his head is filled with administration details, in addition to which he edits match reports, publishes books and periodicals devoted to Chess, sends telegrams and cables broadcast, so that, as a penny-a liner expressed it—it requires his massive brain to produce his results. Marco is the most good-natured giant, the most amiable ogre that can be imagined. Three Schlechters, thin and lean, could easily be carved out of him, and there would be enough left to make a complete Waldrodt. This fellow Marco is an original one; he loves the big, polysyllabic words, the most grotesque exaggerations, and his comparisons are confined to exotics and the strangest specimens of botany. The whole tropical world opens when he bombastically preaches. He is the Freiligrath of Chess. . . .

"Social old Adolph Schwartz, a native of Hungary, resigned soon after the opening of the Tournament, and has taken his seat among the 'lookers-on in Venice.' They wouldn't let him win a single game and he got angry. . . .

"Dr. Tarrasch is one of the strongest of living Chess-players. He educated himself on the lines of Adolph Anderssen and Louis Paulsen, but developed his own energetic style to a high degree of independence. Out of the smallest advantages of position; out of particles—one may say—he builds up the chance to win. This then grows and grows and steadily increases—and every avalanche was once but a tiny snowflake. He knows naught that is immaterial; naught that is insignificant; he considers and uses everything if it can be turned to good account for his hidden objects. Admirable is his appreciation of safe positions. The safest is to him the best; daring experiments he does not attempt. He loves to bring about complications; he orchestrates somewhat strongly because he presumes that his opponent does not feel at home as much as he does. Personally he is a gentleman of the world, with the most elegant of manners; genial, sarcastic, witty, and sharp-tongued. . . .

"Geza Maroczi, of Budapest, engineer of the water department of that city, is the only Hungarian player here, and he wins a great deal of honour for his fatherland. The vehemence of his attacks is universally feared, and the very best take him seriously. . . .

"Pillsbury is a beardless young man, whose Anglo-American origin is easily read in his face. His profile is cameo-like, nobly cut. Every movement is dignified and gentle elegance. For such a youth to acquire so much self constraint, deliberation, and coolness is wonderful, and could only have been obtained by occupation at the Chess-board. When Pillsbury sits at the board, he has an absolute stony calmness in his face; not a muscle moves; only now and then will he wink a bit faster when he feels himself slowly and satisfactorily nearing the goal, so finely calculated and elaborated. He is a disciple of Grand Master Steinitz. The idiosyncracies and stubbornness of the veteran he has acquired, but he plays in grand style always, the simplest moves which conform to his purpose. The victor of Hastings plays the openings like a master; the middle game he treats powerfully, and with grandeur; the most complicated positions of the end he treats with astonishing finesse, and with the most positive assurance he grasps the knottiest threads and the most complicated entanglements.

"His friend and compatriot, Showalter, whom he had but lately conquered in a match, is a tall, handsome, blond man, blue-eyed, with martial mustache. . . .

"Amos Burn, of Liverpool, is a serious Chess-ascetic. As for him all the governments of the world could go into shreds to-morrow, if his white and black Kings retain their reign over the board. Burn is a silent Britisher in blue-flannel. With broad-soled shoes, he tramps through the world in which, however, he does not seem to take any interest. He does not deem it worthy of a look through his eye-glasses. His hair, parted in the middle, falls over his forehead, in which there is thought only for Chess, and when his bony hand grasps his brown full beard at the chin, it is done only to think more seriously over the problem, which variation of Ruy Lopez would just then be the most advantageous.

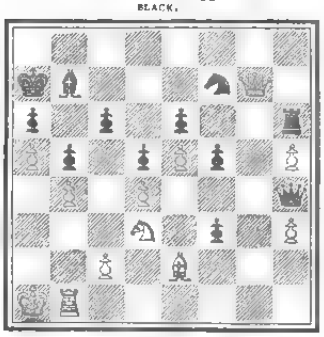
"Janowsky, from Paris, a young dark-eyed Pole, wearing glasses, who plays as elegantly as he does forcibly, is an outspoken enemy of all 'draws.' With him there is no such a thing as a weary 'sitting out' game, and nothing does he hate more cordially than stubbornness. His play is, according to a remark of his own, like Mary Stuart, 'beautiful, but unfortunate.' . . .

"Tschigorin, whose genuine Slavic type and genial appearance arouse immediate attention, must be, whatever may be his achievements in Vienna, recognized as one of the foremost stars. He is somewhat stubborn, and that costs him many a potent point in his score. He plays the 'old school,' with brilliant attacking combinations, and boldly rushes to penetrate the very Chess-board, and the figures of the enemy he looks at with hatred, malice, and contempt, a veritable passionate, fighting Pole."

An Interesting Ending.

(From the *Vienna Tourney.*)

Position after Black's 35—P to ♗ 6.



36 B x P	Q x P(ch)	41 P R7	P x P
37 R K2	Kt Q3	42 P R8(Q)	P K16
38 Q x R	Kt B5	43 Q K B8	P x P
39 Q B4	Q B6	44 Q B5(ch)	K R sq
40 P R6	P B4	45 Q(B4) Q4	Q x P(ch)
		Resigns.	

From this position the game took the following extraordinary course:—

For it now 46 R to R 2, Q to K 8 ch; 47 Kt takes Q, P to B 8 (Q) mate. White should have played 45 Q takes Kt, winning easily.

In the Cologne chess tournament, which was played last month, Amos Burn succeeded in carrying off the first prize, while Charousek, Cohn and Tschigorin divided the second, third and fourth prizes in equal shares; Steinitz took the fifth; Schlechter and Showalter divided the sixth and seventh and Berger received the eighth. The prizes, eight in number, were of the following amounts: First prize, 1,000 marks; second, 750; third, 500; fourth, 400; fifth, 300; sixth, 200; seventh, 150; eighth, 100.

The final score reads as below:

	won.	lost.		won.	lost.
Burn	11½	3½	Janowski.....	7½	7½
Cohn	10½	4½	Popiel	7	8
Charousek ...	10½	4½	Schiffers	7	8
Tschigorin ...	10½	4½	Gottschalk ...	5½	9½
Steinitz	9½	5½	Albin	4	11
Schlechter ...	9	6	Heinrichsen...	4	11
Showalter ...	9	6	Fritz.....	3½	11½
Berger.....	8	7	Schallopp ...	3	12

A friendly match was recently in progress between teams selected from the House of Commons and the Press Gallery. There were eleven players a side, and two games will be contested between each pair as convenience admits. According to the latest advices the members score 3 to 1, since Horace Plunkett, the best player in the House, has won his two games with B. F. Bussey of the *Glasgow Herald*. C. E. Shaw, a local M. P., has defeated H. V. Bussey of the *Morning Post*, and J. Parnell, M. P., has lost to Mr. Amphlett of the Press Association.

In January of this year a national chess organization was formed in Italy, under the name of the Italian Chess Union, with Baron Georg Sonnino as president. It has about 350 members and is growing. On September 19th a chess congress will be held in Turin under the management of the union. The *Ruy Lopez* has been named as the official organ.

Pillsbury is authority for the statement that a committee consisting of representative chess players of all nations has been formed to work out a universal chess code. The Vienna tournament was played under the rules of the "Handbuch," and these will form the basis of the new code.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Glaucus, British steamer, 3,350, J. Barwise, 9th September,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe 8th September, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 9th September,—Shanghai via ports, 3rd Sept., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Columbia, British steamer, 1,689, A. Gow, 9th September,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe 8th September, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,617, Wilde, 9th September,—London via ports, and Kobe 8th September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Manila, British steamer, 2,711, Haddock, 10th September,—London via ports, and Kobe 8th September, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 10th September,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe 9th September, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,748, Murray, 10th September,—London via ports, and Kobe 9th September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alton, British steamer, 2,169, Wm. Nicholson, 11th September,—Tacoma, Wash., General.—Dodwell, Cartill & Co.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, T. B. Lockyer, 11th September,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe 10th September, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Benlarig, British steamer, 1,452, Krobel, 12th September,—London via ports, and Kobe 10th September, General.—Cornes & Co.

Claverhill, British steamer, 1,829, Wigley, 12th Sept.,—Iloilo, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Indiana, United States Transport, 2,484, Morle, 12th Sept.,—Manila, 1st Sept., Ballast.—U. S. Govt.

Heathfield, British barque, 1,534, McKenzie, 12th Sept.,—Shanghai, Ballast,—Captain.

Glenfarg, British steamer, 2,350, F. Selby, 13th Sept.,—San Francisco, 25th Aug., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Ghasee, British steamer, 1,827, Bailey, 12th Sept., New York via ports, Kobe, 13th Sept., General.—Dodwell, Cartill & Co.

Tsinan, British steamer, 1,460, Geo. Ramsay, 15th Sept.,—Australia and New Zealand via ports, Hongkong, 9th Sept., Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

DEPARTURES.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 9th September,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Columbia, British steamer, 1,689, A. Gow, 10th September,—Victoria, B.C., & Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Cartill & Co.

Kiukiang, British steamer, 1,240, C. F. Arnold, 11th September,—Moji, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Maroa, British steamer, 4,451, C. A. Adams, 11th September,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Ixion, British steamer, 2,299, Nish, 13th Sept.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Socotra, British steamer, 3,919, Thos. H. Hede, 13th September,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Stronsa, British ship, 1,939, Henning, 12th Sept.,—Kobe, Pig Iron.—Flint Kilby and Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 13th Sept.,—San Francisco, via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Laos, French steamer, 2,300, Flandin, 14th Sept.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. S.S. Co.

Indiana, United States Transport, 2,484, Morle, 14th Sept.,—San Francisco, Ballast.—U. S. Govt.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,615, R. Swain, 14th Sept.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenfarg, British steamer, 2,350, F. Selby, 14th September,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Glaucus, British steamer, 3,350, J. Barwise, 15th Sept.,—Port Pirie, Ballast.—Butterfield and Swire.

Claverhill, British steamer, 1,829, Wigley, 15th Sept.,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. T. Yamaguchi, Lieut. and Mrs. T. Hazama, Sub-Lieut. A. Yamakawa, Mr. R. Hara, Mr. S. Ikoma, Mr. M. Fujita, Mr. S. Asahara, Master T. Shoda, Master H. Shoda, Master W. Shoda, Master Kato, Master H. Yamaguchi, Mr. E. Davies, and Mr. O. Murchin in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. T. Katowda, Mrs. M. Miyauchi, Mrs. K. Komatsu, Mrs. K. Miyachi, Messrs. S. Kobayashi, K. Gorai, S. Matsuoka, K. Masukura, T. Murata, J. Matsubita, S. Sagara, K. Ioyama, Mr. Ariyoshi, Y. Yamamoto, K. Chiyada, J. Yanagi, T. Yamaguchi, T. Iki, T. Takezawa, D. Kuroda, W. Uki, Bentem Kee Tanja, and M. Shigemi, in second class; and 142, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Columbia*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. R. White, Miss L. White, Mr. R. White, Jr., Master J. White, Master T. White, and Mr. V. L. Boeck in cabin; 6 Europeans and 68 Chinese in steerage, for Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash.

Per British steamer *Manila*, from Shanghai:—Mrs. Hudson, infant and amah in cabin. From Nagasaki:—Major McLeod and Mrs. McLeod in cabin. From Kobe:—One Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. P. H. McKay, Mrs. N Arthur, Mr. C Mosle, Mr. W. A. Foster, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. M. C. Brooks and servant, Mr. F. H. Ziegfold, Mr. F. Kershaw, Mr. F. Cartendyk, and Mr. Ah Mong, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mr. T. V. Twinning, and Mr. S. H. Morse, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Chalfant, Mr. F. A. J. Gace, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hertz and servant, Mr. W. Pottberg, Mr. F. D. Cheshire, and Mr. J. C. Siegfried, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. R. Ogilvie, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Brewin, Mr. Kozhevar, Col. Ramsden, Mr. R. E. Gill, Rev. and Mrs. H. Fairbank and 3 children, Mr. Pellew, Mr. Yee Woo, Miss Hebden, Miss F. Officer, and Miss T. Officer, in cabin; Mr. Burlimann, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Pawsey, Mr. Mr. Yue Pone, Mr. Hik Chow, Mr. Kai Tung, and Mr. Ah Sin, in second class; 2 Chinese, and 1 Japanese, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. G. A. Barnard, Mr. H. Bell, Lieut. C. J. Benton (R.N.), Mr. N. P. H. Brown, Major Congdon (R.M.L.I.), Mrs. Cox and child, Mr. Ogleby Davies, Mr. W. Doherty, Mr. H. B. Dunlop, Mr. A. R. Dunlop, Miss N. Ferguson, Dr. J. T. N Gatrell, Mrs. J. T. N. Gatrell and 2 children, Dr. G. Moore Graham, Mr. James Harvie, Mons. S. Henrard, Mr. H. R. Hunt, Mr. C. Kingcome, Mr. A. L. Koch, Mrs. Lewis, Hon. Stewart Lockhart, Miss J. H. Loomis, Inspector-General G. Maclean (R.N.), Mrs. Maclean, Rev. T. M. MacNair, Mrs. T. M. MacNair, Mr. S. H. Matsubara and servant, Mr. Bunkio Matsuki, Mr. J. M. Murai, Professor K. Noro, Miss A. S. Quigley, Mr. C. H. Schroth, Captain E. S. Smalley, Miss C. E Stirling, Miss J. E. Terry, Mrs. Whiting, Miss Whiting, and Mr. J. Clifford Wilkinson in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Prof. and Mrs. T. C. Allbutt, Miss Allbutt, Mr. and Mrs. N. Bentz, Mrs. I. Bellow, The Misses Bellow (2), Mr. F. D. Cheshire, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Capen, Mr. and Mrs. G. U. Chalfant, Mr. Edwin Eddison, Mrs. T. S. Freeman, Rev. and Mrs. H. Fairbank and three children, Mr. F. A. J. Gace, Mr. Charles H. Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hertz and servant, Mr. Walter G. Illies, Mr. S. Ikeda, Mr. K. Kagami, Mr. S. M. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Marsh, Mr. Lindsay Van Rensselaer, Mr. A. Schroppel, Mr. J. C. Siegfried, Mr. K. Tan, Mr. T. V. Twinning, Mr. S. Watanabe, Mr. U. Yuneyama, and Mr. R. Yamamura, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Laos*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Richard J. Kirby, Mr. G. Alex. Forrest, Mr. J. Tomoie, Capt. W. W. White, Mr. G. Bruce Webster, Mr. R. Home Cook, Mrs. and Miss Home Cook, 2 children and amah, Mrs. Chiffinton and amah, Mr. G. R. Black, Mr. Denys Latrien, Mr. F. B. Abenheim, Mr. J. P. Pocklington, Mr. Henry Ryder, Mr. W. S. Taylor, Mr. S. Reuh, Mr. H. Gostin, Mr. P. H. McKay, Mr. T. Kershaw, Mr. Bugbird, Mr. de Bavier, Mr. Mark Su Pau, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Walter, Mr. and Mrs. Russel, Miss G. Cozad, Miss D. Barlow and amah, Capt. Chichkine, Miss Roth, Miss F. D. Patton, Miss Dowd, Mr. A. Fischer, Mr. G. Kozabow, Capt. G. H. Loch, Mr. Alvares de Toldo, Mr. R. W. Castle, Mr. F. Deacon, Mr. Howard J. Gillett, Mr. Albert Lee, Mr. Roth, Mr. E. C. Lane, Mr. Giveseppe Caseamo, Mr. Geo. A. March, Mr. Camille Chanmartin, Mr. Alex. Calder, Mr. C. Danby, Mrs. J. F. Gillett, Mrs. Dauhenier, 4 children and governess, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. P. Brand, Mr. and Mrs. Beauchamp, Mr. and Mrs. Mertens, Mrs. Workmann, Mrs. Gribble, Mrs. Lamont, Mrs. Pauline Hoffmann, Mrs. W. S. Jackson, Dr. and Mrs. Muirhead, Mrs. and Miss Allen, Miss W. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Peace, Capt. J. W. Lee, Mr. D. Landell, and Mr. Yamada, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Capt. H. Walter, Mr. R. Hara, Major K. Ijuin, Mrs. U. Ijuin, Mr. F. Kobano, Mr. S. Abe, Major K. Hirose, Mrs. Hirose, Lieut. K. Muko, Mr. S. Kondo, Mr. O Fischer, Miss Matsushima, Lieut. K. Koshii, Mr. and Mrs. D. Go, Miss I. Tanaka, Mr. S. Painter, Mr. W. Pattberg, Miss C. Selles, Lieut. R Kobayashi, Mr. K. Matsuda, Miss Burnside, Mr. E. Davis, Mr. O. Murphin, Mr. and Mrs. K. Hasegawa, Mr. G. Kowaki, Capt. T. Sakai, I.J.N., Mr. J. L. Lamb, Mr. H. G. Stevens, Dr. Polk, Dr. Gates, Rev. and Mrs. Lewis and 3 children, and Mr. A. M. Gale, in cabin; Mr. J. Tsuda, Mr. D. Ohida, Mr. M. Asada, Mr. K Ishida, Mr. N Aso, Mrs. M. Aso, Mr. K. Kawakami, Mr. S. Saito, Mr. D. Iwasaki, Mr. N. Kobayashi, Dr. A. Granatzky, Mr. H. Masato, Miss I. Kaneko, Mr. K. Kojima, Mr. K. Ohe, Mr. Y. Hirose, Mr. K. Matsunaga, and Mr. C. F. Kupper, in second class; one European and 2 children, six Chinese, and 85 Japanese, in steerage.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Capt. Wm. Finch, reports:—Left Hongkong, Sept. 1st; left Shanghai, Sept. 5th; left Nagasaki, 7th; left Kobe, Sept. 9th. Arrived Yokohama, Sept. 10th. Moderate to light variable winds to fine clear weather.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The better feeling noted last week continues to characterise the market, but so far few actual transactions have been made. Signs, however, justify business men in take a more optimistic view of the future.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 35 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches,	1.75 to 2.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches,	2 00 to 3 75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens in Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0 15 to 0 25
WOOLLENS.	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches best	0.28 to 0.42
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Grape, 24 yards, 32 inches	0 15 to 0 17
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.74
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0 50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per ℔	0 50 to 0 60
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7 75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches,	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.25 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½
COTTON YARNS.	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16, 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38/42, Singles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	61 00 to 63.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	75 00 to 76.50
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99 00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	69 50 to 76.50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2 100, Gassed	113.00 to 124.00
RAW COTTON.	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	17.25 —
Chinese	19.00 to 19.50

METALS.

The market shows some tendency to renewed activity, though so far no great amount of business has been done. The outlook, however, is better than it has been for some time past.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square 4 inch. and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4.00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4.90 to 5 10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5.90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5.95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2 10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

With the approach of long winter evenings and the stimulus caused by the near prospect of the new tariff, trade is fairly active, and prices have a slight tendency upward.

American	$2 05 —
Russian	1.95 to 2.00
Langkat	— 1.85

SUGAR.

The trade has been steady in face of a fair demand. Prices remain at about last week's level.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.70 to 4.75
Brown Manila	5.30 to 6.20
Brown Dailong	3.90 to 4.00
Brown Canton	3.60 to 5.60
White Java and Penang	6.70 to 7.50
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

EXPORTS.

There is a very large stock, which moves off slowly, the demand both from Europe and the

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United States having slackened considerably; offers below the published quotations would probably be readily accepted.

RAW SILK.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	$955 to 960
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	905 to 915
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/13 deniers	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	920 to 930
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	860 to 870
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	900 to 910
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	880
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	855
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	830
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	880 to 890
Kakedas—No. 1	850 to 860
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	810 to 820
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

Purchasers continue to hold aloof at the prices asked, and business has been practically *nil*. There is a large stock on offer.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 122½
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Oshu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	110 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

Purchases have fallen off, and the rate of business slackened during the last week or two, and prices, in view of the large stock—nearly a million pounds on hand—show a decline.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$35 & upwards
Choice	$30 to 32
Finest	29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

With silver at 28 pence from London, rupees at 1s. 4d. and China sterling quotations unchanged, rates locally have all been steadily maintained.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0 15/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 7/8
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 29/32
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 11/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 5/8
On Paris—Bank sight	2.56
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.56 1/8
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49 3/4
— Private 4 months' sight	50 1/8
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07
— Private 4 months' sight	2.10 1/4
On Hongkong—Bank sight	4 1/2 % dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	5 1/4 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	76
— Private 10 days' sight	77 1/4
On India—Bank sight	152 1/8
— Private 30 days' sight	155
Bar Silver (London) on 5th inst.	28

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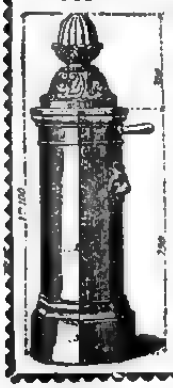

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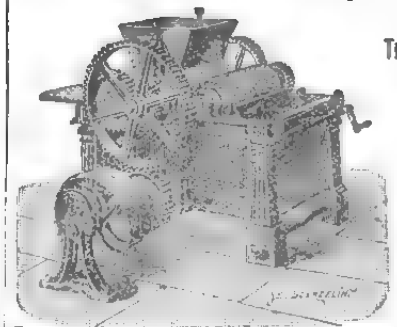

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 13.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1898. 明治三十一年九月二十四日 VOL. XXX.

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, SEPT. 24TH, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THROUGH railway traffic has been restored on the Tokaido.

H.I.H. PRINCESS SADA MIYA returned to Tokyo from Oiso on the 20th.

THE Japanese Government intends establishing a Consulate at Odessa shortly.

VESUVIUS is in violent irruption. Streams of molten lava are spreading dangerously in every direction.

PRINCE VICTOR EMANUEL of Italy is expected to reach Japan on the 6th prox., having left San Francisco on the *Coptic*.

THE losses of the Hyogo Warehousing Company over the recent frauds are reported to amount to *yen* 850,000.

THE N.Y.K. steamer *Kinshiu Maru*, Capt. F. J. Brown, went ashore in Puget Sound on Sept. 1st. The weather was foggy at the time.

REPORTS are slowly coming in regarding the terrible immense damage done in parts of Hokkaido by the recent gale. Distress will be wide-spread this winter.

THE P. and O. steamer *China*, that went ashore on Azalea Rock, Perim, some months ago, has been floated, being practically watertight.

THE Cape Elections are concluded. The Afrikander Bond has a majority of one. The Government has no intention of resigning.

THE Nagoya City Assembly has decided to postpone the construction of the electric tramway until the city organization is reformed.

MR. INOUYE, the President, and three other directors of the Kyoto Warehouse Company were arrested on the 13th on suspicion of fraud.

THE Empress of Austria-Hungary was interred in the Capuchin Church, Vienna, on Saturday, with imposing ceremonial. Many Royal personages were present.

THE baseball match on the Yokohama cricket-ground resulted in an easy win for the foreign players—10 runs to five scored by the Japanese team.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY has been informed that the British Naval Hospital at Hongkong is available for the accommodation of wounded Americans, if necessary.

THE Countess de Pourtalès, wife of the First Secretary of the French Legation in Tokyo, met with a serious accident recently by falling from a train when nearing Rouen.

PERMISSION has been granted for the construction of the Horinouchi Electric Railway Company. On the 19th the promoters held a meeting to discuss the scheme.

THE Emperor has transmitted his condolences to the Emperor of Austria on the assassination of the Empress. The Vienna Court has returned thanks through the Minister in Tokyo.

THE warships *Akashi*, *Chihaya*, and *Miyako*, under construction at Yokosuka and Miyako Dockyards, are almost completed. Next year two 3rd class cruisers will be commenced.

THE Crown Prince will leave Numadzu Detached Palace on the 27th for Oiso, going to Marquis Nabeshima's villa until the beginning of next month, when he will return to Tokyo.

AFTER unveiling the monument to be erected on the Shanghai Bund in memory of the officers and men of the ill-fated German cruiser *Iltis*, Prince Henry of Prussia will cross over to Japan.

MR. PAK Yong-ho, who left for Kobe to embark for Korea, has changed his mind and returned to Oiso. The Japanese advised him not to proceed to Korea at the present critical juncture.

HEADMAN Otsuka Kozo, of Nakajima village, Kajimagori, Ibaraki Pefecture, on the 15th July, stole *yen* 1,300 of official money and absconded. He was afterwards arrested and sent to the Mito District Court.

THE representatives of *saké* brewers throughout the Provinces held a meeting on the 12th inst. in Tokyo, and concluded that they must take action against the increased taxation proposals of the Government.

ON the 14th at 10.30 p.m., an old man named Sekiguchi Yasokichi, living at Shirogane cho, Kobashi, Tokyo, was found hanging in an upstairs room. It is suspected that his son Seiichi (33) and the latter's wife Yetsu (26) murdered him, and afterwards arranged the body in a way to suggest suicide. The Police Authorities have arrested the couple.

THE Sultan has ordered the disarmament of Mussulmans in Candia in compliance with the ultimatum of the Powers. The foreign men-of-war will leave Candia at Admiral Noel's request, the British force now sufficing.

THE French Ministers of War and Public Works have resigned owing to the Cabinet having authorized the convocation of a commission of jurists attached to the Ministry of Justice to consider the revision of the Dreyfus case.

IT is said that the Government is contemplating a monopoly of cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco imported from abroad. The object is to increase the revenue. A Bill on the subject will be introduced in the coming Session of the Diet.

OFFICIAL despatches received in London from the West Indies state that 50,000 persons have been rendered homeless in Barbados and 41,000 in St. Vincent, by the recent hurricane. The Lord Mayor has opened a fund in aid of the destitute.

AN employee named Imajo (21), of Doctor Kishi Yasujiro, living at Shinagawa, Tokyo, attempted to commit suicide with a girl named Iroha in a house of ill-fame in Shinagawa. Both took doses of morphine. They are under medical treatment at the hospital.

THE *Daily Telegraph* says the garrison at Fashoda consists of eight Europeans and 100 Senegalese, the black levies being undoubtedly French. Sir Herbert Kitchener started for Fashoda on Friday, taking three gunboats with a hundred Cameron Highlanders, two batteries, and 1,500 Egyptians.

GENERAL MILES announces that the permanent garrison in Cuba will consist of 50,000 men, in the Philippines of 20,000, at Puerto Rico of 14,000, and Honolulu 4,000. The New York papers clearly intimate an immediate increase in the naval and military forces at Manila, being intended to forestall any difficulties which Spain of Germany may ultimately raise.

THE Kyoto Cotton Spinning Company recently instituted an action against the Ichinomiya Cotton Spinning Company of Aichi Prefecture, claiming *yen* 700, as damages on the ground that the defendants instigated 26 workmen belonging to the plaintiffs to leave without notice and to take work at the factory of the defendants. Judgment was given in favour of the plaintiffs, defendants to pay damages, *yen* 178, and costs.

THE improved tone in the import trade is maintained, and in yarns and shirtings business is being done at advancing prices, while in fancy woollens and cottons the outlook is also more healthy. Transactions are being done in metals, and there is an increased business in sugar. In all departments, in fact, the official announcement of the inauguration of the new tariff has had its effect. With regard to exports, things are not so brisk as they were a week or two back. The raw silk market shows a stubborn dullness, and buyers in America are still apathetic, consequently prices have a downward tendency, and the large stock on hand, 10,760 piculs, shows little prospect of moving. A fair business is being done in waste silk, and small but steady transactions are reported in tea, chiefly as regards the lower grades.

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FINANCE.

The time is not far distant when some final decision will have to be taken about the Budget for 1899-1900, in order that it may be ready for submission to the Diet. Of course public opinion is considerably exercised on the subject. Financial questions wrecked the last two Cabinets, and financial questions promise to test the stability of the present Ministry, perhaps beyond endurance. For good or for evil the Government seems to have resolved not to increase the Land Tax, but to rely chiefly on the *saké* tax and minor sources of revenue, supplemented by a draft of ten million *yen* from the Indemnity. It should be explained that we gather this programme from the vernacular press, and have no information of our own either to confirm or to contradict it. The Indemnity offers a very convenient exit from pressing difficulties, but to rely on it is a purely temporizing policy which will not help to improve the country's credit abroad. It is true that the Cabinet proposes to increase the tax upon urban building lands. That is a measure the justice of which we have often pointed out, though we fail to see how it can be fairly accomplished without a careful re-assessment of the lands in question. The official plan is said to be very simple, namely, to multiply the present rate by ten. Rumour, however, does not appear to be accurate in this instance, for it assigns an increased revenue of 4 million *yen* as the result of multiplying the urban land tax by ten. But the present yield of the tax is 802,483 *yen*, and it is therefore obvious that the proposed change of rate would produce an additional revenue of 7 millions, not 4. Why ten is chosen as a multiplier we do not know. According to a calculation made by us last year, 37,569,005 persons living in rural districts pay land tax aggregating 37,866,508 *yen*, or a little more than 1 *yen* per head; whereas 4,244,210 inhabitants of urban districts pay only 802,483 *yen*, or about 19 *sen* per head. If those figures alone be considered, the rate of the tax in urban districts should be multiplied by about five. But if we examine areas, we find that the tax on each acre of urban land is 5.15 *yen*, and that on each acre of rural land 3.28 *yen*. In truth, neither population alone nor area alone can be taken as a fair basis of taxation. It is absolutely necessary to conduct careful investigations into the actual market value of the land. Perhaps the most striking view of the case is obtained by examining the value of the urban lands according to the present scale of taxation. If an acre pays 5.15 *yen*, a *tsubo* pays 0.43 *sen*, and since the tax is supposed to be 2½ per cent. of the value of the land, it follows that the urban lands throughout the empire are assessed at an average value of about 17 *sen* per *tsubo* for purposes of taxation. That is sufficiently startling. Think of the land in Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto being valued at an average of 17 *sen* per *tsubo!* We doubt whether the average in Tokyo can be less than ten *yen*, or about sixty times the assessment. But when we speak of "urban lands," we include the 38 principal provincial towns. Would it be fair to multiply the rate by ten in their case also? That is the question. Tokyo ought to pay twenty or thirty times its present tax at least, and Osaka and Kyoto could doubtless afford to be raised by fifteen hundred per cent., but if equality of incidence be desired, many of the provincial towns should not have a larger multiplier than five. Neither would the plan of applying a uniform multiplier be just even for a particular city, for values have undergone such enormous variations during the past twenty-five years that the old assessments have become totally inapplicable, and should be immediately altered independently of the question of a general increase of rate. We are informed that, in one part of Tokyo, land which can be sold in the open market to-day for 70 or 80 *yen* per *tsubo*, is assessed for taxation purposes at 8 *sen!* Is it not strange that a Government which finds itself confronted by difficulties in adjusting the national finances, should hesitate to correct such glaring injustices?

Nothing can be more certain, in our opinion, than that the land tax will ultimately have to be raised. It is only a question of time. The advocates of the measure are gaining in numbers and influence every day, and, on the other hand, the project of raising the rate on urban lands while leaving the rural untouched is naturally provoking opposition, though no one examining the figures can doubt for a moment that the owners of urban lands do not contribute anything like the same proportion to the State revenues as do the owners of rural lands. The *Fiji Shimpo* unfortunately has never wavered for many months past in denouncing all increase of the land tax and urging that reliance be placed solely on the *sake* tax. There was a time when the *Fiji* came out "flat-footed" in favour of augmenting the land tax, but for some unexplained reason it abandoned that attitude, and it now lends the weight of its great influence with almost wearisome persistence to the *sake* tax alone. In two recent articles it called upon the Government to abolish all the petty and vexatious taxes now levied—the taxes on *jinrikisha*, on boats, on carpenters, on actors, on dancing girls, on plasterers, on hunters, on fishermen, on prostitutes (!) and so forth—, and to place the burden on *sake* only. As to the people who oppose the transfer of prison expenditures to the Treasury, the *Fiji* declares that they don't care two straws about the principle involved, but are simply anxious to avoid everything that might lead to an increase of the land tax.

Another argument advanced with much assurance is that whereas the returns obtained from direct and indirect taxation in Japan are nearly equal, they stand in the ratio of nearly 1 to 3 in England and France. The figures for Japan are:—

	YEN.
Direct Taxes	
Land Tax	38,566 902
Business Tax	5,769,475
Income Tax	1,999,337
Total	46,335 714
Indirect Taxes.	
Saké Tax	32 311,979
Soy Tax	1,570,305
Customs Dues	7,415 577
Tobacco Monopoly	7,299 608
Total	48 636 469

In England the corresponding figures are said to be £19,320,000, and £48,420,000. Such, at least, are the numbers given by the *Fiji Shimpo*, but whence it obtains them we can not imagine. The revenue from indirect taxes in Great Britain is certainly 18 millions sterling (*i.e.* 21 millions from the customs and 27 millions from excise), but the revenue from direct taxes is not 19½ millions; it is 33 millions. If England's case is to be cited, the *Fiji* might be asked to observe that whereas Japan already derives from her excise a revenue more than four times as great as she derives from her customs, the yield of the former in England is not a third greater than the yield from the latter. Comparisons are not unlikely to mislead, first, if they are inaccurate, and secondly, if they are made without reflection.

THE BUDGET.

It is stated that the cabinet has finally agreed about the Budget for next fiscal year. A temporary difficulty was caused in connexion with the appropriations asked for by the Departments of War and the Navy. What the exact figures were it is difficult to make out, but the fact is pretty certain that the Finance Minister endeavoured to make reductions to which the Ministers of War and the Navy could not agree. They consented, however, to consult with the officials of their Departments, and the outcome of the consultation was that a million *yen* might be cut off the Army's appropriations, and eight or nine hundred thousand off the Navy's. On that basis a compromise was effected, and when the Cabinet met on the 16th instant, no further difficulty presented itself. The excess of expenditure over revenue is said to be 35 million *yen*, and it will be met, partially at all events, by raising the rates of the *Saké* Tax, the Tobacco monopoly, the Urban Land Tax, the Registration Tax, the Income Tax, and the tax on drugs, this last being substituted for the sugar tax originally contemplated. The *Saké* Tax is expected to yield an additional twenty million *yen*, but it seems very problematical whether 15 millions can be obtained from the other sources here indicated. Of course if the rate of the tax on urban lands be multiplied by ten, an increase of 7 millions will be obtained, which would leave only 8 millions to be supplied from the Tobacco Monopoly, the Registration Tax, the Income Tax, and the Drugs Tax. We place no credit, however, in the rumour which attributes to the Government such a drastic policy about the Urban Lands.

It is said that the total expenditures appearing in the Budget for 1899-1900 are 230 million *yen*, whereas the revenue from all sources now available is only 195 millions. These figures of course include the extraordinary outlays under the *post-bellum* programme and the corresponding draft—32,180,000 *yen*—made upon the Indemnity. To meet the deficit, the following plan is indicated by the vernacular press as the Government's final decision:—

Saké Tax, ...	20 millions additional revenue.
Tax on Urban Building Lands, ...	4½ or 3½ millions. " "
Tax on Sugar	5 millions " " "
Income and Registration Taxes	3 " " " "
Tobacco and Customs	4 " " " "
Total	36½ or 35½ millions.

It will be observed that a tax on sugar is included, though the general belief has been that it would not be resorted to, and that the additional yields from customs duties (under the new tariff), and from tobacco under the greatly increased rate said to be contemplated, are put down at only 4 millions. The table is probably an approximation.

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BARON IWASAKI'S DETRACTORS.

It is the penalty of success in every form to create enemies. We should have imagined that Baron Iwasaki Yanosuke might have proved an exception to the rule, for it would be difficult to find a more generous, upright, and unostentatious man. But his turn has come, and we must pay his enemies the compliment of saying that they go about their work of defamation in a most thorough-paced manner. One of them is Mr. Otegawa Toyojiro, a Professor of Political Economy. This gentleman, we believe, formerly held a post in the Bank of Japan, and since he dates the loss of it from Baron Iwasaki's Presidency, people that look for motives can find one without difficulty in his case. He delivered an address the other day at a meeting of the Pacific Ocean Society (*Taihei-yo Kyakai*), taking Baron Iwasaki for his subject, and abusing him roundly. The lecture was framed on two lines of thought: the first, a kind of philosophic protest against appointing to the presidency of the country's central banking institution a man whose only qualification is the possession of a large fortune; the second, a passionate and wild protest against plutocracy. Concerning the former point, Professor Otegawa's contention was that the affairs of the Bank of Japan should be controlled either by a scholar or a politician—one of the strangest principles ever enunciated by a student of finance—but instead of attempting to demonstrate his proposition, he confined himself to vague abuse of Baron Iwasaki, denouncing him as a man of sentiment rather than of fairness, and declaring that to invest him with such power was like "putting an iron club into the hand of a demon" (*oni ni kanabo*). As to the plutocratic issue, the Professor would have it believed that nearly all the statesmen of the country are under Baron Iwasaki's thumb, and he named, as occupying that dependent place, Marquis Ito, Count Inouye, Count Okuma, Count Matsukata, and Messrs. Oishi, and Ozaki. The audience did not listen to these invectives patiently. There were frequent interruptions and protests, and occasional threats of violent interruption, but the Professor had the satisfaction of ventilating all his resentment.

A more formidable assault upon the Baron is made by the *Sekai-no-Nippon*. This is a magazine with a chequered career. Formerly it was supposed to be an organ of Count Mutsu, and at that time it appeared once a month. Its editor, Mr. Takenokoshi Yasaburo, was one of Japan's best penmen. He managed to make his pages so attractive that the magazine achieved remarkable success; success which seemed to warrant the issue of a daily newspaper under the same name. The newspaper not making its mark, however, had to be abandoned, and now the *Sekai-no-Nippon* (World of Japan) has been changed into a weekly, describing itself as a combination of newspaper and periodical. It signalizes its new departure by a vehement assault upon Baron Iwasaki, contained in an article headed *Mitsu Bishi Dai-o Denka* (His Majesty the Great King Mitsu Bishi). The writer has obviously drawn his inspiration from the same source as Professor Otegawa. There is no interest in his diatribe, except when he descends from rhetorical generalities to particulars, and then he advances a curious charge. It is this:—Baron Iwasaki, when he became President of the Bank of Japan, sold all the public loan bonds then in his possession, to the number of 30,000—in other words, three million *yen* worth—the market price being high. Then he raised the Bank's rate of interest, which of course had the effect of lowering the market price of bonds, so that he was able to repurchase what he had unloaded, and is now the possesser of 180,000—or 18 million *yen* worth. We call that a curious charge, but in truth it deserves a much stronger epithet. For, in the first place, the original sale of bonds—supposing it to have taken place—can not have had any conceivable connexion with Baron Iwasaki's Presidency, and its mention in that context is, therefore, worse than silly. In the second, the assertion that the Bank's rate of interest was raised is wholly irrelevant, unless the *Sekai-no-Nippon* intends us to believe that the step was taken simply in pursuance of Baron Iwasaki's financial schemes; a maliciously absurd suggestion, for we know that the measure was inevitably dictated by the public exigencies of the time, and that the responsibility for it rests primarily; not, with the President of the Bank, but with the Minister of State for Finance. As a matter of fact, the policy of the Bank under Baron Iwasaki's presidency has been eminently successful, and when we are asked to believe that it was a policy subserved simply to Baron Iwasaki's private interests, we can only smile. In the third place, the dishonesty of the attack is further demonstrated by the final reference to 18 million *yen* worth of bonds. For if the quotation of that figure means anything, it mean that the Mitsu Bishi firm, by manipulating the market, managed to acquire ultimately six times as many bonds as were originally sold, a monstrous *blague*. Speaking from a foreign point of view, we can assure Professor Otegawa and the editor of the *Sekai-no-Nippon* that the impression produced by their assaults is unfavourable, not to the Mitsu Bishi, but to themselves, and that when we read their remarks we are chiefly surprised that they should think the public so gullible. If they limited themselves to an attack on plutocracy we could sympathise with them, for, as we read the history of Japanese ethics, plutocracy has hitherto been contrary to the genius of the people, and its first appearance among them may naturally excite feelings of aversion. But their attempt to prove that a plutocrat is a rascal, especially when Baron Iwasaki is the object of their accusation, suggests that they have a very low estimate of public intelligence.

IMPORTS UNDER THE NEW TARIFF.

The *Official Gazette* publishes the following Instruction over the signature of the Minister of State for Finance:—"With regard to goods which, though entering a port of import previously to the day fixed for the enforcement of the General Tariff enacted by Law No. 14 of the 30th year of *Meiji*, are not passed through the final stages of the procedure relating to imports until after that day, it is notified that such goods, whether stored in bonded warehouses or not, shall come under the operation of the Tariff, unless their invoices have been received by the Customs prior to the day for enforcing the Tariff.

COUNT ITAGAKI AND THE PRISON OFFICIALS.

Count Itagaki seems to have delivered a very eloquent and a very practical speech to the meeting of prison officials which took place in the Home Department on the 16th instant. If we had the full text of the speech, we should translate it verbatim, but a brief epitome alone is published. Much in the way of prison reform had been done, the Count said, during the *Meiji* era. But much remained to be done, and its doing concerned the welfare of the people at home, as well as their reputation abroad. Therefore he made this matter a prime object of his administration. The transfer of the control of all the prisons to the Central Government, the improvement of the prison buildings and the reform of the system—these were measures of imperative necessity. Prisoners had no voice to express their feelings. It depended on the treatment they received whether they became wholly shameless and thriftless. The prison should be a place to educate them as much as a place to punish them. Both aims must be carefully contemplated in arranging and carrying out the system of management. Otherwise the jails, instead of acting as reformatories, would become centres of pestilence, poisoning the morals of the nation. The Minister did not dwell upon the details of his projects. They were submitted in the form of a draft programme, concerning which he invited frank expressions of opinion from his audience at a future meeting. But he laid considerable emphasis upon the advisability of establishing a school for the education of prison officials.

QUESTIONS OF REVENUE.

Everything goes to show that the Cabinet has resolved to tax sugar. As to the amount of the impost we have no information, but rumour says that the revenue realized is expected to be at least four million *yen*. There will be some interest in observing what method of procedure is adopted for collecting the tax in the case of imported sugar.

With regard to tobacco, it has become quite plain that, in order to make the monopoly a prolific source of revenue, the duty on foreign tobacco will have to be largely augmented. We may expect that the measures necessary to achieve that end will soon be inaugurated. Something similar must be done in the case of alcohol and Chinese *samshu* also, or the twelve-*yen* tax on Japanese *saké* will not yield anything like the income anticipated. Figures are published, showing the growth that has taken place during recent years in the import of the Chinese liquor. Thus:—

In 1893 and 1894 the import did not exceed	Yen. 10 000 worth.
In 1895 (after the war) it rose to ...	16,855
In 1896 (especially after the raising of the tax on Japanese *saké* from 4 to 7 *yen* per *koku*) it rose to	25,549
In 1897 it rose to	66,323
In 1898, up to the end of August, it was	...109,550

Already the import duty on *samshu* is 40 per cent. *ad valorem*, but it will have to be greatly increased.

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THE KOREAN POISONING AFFAIR.

According to the latest intelligence, the instigator of the attempt to poison the Emperor and the Crown Prince of Korea was Kim Heung-yuk, who attracted so much attention recently in connection with the plot to dethrone the Sovereign. The evidence upon which this new development rests is said to have been furnished by one Ko, a species of chamberlain, so far as we can judge from the telegrams, which are naturally somewhat obscure in the matter of names and offices. The cook who prepared the poisonous viands was first interrogated, as a matter of course—interrogated, presumably, in such a manner as to elicit a confession whether or no there was anything to confess—, and he having incriminated Ko, the latter in turn had to under-go the questioning process, with the result that the guilt was finally fixed on Kim. Our readers know all about Kim—how he is an uneducated man of low origin; how he made his way in his youth to Vladivostock and acquired a certain facility in speaking Russian; how, returning to Söul, he became interpreter to the Russian Legation; how, after the King's flight to the Legation, he obtained immense influence in his capacity of sole medium of communication; how he abused his trust; how he was attacked in the street and wounded, and how he afterwards engaged in plots which led to his exile. Kim, in short, is understood to to have rebelled against the decadence of Russian influence and the consequent loss of his own power, though, of course, nobody supposes that Russian instigation had anything to do with his treason. His wife has been arrested on suspicion of complicity, and doubtless he will soon be in the clutches of the law himself.

Japanese opinion is obviously somewhat inchoate with regard to this incident and the lesson it teaches. Certain publicists declare that it is highly dangerous to meddle with a country where politics revolve in a vicious circle of the most treacherous conspiracies and the foulest crimes, and that Japan should hold aloof altogether from the official world of the new empire, confining herself solely to the fields of commerce and industry. Others urge with equal conviction that a hotbed of intrigue can not be left smoking almost within sight of Japan, and that something must be done to remove this unwholesome nuisance. But with regard to one point there appears to be tolerable unanimity, namely, that the return of Boku Yeiko to his country at this juncture would be decidedly dangerous and might expose Japan to very injurious suspicions. It seems to be thought, even by Boku's friends, that, though clever and enterprising, he is rash, self-opinionated, impatient, and not gifted with the faculty of estimating his opportunities at their true value. He would surely attempt a *coup* of some kind on getting back to Söul. It fact, a *coup* would be so generally expected from him that he would not have strength of mind to resist the pressure of public anticipation. On the other hand, whatever he did would unquestionably be supposed to have been suggested, if not actually assisted, by his Japanese friends. His movements are thus a source of anxiety with which we can all sympathise. It must be admitted that there is full occasion for skilful steering on Japan's part in Korea.

KOREA PARTITIONED.

People that propround projects of international spoliation in print generally betray a coy diffidence and affect a diplomacy of expression not particularly consistent with the nature of their proposals. The editor of the *Sekai-no-Nippon* is cast in a different mould from these soft-voiced suggestors of robbery. He has no manner of diffidence, but says what he has to say with the bluntest frankness. At the same time, we are rather at a loss to determine whether his latest essay is a genuine *exposé* of the policy he would like to see pursued by Japan, or whether it is chiefly inspired by a desire to attack Count Okuma. The latter he declares to be a man of words not deeds. A statesman of apparently great potentialities when, hidden in the seclusion of Waseda, the count talks bravely of things that might be and contemptuously of things that are, but he is a god whose gilding quickly peels off when exposed to the sun-light of administrative activity. In the time of proof, he has no acts to offer but only pregnant suggestions, as when he amuses and deludes the nation with vague talk about an Anglo-American-Japanese alliance.

Now it must be confessed that the editor's way of putting these things is very pretty. It suggests the idea of a skilled swordsman making passes at Count Okuma with a bright and nimble weapon, which might be thrust home at any moment if its wielder wished. But here the writer's art becomes defective. Forgetting the fine old principle that something must always be left to the reader's imagination, he proceeds to explain exactly what policy the Count ought to pursue. With regard to the Anglo-American-Japanese alliance, he recalls the story of England, France, and Holland at the beginning of the 18th century. (The allusion is very vague, but we presume that it refers to the Peace of Utrecht in 1713, which certainly taught Holland that, while the great Powers of Europe were very ready to employ her resources for warlike purposes, they were equally ready to sacrifice her interests and abandon her to her fate, when they desired peace.) Japan, he says, would be more than likely to repeat the experience of the Dutch if she joined her arms with those of England and America at the present juncture. She would find herself at the end standing alone in the lists with an infuriated Russia for *vis-à-vis*. What then is the alternative? It is very simple. Propose to Russia the partition of Korea. There is no use in mincing matters. Has not that been Japan's aim all along? As for Russia, she will jump at the proposal. Nothing could be more to her mind. Try her, and if she refuses, it will be time enough to treat her as an enemy.

The flagrant inconsistency of the above line of argument is that the charge against Count Okuma is based on his failure to pursue such a policy. Most people will count it to his credit that he refrains from any iniquitous *coup* of the kind. If all our little nostrums could be put into practice, what a very sick world it would be, to be sure!

THE NEW PALACE GUARD IN KOREA.

Sept. 19.

According to telegrams which appear to be accurate, the Emperor of Korea has engaged 30 Europeans and Americans and 10 coloured men to form a palace guard. They are said to have been enlisted in Shanghai by Mr. Greathouse and carried to Chemulpo in the *Sagami Maru*, reaching Söul on the morning of the 16th. This appears to us to be the most ill-advised step yet taken in that curiously and badly administered little empire. Even if the Sovereign had hitherto made no enemies, the engagement of a band of aliens to protect his palace and his person against his own subjects, would at once obtain for him a large measure of unpopularity. But he has already an abundance of enemies. Indeed it does not seem that he has established any title to the respect or affection of his subjects, and, remembering these facts, we can not regard this last measure as anything but suicidal. Has His Majesty obeyed an idea of his own, or is he merely following a suggestion of his foreign advisers? We strongly suspect that the conception, like the guard, is foreign, and if so, the persons responsible for it are not to be complimented. Were the King an enlightened monarch bent upon reforming the national institutions and on leading his country into the ways of progress, and were the dangers that threaten him due to his civilizing energy, something might be said in extenuation of the step he has now taken. But all accounts go to show that his springs of action are not to be sought in enlightened instincts, and that whatever advances his subjects make are made in spite of him. The spectacle of such a sovereign protected by a body-guard of foreign mercenaries is considerably more shocking than was his flight to the sanctuary of the Russian Legation, and if his people do not soon protest very vigorously against this new state of affairs, we shall be much surprised.

Sept. 22.

Of course that company of castaways picked up in the highways and byways of Shanghai to guard the Imperial Personage of Korea, has already created a "situation" in the little capital. We all expected as much. But we were not wise enough to foresee the source from which the first protest would come. When the Korean Government addressed to Mr. de Speyer that naïvely sarcastic despatch thanking Russia for having, in the space of three or four months, taught Korea how to take care of herself single-handed, it assured him that, in dispensing with the service of his nationals, the country intended thereafter to be its own protector. Mr. de Speyer's successor has now found his opportunity for a Roland. He has blandly asked the Korean Government whether its method of protecting itself is to organise a palace guard of foreigners. At the same time, the Independence Club has taken the field and is clamouring for the dismissal of the aliens. The members think that the Emperor can trust his own people to guard his person. Perhaps they think also that if he can not, he has no business to occupy the throne. All these things have greatly perturbed the Ministers of State. After a hasty meeting they have addressed to the sovereign a recommendation that Mr.

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Greathouse's services should be dispensed with, and the Shanghailanders sent back to their settlement. A telegram says that the guards were engaged for a year at a salary of $70 a month, so the little freak will cost about twenty-six thousand dollars. We are sorry that the crisis should have come so precipitately, for it must have proved very interesting to observe what kind of training and organization Mr. Greathouse would adopt with his Shanghai recruits in order to qualify them for preventing the Emperer's cooks from putting poison into the Imperial coffee.

THE SÖUL-FUSAN RAILWAY.

"We have obtained the concession for the Söul-Fusan Railway, but how are we going to build it?" None of our readers will be surprised to hear that the Japanese are beginning to ask themselves that question. A railway built with capital borrowed at ■ or 10 per cent. is not a rosy-looking enterprise, and it is certain that funds can not be obtained in Japan at a smaller figure. Indeed, we are inclined to pronounce it certain that funds cannot be obtained in Japan at any figure, if the matter is to be treated on a purely business footing. There is, however, a political element which may lend special attractions to the affair. If the Japanese do not build the line, somebody will, and that would be a bitter pill. There is talk of a Government — Japanese Government — guarantee, and even of a loan from the Treasury. A guarantee from the Korean Government, if it were worth anything, or a loan from the Korean Treasury, if it had anything to lend, would be in order; but that a State should pledge the public credit, or lend the public money, on behalf of a railway constructed in a foreign country, where it has no sort of Administrative control — that is a novel departure in finance. We presume that the Japanese Government is incomparably more anxious to have the Formosan railway built than the Söul-Fusan line, yet the Treasury in Tokyo does not see its way to assisting the former project directly. Impecuniosity is the heaviest possible kind of mill-stone that can be tied round the neck of an ambitious country. Is Japan impecunious? Just fourteen years ago, when she was beginning to fix large sums of floating capital in railways, we had the temerity to predict that she would soon find herself embarrassed, as other countries behaving similarly, though with more apparent warrant, had done in many cases. We do not pretend that the prediction is verified by present events, for the truth is that we expected it to be verified ten years ago. Nothing has surprised us more, and surprised other observers also, we make no doubt, than the financial staying power that Japan has exhibited. Where did she find the many millions that she has spent upon railways, public works, and industrial enterprises of all kinds during the past eighteen years? It seemed again and again that she had reached the bottom of her purse, yet new depths always presented themselves to be explored. However, the end really appears to have come now, and the question she has to answer is, whether to sit down and recover breath—in other words, wait until the returns from her various undertakings roll up into figures sufficient for a new departure,—or to convert some of her assets into cash and continue her progress uninterruptedly. It is possible, no doubt, to discover ■ great many objections to Count Itagaki's railway-purchase programme, yet it is based on a pressing necessity—the necessity of recovering some of the big sums that the country has converted into fixed capital.

RAILWAY CONCESSIONS IN CHINA.

To the journalistic assailants of British policy in the Far East, we strongly recommend a perusal of the speech delivered by Lord Salisbury in the House of Lords on the 1st of August. His lordship said, in effect:—"It is all very fine to cry out because railway concessions are not obtained by British subjects, but in order that such an outcry may have any warrant, there must be British subjects seeking concessions. Where are they? They have no existence. Show me any British capitalist, or body of capitalists, seeking to invest money in Chinese railways. There is one railway, and only one, for which a preliminary concession has been obtained by a British syndicate, but the details are not yet arranged. The fact is that British capitalists have made it a rule not to build railways in foreign countries, even in India, without obtaining a guarantee from the Government of the country. China will not give such a guarantee. Is England to give it? Let us not be agitated or excited. When profitable enterprises are on the *tapis*, we shall get our share of them. Meanwhile, are we to insist that other nationals shall not spend their money upon railways in China simply because we are unwilling to spend our own? Experience does not show that the mere fact of financing and managing a railway carries any political power over the country traversed by it, and if other people ignore the lessons of experience, that is their look out."

THE URBAN LANDS.

The strongest protest yet made against the Cabinet's intention of increasing the Urban Land Tax appears in the columns of the *Mainichi Shimbun*. Almost every one of the arguments adduced apply, however, with equal force to the Rural Land Tax, which the same journal is in favour of increasing. The *Mainichi* will doubtless explain this seeming contradiction by saying that it does not oppose all increase of the Urban Land Tax, but only condemns the proposed rate of increase, which it understands to be 350 per cent. We fully appreciate that distinction, but nevertheless regret that a journal which has hitherto maintained such ■ sound position should now employ reasons which may be turned against itself. What is the good of saying that the urban building lands are not now held by the men who owned them thirty years ago; that during that time they have frequently changed hands at ever increasing prices; that their market value has depended, to ■ certain extent, upon the smallness of the tax to which they were liable; and that their holders will be seriously embarrassed if the rate is now suddenly and radically raised? Such reflections are equally cogent in the case of agricultural land, and can be at once met by the simple rejoinder that individuals have hitherto profited solely by the unearned increment, whereas the State is undoubtedly entitled to a due share in it. Nor do we appreciate our contemporary's contention that the value of land for purposes of mortgage will be so greatly affected by the change of tax as to compel the mortgagees to call for further security, with the result that great tracts of urban lands will fall into the hands of millionaires like the Mitsu Bishi and the Mitsui. Surely that is a mere chimera. The average rate of the urban land tax at present being 5.15 *yen* per acre, it follows that the assessed value of the land for taxation purposes is 51.50 *yen* per *tan*, or a little over 17 *sen* per *tsubo*, and that the tax is 43 *sen*, approximately, per 100 *tsubo*. Suppose that the tax is raised to 1.50 *yen* per 100 *tsubo*, which would be the figure on the *Mainichi Shimbun's* assumption of an increase of 350 per cent. Can any one seriously assert that the mortgageable value of the land would be appreciably affected? A hundred *tsubo* of urban land, if it were worth only 10 *yen* per *tsubo*, would still represent a thousand *yen*, and no one lending money on it as security would care two straws whether the tax on it were 43 *sen* or 1½ *yen* annually. The *Mainichi* appeals much more strongly to our intelligence when it points out that to raise the rate of the land tax in the case of towns like Kanazawa in Kaga, Tottori in Inaba, and Matsumoto in Shinano as much as it is raised in Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto would be an injustice, for the former places owed their old prosperity to feudal conditions, and have now fallen into a state of comparative decay. The truth is that what the country needs for taxation purposes is re-assessment. The average assessed value of agricultural lands throughout the empire for taxation purposes is now 32.80 *yen* per *tan*, yet we know of no places—except districts specially liable to inundations—where rice land can be bought for less than 300 *yen* per *tan*. Re-assessment on some such principle as one fourth of the average market value of all the land, rural and urban, during the past five years, would be the only fair method of procedure. It would probably have the effect of doubling the total yield of tax, though the rate would be, not 2½ per cent. of the value of the land, as at present it nominally is, but ½ per cent.

DISTRESSED FARMERS.

The Aketo Division of Saitama Prefecture sent to Tokyo a deputation of ■ hundred farmers, who presented themselves at the Home Office on the 16th instant and asked to see Count Itagaki. The Count happened to be just then delivering a speech to the meeting of prison officials, so the farmers had to content themselves with seeing the Vice-Minister. They had come to talk about the storm of the 7th instant and the floods that followed it. Their lands, they said, had been completely inundated and all their crops destroyed. It would be impossible for them to pay any taxes this season, and they begged to be excused. They asked, also, to have the source of their trouble removed by building an embankment to restrain the waters of the Tone River. Unless that were done, they must anticipate a perpetual repetition of these calamities, and the Government need not expect to get any taxes. They are practical folk, these Saitama farmers.

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EDUCATION IN JAPAN.

The twenty-fourth annual report of the Minister of State for Education is now issued. It relates to the year 1896, and is thus, as usual, considerably belated. We see no reason for the delay; no reason why very simple statistics and still simpler comments relating to the year 1896 should not be placed in the hands of the public until September, 1898. If this report related to 1897, it would still be late, but as a statement of educational affairs in 1896, it is curiously behind time. The contents, however, are very satisfactory, in the main. The number of schools increased from 28,228 in 1895 to 28,404 in 1896; the number of teachers and instructors, from 80,342 to 84,014; the number of students and pupils, from 3,802,183 to 4,030,573; and the number of graduates, from 488,304 to 530,207. Finally, whereas the number of children under obligation to attend school increased from 7,083,148 to 7,187,059, a difference of only 103,911, the number that actually attended grew from 4,338,069 to 4,615,842, a difference of 277,773. The cause of education is certainly progressing in Japan, for whereas only 28 per cent. of the school-age children attended school in 1873, the per-centage in 1896 was 64. Female education, though the total figures relating to it are still considerably behind those for male education, nevertheless shows a tendency to advance much faster than the latter. The diagrams appended to the report show that whereas the percentage of boys attending school—that is to say, the percentage of school-age boys—only grew from 40 to 79 between 1873 and 1896, the percentage in the case of girls grew from 15 to 48. In one instance the figure did not quite double; in the other, it more than trebled. As for expenditures, the total in 1896 was 15,526,101 *yen* for elementary schools—private schools of course excepted—and since 3,872,794 boys and girls were educated at that cost, it follows that the average expenditure per head was 4 *yen*, approximately; extraordinarily cheap education, it must be confessed. Inasmuch, however, as the average annual tuition fees paid by a child in the ordinary elementary course are only 74.4 *sen*, and the average annual fees in the higher elementary course, 2.73 *yen*, it is plain that very rigid economy has to be exercised in the management of schools. Something of this economy is effected by unduly restricting the number of teachers and by cutting down their salaries to quite pitiful figures. Thus, if we compare the number (3,872,794) of boys and girls attending elementary schools with the number (58,256) of teachers and instructors conducting their education, we find that there is an average of 1 teacher to 66 pupils; an obviously insufficient ratio. The teachers' stipends are shockingly inadequate. In the ordinary elementary course the average monthly pay of a regular teacher is only 9.49 *yen*; some of them receive only 3.50 *yen*; 12,924 do not reach the 9 *yen* standard, and 1,444 have less that 7 *yen*. It is quite impossible that qualified persons can be induced to work for such pittances. We may also repeat the remark made in these columns on every occasion of reviewing Japanese educational reports, namely, that the policy of the Government is gradually killing private enterprise. Steadily, year after year, the number of private schools decreases. Here are the figures for the past five years:—

1892	2,140	private schools;	
1893	2,021	" "	; decrease, 119
1894	1,950	" "	; decrease, 71
1895	1,879	" "	; decrease, 71
1896	1,702	" "	; decrease, 177

We note, in conclusion, that the highest salary attached to a professional chair in the Imperial University is 1,200 *yen* a year. If a professor be also a director of a college or a hospital, he gets 500 *yen* additional, so it seems that the best he can hope for is 1,700 *yen*. That is not a great bourne of ambition.

AN EDUCATIONAL TEMPEST.

The Governor of Tokyo has now become a target for the shafts of the agitators. Two or three days ago, he issued what is called a *naikun*, or private injunction, to the Headmen of Districts in his jurisdiction. "Teachers in elementary schools," the document said, "have the responsibility of furnishing to young people an example of correct conduct, and should make instruction their prime duty. Nevertheless, it can not be denied that some of the teachers show levity of behaviour, and in their anxiety to become public figures, fail in the discharge of their functions and bring their profession into disrepute. Such persons exert an injurious influence on the spirit of the nation, and on its manners. Henceforth, therefore, special supervision must be exercised, in order that the true aims of education may be realized. Any proceedings in contravention of the 64th article of the Elementary School Regulations must not be overlooked, but must be immediately dealt with. Particular attention is drawn to the necessity of avoiding all remissness in this matter." One does not immediately perceive the objectionable features of this injunction. It appears to be a kind of general protest against conduct which certainly deserves to be restrained. Persons offended by it would be simply showing that the cap fitted. But the Opposition journals allege that it is directed against incursions by teachers into the field of politics, and that it is thus diametrically opposed to the recent action of the Minister of Education in rescinding all the regulations and injunctions by which teachers and students were hampered. Indeed, the critics go a great deal farther. They declare that the immediate object of the injunction was to intimidate certain teachers who were fomenting an agitation against Mr. Ozaki's celebrated republican speech; that these persons were actually intimidated, and therefore refrained from attending the next meeting of the Educational Society, the result being that no further action was taken in the Ozaki affair; and, finally, that the Governor of Tokyo, in issuing the injunction, acted at the secret instance of Mr. Ozaki himself. There are here the materials for a great deal of discussion and recrimination, but it is hard to feel any sympathy with the members of the Educational Society. Their divisions and quarrels have become a public scandal, and it seems to us that there is not the slightest occasion to seek any recondite explanation of the Governor's injunction. It finds ample justification in the behaviour of the teachers who belong to the Society.

THE AUSTRO HUNGARIAN TREATY.

Japanese students of international law seem to be perplexed about the Austro-Hungarian Revised Treaty. Some of them say that since the forms prescribed by the constitution of Austria-Hungary have not been fully complied with, the Treaty can not yet be considered valid, and ought not to have been declared operative in this country. Others affirm that Japan has nothing to do with Austro-Hungarian forms of procedure. If the Government of the Dual Monarchy is willing to accept a certain responsibility in order to consult Japan's convenience, it is not for Japan to ask questions. It appears to us that the latter view is incontrovertible. Japan explained to the Vienna Government the embarrassment to which she would be subjected if any delay in ratifying the Austro-Hungarian Treaty interfered with the issue of the year's notice preliminary to the enforcement of the other Treaties. The Vienna Government replied:—"Very well. We will take care that you are not embarrassed. Issue your notice. We agree that the Treaty shall go into operation from July 17th, 1899, but we ask you to defer the enforcement of the new Tariff until January 1st, because we believe that before that time the Austrian Reichsrath will have ratified the Treaty as the Hungarian Reichstag has done already." Surely it would have been extravagant on Japan's part to say:—"Yes, that is very kind and very agreeable, but how are you going to do it? We must take care that you do not behave unconstitutionally, or neglect any of the forms prescribed by your own laws." The Austro-Hungarian Government would have justly and properly told Japan to mind her own business; a recommendation which might be usefully addressed to certain Japanese publicists at the present moment. We observe that the International Law Society (*Kokusonhoa-Gakkai*) intends to make the matter a subject of discussion at its next meeting; a superfluous performance in our opinion.

COUNT OKUMA'S RETORT.

The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce gave, on the 17th instant, one of those afternoon *réunions* which are so fashionable now-a-days. Count Okuma attended, and was as usual a centre of attraction, full of geniality, wit, and sympathetic interest in everybody's hobby. But he seasoned his talk with some significant rebukes to the folks who would drive the coach of State along such wonderful routes if only the reins were placed in their hands. They accused the Cabinet of being in its dotage, he said, but in his opinion the charge might be preferred with greater justice against the people at large. Nothing gave such a wholesome impetus to the machinery of government as a pressure from public opinion. Lord Salisbury, for example, was an old man, and perhaps, if left to himself, the prudence incidental to advanced years might too much tinge his foreign policy. But the nation took care that there should be nothing of that kind. He was kept well up to the mark by the activity and vigour of public opinion. Could it be truly said that such was the case in Japan?

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THE PEERS.

The Peers are attracting a great deal of attention. Viscount Tani, who, as a very prominent member of the House, ought to be an authority on its mood, predicts that it will be found in strong opposition to the Cabinet next session. Of course some people welcome that prospect with considerable pleasure. They pat the House on the back, so to speak, and tell it that a grave duty devolves on it at this crisis of the nation's career, for since the Ministry's supporters in the Lower House have a monopoly of power, the Peers alone remain to put a check on them. It is precisely to meet such a contingency that the bicameral system exists, they say, and the Peers must stand to their guns in the best interests of the State. Very different is the view taken by others—the *Jiji Shimpo*, for example. That journal declines to give the Peers any credit for desiring to restore the balance of power disturbed by the immense preponderance of pro-Cabinet members among the Representatives. It says that they are swayed solely by conservative hatred of party government, and it sneers openly at the idea of noblemen attempting to meddle in financial matters, like the Budget. The Peers have inherited their wealth, says the *Jiji*. They have not themselves had anything to do with its acquisition, and they know nothing whatever about ways and means. If they want to have a voice in financial affairs, they must first resign their wealth, or, should that sacrifice seem too severe, they must resign their titles. Such criticism is really too silly to be worth quoting did it not illustrate a comment which we have had occasion to make more than once of late, namely, that the *Jiji Shimpo's* columns are losing the fine flavour of practical common sense which used to make them such agreeable reading. Its writing certainly will not tend to conciliate the Peers, and we can scarcely believe that it is inspired by any purpose of the kind.

FOREIGNERS IN JAPANESE PRISONS.

It has now been finally decided, we understand, that what is called *kojin-teki no taigu*, or individual treatment, shall be adopted hereafter in Japanese jails. The meaning of "individual treatment" is that a prisoner's manner of life, so far as concerns food, raiment, sleeping accommodation, &c., shall be adapted to his previous habits. All Japanese will continue, of course, to be treated according to Japanese customs, but when a foreign prisoner is in question, care will be taken that his diet, dress, and general accomodation are not such as to augment the degree of his punishment. In short, an European or American will have meat and bread for his meals and a bedstead to lie on. As a matter of fact there never was any room for doubt that this system would be adopted. The ding-dong agitation carried on by indiscreet foreigners has only had the effect of offending some Japanese and thus rendering the Government's task not so easy as it would otherwise have been.

ALCOHOL SMUGGLING.

The statement that six of the eight cargo-boats recently engaged in carrying smuggled alcohol from Yokohama to Tokyo had put into Kanagawa owing to stress of weather, and there been seized by the police, turns out to be an error. The whole fleet of eight made its way to Tokyo, and six managed to land their cargo without attracting any attention. It is now alleged, indeed, that there were originally 17 boats, but that 9 of them did not succeed in getting out of Yokohama owing to some irregularity in their documents, though no suspicion existed that they were engaged in smuggling. The *Jiji Shimpo* writes at considerable length on the subject. It alleges that these evasions of the internal-revenue tax are very numerous, the average being about 23,000 or 24,000 cases a month, but we are unable to understand clearly the processes by which the thing is supposed to be managed, and the figure here stated must obviously be a pure conjecture. It is all events pleasant to find that no charge of complicity is made against foreigners. The Japanese do the trickery by devices entirely their own. Sometimes, when hard pressed, they are supposed to have recourse to the manœuvre of pretending that the alcohol is foreign property, but there is no suggestion that they do so with the connivance of foreigners.

The more we learn of the recent "alcohol-smuggling" affair, the less explicable does it appear. One would have supposed from reading the first accounts that the "smuggling" meant an attempt to evade the payment of import duties, and that foreign merchants were more or less privy to it. But it now turns out that there is no question whatever of customs duties or of foreign connivance. The alcohol had been duly passed through the customs, and its European or American importers were altogether blameless. Where, then, did the smuggling come in? The latest version of the incident is that the Japanese who had the alcohol conveyed secretly by boat to Tokyo were seeking to avoid the business tax. That impost amounts, it is said, to 25 *yen* on each *koku* of alcohol, so there is a solid reason for trying to escape the payment. Yes, but then the query presents itself, how would a scheme to evade payment of the business tax have been facilitated by secretly transporting the alcohol to Tokyo, unless it was intended for sale by unlicensed dealers, and nothing of that kind is suggested. We failed to see, too, what title the police had to interfere with the transport, except in so far as was necessary to assure themselves that the goods were consigned and delivered to legitimate dealers. The vernacular newspapers refer to the matter at some length, but do not explain the exact nature of the offence committed.

THE MONEY MARKET.

The Bank of Japan's policy may claim the approval of success, which is the most convincing endorsement that events can offer. At one period in 1897, its issue of notes over and above the legal limit aggregated 55 million *yen*, and there can be no doubt that the liberal assistance then extended by it to the mercantile and manufacturing classes greatly mitigated their sufferings, if it did not avert actual disaster. But when the crisis had passed, the Bank gradually raised the rate of interest, and was thus able to recover its loans, so that, in the middle of last week, it had not a *yen* circulating above the limit, and on the 15th instant the Minister of Finance was able to withdraw the permission for extra-limit issues. The Bank's paper now in circulation amounts to 169,900,000 *yen*, and its gold reserves to 89,400,000 *yen*, so that its position is very satisfactory. Under the circumstances, several of the vernacular newspapers advocate an immediate reduction of the rate of interest, but others wisely point out that it would be imprudent to take a step of that nature at the first manifestation of favourable conditions. There is no sufficient guarantee that a necessity to raise the rate again may not present itself within the next few months. Better wait a little, and see how things shape themselves.

Last year, when the pressure in the money market was very severe, the Government authorized the Bank of Japan to issue notes in excess of the legal limit—85 million *yen*—and the public availed itself so largely of the permission that, at one time, the Bank exceeded the limit by as much at 55 millions. During the present year, however, the financial condition of the commercial and industrial classes has evidently become easier, so that the Bank has been able gradually to call in its advances, and a few days ago the newspapers announced that the super-limit issue had dwindled to 4½ million *yen*. The Government apparently thinks that no further occasion exists for exceptional accommodation, and on the 15th instant the Bank's permission to exceed the legal limit was withdrawn. There is a general expression of satisfaction that things have returned to their normal condition. We may expect, now, that rates of interest will begin to fall.

JAPAN'S ANSWER TO RUSSIA.

The Japanese Government have replied to the Czar's disarmament proposal. They declare it to be a proposal eminently conducive to the benefit of mankind and to the cause of morality, and they therefore express their cordial endorsement. It is understood that Germany, France, Italy, and Great Britain have addressed similar answers to St. Petersburg. Of course these interchanges of courteous expressions do not bind any one to anything. It remains now to be seen what steps the Czar will take to bring about the discussion of his project. We have no more conception that such an end can be achieved by such means than we have of the Pyramids being sent round the world by parcel's post.

THE LATE DR. VERBECK.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that a number of Japanese have formed an association for the purpose of raising funds to erect a monument to the late Dr. Verbeck. The monument will be set up in Aoyama Cemetery, where Dr. Verbeck's remains lie buried, and it is the intention of the association to send the surplus, should there be any, to his widow. This is a graceful act, and assuredly well deserved, for Dr. Verbeck may truly be said to have devoted his life to the service of Japan.

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POLITICS.

Rumour says that the Shimbashi Club is proving a painful thorn in the Cabinet's side, but truly if even a fraction of the assertions made by rumour within the past few weeks were true, the Ministry should have been in hopeless confusion long ago. The Shimbashi Club consists of men that represent the very cream of the Constitutional Party; men like Messrs. Taguchi, Shimada, Abe, Kojima, Nakano, Sakuma, and so forth. These are not office-hunters. They are genuine publicists who may be credited with honest anxiety to see the affairs of the Administration put in order. It appear that they are not at all content with the prospect of administrative reform now in view. On the 13th instant, they held a meeting, and appointed a committee of seven to approach the Ministry. No definite instructions were given to the committee; the members were authorized to use their own discretion. One of the Tokyo journals says that they have taken vigorous advantage of the latitude thus left to them, and that, visiting Count Okuma, they told him, in effect, that they did not care to be the friends of politicians who, when in office, shrink from the responsibilities to which they pledged themselves out office, and that unless radical reforms were instituted, they would range themselves against the Cabinet. We think that stories of that kind must be largely discounted. There are numbers of agitators who make it their business at present to create a belief that the Cabinet is disappointing the nation's expectations, unworthy to be trusted, and incapable of holding together. Their persistence will have some reward, for a certain class of persons can always be persuaded to credit a statement if they hear it sufficiently often.

A FUTURE PARTY LEADER.

It is impossible to doubt that Mr. Shimada Saburo will figure, one of these days, as a powerful and independent party leader. The differences between his views and those of many of the men with whom he has hitherto worked in concert are becoming so accentuated that his continued allegiance to the Constitutional Party can not be of long duration. He is in favour of increasing the Land Tax. He is in favour of reducing the *post-bellum* programme of army expansion. He is in favour of drastic administrative reforms. What is more, he has a strong following, organized as the "Nippon Club," and he is now openly speaking in terms almost contemptuous of the Cabinet's want of courage, sincerity, and thoroughness. The position assumed by him, the position which, together with five other representatives of the Club, he has been commissioned to urge upon the Ministers, is that they must take their courage in both hands, recognising that so long as they waste their time and energy trying to trim their sails to all the breezes of opinion blowing among their political followers, they can never hope to make any port. Mr. Shimada says that the Club Committee, of which he is a member, refrains from publishing any statement of the views which it is commissioned to urge upon the Cabinet, but there is no difficulty in inferring, from the remarks which he does allow to be published, that a considerable reduction of the military establishment is prominent among those views; or in deducing, from the historical precedents which he quotes, that he counsels a determined course even at the cost of a rupture with the Liberals. Among recent political events we see none so serious as the procedure of Mr. Shimada and of the Club which he leads.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

It is alleged by the *Nippon* that the much-talked-of and long-waited-for draft of Administrative reform has been completed; that it is called *Kwansei-Kaikaku-an*; that its examination and revision by the Legislative Bureau have been completed; that it has been returned to the Cabinet and will be finally passed in review by the latter to-day (Tuesday); that it will then be submitted for the Emperor's approval; that it will probably be published on the 28th or 29th instant; and that its contents are still secret but have been privately ascertained to be broadly as follows:—

1. Bureaux to be abolished or changed into Sections.

The Official Gazette Bureau in the Cabinet.

The Bureau of Temples and Shrines, the Bureau of General Business; the Bureau of Formosan Affairs, and the Hokkaido Bureau in the Home Department.

The Bureau of Records in the Department of Education.

The Bureau of Commerce and the Bureau of Industry in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

The Bureau of Posts and the Bureau of Telegraphs in the Department of Communications.

The Bureau of Superintendence in the Department of Finance.

2. New Bureaux to be created.

The Bureau of Statistics (in the Cabinet), including two sections of Records and Statistics, the latter to conduct the business of the Official Gazette Bureau.

The Bureau of Commerce and Industry (in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce); being, in fact, the former two Bureaux of Commerce and Industry rolled into one.

The Bureau of Posts and Telegraphs (in the Department of Communications), being the former two Bureaux of Posts and Telegraphs rolled into one.

3.—The *Chokunin* Councillors of Departments to be abolished, and each Department to have an official called *Sanyo-Kwan*, who will attend to political affairs and represent the Department in the Diet.

4. The distinction between Political Officials and Administrative Officials to be this, namely, that Vice-Ministers and *Sanyo-Kwan* shall be equally responsible with Ministers and shall be classed as "Political Officials" (*Seimu-Kwan*), and that all other officials from Heads of Bureaux downwards shall be classed as "Administrative Officials," and need not go out with the Cabinet.

5. Districts (*gun*) to be abolished, and the limits of Urban Divisions (*cho*) and Rural Divisions (*son*) to be increased, the former District Offices to become Prefectural Offices.

6. The result of the above changes will be to reduce the total establishment of officials by about ten thousand; that is to say, twenty per cent. of the present aggregate (50,000).

MR. NAKADA.

We learn with great regret that Mr. Nakada has resigned his position as Head of the Political Bureau in the Foreign Office. Among the junior officials of the Administration there are many men of great capacity and promise, but not many, we imagine, who equal Mr. Nakada in thoroughness of method as well as in clear-headedness. He will be a great loss to the Government, and it is to be hoped that his services will again become available before long.

THE SUGAMO PRISON AFFAIR.

The recent doings of the new Governor of Sugamo Prison, as related by the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, were of such an ill-judged and even illegal character that we expressed strong doubts of the correctness of the report, and our doubts are now justified by the publication of a very different version. It appear in the columns of the *Tokyo Shimbun*, and is very much more credible than the first story. According to the *Yomiuri's* account, Mr. Arima virtually compelled the four Buddhist priests to resign their positions at the jail, and appointed a Christian pastor in their stead. What really happened seems to be that the Governor, deeming four religious instructors a needlessly large number—it must be remembered that the duty of these persons is limited to the reading of prayers and the preaching of sermons—, decided to dispense with two, and further concluded that as the principles of religious liberty were not properly consulted by having Buddhist priests only to minister to a body of men some of whom were Christians, one of the two religionists on duty should be a Christian pastor. He conveyed an intimation in that sense to the Hongwan Temple, to which the priests attached to the Sugamo Prison have hitherto belonged. The Temple authorities replied, however, that without instructions from head-quarters they could not allow one of their priests to give religious instruction in common with a teacher of a strange faith. They therefore withdrew their ministers altogether from the Prison. At the same time the Vicar-General (*sammu*) addressed a letter to the Minister of State for Home Affairs inquiring whether, in view of the fact that Buddhism is the State religion of Japan and Christianity a creed receiving only individual recognition, it was with the approval of the Minister that this distinction had been ignored at Sugamo, and the two placed on an equal footing.

That is a horse of a very different colour from the steed previously trotted out for public inspection, and there seems to be no room for hesitation as to which of the two represents the truth. The Buddhists, it will be seen, are trying to carry things with a high hand; an attempt which none of us has any business to condemn for its own sake. But we do feel justified in saying that it is an unlovely and injudicious attempt, for, in the first place, it displays a spirit of intolerance which ill becomes any religious creed, and, in the second, it asserts a claim which is more likely to provoke resentment than to receive recognition. We have translated the Vicar-General's words in the sense of "State religion," for that, we presume, is what he means when he speaks of "a public creed." But Buddhism certainly is not the State religion of Japan, and it is not a wise proceeding on the part of one of its chief representatives to take a step which can only lead to an official disavowal of that status. The *Tokyo Shimbun*, we observe, strongly condemns the action of the Buddhists. Premising that it does not venture to discuss the relative merits of different creeds, it reminds the professors of Buddhism that, from a Japanese point of view, their faith also is an alien religion, and it frankly tells them that the bigotry they are showing on the present occasion is a poor exposition

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of the quality of their creed. As for the result produced by their ministrations in the jails, they can scarcely claim much credit, though perhaps the blame rests with the prison system rather than with their teaching. At all events the present Chief of the Metropolitan Police, Mr. Nishiyama, is determined to treat all creeds with absolute impartiality, and the effort now made by the Buddhists to set up a monopoly on their own account will not meet with his sympathy.

YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

The rival claims of the two principal emporia of foreign trade in Japan are beginning to attract the attention of vernacular newspapers. In the *Keisai Zasshi* an interesting table is given, showing what wonderful strides Kobe has made during recent years :—

Year.	Yokohama's Foreign Trade.	Kobe's Foreign Trade.
1873.....	35 436,622 *yen*	8,441,869 *yen*
1878.....	40,410,532 „	12,531,535 „
1883.....	45,297,115 „	12,691,841 „
1888.....	77,360,163 „	42 971,975 „
1893.....	91,514,655 „	81 879 475 „
1897.....	177,537,839 „	162,149,910 „

It seems probable that Kobe will overtake Yokohama this year, and the *Keisai* expects that the former will ultimately become the premier port on account of its favourable situation with regard to Osaka, which is rapidly being transformed into the great manufacturing centre of Japan. But Yokohama, on its side, enjoys the propinquity of Tokyo, which, backward as it is, remains always the capital of the empire, and promises to be a seat of industrial enterprise one of these days. The Kobe people are now busying themselves about their harbour. The natural advantages of the port are said to be superior to those of Yokohama, but the latter has had the benefit of large expenditures on improvements, whereas Kobe has not received any such attention. The plan now on the *tapis* is to spend 16,870,199 *yen* upon harbour improvement. The Diet will be asked to vote State aid to the extent of one-third of the total, and the remainder will be obtained by the sale of six-per cent. bonds, to run four years without redemption, and then be redeemed in eight years.

THE CABINET AND ARMAMENTS EXPANSION.

A recent announcement that the much-talked of Seventh Division is to be organized in Hokkaido, shows that the Cabinet is not deviating in any degree from the *post-bellum* programme of Marquis Ito and his advisers. The point was for some time in abeyance. There was talk of entrusting the defence of Hokkaido to the colonial militia, and thus reducing the proposed establishment of the Army by one Division. But that change has evidently been abandoned. We read also in vernacular journals that the Budget for next year includes appropriations on account of fortifying the Pescadores and Tsushima, and it is thus a fair conclusion that the full programme of armaments expansion is to be carried out. Unless we greatly misread the signs of the time, this question will ultimately prove the cause of a rupture in the Constitutional Party.

THE NORTH-EASTERN POLITICIANS.

The political section led by Mr. Kono Hironaka, Mr. Okuma Hidemaro, and others, seem determined to assert themselves in a manner calculated to embarrass the Cabinet. They are to have a grand meeting on the 25th instant in Sendai, and, by way of preliminary, the representatives now in Tokyo, numbering about thirty-five, assembled on the 21st instant, for the purpose of discussing a series of resolutions to be submitted to the general meeting. They framed five items :—first, that the relics of Clannism must be eliminated and the reality of administrative reform attained; secondly, that the Regulations for Official Appointment must be rescinded with a view to the wider employment of talent; thirdly, that there must be no increase of the Land Tax; fourthly, that the old lines of party cleavage must be obliterated among the Constitutionalists and thorough concord established; and fifthly, that the *Tōhoku* (north-eastern) politicians will never rest until constitutional government is fully established. With the two first among these five resolutions the leaders of the present Cabinet are not at all likely to agree.

NOTES ON NEWS.

The Sei-wa (Ise-Yamato) Railway has been much-talked-of lately, and now finally its property has been seized for debt. It was to have been expected, of course, that a good many of the railways projected during the mania of 1895-6 would prove unremunerative, but a line traversing such districts as those of Ise and Yamato should not belong to the category of bubble enterprises.

It appears that trespasses of the game laws are frequent this season, early as the date is. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce issues a notification ordering that strict care shall be exercised to prevent people shooting without a license, or using someone else's license, or employing dangerous weapons in the pursuit of game, or slaughtering protected birds.

Four Divisions are to take part in the autumn manœuvres in November. There ought, therefore, to be about thirty thousand men in the field. The Divisions told off for the duty are the Third (Nagoya), the Fourth (Osaka), the Ninth (Kanazawa) and the Tenth (Himeji). The Fourth and the Tenth will be the army of attack; the Third and the Ninth, the army of defence, Lieut.-Generals Sakuma and Nozu (or Kuroki) being in command. The scene of the campaign will be the provinces of Kawachi, Setsu, and Izumo. According to present arrangements, the Emperor is to leave Tokyo on November 12th; remain a night in Nagoya; reach Osaka on the 13th; devote the next three days to the manœuvres, and return to Tokyo on the 20th.

It is stated that the affair of Chief Public Procurator Yoketa came before the Cabinet in full conclave on the 20th instant, and that the Minister for Justice found his views opposed by Count Itagaki, Viscount Katsura, and Messrs. Hayashi and Matsuda, Mr. Ozaki also being more or less inimical. Under the circumstances no final decision was arrived at, but Mr. Ohigashi's position is regarded as somewhat precarious.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

The Japanese must be a good deal gratified to find that China is really beginning to sit at their feet for instruction in the alphabet of progress. To obtain that kind of recognition from their big neighbour has long been an object of ambition to the people of this country. They knew that for many a day China despised them; regarded them as renegade upstarts; apostates from the creed of the Orient. Four years ago, they had the satisfaction of proving to her in the most signal way, that whatever moral comfort she might derive from her conservatism, its material result had been impotence. It really was a very keen satisfaction, we imagine, and on the whole the Japanese can not be said to have been unduly inflated by it. But what the best of them hoped was to see China make practical and voluntary acknowledgement of her error, as she is now doing. We do not wish to be interpreted as predicting the renovation, the resurrection, the rejuvenation of China. There has been nothing of that kind in the case of any State since the history of the world began to be written, and the one solitary exception to the universal rule is not going to be furnished by a nation whose whole time and energy are absorbed in the grim struggle for every-day existence. But, whatever the fruit of China's new mood may be, the mood is there, in semblance at all events, and Japan would be more than human if she did not hug herself a little and chuckle softly over the news that two hundred Chinese youths are coming in the train of the new Minister to learn "how it is done." People say that when the Chinese Government made application to Japan with regard to this project, there was considerable delay in obtaining a reply, and that the Emperor Kwangsu betrayed some impatience. They say, also, that when the answer did come, it was found to be at once practical and cordial, for Japan promised not only to welcome the students, but also to pay the expenses of their education. We hope she did not do that, for it would have lacked the grace of true courtesy; but it will become her well if she can persuade her own students and young folks in general to treat the new-comers with civility, and to spare them any display of the bumptiousness and self-assertion now unfortunately forced on the attention of the *Ke-tojin* and the *Ijin-papa* in this country.

THE YOKOTA AFFAIR.

It seems to be taken for granted that a majority of the Cabinet will give judgment against the Minister of Justice in the matter of his dispute with the Chief Public Procurator, Mr. Yokota. Six to three is the ratio predicted for the Ministerial voting. Should that forecast prove correct, Mr. Ohigashi will doubtless resign. But, *more japonico*, it is suggested that Mr. Yokota ought to resign also. The principle underlying the suggestion is a little obscure, but, so far as we can judge, the idea is that Mr. Yokota must show that he has been fighting for the right, and not for his official position. Having won the battle, he ought to resign gracefully, thus achieving a moral as well as a practical victory.

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THE RECENT ATTEMPT TO SET THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S HOUSE IN ORDER.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

NOTHING is more uncongenial to the English mind than a conscious appeal to first principles. We argue from minor premises, we legislate for emergent needs, we scorn theory and look for what we call a practical solution of any question that arises. On the whole we are satisfied with the result; but there are occasions when the method fails; when even reluctant Englishmen are compelled to seek in first principles a basis for action. Are we being driven to this at the present time in matters ecclesiastical?

Our question is suggested by the resolutions recently adopted by a Conference of clergymen, to which we have already referred. These resolutions are severely theoretical. They "recognize the full authority of the Bishop to prohibit any service not contained in the Book of Common Prayer," and also "to prohibit any omissions from, or additions to, the services contained in the Book of Common Prayer." Their character becomes the more apparent if they are compared with the terms in which the Conference was convened. The members were invited "to confer on the limits imposed by authority in the Church of England as to the introduction of certain practices which prevail elsewhere in the Catholic Church." There was a scope here for endless discussion of detail, for the distinctions of common sense, for the exercise of practical wisdom. Neglecting all this the Conference refused, as we understand, to consider anything but an abstract proposition. The resolutions adopted recognize a certain basis of authority. It is a two-fold basis; there is a written authority—the text of the Book of Common Prayer; there is the living authority of the Bishop. They are recognized as existing. Nothing is resolved as to the practical exercise of authority.

We think it necessary to insist on the theoretical nature of these resolutions. If anyone, impatient of abstractions and generalities, should take them as a practical answer to the question proposed, they would be useless or even mischievous. A mere right of prohibition vested in the Bishop would be an absurdity. How is he to know what is being done in all the Churches of his diocese? How can he prohibit what is unknown to him? If his attention is called to irregularities in some Church, is he to prohibit them privately in regard to that church? If so, are they lawful elsewhere until prohibited? Or is he to promulgate a public prohibition of such practices or their like? Is the lawful use of the diocese then to be sought in a mass of negative decisions on single instances? Absurdities accumulate; but all are summed up in this, that any priest would on this hypothesis be free to introduce any practice at his pleasure, and to continue it until the Bishop, his attention being called to it, issued a prohibition. That is not the order of the Church.

The resolutions, then, lay down only a basis of authority. They are indeed elementary in the extreme. They may be criticised as bare truisms. What is their present value? Why are they so ceremoniously enounced? The only possible answer is a very humiliating one. It is that we have lost our hold upon the principle of authority, and, awakening to the fact, are fain to begin a process of cautious recovery. We have to lisp the very alphabet of Church order. This is why some seventy well-known clergyman were gathered from all England to dare the enunciation of a truism. The resolutions have little value in themselves, but they are useful as a measure of our needs.

They recognize, as we have said, a two-fold basis of authority; and first, the text of the Book of Common Prayer. This is paramount; it is held, save in some minor details, to bind even the Bishop himself. It contains the prescribed form of worship which every priest of the English Church is bound to use. It is not fixed beyond the possibility of change; but it is certain that no simple priest has the right to vary it. There is some elasticity allowed in use. In the Divine Office certain modifications are authorized; but they are strictly defined, and the priest is bound to use the prescribed form unvaried, or with equally prescribed variations. In the Order for the Holy Communion, and in the administration of the Sacraments, no variation at all is permitted. But how is the written authority treated? Mr. RILEY has spoken on this subject in the House of Laymen with earnest conviction and with full knowledge. He detailed some of the liberties which are taken with the sacred rite. The Bishop of London, speaking in Convocation, referred to the well-known cause for which variations are introduced. It is to assimilate our Liturgy to that of the Roman Church. We have no quarrel with the Roman Liturgy; we recognize its undoubted excellence, we acknowledge its essential oneness with our own. But the English Liturgy differs from the Roman in certain obvious and important particulars. The attempt to disguise this difference is due either to a foolish idea that the Roman Liturgy is the home of all Liturgies, or to a suspicion that our own is in some points either integrally or even essentially wanting; and that means grave and dangerous disloyalty. But the inquiry into the grounds of variation is needless for our present purpose. It is sufficient that the Liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer is presented by the authority of the Church; we need nothing more to justify the modest demand of Mr. RILEY'S resolution for "a closer adherence to the form."

No one, however, supposes that the rites of the Book of Common Prayer are exclusively to be used. The form in which the clergy profess their adherence to these distinctly contemplates others "allowed by lawful authority." It is here that we find room for the living authority of the Bishop. He has a well ascertained right to authorize other forms. Always existing, this right was recognized and declared by the "Act of Uniformity Amendment Act" of 1872. At one time narrowly interpreted so as to include the use of any collect or formulary not contained in the Prayer Book, the Act, under the guidance of the present Archbishop of Canterbury, has been taken in a more generous sense, and any form of service that can reasonably be desired may receive complete and formal sanction. It is hard to understand how the introduction of novel forms without this sanction can be defended. It is not enough to say that the Bishop may prohibit them; they ought not to be brought in at all without his leave. Here again Mr. RILEY'S motion adopted by the House of Laymen is opportune and moderate in expression. It speaks of "due liberty being afforded by the Bishops in the matter of such additional services as the present and future needs of the Church of England may require." The addition moved and carried by Mr. GEDGE in the terms of the resolution of the Conference that we have been considering was perhaps a graceful acknowledgment of the Conference, but it added only weakness to the motion.

To the position here taken it is sometimes objected that if one Bishop could be trusted, the yoke of another would be intolerable. Services would be allowed in London which would be forbidden in the diocese of Worcester or of Liverpool. We have not patience to argue against this objection. It is a plain denial of episcopacy. To bow to authority only when convenient is the negation of all authority. It would be strange, were it not for the dire confusion of ideas upon the subject which prevails, to find the same man stretching the right of a priest to regulate the worship of his parish, and carping at the right of a bishop to regulate the worship of his diocese. But indeed we believe this temper to be on the wane. The resolutions of the Conference, inadequate as they are, seem to indicate this. The Archbishop of Canterbury, relying on wider evidence, declared as much recently in Convocation. He finds a growing readiness on the part of men who are wholly unconvinced by his arguments to yield, in matters of the kind, to his authority. This is genuine recognition of authority, and this is what the Church expects of her sons, and above all of her ministers.

The improvement is due to a facing of first principles. We are only beginning the recovery of what we have lost, but the beginning is good. It is due also in some measure to the Bishops themselves. They have realized that the decay of authority has been in no small part the result of bad ruling—harsh and inconsiderate on the one hand, weak and indeterminate on the other. A rule at once harsh and weak does not justify disobedience, but it makes obedience hard, and destroys the spirit of subordination. The Bishops promise now more definite control, and their actions promise gentleness and consideration. They have a legacy of many years of disorder to reckon with. They will understand that many things must be tolerated, at all events for a time, which greater wisdom might have hindered in their inception. *Fieri non debuit, factum valet.* It is not easy for priest or for people to abandon usages which they have followed for thirty years. Such usages may even have acquired a certain right of prescription. But the reins of paternal discipline may be drawn firmly to control recent and future variations, and those who are subject to the control will be among the first to appreciate the blessing of obedience.

The martial mood has revived again on the English comic stage. In *The Dandy Fifth*, now running in London, a military character sings a song of which the following verse is a fair sample:

So come, you foreign soldiers,
And we don't care who you are—
The Uhlans of the Kaiser,
Or the Cossacks of the Czar;
Our Army may be little,
But you've learnt before to-day
A little British Army
Goes a [double-dash] long way.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The Tokyo journals have grown somewhat weary of attacking the Cabinet. During the week just ended there was a little respite from predictions of a speedy rupture between the Progressists and the Liberals, and from catalogues of reasons to show the impossibility of the two parties holding together much longer. The principal Liberal organ (*Tokyo Shimbun*) continues its loyal efforts to restore public confidence by affirming, in article after article, that all these prophecies of disaster are prompted by the wish to precipitate it, and that the party politicians are much too shrewd to destroy with their own hands the edifice of responsible Government which they have toiled for twenty years to erect. Meanwhile, some excitement has been caused by the formation of another "cave" within the Constitutional Party. Just when people were beginning to think that the Kwanto section, led by Mr. Hoshi Toru, was not likely to prove as formidable as its programme implied, another thorn was thrust into the Cabinet's side by the Nihon-bashi Club. The Kwanto-ha's platform, as formulated on the 6th instant, was that the Central and Provincial Government alike should be purged of all the remaining 'clan elements;" that the Regulations for the Appointment of Officials should be rescinded; that the Departments of War and of the Navy should be brought within the same circle of responsibility as all the other Departments of State, and that a council should be added to the machinery of the Constitutional Party. Some of these proposals elicited strong expressions of disapproval from the organs of the Progressists, and since the leaders of the Kwanto-ha—about forty members of the Lower House—are all Liberals, people began to ask whether the elements of a final dissension had not now been furnished, and whether the Liberals were not about to go to their tents with Mr. Hoshi Toru as leader and the above four declarations as a platform. For some unexplained reason, however, the Kwanto section passed out of sight. It will be heard of again, we suspect, but it did not immediately press for the acceptance of its demands. Probably the explanation of its temporary quiescence is that it hesitates to take any decisive action until the views of the Party in general can be ascertained. The Nihon-bashi Club is an organization of about equal strength with the Kwanto section, and it includes many men of great note. It may be called essentially a Progressist association. Indeed we are not aware that it has any Liberals on its roll. Little note was taken of it at the time of its original formation. People imagined that it might perhaps prove a strong factor in advocating an increase of the Land Tax, since its leaders, Messrs. Shimada and Taguchi and Baron Kusumoto, are known to be in favour of that measure; but there was no suspicion that it would be found troublesome to the Cabinet. Suddenly, however, it held a meeting; declared, in general terms, that the Cabinet must carry into practice the principles professed by the Ministers before assuming office, and appointed a Committee to give effect to that declaration. The Committee was not hampered by instructions: its mandate took the simple form of a commission to follow the dictates of its own judgment in promoting the Club's purpose. It visited Count Okuma on the 14th instant and Count Itagaki on the 16th. Fresh in the recollection of the public is the fact that a precisely similar course was adopted by a committee of the Progressist Party last November, and that the result of the step was a complete rupture between the Matsukata Cabinet and the Progressists. It is also very well remembered that Count Matsukata complained bitterly of the breach of confidence perpetrated at the time in publishing a full account of the interview between himself and the Committee before any definite decision had been arrived at. Well, on the present occasion also a partial account of the interview between the Nihon-bashi Club's Committee and Count Okuma is published, before the Premier's answer has been given, so that [illegible] every point. We may add, too, that the language employed by the Club's Committee was at least as strong as the language employed by the Committee of the Progressists last November. There is, however, one difference between the two stories. The Committee of the Nihon-bashi Club have not publicly formulated any cut-and-dried demands. They have confined themselves to a general declaration—a most emphatic declaration—that they expect the Cabinet to act up to its principles in the the matter of administrative reform. Hence there is a good deal of conjecture about their exact aims, and some critics—the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, for example—condemn them for vagueness while, at the same time, declaring that the sweeping reforms advocated by them cannot possibly be carried out. In order to complete this review of the relations between the Cabinet and its political followers, we may add that the General Committee of the Constitutional Party had a meeting with Counts Okuma and Itagaki on the 10th instant, and submitted four proposals in the name of the Party: first, that the Bureau of Metropolitan Police should be abolished; secondly, that the number of officials should be reduced by 33 per cent.; thirdly, that extensive changes should be made in the personnel of *Chokunin* and *Sonin* officials; and, fourthly, that the Regulations for Official Appointments should be largely amended. The reply of the Premier and of the Minister of Home Affairs was that the first of the above proposals could not be entertained; that the second was extravagant; and that the third and fourth might be carried out within limits. It will be seen, therefore, that, on the one hand, the Cabinet is pressed by the General Committee of the Party, and that, on the other, two independent caves have been formed, one (the Kwanto-ha) by Liberals, the other (the Nihon-bashi Club) by Progressists, both advocating changes of an extensive character, but each opposed to the other in principles and predilections.

* * *

This state of affairs leads many to predict that the general meeting of the Party, to be held next month, will be a tumultuous affair, probably ending in the secession of one or two strong sections. Meanwhile the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which has of late assumed a tone curiously out of sympathy with what seems to be the sentiment of the bulk of Party, denounces the idea of reducing the establishment of officials by a third, and declares that the true object of such a proposal is, not reform, but simply the creation of vacancies for political partizans, and that the same criticism applies to the alteration of the Regulations for Official Appointments and to the proposal for extensive changes in the personnel of *Chokunin* and *Sonin* officials. If such things are done, the nation will justly say that the transformation has been simply from *hambatsu* to *tōbatsu*, from clan usurpation to party usurpation, and that the Administration is as far as ever from a wholesome condition. Even more pertinent are the comments of the *Tokyo Shimbun* (Liberal organ). It says that the Party is turning its weapons against its own bosom. The complainants seem to have forgotten altogether that the present Cabinet is composed of men selected by the Party itself from its own ranks. Why did it choose them to be Ministers if it considers them so devoid of capacity and so unworthy of confidence? And what do the agitators intend by their clamour for "radical reform" of the administration (*kompon-teki no ka-kaku*)? Do they imagine that the public labours under any doubt about their meaning, or fails to see that their vehement zeal for "reform" is simply another access of the office-hunting fever which has already discredited the Party so seriously in the eyes of the nation and in the eyes of foreign observers? Other journals find other epithets to apply to this state of unrest. Several speak of the sectional movements that are taking place as "hidden currents" which will soon throw the whole Party into commotion, and one (the *Kokumin*), having recourse to meteorological phraseology, writes of a "depression" which indicates an approaching tempest. Is it not possible to have a trusted government in this country, asks the last journal? Nothing can be more despotic, impractical, or lacking in confidence than the present methods of party politicians. They publicly pass resolutions and then they call upon the Cabinet to carry them out, just as though the Ministers were simply servants of the Party, men without any discretionary power whatever, who have to be driven with a tight rein along a path from which they would swerve if they might. Even the provincial sections of the Party show a disposition to assert themselves independently, and to set up their own views in defiance of those of the Party in general. If the provincial sections, in other words the constituencies, can not trust the men whom they have themselves elected as their representatives; if the representatives, in other words the Party, can not trust the leaders whom it has chosen to manage its affairs; if the leaders, in other words the general committee, can not trust the statesmen whom they have themselves selected to be Cabinet Ministers, then the introduction of party government has been the inauguration of an era of anarchy and confusion. Was it for this that we fought so resolutely and so patiently during 20 years, asks the *Kokumin?*

* * *

Recognising that the Government's final decision about increased taxation is now on the verge of being taken, the people whose interests are likely to be affected and the politicians who seek to make capital out of every official act, have had a good deal to say lately. Speaking broadly, the Cabinet's intention of largely augmenting the tax on urban building land is condemned by the organs of the Opposition on the ground that it is, in fact, another way of taxing the commercial and industrial classes and leaving the agriculturists untouched. But there is not much heart in this condemnation. Journals which have all along contended for an increase of the Land Tax can not organise a consistent campaign against a partial adoption of their own advice. They have a more plausible argument—and full advantage of it is taken by that adroit combatant, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*—in the fact that the incidence of the Land Tax in urban districts shows glaring inequalities, much more glaring than anything observable in the rural districts, and that to largely multiply those inequalities, as the Government proposes to do, will make them almost intolerable. If a man has to pay 15 *yen* a year while his neighbour, occupying equally valuable land, pays only 10, he grumbles, but is probably deterred from active protest by the smallness of the amount. Multiply both sums by ten, however, and the sensations of the 150 *yen* tax-payer will at once become acute. That is a sound argument, but it would be sounder if it did not come from the mouths of men who have hitherto been willing that the tax on agricultural lands should be uniformly increased without regard to the inequalities of incidence that are known to exist under the present system. On the whole, therefore, the increase of the Urban Land Tax is not effectively condemned. As to the *Saké* Tax, the brewers are agitating now just as they agitated when the tax was raised from 4 *yen* per *koku* to 7 *yen*. But their attitude is very moderate. They say that if the Government will institute a strict system for controlling the manufacture of what is known as *konsei-shu*, or *saké* made from alcohol, they are willing to pay an additional tax of 3 *yen* per *koku*, bringing the total rate up to 10 *yen*. Otherwise they must resolutely oppose any further augmentation of the impost, and, under any circumstances, they think that a higher tax than 10 *yen* would reduce consumption so greatly as to make the total proceeds of the tax less than they are at present. It is noteworthy, however, that the brewers do not find any journal to espouse their cause directly. Something is said about the unfairness of taxing one class of producers with special severity, but the public evidently believes that *saké* will bear the pro-

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posed rate and that it may properly be subjected to it. The *Fiji Shimpo* urges, however, that no time must be lost in making arrangements to raise the import duty on foreign alcohol. Even when the new Tariff goes into operation, that is to say, when alcohol has to pay a duty of 40 per cent., it will still be possible to obtain for 30 *yen* alcohol sufficient to make a *koku* of "mixed *saké*." The commonest *saké*, however, will cost about 40 *yen* a *koku* when the tax is amended.

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It is noticeable that two leading Japanese journals, the *Yomiuri* and the *Asahi*, insist in emphatic terms on the importance of Japan's refraining carefully from all interference in Korea's political affairs. The *Mainichi* assumes a directly opposite position; but that is not novel. It has hitherto been the custom of all vernacular journals to advocate a strong policy towards Korea. It is not the *Mainichi's* adherence to that habit, but the two other journals' departure from it, that we find interesting. Their idea seems to be that Korea can not be touched without soiling the hands. The *Asahi* compares it to a rotten and ragged old vestment which can not be stitched without making fresh rents. There is but one sound and hopeful method of helping the country, namely, to work for it commercially and industrially without any reference whatever to the Government. Railway building seems particularly desirable in our contemporary's eyes. It recommends its nationals to build a line from Sōul to Wiju, so that Japan may have a trunk road right through the peninsula from Fusan to the Yalu. Considering that a French syndicate has already obtained a concession for the Sōul-Wiju line, considering that there is not the remotest prospect of profit from such a road, and considering that Japan is lamentably short of capital to build railways for herself at home, this advice of the *Asahi* has a fine ring of unpractical romance.

FORMOSA AND THE TARIFF.

The *Official Gazette* of the 16th instant contains an announcement that the General Tariff is to go into operation in Formosa from the 1st of January next. It is a perplexing notification. We should have supposed that the notice recently given held good for the whole empire. If it did not, if a special announcement is necessary in order to include Formosa, why does not the same principle apply to the Conventional Tariff? Why should this second notification speak of the General Tariff only?

DUPLICATED IN JAPAN.

Nature publishes a letter from a correspondent at Bettws-y-coed recording an extraordinary experience. On killing what was supposed to be an adder, about 38 inches long, its captors opened him and found inside a large toad, about half-way down the snake's interior. It was thought that the toad, whose head was much wider than the snake's and whose body was many times as large as his enemy's head, must be dead, but as he shortly began to move, water was poured over him, and whisky and water down his throat, the result of which heroic measures was that he revived, stood up on all-fours, distended like a balloon, and darted at a stick in a most comical way, eventually disappearing. The correspondent, who humorously christened the toad "Jonah," asks for information as to similar cases of resuscitation, and the probable duration of the toad's entombment.

A similar case happened in Japan. Some years ago the writer was staying at the Kai-kaitei, Kowakidani, when a snake was killed and afterwards dissected. In its interior was found a huge toad, apparently dead, but upon the application of a little whisky, he revived and eventually hopped away as lively as ever a toad could hop, and looking none the worse for his temporary lodging in the snake's inside.

THE ART-LIBRARY PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Mr. J. B. Millet, whose name is familiar to many persons in Japan in connexion with the magnificently illustrated work on this country which he is now engaged in bringing out, has just made an important extension of his business. We take the following from the *Boston Herald*:—

The sale of the assets of the Art-Library Publishing Company of Philadelphia to Mr. J. B. Millet of Boston is now announced as an accomplished fact. Mr. Millet is the head of the publishing house bearing his name, at 6 Hancock Avenue, Boston, and has now acquired some of the most successful subscription publications on the market. The Art Library Publishing Company for some years gave all its attention to subscription books, and, under the financial support of Mr. William Singerly of Philadelphia, it built up an extensive business. No money was spared to make its plant valuable, and its offices were doing a very profitable business in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Rochester when the failure of Mr. Singerly's bank brought it all to a sudden halt. A receiver was appointed immediately after Mr. Singerly's death, and as soon as it was known that the business was for sale, leading publishers submitted bids, Mr. Millet among them. It is not known what price was paid, but the expert's report submitted to the creditors showed that the assets were worth $129,000. Mr. Millet assumes none of the liabilities, but recognizes the moral obligation of completing the deliveries on the unfulfilled contracts held by subscribers.

The plant will be moved to Boston early in the fall. Among the most important books on the list are:—"The Literature of All Nations and All Ages," "Historic Characters and Famous Events," edited by A. R. Spofford, former librarian of Congress, "The World's Masterpieces," edited by Chevalier Sattain.

No event in the subscription book trade for many years has attracted so much attention as this sale, although up to the present time no public announcement has been made concerning it. Mr. Millet was a member of the editorial staff of the *Boston Daily Advertiser* in the early 80's; later he spent five years with Houghton, Mifflin & Co., and two years as one of the editors of *Scribner's Magazine*.

N.Y.K. LINER ASHORE ON THE AMERICAN COAST.

News comes from Port Townsend, Washington, of an accident to the N.Y.K. liner *Kinshiu Maru* (Capt. F. Brown), which on the morning of Sept. 1st got on the rocks in Puget Sound. She was got off the same day badly damaged.

Captain David Gilmore, official pilot for the Japanese company, was in command at the time of the accident, which took place in a dense fog. The fog bell at Marrowstone Point was the cause of a miscalculation regarding the course to be steered. The *Kinshiu* was running at moderate speed at the time of the accident. The lookout could not see ten feet ahead on account of the fog. A rumbling noise that came from the first rock touched was the only warning. It was followed a second later by the violent plunging of the ship and a sudden shock as her steel bow shot high and dry on the beach. Fog was everywhere around. It shut out the bow from the

Among the officers and crew there was perfect discipline. There were 192 Japanese passengers on board, the officers and crew of the new Japanese cruiser *Kasagi-Kan* being completed by the Cramps, Philadelphia. The officers were as cool as if the steamer had been going into the dock. The crew was mostly below when the shock came. They ran terror-stricken around the deck, but at the calls of the officers they mustered in line on the deck, forgetting every trace of fear.

The Japanese were commanded by Commander G. Saeki, who was on the general war staff during the Chinese war. He was then a Lieutenant, but displayed such skill in matters under his charge that promotion followed.

OUR BOOK-SHELF.

Plain Living, by ROLF BOLDREWOOD: MacMillan's Colonial Library; Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited.

ROLF BOLDREWOOD leaped into fame with his first big book, "Robbery under Arms" and in the opinion of many he has never approached that masterpiece. Indeed, of late years, it would seem as if his chief ambition is to make bulky volumes out of almost nothing, so devoid of interest, yet so long drawn out, have been his latest novels. In "Plain Living: A Bush Idyll" he has a story to tell that could have been compressed into half its space and then been fairly interesting. The story is of the goody-goody order—that class of improving literature whose manufacture delights the conscientious souls of Sunday School Superintendents on the prowl for prizes and rewards. It deals solely with Australian life, and from first to last the moral that the author seeks to convey is steadily kept in view. Mr. Harold Stamford, an Australian squatter, heavily handicapped by adverse seasons, has mortgaged his lands and flocks to the utmost limit and journeys to Sydney to make a last appeal for a little further accommodation from the bank. This is refused, and, almost in despair, the harrassed man goes to a financial agency managed by a gentleman who is fond of taking bold, long shots. This good genius agrees to take over Stamford's account, and, of course, the very next day the long-hoped-for rain descends in the region of the Stamford run, and Providence makes things turn out splendidly. Meanwhile Mr. Stamford dines at the Sydney residence of an old friend. This place is described in detail and, needless to say, is a very palace of luxury embellished by artistic tastes. Wealth can purchase nothing finer in the old country, but despite the magnificence of everything Dull Care sits by bed and board with the noble owner. His eldest son is a scapegrace, his eldest daughter a wilful head-strong girl entirely beyond parental control and as full of whims, caprices, and hardness of heart as any bad fairy of our nursery days. The lesson that Harold Stamford reads at his old friend's table makes so deep an impression upon him that when the news reaches him next day of his quite unexpected accession to wealth, through the death of a distant relation, he resolves to keep the matter secret until his children shall have grown to years of discretion, so that the chastening influences of Plain Living may mould their characters into as perfect a shape as poor human nature is capable of assuming. Naturally the idea works splendidly, but Rolf Boldrewood, as we hinted above, need not have taken so many thousand words to tell us so. There is some very nice love-making in the book; some capital descriptions of gay life in Sydney, of plain life in the bush, and also some good character drawing, more especially of some "new chums"—whose perfectly natural foibles and innocent misconceptions are painted in that supremely superior manner that Colonials unconsciously adopt when describing the folks that come out to them from the old country.

Few people realise what it means to be eighty years old. It means that you may have known Shelley, Keats, Byron, people that have passed into classics and legends. It means that lost history has been enacted under your eyes. It means that you have become mysterious, and in a sense a monopolist of the past. Hence much interest attaches to the publication of "Eighty Years and More," the reminiscences of Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton. These extend from Waterloo to the Diamond Jubilee. She is a great figure in the forward movement for women and author of a History of Woman's Suffrage. Both in England and America she has seen much, and names like Shelley, Browning, Whittier, Garrison, General Grant, etc., throng her pages. Mr. T. Fisher Unwin will publish this work.

What are Whiddles? Legends, we suppose. Anyhow, Mr. Fisher Unwin will issue shortly a book entitled "Cornish Whiddles for Teenie

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Time." One of the "Whiddles" is called "The Sea Miest." Giants, witches, pixies and mermaids figure in them. Mrs. Frank Morris is the authoress, and it would seem that she listened to the telling of "Whiddles" when she was a child. Her book is illustrated by Mr. Archibald R. Nicholson.

The author of the ever-delightful "Uncle Remus" has written some "Tales of the Home Folk in Peace and War," which Mr. T. Fisher Unwin will publish ere long. In this work Mr. Joel Chandler Harris has almost given up writing in dialect. The tales concern a great many varieties of human being. Their locality is the Southern States.

The Well-Beloved, by Thomas Hardy; Macmillan's Colonial Library: Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

"THE WELL-BELOVED" is not a new book, but this is its first appearance in Macmillan's Colonial Library. It is a comparatively short story, and, though of course clever—as any work of Mr. Hardy must be—it can hardly be said to represent him at his best. The hero is an unsatisfactory person, and one gets a little weary of his love-makings. What arouses sympathy in a boy of twenty, fails to excite such a feeling in the case of a man of forty, and creates only ridicule when the subject of romance reaches the staid and sober age of sixty. "Lockesley Hall" would have been better without "Locksley Hall Sixty Years After," and if we had finally parted company with Athos, Porthos, D'Artagnan and Aramis in the days of their gallant youth—braving the terrible Richelieu as a mere morning diversion, familiarly chatting with the Queen in her boudoir before lunch, fighting a dozen duels between tiffin and afternoon tea, and spending the evening in a joyous smash of the whole Ten Commandments—we should be better pleased than when we find them twenty years after going through a rather feeble travesty of their old life. Yet it is the same in real life, no doubt: we find the charming rogues, the adorable roués, and the romantic visionaries of our youthful recollection comfortably settled in middle-class respectability as irreproachable City men, High Church Rectors, and Somerset House clerks. They are excellent citizens, husbands without reproach, and the kindest of fathers, but for all that they are not such good company as they used to be. So it is with Mr. Hardy's hero. When he is hotly in love at twenty we feel an interest in him; when he repeats the same process at forty we think he is rather foolish; and when he falls a victim to the amorous fever once more at sixty we are inclined to regard him as a stupid old bore. But the book is cleverly written, and the literary style, being that of Mr. Hardy, is of the best.

CORRESPONDENCE.

INDIA AND THE GOLD STANDARD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—"We must positively refuse to open our columns to the discussion of Bimetallism," said the Editors in England last year, and they still adhere to their decision.

You print, 16th Sept., a voluminous, if not luminous, contribution to the literature of this thrashed out and thread-bare bogey, written by some "Heaven-born" Indian civilian. The small, but well-armed, body—in the sense that the pen is mightier than the sword—to which Mr. Twigg, your correspondent, belongs, has done a great deal of mischief in the past five-and-thirty years and has thrown every possible obstacle in the way of the initiation and establishment of the Gold Standard in India.

When it is *un fait accompli*, as assuredly it will be, and the story of the ruinous delay in doing it comes to be written and recorded, the Civil Service will be found to be the chief cause of all the trouble. The few thousand Britons who administer the Government of India with its three hundred millions of inhabitants stand comparison with the civilian servants abroad of any country, but on this particular question they have been led astray, they have grasped at a shadow, pursued that Will o' the Wisp, Bimetallism, until they found themselves bogged and be fogged, as far away as ever from the phantom which lured them on.

Under the present conditions of trade and finance all the world over, a reserve of the standard substance appears to be indispensable; that substance, gold in this instance, the Government of India is now engaged in accumulating; it is a task which cannot be accomplished in a day; in the meantime we must possess our souls in patience and submit to the caws and croaks of Mr. Twigg and others who persist in their Bimetalling:

Them to instruct no art could ever reach;
No care improve them and no wisdom teach.

"Gold has its value fixed by Act of Parliament, and consequently its value never fluctuates." The above conception arises from the confusion caused in people's mind by the term Mint price of gold. As a matter of fact, there is no Act of Parliament fixing the value of gold in terms of anything external to itself. How can anything fluctuate in value measured by itself, and that is the only measurement made of gold.

By general consent and for the convenience of all, an ounce troy of standard gold is coined into $3\frac{17}{20}$ sovs. or £3.17 $10\frac{1}{2}$. In other words, an ounce of gold and £3.17.$10\frac{1}{2}$ are synonymous and interchangeable terms. Legislation simply enacts that the weight and fineness of the metal shall be certified, and this is done at the Mint free of charge (vide Coinage Act, Sec. 8) videlicet. ("When any person brings to the Mint any gold bullion such bullion shall be assayed and coined, and delivered out to such person without any charge for such assay, or coining, or for waste in coining.")

All that legislation enacts is merely that the metal be converted into a convenient form for ready circulation, and beyond the conditions laid down as to the weight and fineness of the coinage, videlicet, that there should be 1869 sovereigns in 40lb. weight troy of standard gold at the fineness of the trial of the same of 22 carats fine gold and two carats of alloy in the pound weight troy—beyond this test the value of gold and the fluctuations in its value are just as free from legislative control as all other commodities are.

The meaning of the term "mint price of gold per oz.," seems plain enough, but is misapprehended because the word "price" is the exchangeable value of any article in terms of money embodying the cost to produce as an essential factor, while mint price per ounce expresses the equipoise in coin into which such weight of the gold presented for coining is cast, and has no concern with the cost of producing it, or with the exchangeable value of it.

Yours, &c., GOLD STANDARD.

Yokohama, Sept. 20th, 1898.

[Where did our correspondent find the statement that "gold has its value fixed by Act of Parliament and consequently its value never fluctuates?" Mr. Twigg is not responsible, we think, for such a manifest absurdity, nor have we ever heard it advanced by a bimetallist of any authority.—ED. *J.M.*]

WHEREFORE PERRY?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Whatever the Japanese desire to celebrate in 1902, it cannot possibly be the fiftieth anniversary of Commodore Perry's advent. That is quite out of the question. Perry's first appearance here was in July, 1853—not in March, as the *Mail* states, by mistake—and nothing that he then did could be regarded as an "opening of Japan." He came again in 1854, when the treaty was signed by which Americans were allowed to trade at Shimoda, and it may be held, theoretically, that the "opening" was effected at that time, though practically the Dutch had enjoyed a similar privilege at Nagasaki for more than two centuries. It is clear, however, that the fiftieth anniversary of Perry's arrival cannot be observed in 1902, and in regard to the object for observing it at all has been announced. The outcry of those who declare that it ought not to be observed is therefore a palpable absurdity. They set up a purely imaginary grievance and declaim against it, knowing perfectly well that they are talking nonsense all the while. If it amuses them to object to a thing which nobody has proposed, that is their affair; but it is somewhat surprising to find the *Mail* supporting them by the assertion that their objections are "not wholly unreasonable," and that their argument "will appeal to many minds." Undoubtedly every Japanese may have his opinion concerning the propriety of honouring Perry's memory, but that is not the point at issue. Certain persons are seeking to organize a festival for 1902, which is not in the least designed as a tribute to the American Commodore, and which obviously will not mark the fiftieth anniversary of his coming. Certain other persons denounce the scheme, avowedly because they do not think the American Commodore entitled to respectful consideration in this country. Their judgment is to what he deserves may or may not be correct; but since the idea of connecting him with the proposed ceremony is a fiction invented by themselves, it is difficult to understand how their clamour can be pronounced reasonable. They might as aptly protest on the ground that Admiral Stirling, who also negotiated a treaty in 1854, merits no recognition from Japan; or that Admiral Pontiatine, who followed the example a few months later, is better forgotten than recollected. The one is no more the object of the contemplated celebration than either of the others. Yet, although the *Mail* distinctly calls attention to the fact that there is no proposal to exalt Perry,—thereby demonstrating the baselessness of the opposition movement,—no one who reads its article of September 13th can avoid the conclusion that the opponents are editorially endorsed. My previous communication on this subject has elicited a rejoinder to the effect that the half-column of "vehement argument" to which I referred represented chiefly the views of Japanese newspapers, the *Mail* having contributed only eight lines to the discussion. While accepting this statement unreservedly—which of course I do—I may suggest that it is not always easy to distinguish between quoted and original opinions, when the former are not specifically indicated or reproduced literally, and especially when the borrowed reflections are presented in phraseology which has a peculiarly English flavour. I admit that on reading that "Perry did not come here for Japan's sake,—not one little bit," I thought I recognized a familiar hand; but it seems I was in error, as, probably, other readers might have been. There remain, however, the eight undisputed lines; and even eight lines may be made to exhibit considerable vehemence,—as when one of them likens the Commodore's advent to "a dose of very nasty medicine." For the moment, it is unnecessary to inquire how far this comparison is appropriate. To use the *Mail's* own words, it "is not a question under discussion." If the historical event had been legitimately brought forward for examination, I could comprehend the propriety of debating it to any extent; but in this case it is thrust into prominence on a manifestly false pretence,—a pretence so entirely unfounded that, whatever a few Japanese writers may say, I fail to see why a foreign journal should join them in the endeavour to make the visitation a disagreeable reminiscence. For purposes known to themselves, the antagonists of the projected enterprise have forced Perry's name into an unnatural relationship with it, making him the object of criticism and complaint which the occasion in no sense justifies. The *Mail* does not hesitate to affirm that the attempt to associate him with the affair is unwarranted, but nevertheless tells the complainants that their contention is not wholly unreasonable, and not only encourages their detraction of the Commodore, but seizes the opportunity to have a shy at him on its own account. As the editor remarks, "Time is not the smallest obscurity." The existing circumstances do not call for any

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unfavourable comment upon Perry's actions. The Japanese who pretend to the contrary are either thick-witted or insincere, and the *Mail*, in taking sides with them, assumes a position which, I venture to believe, cannot be satisfactorily maintained.

I am, Sir, Yours truly, E. H. H.
Yokohama, Sept. 17th.

[The idea, as we understand, is to count 1853, when Perry first came, as the opening of Japan, and thus, according to the Japanese method of reckoning, 1902 is the 50th year from the opening. That is easily seen when we remember that 1854 is counted the 2nd year from 1853. As to the light in which Perry's coming and the methods adopted to open Japan should be regarded, our comments were elicited by Japanese comments, and the question whether the latter were relevant or not, had nothing to do with their fundamental justice. We may, without either inconsistency or impropriety, agree to discuss a proposition when it is advanced, though we may deny that any occasion exists for advancing it.—Ed. *J.M.*]

THE DISTRESS IN HOKKAIDO.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I wired you briefly a week ago of the flood that has overtaken us and brought so much suffering. Since then I have been hoping to get full and exact information before writing you. But the confusion is so great in the stricken regions that, though officials were immediately despatched, they are unable yet to send correct reports. However, concerning the general condition there is no doubt; so I write without further delay.

The flooded region is in general the Ishikari Valley and the section of country lying along the coast east of Tomakomai to the province of Hidaka and on the east even as far as Kushiro. The fall of rain was so great and the time so brief that in one place the water is said to have risen a foot and a half in an hour; and the Ishikari river is said to have risen in one narrow place forty feet above low water mark.

With such a sudden and heavy rain it will be easy for you to imagine the havoc made along rivers where such a rain-fall is almost unprecedented. Houses were swept away bodily or swept down before there was time for the inhabitants to seek refuge on high land. Many people were drowned. Others whose houses stood the test were kept imprisoned for one, two, or three days till relief boats could be taken from Otaru and other places to rescue them.

Railway roadbeds and bridges, public highways and telegraph lines were greatly damaged, and of course communication was stopped. Railway traffic between Sapporo and Muroran was interrupted ten days. The new railway line to Kamikawa is not yet in operation and will not be for a month under the most favourable circumstances. The old stage road to Kamikawa is also so broken and bridgeless that even pack horses cannot get through. The twenty-five miles of the branch railway from Yūbari to the main line at Oiwake is reported to be largely destroyed.

More severe even than the loss of personal property and private dwellings and heavy damage to public property is the complete loss of crops in some places. The dependence of the farmers for the long Hokkaido winter with its deep snows and biting cold is swept away at a breath. Add to the loss of crops the fact that much farm land is injured almost beyond hope of reclaiming, and you have a picture of the distress that is upon us and will continue throughout the winter and even longer.

For a period of 15 days relief is being given by the local government. In Ebetsu, 13 miles from Sapporo, some two thousand (2,000) people have been rescued and fed. In the meantime the churches of Sapporo and Otaru have joined forces and organized for carrying on the relief work to the limit of our ability when government relief shall have been discontinued. A committee of these churches is appealing to all the churches of Japan for financial aid in the work to be undertaken. And I write this with the thought that many of your readers will be glad, as they always are in times of [illegible] their contributions to ours for the relief of our suffering fellow men. The time limit suggested for contributions is October 31st. All gifts sent to the undersigned will be promptly handed to the central committee. If you, Mr. Editor, will consent to receive contributions from those for whom it may be more convenient to send in their gifts in Yokohama, it will be considered a personal favour.

On behalf of Central Flood Relief Committee,
Yours truly,
GEORGE M. ROWLAND.

Sapporo, Hokkaido,
September 17th, 1898.

(Contributions sent to this office will be duly forwarded.—Ed. *J.M.*)

THE DOSHISHA: THE OTHER SIDE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—There are generally two sides to a question, and the question which has demanded so much attention of late in the press of Japan, the recent action of the Doshisha Trustees, seems not to be an exception to this rule.

The writer of this letter, which, as will be seen, partakes partly of the nature of an interview with the President of this celebrated school, has diligently read about everything that has appeared in English print touching the subject. From the very beginning the thought forced itself upon me that somehow there was more or less of misunderstanding upon the part of the men who naturally would be supposed to know most about it.

As statement after statement, letter after letter, appeared I found the same thing either assumed or openly affirmed; namely, that the Doshisha had ceased to be a Christian school, and, hence, that it had ceased to represent the principles upon which it was founded and the purpose for which it had been maintained. There were other charges and, in some instances, insinuations; but, whatever the complexion of the writers of these letters, or statements, or editorial criticisms, I found that they all agreed in this—that the Trustees had taken Christianity out of the constitution and out of the school, and therefore the case was plain; they had proved false to their trust.

As an outsider but as an unbiassed observer I was puzzled. If this concensus of opinion was based upon fact and was correct, I could not understand, for example, why the Trustees had left intact article three of their Constitution, which declares Christianity to be the foundation of the morals taught in the school.

Leaving that as meant that either Christianity was not taken out of the constitution or out of the school, or the article was left in as a mere blind to deceive if possible the Christian element in this country and abroad.

I was not prepared to believe the latter alternative without further proof, and hence the conclusion was forced upon me that in the minds and purposes of the Trustees the changes made had a different significance and called for a different interpretation than the one understood and expounded by all the articles written in English so far as I had read them.

This conviction continued to deepen, as I have intimated, till the appearance of the article in *The Far East* by the President of the Institution, Mr. Yokoi. That let some daylight in.

In view of the seriousness and severity of the reflections cast upon the moral character of the President and his colleagues, the quiet ignoring of all personal elements, which from first to last seem to have played so important a part in the war of opposition, evinced rare self-control and a resolute determination to lift the whole question above the heat, misunderstandings and consequent misrepresentations of personal prejudices, antipathies, jealousies, or bitterness.

This frankness and fairness of tone, together with the impression that fully to understand the force of the article a considerable reading between the lines was necessary, increased my desire to meet one of the trustees and to learn at first hand if possible just how they looked at the matter.

There seemed to be no need of interviewing the former foreign members of the Faculty. Nearly every one of them had pretty fully expressed in print his views of the action of the trustees. I therefore determined to see Mr. Yokoi and to learn from himself his side of the case more fully than he had presented it. I accordingly called upon him at his home in Kyoto.

I was met with the utmost frankness and cordiality. Every facility was afforded me to [illegible] statements by personal inspection of [illegible] documents and other important papers. The result of the investigation has been very materially to change the aspect and meaning of the case from what was presented in the articles criticising the action in question.

In the first place, it is not true that Christianity is taken out of the Constitution or out of the school. Not only is Article III. retained in the Constitution, but it is intended to be retained, and when the new revised Constitution appears, which is now being prepared, it will be seen to be there, so that, when legally incorporated under the new Civil Code, the school will be legally recognized as having this article as one of its fundamental principles, and the latter will thus be protected by law.

In judging, these facts should be kept in mind; moreover, it ought to carry weight when it is also known that the Trustees were asked to take out the third clause, but absolutely refused to do so.

Yes, but if the third clause does not apply, or is not applied, or is not intended to apply to any School or Department under the Doshisha Management, except the Theological school, of what use is it? Is it not misleading, to say the least?

It certainly would be of no use, even worse than useless, if it did not apply, as is taken for granted by all the critics, but here is precisely where the misunderstanding has arisen. The third clause does apply to all the Doshisha schools.

Why, then, was the last clause in the original second article of the Constitution taken out?

The last clause in the original 2nd Article was taken out because it was interpreted by several Members of the *Mombusho* as meaning that the teaching of the Bible and of Christianity was compulsory in all departments of the Institution as integral courses of study in the several curriculums. This being the interpretation put upon this clause by these men in authority (in spite of Mr. Yokoi's repeated statement that such was not the meaning of the clause either in theory or in practice) they deemed it inadvisable for the Educational Department formally to recognize a school of such a pronounced religious propagandism as this clause, according to their ideas, called for.

Opinions will differ as to the wisdom or advisability of the *Mombusho* even raising such a question, much more upon its insistance legally, but, however that may be, the authorities were distinctly told that Christianity was to remain as the recognized and avowed religious life of the school, that the morning Chapel exercises would be maintained, that the Bible would be taught to volunteer classes in the Sunday School on the Sabbath, that Christian religious services would be maintained by the Church connected with the Institution, and that individual teachers would be free to teach Christian principles by word and by life. To all of these methods of maintaining the Christian character and influence of the School the Educational Authorities made no objections. They insisted only that there should be no religious instruction from the Bible or otherwise which the students should be required to receive.

But has not Government made the Emperor's Rescript the basis for moral instruction in not only all Government schools but in all private schools as well whether they receive Government privileges or not? Yes.

Does not the 3rd Article of the Constitution of the Doshisha Company declare that "Christianity is the foundation of the moral education promoted by the Company." Yes.

How then, if, as has been said, this article applies to all the schools, can it be more than a mere form, how can there be two foundations for moral instruction; the Emperor's Edict and Christianity.

This question can best be answered, I think, by asking another. Are the Emperor's Edict and Christianity mutually exclusive? Is there anything in the Edict antagonistic to the Bible?

The full discussion of this question would lead us too far afield, but suffice it to say that a careful perusal of this celebrated Edict, when interpreted in the light of the Constitutionally granted right of religious liberty, will convince any unprejudiced mind that any Christian school can (in common with all non-Christian schools) loyally and honestly accept the Edict as a basis, or, to speak more accurately, as a norm or standard, for moral instruction in the school, and, at the same time, honestly and frankly and fearlessly look to the ethics of Christianity, believe in them, and advocate them both as a sanction for the various duties enjoined in the Edict, and also as furnishing a broader and more fundamental and complete foundation for the same.

The Government well understand that the intelligent Christian interprets expressions about loyal and filial piety in a way different from that of the thorough-going believer in the old time Shinto [illegible] Christians [illegible] are gradually re-

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cognizing the fact that the former may be and is a truly loyal as the latter.

It certainly is a mistake for men who know the nature of the Edict to say that the promise made by the Doshisha Faculty and Trustees to accept the Emperor's Rescript is tantamount to rejecting the Bible and Christianity as the basis for the moral instruction in the school. It is nothing of the kind. A copy of the Rescript has been hanging on the walls of the chapel just over the portrait of Mr. Neesima ever since it was promulgated in 1890. It was hung there not as a mere ornament nor out of respect alone. Whether the foreign members of the Faculty at that time fully understood its official significance or not may be doubted, but it is perfectly sure that the Japanese members understood it to mean then just what it does to-day.

Again, I found on investigation that while the Bible is no longer used as a text book or as a prescribed study in the regular courses of instruction, it is no means an abandoned book or a banished influence in the school.

It is read as a part of the morning chapel exercises in the college chapel as it always has been, at which exercises there is always a good attendance; it is studied in classes in the Sunday School; holds its usual place in the religious meetings conducted by the school on the Sabbath and upon Friday evenings. There is nothing in the recent changes nor in statements made to the Government which would prevent, or in any way interfere with, starting volunteer classes in the Bible at any time in any room for the benefit of any class of students in the school. The Government merely insists that the study of the Bible shall not be required of any student in any school having any connection with the National system of Education.

Whatever else may have been the object of promulgating the Emperor's Rescript, it certainly unifies or tends to unify moral instruction throughout the Empire and forms a standard around which all schools, Christian and non Christian, and even antichristian, may unite, while it leaves each free to interpret, enlarge, enforce, or illustrate according to the light given or possessed by each.

It may be difficult, nay, impossible, for foreigners to understand the unique position which this Rescript holds or to appreciate it at anything like its real value, but one thing is plain, and that is that it holds a unique relation and possesses a very great significance. But certainly it is unfair to judge that the intelligent Christians view it as bearing any religious meaning, or that the reading of it in schools on certain occasions is in any sense an act of religious worship on their part.

But were not all religious exercises omitted from the graduating exercises this year? Yes. How then can that be called a Christian school where the Bible cannot be or is not read, where a prayer is not offered, nor a Christian hymn sung at its graduating exercises? Well, to those that have been used to these religious services in a well-established Christian Community and State the entire omission of them at the demand of local governments must necessarily to be an unjustifiable yielding of Christian principle, particularly when it is done for the first time after a school has had these exercises for several years; but it is a great mistake to represent this change, as has been done, as evidence of truckling to the Educational authorities by the present administration of the school, or as one proof that the change in the Constitution meant the ruling out of the Bible and of Christianity. It is nothing of the sort. The omission of such exercises at all public official meetings of the school is in accordance with the promise made to the local government by the former President of the School, Mr. Kozaki, when the Middle School was recognised as such by the Educational Department.

However much the present administration may value such Christian exercises, as they do, or deprecate their absence, yet they are bound by the original promises made two years ago when official connection was made. Moreover, it should be said—and to my mind this fact has a very great significance—that the real reason for the omission is not because of the Christian character of these exercises as such, but because the Government have rooted out all religious ceremonies, whether Buddhist, Shinto, or whatever the form, from public school exercises where students are obliged to attend or at which Government officials are expected or invited to be present in a official capacity. Yielding, or rather submitting, to the Government in this matter, is thus not necessarily the giving up of any Christian principle though it is a curtailment of Christian privilege.

Furthermore the Doshisha is not the only Christian Mission school that has come under changed relationship to the Government system of Schools. The other Mission Schools that have received Government recognition and privilege have obtained them upon essentially the same basis and conditions, the acceptance of the Emperor's Edict and the making of all study of the Bible and attendance upon religious exercises and teaching purely and absolutely free and outside the required curriculum. It is perfectly safe to say that any such school not observing these conditions or restrictions is wittingly or unwittingly disregarding Government instructions.

Again. The reported saying of Mr. Yokoi that the Trustees had taken down the Christian sign, which has been so persistently and widely quoted and commented upon, turns out to be an entirely misquoted statement, even if he ever made it—which is doubtful. If made at all it was merely used as illustration for the sake of argument or comparison; Mr. Yokoi disclaims most emphatically ever having even entertained such a thought for a moment, much less adopted it or expressed it.

It remains to be seen now whether those that so widely circulated this misleading and damaging misstatement will be as diligent in trying to correct it, a thing they are, in Christian duty, bound to do.

Another reported remark also needs correction. Probably no criticism of the action of the Doshisha Trustees has had so much weight as the remark said to have been uttered by Count Okuma on first hearing of the matter. It has gone round the world several times and is no doubt now being repeated somewhere by some impassioned speaker whose zeal is in inverse ratio to his real knowledge. If ever uttered by Count Okuma it was evidently uttered in view of the representations and interpretations made by men who might reasonably be expected to know whereof they spoke, but who, as has been shown, were mistaken. In any case Count Okuma is well known (at least in Tokyo) to hold views of the changes made quite the opposite to those at first said to have been expressed now that he understands the facts from the standpoint of the Trustees.

Again, it is not true that the present administration has malappropriated the funds of the Harris Science School. As any one can see, who will take the trouble to read Mr. Harris's "Letter of Gift" to the Doshisha Trustees Jan. 9th, 1890, that such use as has been made of part of the income is definitely provided for by that letter.

But did not Mr. Harris make a supplementary Letter of Gift in 1896 which virtually annulled these provisions? Yes, but that Second or Supplementary Letter of Gift was not accepted by Mr. Kozaki and his colleagues for the very proper and obvious reason—among others—that the second letter virtually took the Gift and the control of the school out of the hands of the Doshisha Trustees, making the Harris School of Science no longer organically a part of the Doshisha University—as did the original letter—but treating it an independent Institution subject absolutely in all *vital* matters to the control of a foreign board of Trustees; namely, the Prudential Committee of the American Board.

Having accepted the Gift in accordance with the conditions of the original Letter of Gift, the Doshisha Trustees very justly could not see their way to resign all vital connection with, and control of, this Department of the Doshisha University, particularly when the Trustees were not cognizant of having violated any of the provisions contained in the Original Letter upon which conditions the Gift had been accepted; and, also, when the avowed main reason and purpose of the second letter was to create a foreign board of Trustees whose main business would be to see that the teaching of Science was maintained in strict conformity to so-called *Evangelical* Christianity. Such a provision cannot be said to have succeeded very well elsewhere and surely no one could reasonably expect that the Japanese would work any more harmoniously under any such supervision.

Once more and finally. It is not true that "one of the oldest of the Trustees of the Doshisha, one who was not present at the meeting in Tokyo when this decision was made, resigned." The facts are that the gentleman in question did write a letter of resignation, but not only withdrew it when he fully understood the nature and purport of the action of his colleagues, but also approves of the same action in its main purpose.

This misreported resignation has had great significance and has been used with great power in some quarters, particularly by the American gentlemen formerly connected with the Doshisha, not only because of the prominent and influential position and character of the person meant, but chiefly because his standing theologically has been above question; hence when he was supposed to have resigned the foreign gentlemen at once seized upon the report as proving conclusively that they were right in opposing the present administration as unorthodox, for, judging from the frequent appearance of the word "Evangelical" in the numerous articles published by them, especially in their recent set of resolutions, this whole Doshisha question is at bottom mainly a theological one.

One is impelled to ask this question: Supposing this same member of the Doshisha Trustees who was said to have resigned, but did not, but who now stands with his colleagues in favour of the recent change—supposing, I say, *he* had been at the head of the present administration instead of Mr. Yokoi, does any one really think there would have been all this commotion and opposition, particularly from the American Missionaries?

Happily we are not left in doubt as to the negative answer to this question, nor as to the course of action that would have been taken. In one number of the little paper published by the Mission formerly connected with the Doshisha, a member of that Mission, writing of the *San Yo Jo Gakko* at Okayama, says: "This school, like the Doshisha, has been passing through a trying experience and has felt it advisable to lower its Christian colours * * * * It has compromised with its threatened rivals to the extent of engaging to refrain from a public proclamation of the fact that it is a school organized and conducted on Christian principles. The conduct of the school practically remains the same as before and the personal influence of the teachers is thrown on the side of the Christian religion. * * *

"While we cannot approve of the present position taken by the trustees of this school and must believe it to be a mere temporizing policy, we appreciate the delicacy of the situation in which they were placed and have large confidence in the high purpose of those who are managing the institution."

Supposing the writer of the above quotation has correctly presented the facts of this Okayama school, or at least more accurately interpreted the facts than he and his colleagues have presented the case of the Doshisha, then I submit that the attitude of mind taken and the policy to be pursued as indicated by the last clause quoted above would have been the attitude and policy best calculated to have brought forth worthy and desirable results in the case of the Doshisha.

It seems a great pity to an outsider, but more so to one who is genuinely interested in the spread of Christian peace and good will, faith and confidence and love between members of different races in this fair land, that a different policy was not pursued by former members of the Doshisha Faculty and Trustees, one more likely to win men.

It seems very strange, for example, that not one of them appears to have felt it a plain Christian duty, before putting pen to paper or rushing into print, to go to head-quarters for facts, or, rather, to ascertain from the Trustees themselves what they meant by the changes made.

Had they taken this preliminary precaution there would have been a deal less written, but it would have been more history, not so much hearsay.

It would not have been said over and over that the Trustees had taken the Bible and Christianity out of the school, for it is not true; it would not have been said or implied that the Trustees had tried to deceive the Educational authorities on the one hand and the Christian public on the other by striking out the last clause of Article 2 and by leaving the 3rd Article untouched, for nothing of the kind was attempted; it would not have been said that taking the direct study of the Bible out of the Curriculum of the Middle School was proof that the Bible and Christianity were no longer in that school, for that is not its reason or end; it would not have been said or implied that accepting the Emperor's Edict as the basis or norm of moral instruction was the same as annulling the 3rd clause, for the two are by no means the same; it would not have been said that the omission of all religious exercise at commencement was certain proof that the school had ceased to be a Christian School and that at the dictates of the Government, for that is not true; it would not have been said that Mr. Yokoi declared the Trustees had taken down the Christian sign, for he did not say it; it would not have been said that the Harris School funds had been and are being "unlawfully and immorally" used, for that is not true; it would not have been said that one of the Trustees had resigned as a protest against the immoral and unlawful acts of his colleagues, for a little investigation would have shown the report to be untrue.

Failing to do this very simple and easy thing

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—the method of Jesus, by the way,—men have misunderstood facts, misinterpreted facts, misrepresented facts, and have caused others to do the same, and thereby done a very great wrong to individuals, to the school, and especially to the cause of Christian fellowship and cooperation in Japan and the United States.

Supposing for the moment that the present administration have departed from the faith, as American missionaries claim they have, can the latter reasonably hope to restore these men and reveal Jesus more fully unto them by their present policy and methods, which seem to be so contrary to the very spirit of Jesus, so oblivious of the direct teaching of Jesus and of Paul,* the great apostle of Reconciliation.

Do not let the writer be accused of bias, or of attempting to whitewash the present administration. He has neither been hired nor even asked to write. He has tried honestly and open-mindedly to see matters squarely and all-aroundly to the best of his ability, and has come to his present conclusions very slowly, and, in some cases, against his first impressions.

He freely pointed out to the President of the School what seemed to him very serious hindrances to the making of the School the Christian power it ought to be in Japan; and, were this the place, he would as fearlessly point them out here; but he has "large confidence in the high purpose of those who are managing the institution" and larger confidence in the power of Jesus over these men. The great need, it seemed to him, as he closed the interview and stood in the chapel and visited the various buildings, was not more means and more students so much as a mighty baptism of the Holy Spirit upon Trustees, officers, and students. Could that blessed result be gained it would do more than all else combined to dissipate the lowering clouds of discord.

But in justice he is bound to say also that, as he has read and studied the writings of the missionaries who have so zealously written upon this important subject, he has been forced to admit that their need is exactly the same. Listen to Paul:

"Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; looking to thyself lest thou also be tempted,—doing nothing through faction or vainglory."

Your obedient servant, EDMUND.

JAPANESE BUSINESS METHODS.

In the course of a consular report on the trade of Amoy during 1897, Mr. Consul Gardner makes the following remarks on Japanese manufacturers:—

The increase in the import of Japanese textiles from 14,242 pieces in 1896 to 27,662 pieces in 1897 is interesting, and raises the question as to how far Manchester has to dread Japanese competition in the China market in future. In my opinion there is cause for watchfulness but not for apprehension. At present it is true that wages in Japan are much lower than wages in England, but low wages do not necessarily entail cheap labour; the efficiency of the work of the operative has to be taken into account. Further the study of political economy teaches us two theories. First, the price of labour has a tendency to rise in proportion to its efficiency, leaving only a margin of interest to the capitalists. Second, the introduction of machinery and labour-saving appliances, by raising the standard of living, greatly raises the wages of labour, even of unskilled labour. Further, it will take a long time before the labour of the Japanese is as efficient as the labour of the English, and in labour I include what Mr. Mallock calls "capacity." I was in Japan last summer, and I gathered first that the Japanese operative is not nearly as efficient as the British. He cannot, in the cotton industry, for instance, attend to the same number of spindles. Secondly, the quality of the management, in what Mr. Mallock terms "capacity," is inferior in Japan to what it is in Manchester. The machinery is not so carefully cleaned and kept in order. Also, in distributing the dividends of the first year's working sufficient allowance is not made for renewal of machinery, and for the fact that profits diminish as machinery grows antiquated. When the machinery requires renewal one of two steps will have to be taken, both of which may be attended with difficulty—a call on the shareholders or the borrowing of money from the banks. The Japanese banks trade on a smaller capital than we should consider safe, and it is possible that when the manufacturers require to raise money by borrowing they may experience difficulty in obtaining it. At present the cotton mills are working at an advantage with the very newest of machinery; it is not easy to predict what will happen when the machinery gets antiquated."

* An exception must be made in regard to a recent letter in the *Japan Times* by the Rev. S. L. Gulick. If all had written in the same conciliatory spirit the difficulty might have been settled before this.

POISONING THE EMPEROR OF KOREA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Söul, Sept. 14.

The Emperor's birthday was on the 10th inst. and was celebrated with more general rejoicing than on any previous occasion as far as my recollection goes. There was the usual reception of native officials and of the diplomatic corps and Government employés at the palace; the Independence Club kept open house; and the Peddlers' or Conservative Party assembled in honor of the day. There were parades which gathered in front of the Palace and gave cheers for the Emperor. In the evening there were a few places illuminated with Japanese lanterns, and the explosion of fire-crackers told the presence of young Korea. It was a day of general and seemingly genuine rejoicing.

On Monday afternoon, the 12th inst., the Emperor and His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince gave a feast in the palace; foreign food was served and presumably partaken of freely. It was not long afterwards that both were taken seriously ill; the Emperor's attack, however, appeared less violent than that of his son. The greatest excitement prevailed in the palace, and as the news of the serious illness of the Imperial personages reached the common people there was a general feeling of horror and dread. Horror at the attempt on the life of the sovereign, and dread because of the fearful consequences sure to follow. It is reported that a eunuch and one of the ladies in waiting likewise partook of the poisoned food and became sick. My information is not as definite as I could wish, but the general opinion seems to be that the coffee served at the feast was poisoned with arsenic. It is reported that the Emperor was recommended to have the foreign doctors examine the coffee and likewise send some of it to Shanghai. If this recommendation is followed the results of the examinaton will be awaited with much interest.

In the meantime, and in the absence of any better method, it was reported the next day that the officials of the Imperial Household, eight in number, were ordered to eat of the food and drink of the coffee, and that the result was the same in their cases as in that of the Emperor. On the 13th inst the arrest of the cooks, attendants, and others in the Palace began, and a dozen or so were detained.

On the afternoon of the same day, the 13th, the members of the Independence Club assembled at the Big Bell. The Commissioner of Police ordered them to disperse, but they refused to go. Just then the President of the Club arrived and produced a letter from the Emperor. The Emperor expressed his satisfaction with the motives of sympathy and loyalty that suggested the gathering, announced that he himself was much improved, that every effort was being made to find out the guilty party and, lest their motives might be misconstrued by the people, commanded them to return to their homes. The Club promptly dispersed, but not until they had given three cheers, which they gave twice for their imperial master. The incident is worthy of note as indicative of the power and loyal sentiments of this organization.

On the 14th inst. one of the foreign advisers connected with the Korean Government imported from Shanghai what is to be known as the Imperial Guard. This body is composed of thirty men of five nationalities: ten Americans, eight Britishers, five Frenchmen, five Germans, and two Russians. What effect this novel method of guarding the Palace will have upon the Korean people remains to be seen.

The crops are very good this year, and there is every indication that the coming winter will be much better in this respect than the last.

The Söul-Chemulpo Railroad, to put it negatively, is not booming. The work continues on it, however, and trains are expected to run by the beginning of next year.

CHINESE MATTERS.

The *N.-C. Daily News*, commenting on Li Hung-chang's removal from the Tsung-li Yamên, says:—There is reason to hope that this downfall of H.E. Li Hung-chang is final, that he has come to the end of his tether, and that he will never more hold office in China. By means of his great wealth and the "double dose of Chinese cunning" of which Mr. Chirol wrote, he has succeeded, in spite of his many crimes against his country and the gross corruption by which his wealth was acquired, in keeping himself in office and power long after the expiration of any usefulness that he may once have shown. Utterly without scruples or principles as he is, even such a small stock of principles as the ordinary Chinese statesman is provided with, it was, as Mr. Chirol pointed out, impossible that the moral revival of China, for which all her friends are hoping, could come about as long as he had any share in the direction of China's destinies. China has the greatest reason to be grateful to Sir Claude Macdonald if he has had, as we believe he has, a hand in the relegation to official obscurity of this politician with the feet of clay, who goes into his well-deserved obscurity "unwept, unhonoured, and unsung."

According to a Canton despatch printed in a Shanghai paper, the scheme of building the railway between Hankow and Canton has progressed so far that it is averred in reliable quarters that a loan for four million pounds has almost been completed with an American syndicate, and that the balance of 12 million taels required has been divided into 120,000 shares at Tls. 100 each, nearly half of which has been guaranteed by wealthy Canton, Singapore, and San Francisco Chinese merchants as soon as the American loan shall have been completed. The head office of the railway will be at Canton, and the proposed line will start from that city, then to Fatshan, Sanshui, northwards into Hunan, Hupeh, and to the terminus at Hankow. There will be two branch lines, namely, the eastern and western branch lines. The eastern branch will start from Canton north-eastwards in Hinchou, Chaochou (Swatow), and end at Foochow. The western branch will connect Sanshui with Wuchou and north-westwards with Kueilin, the capital of Kuangsi. The Assistant Director of the Canton-Hankôw Line, under Shêng Hsüan-huai, is to be a Taotai of the name of Chang.

On the 7th instant the Chinese Emperor issued the following interesting edict:—Owing to the constant complaints which have reached us of the local authorities throughout the empire using the sale of the *Chao Hsin* Bonds as a pretext to extort money from the masses, especially in Shantung and Szechuan, we hereby command that the sales be immediately stopped. The Bonds were meant to be voluntary, and we gave perfect liberty to our subjects to buy them or not as they pleased; but since they have been the source of peculation and force by some of our officials our wishes have been perverted, and so all sales of *Chao Hsin* Bonds are from henceforth to be stopped.

A few months ago the Court at Peking received many memorials advocating conscription throughout the Empire. After perusing the various essays, the Emperor ordered the subject to be considered by the Viceroys and then turned to other matters of state. Meanwhile a Censor took the memorials in hand and came to the

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conclusion that the system could not be put to practical use in China. He considered that the scheme was too wide, and urged instead that each province should organise its own volunteer corps, drilling them according to the Western methods already sanctioned by the Throne, making the members serve a certain time, and then putting them into the Reserve, their places in the corps being taken by recruits, and so on. This plan, he thinks, would bear quicker results, especially as the volunteers could be utilised to serve as garrisons when the regular troops were needed elsewhere, while they could further be used to reinforce the regulars in emergencies. The Emperor, in an Edict, says he quite agrees with these arguments, especially as the volunteer corps could be formed into the nucleus of a huge army in times of need. "This plan should be put into effect at once, especially as regards the province of Kuangsi, where there is a serious rebellion among the Secret Society men. We hereby command that the Viceroys and Governors of provinces put into action at once the recommendation of Chang Yin-huan and report to us within three months what they have done in the matter; but the Viceroy and Governor of the Two Kuang provinces are to be only given one month to report to us, on pain of severe penalties."

The great Shanghai cricket match—England versus Scotland—took place on Saturday, Sept. 10th, and resulted in an easy win for the Englishmen. England has won 14 of these matches, Scotland 5, and there have been 6 drawn events. Scotland won last in 1887. Among the players were several who have wielded the willow at Yokohama, to wit, Messrs. R. C. Fairbridge, A. E. Lanning, E. R. Morriss, J. W. Buchanan, R. McGregor, and A. S. Bremner.

Admiral Seymour with sixteen ships went to Chefoo to attend the races. This, as a Shanghai contemporary observes, was a harmless demonstration.

A question having arisen, says a Shanghai contemporary, as to the practical usefulness of the Director Generalship of the Grand Canal, which has the general superintendency of the tribute rice transport through the Canal and the Likin *en route*, an Imperial edict of the 10th instant commands the Viceroy at Nanking and the Governor at Soochow to decide whether or not the above post ought to be retained in the future. Two other important edicts were also issued the same day, one authorising Hu Yü lên, Governor of Peking, in his capacity of Director-General of Railways north of the Yellow River, to build a branch railway to the Western Hills, near Peking, the coal mines at which place supply the capital and vicinity with fuel. The new railway is projected owing to the heavy expenses incurred yearly in engaging camels to transport such fuel. The other edict is an approval of the work done by Sung Yü-jên, a high officer of the Hanlin Academy, in Szechuan, in forming a company to exploit the mines of that province, and in also having established a bureau to encourage international commerce. As Sung alone, naturally, cannot continue to do all the necessary labour for making these schemes a lasting success, the edict appoints two wealthy men, Han Tsien and Li Cheng-yung, holding Taotai rank, to assist the former in his work.

The *Universal Gazette* publishes further stories of ill-treatment and oppression near Kaiping, in the Liaotung Peninsula, by the Russian surveying parties, including the desecration of the Bannermen's cemeteries, and insults to their womenfolk, which caused the Bannermen to rise in their wrath and drive the Russians away. These reports, as the *N.-C. Daily News* observes, must be received with some reserve, though Cossacks are not the gentlest of people to employ in what they no doubt regard as a conquered country.

The *Sinwênpao* publishes a special telegram from Peking to the effect that the Imperial consent has been given to the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung's scheme of sending, at once, fifty of his ablest and brightest young military officers to study their profession in Japan, and that the young officers will probably be sent to Tokyo at an early date. In connection with this visit, we also see in the Shanghai papers that the Grand Secretary Sun Chia-nai has appointed a Committee of four Metropolitan officers to visit Japan and examine the schools and universities in order to get information how to manage the proposed Peking University and lower grade colleges. The following are the officers appointed:—The Censor Li Shêng-tu, the Hanli Compiler Li Chia-chû, the Hanlin Bachelor and Imperial Clansman Shou Fu, and Yang Shih-hsi, second class Secretary of the Board of Works.

On the 13th September the following ominous paragraph appeared in the *N.-C. Daily News* with all the dignity attaching to "leader" type:—

Fears have been expressed by those who know the ways of Peking and of Oriental Courts generally, that the young Emperor has been going too fast for the comfort of the old officials at the capital, and for his own safety. It is possible that the Empress Dowager has been merely giving him rope, and already ominous rumours have come down from Peking that he is seriously ill. It is reported that there is a posthumous son of the late Emperor Tung Chi in the palace, ready, if called upon, to ascend the Dragon Throne, but we trust that there is no real foundation for these rumours.

"The Mixed Missionary Marriage" is still helping to fill the columns of the *N.-C. Daily News* with correspondence *pro.* and *con.*

The Shanghai mandarins recently received despatches from Chêngtu, the provincial capital of Szechuan, reporting the existence of a rebellion in the districts of Tatsu and Tungliang in that province, alleged to be headed by the notorious outlaw Yü Mantxe. Reports, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, magnify the number of the rebels to something like 50,000, but at any rate a body of Imperial troops sent to suppress the rebellion has been badly defeated, leaving the door open for the invasion of Chungking if the rebels desire to attack that port.

The French director of the Foochow Naval Arsenal and Dockyard is said to have recently presented a petition to the Viceroy Pien deprecating any "further purchases from abroad of armoured or fast cruisers, transports, or torpedo-boat destroyers, and guaranteeing his ability, with adequate funds, to turn out all these ships from the Foochow works so as to give a very strong navy to the Empire," etc.

A Sikh employed as a watchman at the Old Dock, Shanghai, put an end to his career last Tuesday week by falling into the dock and thereby fracturing his skull.

News from Peking is to the effect that the *yamên* of the six recently abolished Courts are to be turned, for the great part, into colleges of Western learning, and that the *yamên* of the Supervisorate of Instruction will be the future headquarters of the Bureau of Mechanical Arts and Commerce.

The *W. H. Conner*, an American barque bound from New York to Shanghai, when about 70 miles north of Formosa, on the 24th of August, experienced a typhoon of great severity, in which she lost her jib-boom, fore-topmast, and main top-gallantmast. The starboard bulwarks were badly damaged and 40 feet of the main rail washed away; the steering gear was also badly damaged. The ship had about three feet of water in the hold, but this all obtained access from the deck, there being no leak below.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says it is a fact that, with the exception of the now limited body of openly hostile conservative mandarins at the Metropolis and in the provinces, the Emperor's recent exertions for the reform and strengthening of his empire have endeared him to the great body of his subjects, not even excepting those who at present are in arms against the constituted authorities; many of the uprisings being really aimed at what his Majesty is now himself voluntarily granting and trying to compel his officers of the Crown to grant to the people. Should the Emperor be spared by Providence to continue his noble work of reform, few persons will in future be persuaded to rise against the Manchu dynasty, which prior to this was universally believed to be in its last throes.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* regards the dismissal of Li Hung-chang from the Tsungli Yamên "as a sign that a very healthy accession of firmness has characterised the British attitude in Peking."

Edicts bearing a strong reform flavour continue to issue from Peking. Among the latest is a command to the Board of War and the Tsung-li Yamên to report on a suggestion of three secretaries of Boards to abolish the Imperial courier post in favour of the present Post Office now under the control of Sir Robert Hart. Another edict approves of the plan of the Hanlin Reader Jui Hsun (Manchu) to encourage the establishment of newspapers throughout the Empire as the best means of educating the masses, and commands the high officials everywhere to exhort the gentry and wealthy classes to embark upon such enterprises with full knowledge of the Imperial approval. A third edict replying to a joint report of the Tsung-li Yamên and the Board of War, concerning the manner of future examinations of military candidates for degrees, according to Western methods, declares that the joint report is not full enough and lacks many essential points of permanent reform. The report is therefore rejected with the command that the memorialists reconsider their report in conjunction with the Grand Council. An edict of the 11th instant approves of the suggestions of Hsiao Wên-shao, a third-class Secretary of the Board of Punishment, to establish schools of instruction for planting and manufacturing tea, and for sericulture, according to the best combined Western and Chinese methods, in order to keep up with the competition of similar foreign manufactures. Viceroys and Governors of provinces where tea and silk are manufactured are therefore commanded to establish at once such schools of instruction and report to the Throne what they have done in the matter. Another edict of the same date sanctions the recommendation of the Grand Secretary Sun Chia-nai to add a medical department to the proposed Peking Imperial University where all that is best of Western and Chinese surgery, pharmacy, and medical practice may be taught to students. A third edict issued the same day commands all high provincial officials from the 3rd grade, or Provincial Judge, upwards, to observe the rule of asking permission to go up to Peking for an Imperial audience, after every third year of their appointment; a rule which of late has not been usually observed. The Emperor's intention in reviving this rule is to give him the opportunity of personally examining his high officials from the provinces in order to see whether they are fit for further retention, promotion, or otherwise.

A new era seems actually to have dawned for China, for Nsing Lu, the provincial Judge of Yunnan, has been cashiered and dismissed from the service for illiteracy and for permitting his subordinates to commit irregularities.

The vernacular press of China is keenly alive to the potentialities of the present situation and follows Russian movements in Manchuria very closely. The consequence is a very large crop of rumours, half-facts, and occasionally a grain of truth. The *Sinwênpao* states that the people living in the vicinity of the gold mines of the Amur region, who are now opposing the construction of the Manchurian Railway by the Russians through their territory, are some 2,000 odd, miners, inured to all sorts of hardship and rough fighting, and they have been recently reinforced by nearly 5,000 disbanded soldiery, formerly belonging to Tartar-General E-kotang-a's Tartar army in the late war with Japan.

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The true reason of this rising appears to be a report amongst the miners that the Russians intend to take possession of the mines and work them for their own benefit.

It is pleasant to find an influential Shanghai paper coming out flat-footed in defence of the British Minister accredited to the Court of Peking. What a contrast to the tone of previous years is the following extract from a leading article in the *N.-C. Daily News*:—Critics at home are too apt to lose sight of the work done by a Minister, work which in many cases is productive of the best results to our trade and commerce, in the glare of mistakes made by others, but which they are prone to unjustly lay at his door. In the present instance we are quite certain that if the feeling of the whole British community in China could be ascertained, it would be found to be one of confidence in Sir Claude. In conclusion, we would repeat that we firmly believe that whatever successes British diplomacy has scored in Peking are to be credited to Sir Claude Macdonald, but that the ghastly failures which have undoubtedly been perpetrated are his we entirely refuse to admit.

The latest reports from Port Arthur, Talienwan, and Newchwang estimate the number of Russians in the three ports at about 26,000; and over 100 guns have been mounted at Port Arthur. Thirteen Russian men-of-war were recently counted in Talienwan harbour.

The *Kuowenpao* states that three foreigners have been killed in a melée at Newchwang, and that they were connected with the railway construction, so presumably they were Russians. The Tientsin paper cannot help thinking that a few Russian lives, for which compensation must be demanded at Newchwang, would suit Russia's book rather conveniently now.

"Brownie," of the *China Mail*, learns:—

That the Friars are leaving Manila in shoals, and one question of some importance is certain to be raised, viz, whether the landed property held by the Religious Orders is in their possession on fair and just terms.

That, as in California, the American authorities will investigate the titles of all property held by the ecclesiastics, and as a large majority of titles in California were pronounced invalid, the same result is now expected.

Here is an explanation, which the *N.-C. Daily News* believes to be the true one, of the motives which led Russia recently to threaten to demand the cession of the province of Kuldja. Recent so-called scientific expeditions in that portion of the Chinese Empire have revealed that, beginning from the western end of the Celestial mountains trending southwest to the Altai mountains, dividing Kashgaria from the Russian frontiers of Ferghana, the whole plateau or steppe is filled with gold. One of these Russian "explorers," called "Ma" by the Chinese, was so struck with the capabilities of this new El Dorado that he started post haste to Trumtsi, and, engaging the assistance of the Russian Consul-General there, tried to persuade the Governor to grant him a lease of the country. Of course, any "request" of Russia is now regarded with great suspicion by the Chinese officials and the request was refused. The next step was to get M. Pavloff to take up the cudgels at Peking, and his threats of a forced occupation of the country in question during the crisis when China refused to give up the loan contracted with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for the Newchwang Railway extension compelled the Tsung-li Yamên to yield to the Russian explorer's demand, but with the proviso that the company exploiting the gold mines must be composed as to half of Chinese capitalists and the other half, of course, of Russians. This was the *quid pro quo* for which M. Pavloff withdrew his so-called demand for the cession of Kuldja. The Russians appear to have lost no time, for at present, according to a Kashgar telegram, a number of Chinese and Russian officers are engaged in marking out the boundaries of their concession, while mining machinery is being sent to the spot from Moscow.

THE KWANGSI REBELLION.

The generally well-informed *Kuowinpao*, published at Tientsin, reports—says the *N.-C. Daily News*—that the Kwangsi rebels have begun their northward march towards Peking and that a large and well appointed army is now almost on the borders of Hunan province. Since their organisation recently, the practice of the rebels has, of late, been not to lay siege to any walled city but upon approaching one they generally form an entrenched camp, about four or five miles distant, from whence they issue proclamations calling upon the people not to be afraid, but to go on as usual in their various avocations, as no outrages would be permitted to be made on any peaceably inclined person. On the other hand, a despatch is sent to the local authorities inside the threatened city, signed by the chief or chiefs commanding the invaders, demanding food supplies and money, the amount being generally proportionate to the size and reputed wealth of the city in question, on pain of fire and sword. "The incapable and cowardly officials," remarks the *Kuowinpao*, "seeing that, by compliance with the rebel demands, there will be no danger of losing their lives, rank, or ill-acquired riches, always gladly accede to the calls made upon them, while the inhabitants of the place, seeing first that they have not been molested by the rebels, and secondly, that their officials have no stomach for fighting the invaders, remain indifferent and keep on the even tenor of their ways as if there were no Empire-shaking rebellion within ten thousand miles of their city!" Having obtained what they demand—generally more—the rebel leaders break camp and take their forces to the next walled city, and so on, ever increasing in numbers, but always managing to keep the strictest discipline, until at last the latest reports show that these rebels, having traversed the length of Kwantung province, are now on the point of invading Hunan, where they have numerous brethren and sympathisers; unless the Viceroy Chang Chih tung and Governor Ch'ên Pao-chên succeed in driving them back, this will be the second invasion, after the lapse of over forty years, of Kwangsi malcontents into the beautiful valley of the Yangtze-kiang.

AMERICAN NOTES.

For the moment there is a lull, in the East at least, in the hue-and-cry after Mr. Secretary Alger's scalp, and the journalists of the States are exercising their Ingenuity in discussing the question: "What shall be done with the Philippines?" But it is not only the journalists who are stirring in the matter. Business-men and politicians are equally interested and paragraphs dealing with the subjects are being introduced into the platforms of party conventions. The Chamber of Commerce of Seattle, Wash., after full discussion, adopted a memorial to President McKinley approving the annexation of Hawaii, the holding of Porto Rico and other Spanish West Indian islands, the acquisition and retention of the Philippines, the Carolines, and the Ladrones. The commercial bodies of San Francisco are reported to be firmly of the conviction, that the Philippines should be retained. The Asiatic Society of New York, composed of merchants engaged in Asiatic trade, is more moderate in its expressions, calling, first, "for the retention of a foothold in the Philippines for the protection and furtherance of our commercial interests;" and, second, expressing the hope that "no conditions of peace between the United States and Spain will be concurred in which do not secure for the United States equal privileges of trade in the Philippines archipelago with all other countries."

Congressman Dingley, who holds the position of Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, has confided the following remarks to an interviewer on the staff of the New York *Tribune*:—

"The question of the Philippines is most difficult to dispose of, and can not yet be reckoned with. It is interesting to note the growth of public opinion all over the country for the complete annexation of the group. From all parts of the country this is heard. A most important point in this connection is the attitude of the religious press and the Christian church, which is practically a unit for annexation. This great element of our population we would naturally expect to find arrayed against a proposition of this character, inasmuch as it comprehends a departure from our established national policy. In this instance, however, the reason is obvious. They feel that it would be a crime to turn the Philippines back to the incompetent rule of Spain. The alternative must be government by this country. The influence of this great conservative element of our population must exercise weight in determining this question of the Philippines."

Senator William E. Chandler, of New Hampshire, is quoted as follows:—

"It may be that we do not want the islands as colonies. But we can certainly make them free and independent. To give them back to Spain would disgrace us in the eyes of England and all Europe, and turn our battles of glory into victories of dishonour."

The retirement of Mr. Secretary Day has called forth some pleasant articles from papers of all shades of opinion. The reasons for Mr. Day's retirement from his high office are thus given by himself:—

I can not afford to retain this position. I am not a rich man, and the social responsibilities that go with the place are more than I can assume. Foreign ambassadors and diplomats extend courtesies to me as Secretary of State that I naturally feel called upon to reciprocate, and no man of moderate means can return the courtesies in a proper manner and live on the salary attached to this office.

Colonel John Hay, who leaves the United States Legation in London to become President McKinley's third Secretary of State, has had an interesting career. It is given rather fully in the Philadelphia *Ledger*, from which we borrow the following:—

"A glance at Colonel Hay's lifework will suffice to show that he is a trained diplomat, as the word is understood abroad, where it is justly deemed ridiculous to entrust delicate and complicated matters of international import to the care of a mere politician or any one else who has not the skill and knowledge of negotiation which come alone from long training and seasoned experience. Colonel Hay, after his Brown University course, studied law in the office of Abraham Lincoln, whose private secretary he afterwards became. Before the end of the war he served as a staff officer under Generals Hunter and Gilmore, and after the war was successively Secretary of Legation at Paris, Charge d'Affaires at Vienna, and Secretary of Legation at Madrid. From 1879 to 1881 he was first Assistant Secretary of State at Washington, and in March last was appointed to the Court of St. James. Colonel Hay has at times acted as the editor of the New York *Tribune*, and his literary productions are genuine contributions to American literature. The most striking characteristic of the man is his versatility—his 'many sidedness.' His 'Castilian Days' has the delicacy, the charm, the lightness of touch of literary playfulness; his 'Life of Lincoln,' written in collaboration with John G. Nicolas, is a work of monumental laboriousness, which must serve as the storehouse from which future biographers of Lincoln will draw their materials; and his poem, 'Jim Bludso,' has a rude strength which breathes with a certain elemental vigour and freshness. He is a sound constitutional and international lawyer, a scholar without pedantry, a wit, a genial man, and, as Sydney Smith would say, 'he has as much sense as if he had no wit, and as much wit as if he had no sense.'"

The *Bookman* of New York, in a review of Mrs. Ritchie's autobiographical edition of her father's works, says:—

"It has been said the problems that made Swift savage made Thackeray sad. But the deeper causes of Thackeray's sadness need to be known to appreciate fully the passages of deepest pathos in his writings. The loss of his second child in infancy was always an abiding sorrow, and is described in 'The Great Hoggarty Diamond,' included in this third volume, just issued in a passage of surpassing tenderness too sacred to be severed from its context. But the great tragedy

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of Thackeray's life was the illness of his wife, which set in after only four years of his wedded happiness. 'I can't live without the tenderness of some woman,' wrote Thackeray to Mrs. Brookfield. And yet this was the man who, before he was thirty, had to face a lifelong separation from the wife he loved and a long separation from the children.

To us who see the years that followed there is a terrible pathos in the wistful earnestness and passionate tenderness of the words, which are taken from a letter just published by Mrs. Ritchie. After the birth of their third child Mrs. Thackeray's health failed. Some mental disease attacked her which totally unfitted her for duties as wife and mother. She had finally to be put under proper care and protection; and the happy home was broken up. "Though my marriage was a wreck, as you know," wrote Thackeray years afterwards to one contemplating an alliance, "I would do it over again, for behold, Love is the crown and completion of all earthly good."

Recent shipments of coal from Newport News and Philadelphia in British vessels to British, Cuban, and other ports have caused comment in the United States journals, some alleging that Great Britain is preparing for hostilities. But these heavy clearances may be ascribed more particularly to the recent trouble in the Welsh coal-mining industry, in consequence of which exports of coal from Great Britain are checked to such an extent that purchasers are forced to seek the American market. American coal of certain grades is said to be as good for steaming purposes as any other coal in the world's markets, and it is suggested that the present is a good time to make this known. Indeed, these shipments are looked upon by some clear-headed men as the possible foundation for a very large American coal-export trade.

Says the Boston *Globe*:—Now that the war with Spain is over, it is safe to say that when the whole story is written it will contain more singular and comic situations than are to be found in any struggle of its size recorded in history. We have seen the governor of one of the enemy's possessions in the East fire a salute in answer to the guns intended to demand surrender, and when invited to come on board our ship to arrange the terms of capitulation send his polite regrets that his position did not permit of his indulging in such courtesies with strangers. No such amusing farce as this is likely to be found in all the pages of history. Recently we have witnessed the unusual scene at Santiago of the shipment of the Spanish soldiers for Spain going on at one wharf, and at the next wharf the shipment of the American soldiers to the United States, the amusing reflection being that Uncle Sam was paying the bills for both consignments. The situation in Porto Rico has offered even more fund for laughter. Here our grim-visaged warriors move upon towns which, instead of erecting barricades and digging trenches, meet the enemy with open arms, cheer and dance while the bands play "Yankee Doodle," and implore the commanding general to hurry along the stars and stripes to a people who are not crying for revenge, but for more American flags. To add to this comical situation, our soldiers draw from their knapsacks social letters of introduction to leading Porto Rican citizens which they had obtained before entering the enemy's country, and which look to procuring business situations later. Several other strange and amusing features have appeared in the course of our midsummer war in contrast to the dark side of the armed strife.

The trustees of several villages in New York State—Warsaw being the latest example—have passed ordinances forbidding children under fifteen years of age from "being on the streets, alleys, or public places" after the hour of 9 o'clock p.m. from April to October, or after 8 o'clock for the other half of the year. It is made unlawful for parents or guardians to allow or permit children under their care to be on the streets during the prescribed hours "unless there exists a reasonable necessity therefor." A fine "not exceeding $25" is provided for parents who violate this section.

COUNTESS POURTALÈS.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes the following in its Paris Correspondence:—

The Countess de Pourtalès fell out of a railway carriage close to the Rouen station and escaped death by a sort of miracle. The lady is the wife of Count Arthur de Pourta lès Gorgier, Secretary of the French Legation at Tokyo, Japan, and was returning on Sunday to Paris with her husband. They came from New York by the liner *La Bretagne*, and at Havre entered one of the saloon carriages of the so-called transatlantic train, intending to stay for a day of two at Rouen before finishing their journey. As they were nearing the Norman capital the Countess de Pourta'ès, who is about fifty years old, went towards the toilet-room, but mistook the door. She opened that leading by a few steps to the line or platform, as the case might be, and at once fell out. Fortunately, the train was going slowly, as it was entering the tunnel close to the town. Had it been running at the usual speed the Countess must inevitably have been dashed to pieces. As it was, she was projected against the wall of the tunnel, then fell back on the steps of the carriage, and when the train moved away she was thrown on to the middle of the line.

The lady was stunned and temporarily blinded by the blood flowing d from an ugly gash in her forehead over the right eye, but she had not lost consciousness, and soon realized her fearful situation. Remembering that she was liable to be run over at any moment by a train from or to the Rouen station, she collected all her strength and by an almost superhuman effort stood up and kept herself well against the side of the tunnel awaiting help. She was about twenty minutes in this desperate situation when assistance arrived. Her husband did not notice her absence until the train reached Rouen. He had been busy collecting his small luggage at the end of the saloon carriage when she went towards the toilet-room. As soon, however, as he missed his wife he communicated with the Rouen station-master, and the two, preceded by men carrying lanterns, went to the tunnel. There they found the lady, who was nearly fainting from fear, shock, and exhaustion, but still able to realize that her rescuers were near. She was hardly able to utter a word as her husband helped her towards the terminus, where a doctor was in waiting. The medical man gave a favourable opinion as to the condition of the Countess, and said that he was chiefly suffering from the shock, the injury to her forehead being comparatively slight. It is fully expected that after a few days' complete rest at Rouen the Countess de Pourtales will be able to return to her numerous friends in Paris.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A Hongkong telegram that appears in the *Osaka Mainichi* says that 300 insurgents in Kwang-si, including several ringleaders, have been executed.

The German Consul in Yokohama has received information from the Governor-General of Kiao-chou to the effect that on the 2nd instant the port was opened to general trade.

Telegraphic advices to London dated the 22nd ult. state that the steamer *Pectan* sank in the Mediterranean after being in collision with the French steamer *Orvontia*. The crew of the *Pectan* were landed at Algiers.

A member of the Orange Free State Volksraad has objected to a vote for providing the artillery with new barracks because he does not like the idea of pampering soldiers by giving them "large airy buildings." He added that when young he wore no socks and no shirt, and was never ill. "When I got on in life," he said, "I indulged in those luxuries, and now I find I am never well." A veritable Mr. Bounderby.

The Ladies' Benevolent Association beg to acknowledge the receipt of $178.15, the proceeds of the recent entertainment given at the Public Hall in aid of their funds, and to tender their thanks to those who kindly gave their services at the performance, also to Messrs. Mourrie & Co. for the loan of a piano, and Messrs. Arthur and Bond for the carved wood furniture.

The repairs to the iron railway bridge over the Banyu River, which was damaged by the storm, were completed on Saturday and a trial trip across it was made. Through traffic on the Tokaido line is now resumed. Trains will not for the present run at the ordinary speed between Oyama and Yamakita, as some parts of the line are in rather dangerous condition.

The *Hongkong Daily Press* says that the Madras Municipality is paying six-pice for every rat or bandicoot killed, and three pice per mouse. The returns show 32,733 rats, 8,750 bandicoots, and almost 10,000 mice killed within five weeks. The rodents, which are supposed to convey the plague, are being cremated.

The reported loss by collision of the Shell Line steamer *Pectan* turns out to be erroneous. The *Times of Ceylon* says that the vessel lost was the steamer *Picton*, a steel screw steamer of 2,371 tons (1,527 net) of West Hartlepool, owned by Messrs. R. Ropner & Co. The crew of the *Picton* were safely landed at Algiers.

The Italian Legation has been informed by cable that Prince Vittorio Emmanuel of Italy, Count of Turin, left San Francisco for Yokohama *via* Honolulu on the 20th inst. by the *Coptic*. His Royal Highness is expected to arrive at Yokohama on the 6th of next month. Prince Vittorio, it will be remembered, fought a duel with Prince Henry of Orleans, who had insulted the honour of the Italian army. The Italian Prince got the better of the encounter.

It is stated that the Russian Government intends to create in St. Petersburg, with branches in all the big cities, a Bureau of Eastern Commerce for the purpose of developing trade with China and other countries in the Far East. It is proposed that the Bureau shall be conducted on lines similar to that recently established by the joint action of the French Government and the Chambers of Commerce in Paris, save that its efforts will be directed entirely towards China and that region.

The cost of the public funeral of Mr. Gladstone was £2,[illegible], and a supplementary estimate for the amount has just been issued. The expenses connected with the conveyance of the body to London, and the preparation of Westminster Hall and Abbey, together with the fees payable to the Earl Marshal's staff, constitute, it is explained, the principal items of expenditure. All things considered, these things appear to be managed more cheaply in London than in Tokyo, for a public funeral costs some twenty thousand *yen* in the former city, and twenty thousand *yen* represents five times as much to Japan as £2,200 represents to England.

Dr. Lowson, Hongkong's most famous bat, was in a terribly sarcastic humour when interviewed the other day by the *China Mail* upon the prospects of the Hongkong-Shanghai cricket matches. Said the doughty doctor:—

"Oh, we've no batting, no bowling, no fielding, but we have an umpire—Mr. James McKie—going with us, who will do a great deal to help us. Our scorer, Mr. Hough, will also, no doubt, do his duty."

"Have you selected your team, yet?"

"No; not yet. We have had several political difficulties to get over, but I think we'll have a fair squad when all is settled. Bowling is lamentably weak, but it is no use crying about it. We hope to beat the northerners at golf and tennis, if we get a show. Anton and I will rub the former, while Campbell and Moberly, of the Hongkong Regiment, will give their best a run for their money at tennis."

Mr. Consul Hopkins' report on the trade of Chefoo contains the following interesting incidental note:—Until I came to Chefoo I do not remember having ever read or heard of kerosene being used in agriculture. But in this neighbourhood, and to some extent apparently in other parts of this province, it is thus employed. With such crops as are sown in drills the farmers, at the time of sowing, allow a few drops of kerosene to fall on the seed as it lies in the drill, and they assert that the oil acts as a strong protection against certain insects that are

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accustomed to feed on the plants at that early stage. But the demand thus created accounts presumably for but a very small part of the whole consumption of kerosene in any given neighbourhood.

The latest cricket gossip from England is interesting. J. T. Brown's score of 300 for Yorkshire has been eclipsed by Hayward, who made 315 (not out) for Surrey against Lancashire. The score of 554 made by Brown and Tunnicliffe for first wicket in the match Yorkshire v. Derbyshire is a record. In July last year the same two batsmen established a record by making in the Yorkshire v. Sussex match 378 for the first wicket, Brown making 311; but a few days later Abel and Brockwell passed this total by one run, making 379 for the first wicket in the Surrey v. Hampshire match. Brown and Tunnicliffe's present score is not only a record for the first wicket, but a record partnership in first-class cricket.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

(From the "Japan Times.")

PORTE REFUSES TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM CRETE.

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GOVERNOR.

London, Sept. 16.

In a circular from the Sublime Porte to the Powers, the former refuses to withdraw its troops from Crete and asks for the appointment of a Governor.

The Admirals at Candia refused the request of the Governor for an extension of the time of the Ultimatum.

SUSPENSION OF THE CORTES.

The Cortes suspended its sitting in order to enable the Government to cope with the political and military agitations.

THE CRETAN MASSACRES.

BRITISH WARSHIP REMOVES RINGLEADERS.

AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION.

London, Sept. 17.

The ringleaders in the massacre of Christians in Candia have been conveyed aboard a British man-of-war and will be tried at the Sultan's request before an international commission.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

THE SIRDAR STARTS FOR FASHODA.

The *Daily Telegraph* says the garrison at Fashoda consist of eight Europeans and 100 Senegalese, the black levies being undoubtedly French. Sir Herbert Kitchener started for Fashoda on Friday, taking three gunboats with a hundred Cameron Highlanders, two batteries, and 1,500 Egyptians.

THE HURRICANE IN THE WEST INDIES.

London, Sept. 17.

A terrible hurricane occurred on Saturday among the Leeward and Windward groups of islands.

Kingstown, on St. Vincent was totally destroyed; 300 persons lost their lives and 2,000 were rendered homeless, 200 were killed at Barbados and many estates were ruined.

London, Sept. 19.

Official despatches received from the West Indies state that 50,000 persons have been rendered homeless in Barbados and 41,000 in St. Vincent. The Lord Mayor has opened a fund in aid of the destitute.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

FASHODA TO BE OCCUPIED.

The correspondents of the *Daily Telegraph* and *Morning Post* now at Cairo telegraph that the Sirdar has been instructed to occupy Fashoda forcibly if necessary and leave an Egyptian garrison.

THE "CHINA" FLOATED.

The P. and O. steamer *China* has been floated, being practically watertight.

THE CAPE ELECTIONS.

NARROW MAJORITY OF AFRIKANDER BOND.

The Cape Elections are concluded. The Afrikander Bond has a majority of one. The Government has no intention to resign.

THE CRETAN TROUBLE.

THE PORTE CONTINUES STUBBORN.

The Porte has despatched a fresh circular to the Powers objecting to the terms of Admiral Noel's ultimatum, and proposing a mixed commission of inquiry.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

REVISION PROBABLE.

MINISTERIAL RESIGNATION.

The French Ministers of War and Public Works have resigned owing to the Cabinet having authorized the convocation of a commission of jurists attached to the Ministry of Justice to consider the revision of the Dreyfus case.

THE LATE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

IMPOSING FUNERAL CEREMONY.

The Empress of Austria-Hungary was interred in the Capuchin Church, Vienna, on Saturday, with imposing ceremonial. Many Royal personages were present.

SULTAN YIELDS TO THE POWERS.

WARSHIPS LEAVE CANDIA: BRITISH LEFT IN CHARGE.

London, Sept. 20.

The Sultan has ordered the disarmament of Mussulmans in Candia in compliance with the ultimatum. The foreign men-of-war will leave Candia at Admiral Noel's request, the British force now sufficing.

MOUNT VESUVIUS IN IRRUPTION.

Vesuvius is in violent irruption. Streams of molten lava are spreading dangerously in every direction.

THE MARCH ON FASHODA.

London, Sept. 21.

The *Times* says that Sir Herbert Kitchener will easily reduce Captain Marchand's occupation of Fashoda to an absurdity by monopolising supplies, but unless Marchand is singularly unreasonable it is unlikely that the Sirdar will resort thereto. A German and an Italian military attaché have accompanied Sir Herbert to Fashoda.

AMERICAN REINFORCEMENTS FOR MANILA.

Five more regiments have been ordered to leave America for Manila.

AMERICAN GARRISON FOR CUBA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME.

London, Sept. 22.

General Miles announces that the permanent garrison in Cuba will consist of 50,000 men, in the Philippines of 20,000, at Puerto Rico of 14,000, and Honolulu 4,000. The New York papers clearly intimate an immediate increase in the naval and military forces at Manila, being intended to forestall any difficulties which Spain or Germany may ultimately raise.

THE MARCH ON FASHODA.

A CONTRADICTION.

The statement that Foreign Military Attachés are accompanying Sir Herbert Kitchener to Fashoda is untrue.

DEATH OF SIR GEORGE GREY.

The death is announced of Sir George Grey, K.C.B., ex-Premier of New Zealand and a Privy Councillor.

MR. GREATHOUSE AND POLICE RELEASED.

Jinsen, Sept. 21.

Mr. Greathouse, Legal Adviser to the Korean Government, and the foreign police hired by him have been released from their duties. Travelling expenses will be allowed to the policemen.

CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 386.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to Q Kt 4	1—P takes R
2—P to Q 4, mate	1—P to Q B 5
2—R to Kt 5 mate	1—P to K 3
2—Q to R sq mate	1—P to B 3
2—Q to K 2 mate	1—P to K B 5
2—Kt to Kt 4 mate	1—Moves B or P takes P
2—Kt takes P mate	1—Moves Kt (R 4)
2—B to B 4 mate	1—Kt to B 6 ch or moves
2—Kt to B 3 mate	

Correct solution received from W.H.S.

H B.N.—Neither of your three key moves is the correct one.

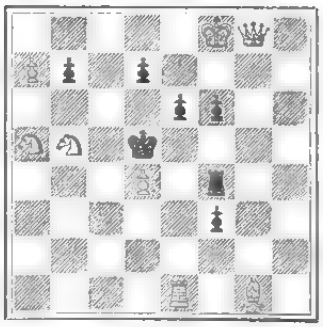
Marco.—If R to Q R 4, the R gets in the way of the Q and prevents Q to R sq after P to K 3.

S.S.—P takes en P to Kt 7 are answered by P to Q B 5. P to Q 4 is is not mate for P takes P en passant.

PROBLEM No. 389

By W. B. Mason, Tokyo.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME No. 431.

ONE OF THE GAMES PILLSBURY LOST.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—Pillsbury. Black—Tschigorin.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q 4	P Q 4	31 R B 4	R x P
2 P Q B 4	P K 3	32 R x P	P Q B 4 (b)
3 Kt Q B 3	P Q B 3	33 R R 8	K B 4
4 Kt B 3	Kt Q 2 (a)	34 Q K R 3 (i)	K K 2
5 P K 4	P x K P	35 Q R 4 ch	P B 3
6 Kt x P	K Kt B 3	36 Q R 8	R Q 4
7 B Q 3	K x Kt	37 Q x P ch	B B 2
8 B x Kt	B K 5 ch	38 R x R	P B 5 ch
9 B Q 2	B x B ch	39 K R 4	Q x R
10 Q x B	Castles	40 R Q Kt 4	
11 Castles	Q B 3	(k)	P B 6 (l)
12 K R K 4	R Q 4 (h)	41 P B 5	P B 7
13 Q R Q 4	Kt B 4	42 R Kt 4	Q Q 8
14 P B 5 (c)	B Q 2	43 P x Kt P	Q x R ch
15 Kt K 5	B K 4	44 K x Q	P Q 8 = Q ch
16 R K 3	Kt Kt 3	45 K B 2	Q B 7 ch
17 B x Kt (d)	R P x B	46 K K 3	Q x P (K 6)
18 Kt B 4	R Q 4	47 Q x Q	B x Q (m)
19 Kt Q 6	P Kt 3	48 P Q R 4	B K 4
20 P Q Kt 4	R Q 4	49 P R 5	B B 3
21 R Q 3	Q K 2 (e)	50 P Kt 4	K Q 3
22 B K 3	Q B 2	51 P R 4	P R 4
23 P B 4	Q Q 2	52 P R 5	K K 2
24 R K B 4	Q B 2	53 P Q R 6	K B 2
25 R R B 3	P R 4	54 K B 2	K K 2
26 Kt B 4	P x B P	55 K K 3	K R 3
27 Kt P x B P	R Kt 4	56 K R 4	B Q 4
28 Kt Kt 6	K R Q 4	57 P R 7	B R 4
29 R Q R 3	R x Kt (f)	58 Resigns.	
30 P x R	Q x Kt 4		

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Notes from *The Evening Post*, New York.

(a) Kt to B 3, preventing the two-step advance of the hostile ♙ P, is preferable. The ensuing variation is a novel one, Black evidently basing his play upon the assumption that the adverse Q P becomes weak, but this is more than offset by the limited scope for his own pieces, which are confined to the first and second rank.

(b) Making at once for the weak spot in the enemy's array.

(c) With the intention of placing his Kt at Q 6. Mr. Pillsbury's treatment of the opening is a model one.

(d) Turning a winning out game with Knight against Bishop.

(e) He can do nothing but shift around his Queen while White is making final preparations.

(f) His only fighting chance, although he gets only one Pawn for the exchange. Otherwise, however, the Rook's Pawn would be untenable.

(g) In order to capture the Rook's Pawn on his next move without being subject to check by ♕ to Q 8.

(h) The attempt of winning a second Pawn would be fatal; 32..... Q takes R; 33—Q takes R, Q takes P; 34—Q to Q 8, K to B sq; 35—Q to Q 6 ch, K to Kt sq; 36—Q to K 7, Q to R sq; 37—R to Q sq.

(i) Herewith White embarks upon a very plausible course, which gains a Pawn and would have won the game but for Black's unexpected resource on the 40th move. Q to Kt 3 instead would have won quite easily.

(k) Even had he divined the opponent's deep plot, he could not stem the tide any more, owing to the unfortunate position of his Queen.

(l) Highly ingenious. If 41—R to Kt 7, then K to Q 3, and no matter whether White takes the Bishop or not, the Pawn marches on without hindrance.

(m) A most remarkable game, proving again the necessity for "eternal vigilance" in Chess.

Game No. 432.

During his recent visit to the St. Petersburg Chess Club Lasker defended an Evans gambit against the Russian champion, Tschigorin. The game was a splendidly contested one, abounding in brilliant combinations, and Lasker, who adopted his own line of defense, scored a well-deserved victory. The moves are given below:—

EVANS GAMBIT.

	White—Tschigorin.		Black—Lasker.	
	WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1	P K4	P K4	26 P B5	B×P
2	Kt KB3	Kt QB3	27 Q K6(i)	B×Pch
3	B B4	B B4	28 K R q	B×Kt
4	P QKt4	B×Kt P	29 Q×Q	R×Q
5	P B3	B B4	30 P×B	R(Kt4)×BP (k)
6	Castles	P Q3		
7	P Q4	B Kt3(a)	31 R B6	P R3(l)
8	P QR4	P×P	32 R×RP	R B8ch
9	P×P	B Kt5(b)	33 R×R	R×Rch
10	B QKt5	P QR3	34 K Kt2	R Q88
11	B×Kt ch	P×B	35 R R7	K R2
12	P R5	B R2	36 K B3	K Kt3
13	B K3	Kt K2	37 P R6	R QR8
14	Kt B3	Castles	38 R R8	R R5(m)
15	Q B2	B×Kt	39 P R7	K Kt4
16	P×B	P KB4	40 R KKt8 (n)	R×P
17	P B4(c)	P×P	41 R×Pch	K B3
18	Kt×P	Q Q2	42 R R7	K K4(o)
19	Kt Kt3(d)	K R q	43 R×P	P B4
20	QR B q	QR Kt sq	44 R R5ch	K Q5
21	KR Q q	R Kt4(e)	45 R R q	P B5
22	Q B3	Kt B4	46 P Kt4	P Q4
23	Q Q2(f)	P B4(g)	47 P Kt5	P B6
24	P×P	Kt×B	And Black wins	
25	Q×Kt	Q B2(h)		

Notes by Emil Kemeny.

(a) The usual play is P take P, followed by B to Kt 3. The text move was introduced by Lasker. It seems perfectly satisfactory. White, of course, can regain his pawn by playing P takes P, followed by Q takes Q ch, and Kt takes P, but then his attack is gone, and Black will have better pawns for the ending.

(b) To stop the threatening P to Q R 5, which would win the bishop. The move is much better than the P to Q R 3 play, which comes in next turn with more effect.

(c) Preventing Black from playing P to B 5.

(d) Necessary, for Black threatened Q to ♕ 4.

(e) A powerful move, which puts White on the defense. The position now is very much in Black's favour, who still holds the gambit pawns.

(f) Q takes BP was probably better, though Black, after the exchange of queens, would have captured the QRP, and was likely to win the QP also.

(g) Excellent play, which relieves Black's bishop and gives him a passed pawn on the queen's wing. The combination is a pretty deep one and is perfectly sound.

(h) Of course Black had this play in view when he moved (23) P to B4. Evidently he could not capture the P, for if (25)—B takes P, White would win as follows: (26) R takes B, R takes R; (27) Q takes R, and should Black capture the queen, White answers B takes Q, with a piece ahead. The Q to B2 move is bound to win the QBP, and at the same time attack KBP.

(i) The only chance to make use of the advanced KBP, but it proves disastrous. White probably overlooked the ♕ takes P ch reply. He cannot capture the B on account of Q takes Q which would win at once.

(k) Much better than R takes RP, which would have enabled White to answer with ♕ takes QP. Black then could not capture the R on account of it to B8 ch and mate next move.

(l) Black might have played ♕ takes RP, and if Black answers R(Q sq) takes P then P to R3, but he preferred to maintain the QP and QBP.

(m) To stop the White king from crossing the fourth row.

(n) He had hardly any better play. The exchange of pawns leaves Black with two pawns to the good, winning easily.

(o) It was not necessary for Black to give up the RP, but Lasker had good reason for adopting the text move. By sacrificing the KRP he is enabled to advance the QBP, winning in the shortest possible order.

Game No. 433.

A REMARKABLE CORRESPONDENCE GAME.

The towns of Riga and Orel in Russia have recently by correspondence games of remarkable interests. The score of one of them is given below with notes from the *Riga Daily News*, doubtless furnished by members of the winning club:—

PETROFF DEFENCE.

	White—Riga.		Black—Orel.	
	WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1	P K4	P K4	19 B Kt4	KR K q
2	K KB3	Kt KB3	20 Q R3	K Kt2
3	Kt×P	P Q3	21 B R6ch	K R q
4	Kt KB3	Kt×P	22 QR Q q	P QB3
5	P Q4	P Q4	23 R×P	R×R
6	B Q3	B K2(a)	24 B×R	Kt QB2
7	Castles	Kt QB3	25 B K3	Q K2(l)
8	P QB4	B KKt5	26 Q Q3	Kt Kt4
9	Kt QB3	Kt KB3(b)	27 B K3	R Q q
10	P×P	Kt×P	28 Q B4	Q Q2(g)
11	B K4	B K3(c)	29 P Q5	B×Q Kt P(h)
12	Q Q3(d)	P QR3(e)	30 Q K2	B B3
13	P QR3	B KB3	31 P×P	Q×P
14	KR K q	QKt K2	32 R×Rch	B×R
15	K Kt K sq	P KKt3	33 P QR4	Kt B2
16	Kt×B	P×Kt	34 B Q4ch	B B3
17	Kt×Kt	Kt×Kt	35 B Kt2 & White wins (i)	
18	B KB3	K B2		

NOTES.

(a) ♕ to Q 3 would not be so good.

(b) Q Kt takes P would lose a piece thus 10. B takes Kt, P takes B; 11—Q takes Kt.

(c) Best. If Kt to B 3, White continues B takes Q Kt ch, and after P takes B, Q to Q 3 and Kt to K 5, with a superior position.

(d) A strong continuation would be Q to Kt 3. Black cannot play Kt to K B 3, on account of the reply Q takes Kt P. Black's best move would be Q Kt to Kt 5.

(e) Loss of time. The right move was Q Kt to Kt 5.

(f) If B takes P, White replies B to K B 4, and Black must lose a pieces or be mated.

(g) Black cannot play Kt takes P, on account of the replay R takes Kt, which would involve the loss of a pieces.

(h) After this move White has two winning continuations—R to Q 2, followed by P takes P, and Q to K 2. The latter was chosen for the sake of the pretty ending.

(i) A rather surprising move, but the only one leading to a decisive win. If Q to B 4, Black replies Kt to Q 4, and after the exchange of queens White can win a pawn, but with bishops of different colours Black might get off with a draw. The force of the text move is not obvious at first sight, but on examination it will be found that Black has no defence to the two moves threatened—Q to B 4 and Q to K 7. If 35.....Kt to K sq, White takes the Kt; if K to Kt 2, Q to K 7 ch.

Notes.

Amos Burn, the winner of the Cologne tournament, which has just closed, is a native of Hull, England and is nearly 50 years of age. He has been for many years the champion of the Liverpool chess fraternity, and his tournament career commenced in 1871, in which year he participated in the competition held under the auspices of the British Chess Association, and tied for first and second prizes; in 1886 he tied with Blackburne in the same event, losing in the play-off; he won first prize at Nottingham in 1886; divided first and second prizes in London in 1887; fifth prize at Bradford, 1888; first prize at Amsterdam, Holland, 1889; fifth prize at Berlin, 1897. Mr. Burn resided in Chicago for several years, and is well known to many of the chess players of the Windy City.

In the general tourney of the New York States Chess Association W. J. Ferris of the Franklin Chess Club won, and he holds the cup trophy for the ensuing year.

The Staats Zeitung cup was won by the Manhattan Chess Club, represented by Lipschütz, who defeated Marshal, playing for the Brooklyn Club.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, N. Mumezono, 16th Sept.,—Otaru via ports, 11th Sept., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Yamanouchi, 16th Sept.,—Yokkaichi, 15th Sept., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, N. Ohno, 16th Sept.,—Shanghai via ports, 10th Sept., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bayard (24), French Flagship, 5,880, Captain Mennier de Toannet, 17th Sept.,—Nagasaki, 13th Sept.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Tennick, 17th September,—Nagasaki 14th September, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,031, S. Tsuji, 17th September,—Kobe, 15th September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Muramatsu, 17th Sept.,—Yokkaichi, 16th Sept., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Antenor, British steamer, 3,327, M. H. T. Jackson, 17th Sept.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 16th Sept., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Saint Jerome, British steamer, 1,845, R. F. Reid, 17th Sept.,—Antwerp via ports, Shanghai, 12th Sept., General.—Sale & Co.

Formosa, British steamer, 2,616, A. G. Cubitt, 18th Sept.,—London via ports, Kobe, 17th Sept., General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, K. Soyeda, 18th Sept.,—Kobe, 17th September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, W. Thompson, 18th Sept.,—Otaru via ports, 13th September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, J. F. Allen, 19th Sep...—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 17th Sept., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Aztec, Hawaiian steamer, 2,303, G. Trask, 20th Sept.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 18th Sept., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Alesia, German steamer, 3,533, Meyerdierchs, 20th Sept.,—Hamburg via ports, Shanghai, 15th Sept., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Natal, French steamer, 2,073, Remes, 20th Sept., —Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 19th Sept., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higo, 20th September,—Otaru via ports, 15th Sept., General.— Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, G. Sakano, 20th Sept.,—Yokkaichi 19th Sept., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K. Yabe, 21st Sept.,—Kobe, 20th Sept., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Menelaus, British steamer, 2,771, W. Towell, 21st Sept.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 19th Sept., General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, K. Nakajima, 21st September,—Otaru via ports, 16th September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, K. Soyeda, 21st Sept.,—Yokkaichi, 20th Sept, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, J. H. Rinder, 22nd Sept.—San Francisco via Honolulu, 3rd Sept., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Octavia, German steamer, 3,026, Temme, 22nd September,—New York via ports, Kobe, 20th September, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, C. H. Butler, 22nd Sept.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 21st Sept., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 23rd September,—Kobe, 21st September, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Cowrie, British steamer, 3,155, S. J. G. Parsons,

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23rd Sept.,—Batoum via ports, Kobe, 21st Sept., Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Wittenberg, German steamer, 2,363, Madsen, 23rd Sept.,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 14th Sept., General.—C. Illies & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, W. Brady, 16th Sept.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 16th Sept.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Manila, British steamer, 2,711, Haddock, 17th Sept.,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, K. Sakano, 17th Sept.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rifun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 17th Sept.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benlarig, British steamer, 1,452, Krobel, 17th Sept.,—London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Ghaste, British steamer, 1,827, Bailey, 17th Sept.,—Vladivostock, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Wakasa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,886, J. B MacMillan, 17th Sept.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, T. Tibballs, 18th September,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Yamamonchi, 18th Sept.,—Taiwan, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, N. Muramezono, 18th September,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2 021, S. Tsuji, 19th Sept.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Tornick, 19th September,—Nagasaki, General.—Mitsu Bishi Co

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, K. Goyeda, 19th September,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsinan, British steamer, 1,460, Geo. Ramsay, 20th Sept.,—Australia and New Zealand via Kobe and Hongkong, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 20th Sept.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alton, British steamer, 2,169, Wm. Nicholson, 20th September,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999 W. Thompson, 20th Sept.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,053, S. Kawamura, 20th Sept.,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, I. B. Lockyer, 21st Sept.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Lyndhurst, British ship, 2,249, R. Beatty, 21st Sept.,—New York via Kobe, General.—Smith Baker & Co.

Mooltan, British ship, 1,616, Kelk, 21st Sept.,—Portland, Oregon, Sulphur.—Sale and Co.

Aztec, Hawaiian steamer, 2,303, G. Trask, 21st Sept.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S S. Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, J. F. Allen, 21st Sept.,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, G. Obuo, 21st September,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, G. Sakano, 21st September,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higo, 22nd September,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Antenor, British steamer, 3,387, M. H. T. Jackson, 23rd Sept.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, J. H. Rinder, 23rd Sept.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Glendoon, British ship, 1 824, Morrison, 23rd Sept.,—Portland, Oregon, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Nereus, German ship, 1 714, Schulte, 23rd Sept.,—Portland, Oregon, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Benedeckter, Mr. K Hwanka, Mr. Seinmetz, Mr. S. Yasuda, Mr. Roli, Mr. R. H. Woolfall, Mr. Howard, Mr. Gauer, Mrs. Bischof and 3 sons, Miss Brownlow, Mr. W. B. Reid, Mr. H. Bretschneider, and Mr. T. Yoneda, in cabin; Mr. Gaedeck, Mr. K Okuda, Mr A. H. Calkin, Mr. H. Koteda, Mr. Remedios, Mrs. S. Komiya, Mr. Foo Too Li, Mr. S. Komiya, Mr. Y. Yenami, Mr. A. Horimi, and Mr. N. Yenami, in second class. 38 Japanese, 1 European, and 4 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Formosa*, from London via ports:—Mr. Oldwarf, Mrs. Oldwarf, Mr. Dennebaum, Mr. Clark, Mr. Getlerf, Mrs. Getlerf, 2 children, infant and amah, and Mrs. Murray, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Natal*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. D. de Saavédra, Mr. Hutt, Mr. J. de Nolkey, Mr. Grossos, Mr. Ontal, Mr. Steche, Captain Keilly and servant, Mr. Auchterlonie, Mr. A. T. Noble, Mr. E. Barfoot, Mr. Bruhwig, Mr. E. V. D. Parr, Mrs. Prentice, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Law, Lieut. Taylor, Mr. Njeporasckiniel, Mr. Judewitts, Mr. Lloyd Jones, Miss Scott, Miss Wells, Mr. Russell, Mr. Stempel, Mr. Torrone, Capt. von Dorsen, Mr. B. Runge, Capt. J. S. Pyne, Mr. F. Lloyd, Mr. F. H. Bugbird, and Mr. R. G. Kuby, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. K. Takahashi, Mr. Alfred Schmidt, Mr. B. O Wade, Mrs. B O. Wade, Mr. J. B. Burriss, Hon. John T. Hamilton, Mrs. J. T. Hamilton, Hon. N. W. McIver, Miss. S. E. Bacon, Mr. Geo. Tsukawa, Mr. R. R. Hutt and maid, Mr. R R. Hutt, Jr., Miss E. H. Patterson, Mrs. M. P. Brooks, Mr. J. B Pascuck, Miss S. Wellarck, Mr. S. P. Ozaki, Mr. E. P. Cadwell, Mrs. E. P. Cadwell, Miss Cadwell, Miss M. Cadwell, Mr. Chas. Calkoen, Mrs. A. Bauer, Miss Bauer, Mr. Wm. N. Isaacs, Mrs. Wm. N. Isaacs, Mr. J. B. Warden, Mrs. J. B. Warden, Mrs. Jas. R. Warden, and Capt. Arthur A. Higgins, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. A. Buschet, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. A. McLeod, Mrs. T. P. Evans and children, Mr. J. Ambrose, Mr. R. W. Mustard, Mrs. C. E. Gove and child, Miss I. E Lovett, Miss Mary E. Cogdal, Mr. G. T. Moule, Rev. and Mrs. I. N. Osgood, Rev. H. G. Welpton in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. C. H. Hebert, Mrs. M. W. Gale, The Misses Gale, Mr. H. Skott, Mrs. W. P. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Wildman, Mr. T. W. Cavendish, Mrs. W. H. Whiting and naughter in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Manila*, for London via ports:—Mr. F. S. Colman, Mr. Corin V. Hardcastle, Mr. G. F. Petch, Mr. Wm. Hayles, Mr. James Coe, Mr. Alfred Brady, Mr. Walter J. Moore, Mr. John Kelly, Mr. James Rice, Mr. Frank Bueton, Mrs. Hudson, infant and amah, Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, Mr. H. C. Field, Mr. J. T. Duff, and Mr. Carew and son, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakasa Maru*, for London via ports:—Engineer M. Takeuchi, I.J.N., Mr. M. Fujise, Mr. K. Wada, Mr. G. Rurpet, Mr. L. Schoerninger, Mr. T. Kamizaki, Mr. S. Ogami, Mr. J. Yamasaki, Mr. S. Yoshida, Mr. T. J. Tasney, Dr. A. Agassiz, Chief Surgeon H Miyagawa, Mr. G. Matsukata, Sub-Lieut. W. Yamamoto, and Lieut. K. Ideyama, in cabin; Mr. T. Nagae, in second class; 23 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Capt. Longhurst, Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Atkinson, Miss E. B. Sale, Miss F. A. Duffield, Miss A. E Garvin, Mr. Meadows, and Mrs. Meadows, 3 infants and 2 amahs, in cabin; 4 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamaguchi Maru*, for Seattle, Wash.:—Commander S. Hideshima, I.J.N, Mr. C. Gibbens, and Mrs. Shannon and baby, in cabin; Mr. E. Goedecke, and Mr. J. Iwai, in second class; 176 Japanese, and 14 European, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mrs. H. Fujise, Mr. K. Sonoda, Mr. G. Hautot, Mr. K. Shimada, Mr. J. Azaroff, Sub-Lieut. S. Shinozaki, Mr. P. Pury, Miss A. Pury, and Mr. K Nagai, in cabin; Mr. Yo Jun Lee, Mr. Foo Foo Li, Mr. Mucohara, Lieut. Y. Tanaka, Mrs. A. Tanaka, Miss T. Tanaka, Mr. K. Ito, and Mrs. U. Sawa, in second class; two Chinese, three European, and thirty Japanese, in steerage.

EXPECTED.

Per German steamer *Darmstadt* by *Hohenzollern*, from Hongkong:—Mr. C. Verhoeven, and Mr. T. L. Wilkinson, in cabin.

CARGOES.

Following were the silk shippers per N. Y. K. steamer *Yamaguchi Maru*, which leaves for Seattle, Wash., to-day, 21st Sept.:—

	Bales.
Vitanti Bros.	170
Middleton & Smith	10
Kiito Sunkai	144
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	113
Doshinsha	58
Total	495

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Business is being done in gassed yarns at advancing prices, and grey shirtings are also attracting enquiries. There is also rather more life in the market for fancy woollens and cottons, though the actual business so far has been small.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38¼ yds. 30 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38¼ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2 00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 14 inches	1.75 to 2.60
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard, 0 15 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches heat	0.28 to 0.41
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Medium	Nominal
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches Common	Nominal
Mousseline de Laine—Coupe, 24 yards, 31 inches	0 15 to 0 17
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.74
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0 50 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per lb	0 50 to 0 60

	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 21 inches	7 75 to 9.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 14-3 inches	0 60 to 0.80
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.25 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$35.50 to 38.50
Nos. 28 32, Singles	39.00 to 41.50
Nos. 38 42, Singles	41.50 to 43.50
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 43.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	47.00 to 50.50
Nos. 2 60, Plain	60 00 to 63.00
Nos. 2 80, Plain	75.00 to 76.50
Nos. 2 100, Plain	97.00 to 99 00
Nos. 2 60, Gassed	69 50 to 70.50
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	85.00 to 90.00
Nos. 2 100, Gassed	114.00 to 124.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	17.25 —
Chinese	19.00 to 19.50

METALS.

Transactions in bar iron and steel, galvanised sheets, and tin plates are more numerous, probably owing to the effect of the approaching tariff on dealers.

	per picul.
Round and square ¼ inch. and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4.00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4 90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8 50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5 90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5 95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2 08 to 2 10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The market remains steady at last week's quotations.

American	$2 05	—
Russian	1.95 to 2.00	
Langkat	—	1.85

SUGAR.

The market is strong, and Manilas are in good demand. In white refined there is an increased business, without, however, an alteration in prices.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$4.70 to 4.75
Brown Manila	5.30 to 6.20
Brown Dailong	3.90 to 4.00
Brown Canton	3.60 to 5.60
White Java and Penang	6.70 to 7.50
White Refined	7.70 to 8.60

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market continues to show an aspect of obstinate dullness. Buyers from America are still apathetic, and prices are in consequence weak and tending downwards. A comparison with last year shows a considerable falling off in the volume of trade. The total settlements so far have been 10,480 piculs, against 14,570 at the same period in 1897. The unsold stock is 10,760 piculs.

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QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.....	$950 to 955
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.....	965 to 975
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.....	945 to 955
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers.....	880 to 895
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	915 to 925
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers.....	855 to 865
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers.....	895 to 905
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	875
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	855
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	825
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers.....	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	875 to 885
Kakedas—No. 1	845 to 855
Kakedas—No. 1½.....	
Kakedas—No. 2	805 to 815
Kakedas—No. 2½.....	

WASTE SILK.

A fair business is now doing, and prices are firm. The settlements during the past fortnight have amounted to 1,120 piculs:—Noshi, 265; Kibiso, 4,135; pierced cocoons 45; sundries 370. The present stock is estimated at 8,540 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$115 to 122½
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best.....	120 to 125
Noshi—Oshu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good.....	110 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Medium.....	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

A steady but small business has been done, chiefly in the lower grades. Prices are easy, and there is a large stock on hand. The settlements so far have been 177,772 piculs against 194,651 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$33 & upwards
Choice	$30 to 32
Finest	29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Silver has again advanced ⅛ in London and been followed by a rise of ⅛ in China sterling quotations, causing rates on China locally to decline, but not making any change otherwise.

Sterling—Bank T.T.....	2/0 5/16
— — Bills on demand ...	2/0 3/8
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 5/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 11/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 13/16
On Paris—Bank sight	2.56
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight..'	2.59 1/16
On America—Bank Bills on demand..	49⅛
— Private 4 months' sight...	50⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	1.07
— Private 4 months' sight...	2.10⅛
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight.....	4⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	75⅛
— Private 10 days' sight ...	76⅛
On India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight ...	155
Bar Silver (London) on 5th inst. ...	28⅛

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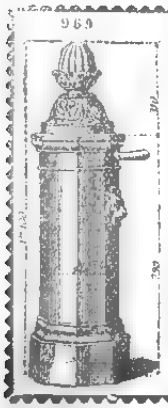

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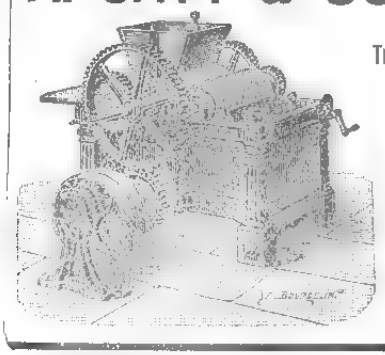

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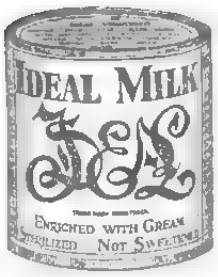

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, OCT. 1ST, 1898.

DEATH.

On the 26th September, at 7.20 a.m., in the Red Cross Hospital, Mr. FUJII SABURO.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Minister of Justice has sent in his resignation.

SNOW fell on Fuji, for the first time this autumn, on Wednesday night.

ON the 26th ult. Princes Fushimi and Arisugawa and some high naval officials dined at the palace

IT is said that the Government has resolved to build the Formosa railway as a State undertaking.

VISCOUNT ITO, the hero of the battle of the Yalu, has been promoted to the full rank of Admiral—*Teisho*.

THE man Yamamoto Jutaro (29), who killed his own mother on the 18th August, has been sentenced to death.

MARQUIS ITO had a splendid reception at Peking, being accorded exceptional honours by men of all ranks.

AN old woman named Yada Masu (60), living at Mikasa-cho, Honjo, Tokyo, on the 25th ult., committed suicide by hanging herself in the kitchen. She has been suffering from rheumatism for many years, and this is supposed to be the cause of her self-destruction.

THE Government has decided to grant *yen* 500,000 for the relief of sufferers by the late storms in Hokkaido.

THE French Cabinet has finally resolved to refer the question of the revision of the Dreyfus Case to the Court of Cassation.

SIR HERBERT KITCHENER has been raised to the peerage and received a grant of £25,000 for his services in the Soudan.

ON Wednesday the Portuguese community of Yokohama duly celebrated the birthday of the King and Queen of Portugal.

MONDAY was the great Jewish fast-day—the Day of Atonement—and was duly observed by the Jewish community in Yokohama.

THE late Chinese Minister to Tokyo, on the 26th ult., gave a farewell dinner to the Ministers of State and the representatives of Foreign Powers.

THE Yokohama Choral Society have resolved to stand aside for a year and allow Mr. Junker to conduct the musical events of the coming season.

SIG. MARTINO, late Italian Minister to Tokyo, left Japan this morning by the *Marco Polo*, *en route* to Peking, where he has been appointed Minister for Italy.

THE Constitutional Party is shortly to hold a general meeting in Tokyo. It is expected that about 590 representatives from the provinces will be present.

IT is rumoured that the Chinese Emperor will offer the decoration of the Double Dragon to the Japanese Emperor after the arrival of the new Minister in Tokyo.

AFFAIRS are again quiet in the Philippines, Aguinaldo withdrawing his troops from the vicinity of Manila at the request of the American General Commanding.

THE Manchu officials—the conservative element in China—accuse Kang of attempting to poison the Emperor by administering to him two pills when in an exhausted state.

ON the 22nd ult. the BANK OF JAPAN remitted to the Yokohama Specie Bank *yen* 1,000,000 in gold to be paid as interest to foreigners abroad holding Japanese Government Loan Bonds.

DR. MEACHAM, who has been pastor of the Union Church, Yokohama, for over 10 years left Japan to-day for the States. He was accompanied by Mrs. Meacham, who is in indifferent health.

ON the 25th ult, the Hankai Railway Company held a general meeting at Osaka and decided to wind up the concern. The same day the Osaka Asahi Cotton Spinning Company decided on a similar course.

MR. HAYASHI, *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking, reports that the Emperor of China has issued an edict condemning four ringleaders in the Shashi riots to death, and others to imprisonment, while culpable Government officers are fined.

THIS has been a stirring week for China. The Emperor has been deposed—it is feared assassinated—and the Empress-Dowager restored to power as Regent. Kang Wu-yei, the head of the curious reform party, has had to fly for his life, finding refuge on H.B.M. gunboat *Esk*.

THE Hon George N. Curzon, late Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has been raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Curzon of Kedleston in Ireland.

IT is reported that Marquis Ito and party will stay in Peking until the commencement of October, when they will leave for Shanghai. On the Yangtze river, he will pay several visits. In the beginning of November he will return to Japan.

THEIR Majesties the Emperor and Empress have contributed *yen* 5,000 to sufferers from floods in Hokkaido, *yen* 1,500 to Yamanashi and Nagano prefectures, *yen* 1,200 to Saitama and Ebaraki prefectures, *yen* 1,000 to Aichi prefecture, *yen* 800 to Gumma prefecture, and *yen* 700 to Niigata prefecture.

The income of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for the year ending May last was about *yen* 10,000,000. The European, American, and Australian lines are estimated to have earned *yen* 7,000,000; the Chinese, Korean, and Vladivostock lines *yen* 1,500,000, and the Japanese coasting steamers *yen* 1,500,000.

ACCORDING to official estimates, 1483, houses were destroyed by the late storm, 11,351 houses flooded, 343 lives lost, 7 persons wounded, 358 domestic animals killed, 9 public roads damaged, 21 bridges broken, 9 river embankments destroyed, and 12,813 *cho* of agricultural fields injured; 69,185 persons are receiving Government relief.

IN view of the Government's proposal to impose more taxes on medicines, the Tokyo tradesmen interested in that branch of trade have been taking measures in opposition. They have elected a committee of 19, and on the 27th ult. made a written representation to the authorities to the effect that (1) taxation is already too heavy; and (2) that the proposed additional taxes would not raise the revenue expected.

IT is reported that the Government has at last decided to raise a foreign loan of about *yen* 240,000,000. The authorities have entrusted Mr. Kato, Minister in London, to approach English financiers on the matter. Mr. Kawakami, a Manager of the Bank of Japan, who is now in London, will assist him. The term of redemption would be 30 to 50 years, and it is hoped to secure the loan at 4 per cent. per annum, issuing the stock at *yen* 95 per *yen* 100 face value.

THE Import trade prospects are brightening greatly, and the past week has witnessed considerable activity in the yarn market, while grey shirtings and other textiles are also showing signs of revival. A rise of prices in metals at home has rather restricted operations in that direction, but in kerosene there is the usual steady trade. Sugars show a general tendency to rise in price. As regards exports, the demand from Europe for raw silk has rather improved, but American buyers are doing little, and a large stock still remains. Sellers, however, remain firm, and decline to lower prices. The waste silk market is quiet, but prices remain firm. In tea the past week or so has been marked by some increase of business. *Yen* 20 to 25 *yen* teas have been chiefly in demand, the cup quality being unusually good for this time of the season. Prices at first hardened somewhat owing to the supplies from the country being cut off, but with the restoration of communi- has supervened.

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DEPOSITION OF THE CHINESE EMPEROR.

We publish, in this issue, very serious intelligence from China. Our correspondent, it will be observed, expresses his belief that the Emperor has only been deposed, not murdered. We are not able to take that view. A deposed sovereign would be a very embarrassing factor in any situation in Peking; a dead sovereign would have ceased completely from troubling. Besides, deposition assumes the observance of certain formalities and the connivance of some member of the Imperial family. As to the latter point, the name of the Empress Dowager will probably present itself to our readers. Her Majesty has always been an earnest friend and supporter of Li Hung-chang. It is conceivable that she should sympathise with him in the hour of his downfall and should even listen to his counsels. She has also proved herself thoroughly competent to take the leading part in a *coup d'état*. If she could connive with Prince Kung in 1861 to effect the overthrow of the Board of Regents and the assumption of governing power by herself, she could also lend ear to-day to a proposal from Li Hung-chang for deposing an Emperor whose sudden access of reforming energy is sweeping away the old landmarks and disturbing time-honoured institutions of the empire. But the difficulty in the way of such a theory is that, according to all accounts, the Empress Dowager was lending cordial support to every progressive step taken by Kwang Hsü. Reasons of State, therefore, can not have induced her to join in any plot for his deposition. Besides, His Majesty's removal from power would certainly be accompanied by the substitution of some other ruler, and the news of the latter event would be proclaimed simultaneously with the news of the former. We fear that the complexion of the intelligence suggests assassination and assassination only.

Kang Yu-wei, who is spoken of as the guilty party, was a third-class Secretary of the Board of Works at the date of our latest detailed advices from Peking. He had been distinguished for some time as an earnest and intelligent advocate of progress, and he was known in the Chinese capital as "Kang the Modern Sage and Reformer." Early in June, a Recorder of the Hanlin Academy, Hsü Chih-chüng by name, memorialized the Throne recommending Kang and Chang Yuan-chi, a third-class Secretary of the Board of Punishments, to the favourable notice of the Emperor as men of profound erudition and progressive ideas. The Emperor, in reply, issued a decree ordering that the two men should be presented to him in the Grand Council Chamber on the 16th of June. The attempt to fix the crime upon Kang, who had just received such an extraordinary honour and whose desire for reform was being gratified to an extent that he could not have hoped in his most sanguine moments, is too clumsy to deceive the world for an instant. An explanation much simpler and more consistent with common sense is to be found in the drastic changes recently inaugurated by His Majesty—the abolition of a number of sinecure *Yaméns* and posts in the metropolitan and provincial administration; the issue of decree after decree containing sentiments and couched in terms that must have shocked ninety out of every hundred among his subjects, and the wholesale disgrace and dismissal of men from splendid and lucrative positions because they ventured to oppose the dangerous radicalism of a youth of twenty-seven who had hitherto counted for nothing in the councils of the State. It is easy to conceive the feelings of conservative Chinese on reading a decree like the following, issued on the 12th of June last:—

> Some of our aged statesmen who have grown grey in the service of the State and whose fidelity is unquestioned, in their anxiety for the Empire have argued that we ought to stick to the very letter of our ancient institutions and cast away from us the suggestions in favour of a new *régime*. In fact, all sorts of suggestions have been made by any number of memorialists, most of which are empty and vain and impracticable. Let us ask what other country except our own there is that is labouring under such difficulties, because of being behind the times? What would our condition be if we do not set about at once to drill and arm our armies after modern methods? Will we be able to cut down such expenses? Our scholars now are without solid and practical education; our artisans are without scientific instructors; when compared with other countries we soon see the glaring difference between our strength and the strength of others; and when we compare the ready wealth of this Empire with those of other countries the difference is still greater to our detriment. Does any one think that in our present condition he can really say with any truth that our men are as well drilled and well led as any other foreign army; or that we can stand successfully against any of them? We are conscious of the fact that, unless we in our own person decide firmly and strongly, our commands will not go far in execution, while the greatest dangers lie in the allowing of ignorant persons to meddle and talk and argue amongst themselves upon subjects they know not. It is like applying water to quench fire—all to no purpose.
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> The methods of government inaugurated by the Sung and Ming dynasties, upon investigation, reveal nothing that is of any practical use or that may be of advantage to us. In China, for instance, we have had the ethics and doctrines of the sects of Taoism and Buddhism; do they at all agree with the tenets compounded by our five ancient Imperial Sages and three Kings? They are like summer to winter, at opposite extremes to one another. Changes must be made to accord with the necessities of the times. It is apparent that we must give a plain and unvarnished decree on the subject, so that all may understand our wishes. Let this therefore be made known to one and all in the four corners of this Empire, from Prince to Duke, from highest to lowest among the officials of the capital and the provinces, from Court Minister to the most humble of our subjects—let them know that it is our earnest and sincere desire that one and all bend energetically to the duty of striving for higher things, to show all that they are men ambitious to succeed and advance their country; let us, keeping in mind the morals of our sages and wise men, make them the basis on which to build newer and more advantageous methods. We must also select such subjects of Western knowledge as will keep us in touch with the times and diligently study them and practise them in order to place our country abreast with other countries. Let us cast off from us the empty, unpractical, and deceiving things which obstruct our forward progress, and strive with one-heartedness and energy to improve upon all things that we have learned; let us eliminate the crust of neglect that has accumulated on our systems, and cast away the shackles which bind us. In a word, let us evolve useful things out of those which hitherto have been useless, and let us seek able instructors to fashion the materials in our possession. With these objects in view let us strive towards advancement and progress.

If the Sovereign who had the splendid courage to compose and issue such a decree has been done to death by the enemies of progress among his subjects, it will be a calamity not merely for China but for the world. What is to follow? Will it be possible any longer to preserve the moribund Empire from dismemberment? We may be on the eve of events so stupendous that one almost shrinks from contemplating them.

The fundamental explanation of the affair evidently is that the Emperor's zeal for reform outran the capacities and the patience of his principal subjects. There are two parties of progress in China at present, the moderates and the extremists. The former are under the leadership of the great Southern Viceroy, Chang Chi-tung; the latter have for their most prominent figure Kang Yu-wei. It is alleged that a collision between the views of the two was the cause of the political revolution in Peking, and that the moderates gained the day. We do not believe it. We do not believe that any elements of progress survive in the programme of the men who planned and have successfully consummated the revolution. We regard them as conservatives, pure and simple, and we are persuaded that the battle has been, not between radicals and liberals, but between the bigoted adherents of the old order and the enlightened advocates of the new. What particular incident precipitated the collision, it is impossible even to conjecture. Probably no special incident could be indicated. Discontent had been gradually engendered by the sweeping changes that the Emperor had ordered, or was understood to be contemplating, and finally the Manchu Ministers and high officials, whose influence with the Imperial family is enormous, appealed to the Empress-Dowager, and at their instance she consented to resume, in part at any rate, the administrative functions which she had laid aside six years previously when the Emperor came of age. Her Majesty is now in her sixty-fourth year, but she retains a full measure of vigour, and doubtless experiences no little satisfaction at finding herself once more supreme. For she will, of course, be supreme. The theory that she is to be associated with the Emperor for administrative purposes rests simply on the dictates of conventional etiquette. When she first became Regent in 1861, she derived her authority nominally from a decree issued by the Emperor Tung Chih, then a child six years of age. So, again, her authority to resume a share in the government at the present juncture is derived from a decree nominally issued by the Emperor, as the telegraph informs us, on the 23rd instant. But inasmuch as she comes back to power solely because her influence is considered necessary to curb the Emperor's radical tendencies, there can not be much doubt that Kwang Hsü will cease to be an active ruler. With regard to Kang Yu-wei, his arrest was ordered, and soldiers were sent to seize him. They surrounded the house of Chang Yin-yuen—the same Chang who came on the fruitless mission to negotiate peace with Japan in 1895—believing that Kang was concealed there. But, happily for himself, he had effected his flight from Peking on the preceding day. Our telegraphic news shows that he reached Woosung safely by the *Chungking*; and that he is now on board H.M.S. *Esk*. It will be remembered that our telegrams of Saturday spoke of the Taotai's having ordered the search of all vessels coming from the north. It is possible that he attempted something of that kind in the case of the *Chungking*. If so, he soon discovered his mistake. The news that the unfortunate man is safe in the shadow of the British flag fills us with profound satisfaction. The charge against him is grotesque. It can not for an instant be reconciled with

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the course of events. Do the Manchu Ministers who compassed the deposition of the Emperor because of his zeal for reform expect the world to believe that an attempt to poison him was simultaneously made by the most prominent leader of reform? If the first trouble in Peking was a murderous plot against the Sovereign's life, why did his alleged defenders proceed to dethrone him? The clumsiness of such fabrications would be comical if their results did not threaten to be tragic.

It will be observed that Kang is described by our correspondent as "charged with administering poison to the Emperor." Was poison administered, then, and how did the Emperor fare? On the one hand, we have official accounts representing that the Emperor was a consenting party to the recent changes and that he is to govern conjointly with the Empress-Dowager. On the other, we have the same officials issuing orders and adopting vigorous measures for the arrest of a high officer on the charge of having poisoned the Emperor. It is scarcely necessary to put into words the ominous inferences that such contradictory proceedings suggest.

History repeats itself, especially in China. We can not but recall, at this juncture, the incidents that immediately preceded the death of the last Emperor, Tung Chih. That ill-fated sovereign attaining his 19th year in 1874, the two Dowager Empresses, who had governed as regents since 1861, retired into private life and Tung Chih took into his hands the reins of administration. By his side was a man, Prince Kung, who occupied a place not unlike that recently held by Li Hung-chang: he enjoyed the full confidence of the Dowager Empresses and had acted as their lieutenant. Tung Chih, ambitious to administer as well as to govern his empire, began to make nightly excursions from the palace in order to observe with his own eyes the condition of his subjects. Kung remonstrated, and his remonstrances were met by a decree degrading him and his son. That was the Emperor's last attempt to assert himself. It was also his last opportunity to make such an attempt. The two Dowager Empresses re-appeared upon the stage; Kung was re-instated; the Emperor fell sick, and presently "ascended on a dragon to be a guest on high." He left an Empress *enceinte*, who, had she given birth to a son, could not have been excluded from the Government which the two Dowagers were conducting so ably. The Empress also fell sick and died. All the preliminary components of the picture now before us in Peking correspond with those of the picture of twenty-four years ago. We can only hope that the last touches will not be added, if they have not already been added, to the tableau. But we can not forget that the choice of Kwang Hsü to be Emperor was the first departure ever made from the direct line of succession in the case of a Manchu Sovereign, and that his titles to the loyalty of his subjects are not of the strongest.

The public has been very confidently informed that the report of the assassination of the Emperor of China is a pure canard. On what ground is the denial based? That is what we all want to know, and that is precisely what we find difficult to discover. The crisis is supposed to have occurred on the 20th ultimo, and it was then announced that the ceremony of formally investing the Empress-Dowager with a share in the administrative power would take place on the 22nd. The Emperor was expected to be present at the ceremony, and on that expectation was chiefly based, so far as we can perceive, the assumption of his safety. This analysis, it must be confessed, is not very re-assuring. If the crime had been committed, one of the methods of concealing it would be to simulate His Majesty's presence at a State ceremony. For how could the public know whether he was present or not? A telegram to the *Asahi Shimbun* says that the ceremony took place at midnight on the 22nd ultimo within the precincts of the Palace, which was rigorously guarded by troops. Who is to say what really happened within the Palace under such circumstances? To us the only hope seems to rest on the fact that no definite news of the Sovereign's death has reached any of the Legations. A few years ago, there was scarcely any limit to the things that might have happened within the court circle in Peking without the knowledge of the foreign Ministers. But the situation has undergone a great change of late, and we can hardly imagine that if the Emperor had been made away with, the event could be successfully concealed for many days.

But if His Majesty still survives, he is dead for all political purposes. The *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent telegraphs from Peking, under date of the 24th instant, that the Emperor is said to be imprisoned in the Palace and strictly guarded by troops. That does not suggest that His Majesty is to have a share in the administrative power, or that he is to be any longer an active element of the situation. In truth he has been wholly superseded, and his reforms have shared his fate. It is surely the acme of credulity to imagine that the light of progress which the Manchu Ministers and their conservative following have extinguished so rudely, will be allowed to resume a flickering existence. It has gone out, and with its disappearance the darkness in which China's independence is to set has been brought palpably nearer.

"The Emperor is seriously ill and physicians of note have been summoned from various parts of the empire." That is the latest from Peking—a telegram despatched on the 26th ultimo at 10.30 a.m. The curtain is being gradually raised, and presently the tragedy will be in full view. In the case of Tung Chih the disease was small-pox and several weeks elapsed before it was allowed to prove fatal. Kwang Hsü's malady is not yet announced, and perhaps in his case also the end may be deferred for a decent interval. It matters little to the unfortunate sovereign, we imagine. That he passed into the Valley of the Shadow at the opening stage of the revolution is becoming more and more certain. If the terrible suspicion should prove to be correct, it will be a nice question for civilized governments to determine what kind of relations they shall hold with the ill-fated Sovereign's assassins. We scarcely like to discuss such a question yet, but it must be confessed that the situation is not improved by the farce which the Manchu Ministers are seriously offering to an audience of intelligent onlookers. If they thought that an Emperor who loved his country better than his dynasty could not be tolerated in China, they might at least have removed him in such a manner that the world might have had some opportunity to believe them innocent. However, we must not jump to precipitate conclusions. So long as a vestige of hope remains, it is our duty to cling to it.

The Imperial Decree reappointing the Empress-Dowager Regent of China was telegraphed to the *N.-C. Daily News* from Peking under date of September 22nd. It contained no hint of the coming crisis and its momentous events. The document ran as follows:—

At the present moment when our empire is undergoing a most important crisis filled with the heaviest responsibility and difficulties to us, and the internal government of the country for the benefit of the masses demands our closest attention, there may have been matters of high importance which, in spite of our earnestly and diligently labouring day and night at our work, may, amongst the myriads of matters requiring our decision, slip from our notice to the general detriment. This is what now fills us with apprehension. Now H.I.M. the Empress Dowager, Tze Hsi, since the first years of the reign of the late Emperor Tung Chih down to our present reign, has twice ably filled the Regency of the Empire, and never did Her Majesty fail in happily bringing to a successful issue even the most difficult problems of government. In all things we have ever placed the interests of our empire before those of others, and, looking back at Her Majesty's successful handiwork, we are now led to beseech, for a third time, for this assistance from Her Imperial Majesty, so that we may benefit from her wise and kindly advice in all matters of State. Having now obtained her Majesty's gracious consent we truly consider this to be a great boon both to ourselves as well as to the people of our empire. Hence we now command that from henceforth commencing with this morning, the affairs of State shall be transacted in the ordinary Throne Hall and that to-morrow (23rd) we shall at the head of the Princes and Nobles and Ministers of our Court attend in full dress in the Chingcheng Throne Hall to pay ceremonial obeisances to Her Imperial Majesty the Empress Dowager. Let the Board of Rites draw up for our perusal the ceremonies to be observed on the above occasion.

Note.—It will be remembered that all affairs of State have hitherto been transacted in the Grand Council Chamber.

THE LAND OF REFUGE.

It may be assumed that the Chinese reformers who are pursued by the wretched bigots now in power in Peking will make their way to Japan as the nearest haven of refuge. Ever since 1884, Japan has been a sanctuary for Koreans flying from the effects of their progressive zeal, and she will have to extend the same kind of hospitality to Chinese fugitives hereafter. It is probable that her relations with China will be more or less compromised by the fact. The politicians who have proceeded to such extremities in Peking in order to avert changes which Japan has been responsible for introducing into the Orient, will not feel very friendly towards her when they find that she affords sanctuary to the progressive agitators who came to near revolutionizing the fine old Celestial system of corruption, peculation and impotence. It has always been an ambition of the Japanese to become the England of the East. In some respects their desire will be speedily gratified, for, just as England is the refuge of all the Mazzinis and Orsinis and Kossuths of Europe, so Japan will be the sanctuary of the Kangs, and the Changs, and the Bokus and the Kims of her Asiatic neighbours.

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ONE OF THE FUGITIVES.

A telegram of unannounced date and provenance is published by the *Mainichi Shimbun*. It says that, according to a certain person, a certain ship has carried to Hiroshima a certain Chinese subject, supposed to be Kang Yu-wei, whose death the Chinese Government had decreed, but who had been rescued by a certain Power. That is surely vague enough not to involve any responsibility, but it served to fill an "extra" which was doubtless very profitably sold in the capital. Kang, we may be tolerably confident, is safe on board the *Esk*, and, though Japan is not unlikely to be his ultimate destination, there is not much probability of his coming here immediately. Perhaps some of our readers are not aware that Kang is closely connected with the Ta-tung school—commonly called the Daidō-gakko—in Yokohama. The President of the School, Mr. Tsu Kan, is said to have been a pupil or follower of Kang, and the latter's fellow-thinkers furnished funds to start the institution. The purpose of the School is to provide education of a technical and political character for Chinese subjects without their having to incur the expense of going to Europe or America; for Kang Yu-wei and his friends think that all the necessary educational paraphernalia can be found in Japan. We may note here that the struggle between conservatism and liberalism is said to have been going on for some time in a quiet way between the Chinese connected with the Russian Bank in this settlement and the Chinese that supported or attend the Ta-tung School, the former being friends of the Manchus, and the latter, for the most part, natives of Canton. Kang could be sure of a hearty welcome from one section of his countrymen in Yokohama, if he came here.

There is an error in the statement that Kang Yu-wei was arrested by the Chinese Authorities in Shanghai, and handed over to H.B.M.'s Consul in deference to a protest on the latter's part. What really happened was that H.M.S. *Esk* went down the Yang-tsze, met the *Chung-king* at Woosung, and took Kang under the protection of the British flag. That was a much more signal and satisfactory method of procedure than the step reported by our Shanghai correspondent. When Kang set his foot on board the *Chung-king* at Tientsin (or Taku), he became practically a political refugee in British territory—for, speaking broadly, an English ship is British territory—and the Queen's Government wisely and humanely resolved that the asylum he had sought should prove secure. We say the Queen's Government, but it seems almost certain that Sir Claude Macdonald "made this stroke off his own bat"—to use Lord Palmerston's pet expression. There could hardly have been time for him to obtain instructions from London, unless he had cognizance of Kang's movements from the first, which is scarcely conceivable. One of two things probably happened. Either Kang himself took measures to inform the British Legation direct that he was about to embark in the *Chung-king*, or Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's agents in Tientsin communicated with Her Majesty's Consul as soon as they knew that Kang was to be a passenger. Either theory involves the assumption that Kang had the wisdom to take the Minister or the agents into his confidence, which argues well for his astuteness. It would be a strong point in favour of his innocence also, but we do not think that any defence of that need be made. Our Shanghai telegram announcing Kang's transfer to the *Esk* was dated the 24th. Hence the *Chung-king* must have left Taku on the 21st. Kang seems to have fled from Peking on the 19th. Travelling by rail, he reached Tientsin that night, and having communicated with the agents of the *Chung-king*, he probably pushed on to Tong-ku by the first train on the 20th, and thence boarded the *Chung-king*, unless, indeed, she was lying at the bund in Tientsin, which is unlikely, in view of the present state of the Peiho. If Sir Claude Macdonald learned on the 20th that Kang had taken passage in the *Chung-king*, he must have immediately telegraphed to Shanghai, ordering the commander of the *Esk* to proceed to Woosung, meet the C. N. steamer and take the fugitive off her; and it is very likely that he telegraphed to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's Tientsin Agents at the same time, asking them to instruct Captain Dewer of the *Chung-king* not to pass Woosung until he had transferred Kang safely to the *Esk*. All that is pretty smart work. It does the highest credit to Sir Claude Macdonald. His action will be heartily applauded by his nationals, for it is in accordance with the dictates not only of justice but also of political expediency. Kang's execution, by some savage process, for a crime in which he had no hand or part, might not have ranked, perhaps, with the horror already perpetrated in Peking, but would at least have aggravated it. There is some consolation in the thought that England's arm has been long enough to avert that additional misery. As to the political import of the step taken by her Majesty's Minister, it is not to be mistaken. England openly proclaims her sympathy with the cause against which the Manchu Ministers and the Empress Dowager have arrayed themselves, and declares that she is ready to protect the patriots, whom they are seeking to do to death under false accusations. The relations between the Governments in London and Peking will be somewhat strained in the face of such doings, but if they were strained to breaking point, the peace of the Orient, the cause of civilization, and the welfare of three hundred millions of human beings might gain materially. Any Power which endorses the act of the Manchu Ministers by clasping hands with them, is welcome to the alliance and to its fruits. England is on the winning side, unless the "eternal law" which decrees victory for right has ceased to be operative.

MR. FUKUZAWA.

The public of Tokyo have received with profound concern the news of Mr. Fukuzawa's sudden illness. There had not been any premonitory symptoms, so far as we can gather, and Mr. Fukuzawa's age—he is only in his sixty-first year—does not furnish any explanation. The attack is grave, and, although no apprehensions are entertained for the distinguished patient's life, it is feared that he will have to abandon the career of intellectual activity by which his country has so greatly benefited.

THE "CHINESE PROGRESS" AND KANG YU-WEI.

A great many people are asking at present, "Who is Kang Yu-wei, and what has he been doing?" As to who he is, a tolerably complete answer can be given. For nearly two years he has been known as an ardent advocate of progress and reform in China, and has been gradually gathering around him a party of fellow thinkers who have made their influence practically felt in many ways—for example, in establishing the Chinese School in Yokohama. Kang came to be known in Peking as "The Modern Sage and Reformer." He held in June last the appointment of Third-class Secretary of the Board of Punishments, and he was at that time recommended to the Throne by a Recorder of the Hanlin Academy as a man of profound erudition and progressive ideas. The Emperor at once gave orders that Kang should be presented to him, and the audience took place on June 16th. Shortly afterwards, the Hanlin Reader suggested to the Sovereign that the establishment of newspapers and magazines throughout the country would prove one of the best means of educating the masses, and the Emperor warmly adopted the suggestion, one result being that Kang Yu-wei was ordered to proceed to Shanghai and assume the editorship of the *Chinese Progress*. Kang did not immediately comply with the order. He probably thought that his sphere of usefulness would be greatly limited if he were banished to Shanghai, and he seems to have asked for a delay for the purpose of collecting funds to carry on the magazine entrusted to his care. By and by, the Emperor, becoming impatient at Kang's apparent hesitation, issued a decree reprimanding him for tardiness, saying he ought by that time to have collected money enough, and bidding him hasten to take over his new duties. It is said that the Emperor's chief object in this matter was to get Kang away from Peking, where his enemies were becoming so strong and so violent that the Reformer's life seemed to be in imminent danger. Kang, indeed, does not appear to have acted with much tact, for he is supposed to have made foes among the Progressists as well as among the Conservatives. At all events he had the full courage of his opinions, and was unwilling to leave Peking, the centre of reforming influences. The difficulty was solved by the new President of the Board of Rites, Li Tuan-fên, who, about the 10th instant, memorialized the Throne in the sense that Kang's aid was essential to him. Kang accordingly retained the secretaryship to which he had been appointed in the meanwhile at the Board of Works. As bearing very closely on this matter, we reproduce the following extract from the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 17th September:—

We learn with pleasure, that Mr. Kang Yu-wei is not now alone in his earnest endeavours to effect reforms in this Empire. His followers now are said to consist of more than one half of the Hanlins and Censors and *literati* in the capital, as well as a whole host of Board secretaries whose views have recently become even more advanced than his, and whose earnestness of purpose has been such as even to defy the opposition of their more conservative superior officers. As an instance, one can scarcely wonder at the surprise and disgust of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board of Rites when they read their subordinate, Mr. Wang's, memorial suggesting, amongst other

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reforms, that the Emperor and the whole country abolish the *queue* and present Chinese dress for the fashions of the West! Another was to suggest that the country embrace the Christian religion as the State religion, and still another was an advice to his Majesty to take the Empress Dowager on a visit to the Japanese Mikado, in order to see for themselves the pitiful state of China as compared with Japan, which had thrown away the obsolete customs of a by-gone age and adopted everything Western. "An education of the eyes, by such a trip, is worth a hundred thousand suggestions on paper."

Naturally these revolutionary suggestions—according to the lights of these Presidents and Vice-Presidents—quite stunned the readers of the above noted memorial; and we can therefore well understand the anger and chagrin felt when, in spite of exhortations and strong minatory language, Mr. Wang, their subordinate officer, refused point blank either to modify or to withdraw his paper; maintaining his right to demand that his memorial be handed, intact, to the Throne by his superior officers, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board to which he belonged. Huai Ta-pu, the Manchu President, deeming first his position as a senior member of the Imperial Clan, and next as an Assistant Grand Secretary, quite safe for him to demand the punishment of the refractory subordinate, persuaded his colleagues to join him in a general denunciation, although Hsü Yung-kuei, the Chinese President, having already been denounced on a former occasion by some Censors for trying to do this same thing—preventing the presentation of memorials—from which he had been warned by the Emperor to desist, tried to get out of signing the report of his colleagues. So also T'êng Kuang-han (Earl Wei-yi), the Chinese Junior Vice-President, who being but newly appointed to his post and a timid man to boot, did not wish to be mixed up with the affair; but Huai Ta-pu, backed by the other two Manchu Vice-Presidents, who are also members of the Imperial Clan, laughed their dissentient Chinese colleagues' fears away, feeling sure of ultimate victory against a paltry third-class secretary.

The result of this episode we all know; and it has made us believe that after all his Majesty Kuang Hsü is so earnest to reform the country by gathering around him a large body of young, enthusiastic, and as earnest workers as himself, that he "sat on" his own kinsmen, men of great power and influence, in favour of a hitherto unknown and insignificant third-class secretary. It is further averred that his Majesty, in issuing his edict handing over the delinquent Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board of Rites to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of adequate penalties, called the two Presidents of the latter to him and personally enjoined upon them to give an impartial and legal report as to the punishment due to the delinquents for what they had done, warning them that they would receive the same punishments meted out to the Board of Rites' officers if it were found that the Civil Appointments Board had been influenced by a desire to save their fellow Ministers and make their punishment as light as possible.

Thus admonished, the Board of Civil Appointments recommended with commendable alacrity that the delinquent Ministers be "degraded three steps of rank and transferred to posts equivalent to their lowered status." This his Majesty evidently considered too light, in the face of the crisis the country was passing through, and so, as we already know, altered it to a command that "the delinquents be cashiered and dismissed from the service." With the Emperor, the fountain of honour and all official preferment, openly and honestly in their favour, it is not strange that the small party of Reformers, hitherto led by Mr. Secretary Kang Yu-wei, for whose safety on account of his advanced views there were considerable apprehensions, has recently received such an accession to its ranks that even the most powerful Minister of the Crown now fears to oppose the Reform movement, especially as it is now decreed by the Emperor that "all memorials—no matter from whom—are to be henceforth handed to the Throne, intact and unopened, on pain of dire punishment."

THE JAPANESE PRESS ON THE CHINESE AFFAIR.

The utterances of the Tokyo newspapers with reference to the recent event in Peking are not very profound. On the whole the leading journals are plainly disposed to believe that the cause of progress has not suffered permanently, but is only impaired for the moment. The *Jiji* regards such incidents as inevitable. All radical changes are marked by actions and reactions. Never did a Tokugawa Shogun endeavour to effect reforms without provoking opposition, and the great movement of the Restoration was accomplished simply by the combined efforts of Satsuma and Choshiu. The fact is that the Chinese reformers tried to move too fast. There will be many such collisions in the future, but the young Emperor has only to bide his time. The cause of progress will win in the end.

Such is virtually the opinion of nearly all the leading journals. The *Nichi Nichi* speaks of the event as a trifling set-back of the tide of progress, and the *Asahi* goes so far as to say that such obstacles beget a stronger resolution to overcome them, and that the pendulum will presently swing farther than ever in the right direction by and by. Only the *Mainichi* takes a gloomy view. It thinks that if the intelligence is correct, the ruin of the Chinese empire is not far distant. Russia on the north, Germany on the East, and France on the south, are all waiting to divide the spoils. Nothing could have checked them except the success of the reforming impulse which has now been defeated.

Two or three journals—notably the *Hochi* and the *Asahi*—allude to the possibility that the hand of a foreign Power is behind the reaction. If that be so, they say, there is no concealing the gravity of the incident. Its results may be of the most momentous character. That it will restore Li Hung-Chang to power is a generally accepted forecast, and, with the old Viceroy's new lease of political life, Russia's influence is expected to become paramount at Peking. The vernacular newspapers allude to these hypotheses with bated breath, especially in so far as Russia's complicity is concerned. They are plainly anxious to avoid everything of intemperance or precipitancy. The *Yomiuri*, however, takes occasion to urge once more the supreme importance of an understanding between England, the United States, and Japan. If does not, indeed, regard the situation as in any sense hopeless. Moral forces have been called into active existence, its says, which can not be destroyed or completely suppressed. They will continue operative. The only point is that upon the rapidity and strength of their operation depends China's chance of safety. Those that wish to preserve her integrity must stretch forth a helping hand. Who are they that may be counted in that category? England, the United States, and Japan. There are no others.

MILITARY & NAVAL PROMOTION.

Four well-known officers have been raised by the Emperor to the rank of *Taishō*, which corresponds to General in the Army and Admiral of the Fleet in the Navy. They are Viscount Katsura, now Minister of State for War, who commanded the left wing of the Manchurian Army in its advance from Takushan to Haicheng; Viscount Sakuma, now Commander-in Chief of the Central District, who commanded the troops sent against Wei-hai-wei; Viscount Kawakami, Chief of the General Staff, and Viscount Ito, who commanded at the Battle of the Yalu and in the subsequent naval operations. The ceremony of promotion took place at the Palace on the 28th instant.

LI HUNG-CHANG.

"Prince Kung and others," we are told by the *Asahi Shimbun's* Peking correspondent, "proposed to Li Hung-chang that the Emperor should be deposed altogether, but Li would not agree, and the method of giving regent's powers to the Empress-Dowager was consequently resorted to." If such a proposal was made, it is most improbable that anything would be known about it. No great importance need be attached to that part of the story, though there is no inherent improbability about it. But the incidental reference to Li Hung-chang is very suggestive and interesting. The correspondent seems to have no manner of doubt that Li played a leading part in the revolution, and seems also to conclude that everybody else must be equally convinced of that fact, for he does not think it worth while to accord to it the rank of a separate item of intelligence. If Li has been a prominent figure in bringing about the semi-deposition of the Emperor, who recently dismissed him from office, and the restoration of the Empress-Dowager, who has always been his staunch friend, a very embarrassing situation will exist in Peking for the British Government. Li's removal is understood to have been the direct result of a protest from Her Majesty's Minister that he must decline to transact business with the *Tsung-li Yamên* so long as Earl Li remained a member of it. Of course Li's return to power need not mean his resumption of functions at the *yamên*. But it will mean the supremacy of Russian proclivities and the paralysis of British influence, if England consents to be paralysed. She will not consent. Her hands have been tied hitherto by the necessity of complying with certain moral conventions which do not shackle the aggressive energy of Powers having a different system of government from hers. But if circumstances justify her departure from gloved-hand methods, she will not be found backward. That these events have brought the end nearer for China, there can not be much doubt.

THE CLASH OF INTERESTS.

Nothing could be more unsightly than the perpetual friction that is taking place between the sections of the Constitutional party. If they could see themselves for a moment with foreign eyes, they would understand that their conduct is alienating the sympathies and exciting the disgust of all impartial observers. The latest cause of collision is inexpressibly trivial. A committee of four members manages the general affairs of the Constitutional Party, and practically speaks for the Party, delivering mandates and pronouncing decisions in its name. Naturally to be one of these committee-men is counted a great honour. Two of the members belong to the former Liberals; two to the former Progressists. Such a division is in itself highly suggestive. It indicates that the two components of the Constitutional Party did not really coalesce from the outset, but preserved their individuality so jealously as to allow it to become a plain obstacle to efficiency. For when did practical men ever think of appointing a committee of four? Was it not perfectly evident all along that such a committee

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must again and again find itself paralysed by an equal division of its number when any important question had to be decided? That is just what the Committee seems to have discovered, and a proposal has now been made to add one more to its personnel. We are not sufficiently familiar with the Party's rules of organization to explain exactly how the additional member is to be elected or nominated, but an idea has gone abroad that he is to be a politician, either actually belonging to the Progressists or, at least, affiliated with them. The prospect elicits quite a shrill outburst of indignation from the Liberal organ (*Tokyo Shimbun*). It describes the incident as of the highest importance; accuses the Progressists of wanting to subject the Liberals to the tyranny of a majority; avers that the balance of power has hitherto been maintained by the equal division of the Committee; declares that if this proposal be carried out, the unity of the Party can not be preserved; reminds its readers that all the Vice-Ministerial Posts have fallen to the Progressists, and concludes that in the presence of such an attempt the Liberals can not remain with folded arms. Could anything be more paltry? A fifth committee man is a practical necessity. He must be either a Progressist or a Liberal. If he is a Progressist, the Liberals will cry out; if he is a Liberal, the Progressists will equally complain. It is an unedifying spectacle and the sooner the two parties sever their impossible union, the better for Japan's political reputation. What particularly disappoints us is that this complaint is made by the *Tokyo Shimbun* which has hitherto written in a dignified and pacific strain, deprecating all sectional squabbles and deriding the idea that any schism between the two parties was possible. It really looks now as though the Constitutional Party were breaking up into a number of mutually hostile camps and unmanageable coteries.

DEATH OF MR. FUJII.

Mr. S. Fujii, whose death took place on the 26th ult., in the Red Cross Hospital, Tokyo, was only in his fifty-first year. The cause of death was blood-poisoning, due to a malignant carbuncle which refused to yield to the most skilful and careful treatment. Mr. Fujii served for many years in the Foreign Office, and received the appointment of Minister Plenipotentiary *en disponibilité* some months before his last illness. He was an able and most popular official, and his untimely decease is a heavy loss to the public service. On behalf of his many foreign friends, we offer profound sympathy to his bereaved widow.

A great number of people assembled at Uyeno station early on the morning of the 29th ult., when the remains of the late Mr. Fujii were placed in the train for Mayebashi, where the obsequies are to take place. All classes of society were represented, and it was easy to infer from the nature of the gathering how great and general had been the esteem in which the deceased was held.

The artless Japanese Fairy Tale translated by Mr. Lafcadio Hearne under the title of "The Boy who drew Cats," fully maintains the reputation of the dainty little crêpe books issued by Mr. Hasegawa, the art printer and illustrator of Tokyo.

THE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE IN TOKYO.

It is stated that the official nominated by the Chinese Government to represent the Middle Kingdom in Tokyo will be unable for a considerable time to proceed to his post, as the illness which at present prevents him from leaving Shanghai is likely to prove of a protracted character. Mr. Li Shin-tok will consequently act as Chargé d'Affaires in the meanwhile. Vernacular newspapers allege that Mr. Li left Shanghai by the American mail steamer on the 24th instant, and add that, immediately after his arrival, Mr. Yano Fumio, Japanese Representative to the Court of China, will return to his post. According to the original intention, Mr. Yano's departure for Peking would have been deferred until November, but the momentous events which recently occurred in the Chinese capital make it desirable that he should resume his functions there as speedily as possible.

RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTER OF JUSICE.

It appears to be tolerably certain that Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu has resigned the portfolio of Justice, and that the Premier has recommended the Emperor to accept the resignation. The public—the foreign section of it at rate—has considerable difficulty in understanding the reasons of this incident, or in following the course of events that have led up to it. Speaking briefly, the Minister persuaded himself, or was persuaded by others, that the Chief Public Procurator of the Supreme Court, Mr. Yokota, had been guilty of more or less arbitrary and improper procedure in bringing about the retirement of a batch of superannuated or insufficiently qualified Judges, on the eve of the last change of Cabinet. No one alleged that the services of these Judges should not have been dispensed with, or that the interests of the nation were not promoted by their retirement. The only point was whether the share taken by Mr. Yokota in the transaction, coupled with the promotion that accrued to himself, did not impair the character of the result and engender so much umbrage in judicial circles that further and necessary reforms of the same nature would be attended with great difficulties. The Minister, after investigating the circumstances, answered these questions in the affirmative, and concluded that Mr. Yokota' presence at the Supreme Court was not desirable. But Mr. Yokota did not share that view, and there then commenced an interval of effort on the Minister's part and resistance on that of the Chief Public Procurator, until finally the question was submitted to the Cabinet and the decision went against Mr. Ohigashi. There has been a great deal of talk about the affair, but, after all, it was a mere matter of opinion. The Minister took one view of a certain series of incidents; a majority of his colleagues took another, and the usual result has ensued, a resignation. The Ministry is unfortunate in losing one of its number at such an early stage.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE PEKING REVOLUTION.

There is in official circles in Tokyo a belief, perhaps we should rather call it a hope, that the revolution in Peking will not effectually stop the hands on the dial of Chinese progress: that they will continue moving, though more slowly. We find it difficult to share that confidence. The appeal made by the Manchu Ministers to the Empress Dowager was inspired by their objection to any change that involves interference with their own sinecures. In that respect they represented the sentiments of the whole of Chinese officialdom. The machinery of Government in China may be called an immense complexus of individual interests, all of which are seriously threatened by any movement of reform on Occidental lines. Every administrative section of the Empire exists in the eyes of officialdom solely for the purpose of being exploited. We do not mean to cast any wholesale reflection on the morality of the nation. The Chinese people have furnished ample proofs in other ways that they knew how to be upright, and that they can form organizations admirably calculated to promote integrity. What confronts us in the administrative world of China is a system evolved, not from the moral defects of the people, but from the exigencies of statesmanship; a system deliberately based on the most elementary instinct of human nature, the instinct of gain. From the greatest Viceroy to the humblest Secretary all are concerned in maintaining the system, not for the sake of China, not for the sake of national independence or national integrity, but because its maintenance means the furnishing of an opportunity to Chang, or Huang, or Hu, or Li to amass wealth and win renown. The patrotic instinct is subserved wholly to the personal interest, not because the people are incapable of pursuing the higher ideal—though it may well be doubted whether their capacity has not been grievously weakened by centuries of dormancy,—but because a usurping dynasty descries the best chance of safety for itself in building its foundations on the bed rock of human selfishness. The people at large—for the examination device brings official prizes within everybody's reach—have now enjoyed the sweets of the system for so many years that it has become venerable and necessary in their eyes, and since its radical change must result from any genuine movement of intelligent and patriotic reform, the first symptoms of such reform excite a rebellion which no national disaster could provoke. We have seen the Manchu Ministers and all the body of Chinese officialdom sit placidly with folded hands in the presence of their country's humiliation; humiliation due to the corruption and selfishness of the system which they represent. We now see them provoked to active and efficient protest at the earliest evidences of peril to that system. Can we expect the leaven of reform to work successfully in such a mass? Does it not seem that a cataclysm must hurl this wretched system into the dust before any fair edifice can be built among its ruins? "But," it may be urged, "such arguments might have been advanced at any time: they have no special force at this juncture." That is true, and they have often been advanced in these columns. They derive special

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cogency, however, from the present crisis, for, unless we are much mistaken, the restoration of the Empress Dowager means a new lease of life for the old methods of administration. Her Majesty has not shown any aversion to reform so long as it was confined to the building of railways, the erection of telegraphs, the introduc- of Western learning, and the re-organization of the army. But the moment that a hand was raised against the governmental machine, she has come forward as its champion, and until that machine is pulled to pieces reform must remain a mere plaything. Apart from these fundamental considerations, the main fact of the situation is that the Emperor has been openly thrust aside because of his progressive instincts, and it is hard to believe that the cause which even the sovereign was unable to maintain will not share his extinction. The Japanese newspapers would fain regard the crisis as a contest between the advocates of gradual reform and the partizans of radical change. They are remarkably sanguine. For our own part, we could never entertain any robust faith in China's regeneration under the Manchu dynasty, and these latest happenings confirm our scepticism.

NEW COPPER COINS.

The new copper coins—1 *sen* and 5 *rin* (half a *sen*), or the sterling equivalents of a farthing and half a farthing—are very pretty pieces. The *sen* has on its face a cord border within which two sheaves of rice, their stems bound with a knotted ribbon, form a circular medallion having the ideographs *is-sen* in the centre. On the reverse the centre is occupied by a many-rayed sun—the alternating lengths of the rays producing a graceful effect. Round this sun, and enclosed within borders of dots and cords, a belt contains the ideographs *Dai-Nippon Meiji sanjū-ichi-nen* (31st year of *Meiji*) and the words "1 *sen*." The five *rin* piece has its reverse entirely occupied by a most artistic design of *kiri* leaves encircled by a tendril scroll springing from a tiny chrysanthemum. On the face the denomination and date are impressed, the former in ideographs and Roman letters. The *sen* coin used to bear the inscription *hyaku-mai wo motte ichi-yen ni kayeru* (100 exchangeable for a *yen*), but that has now been omitted. Finally, the term for "subsidiary copper coins" is changed from *hojō dōka* to *hojō-seidōka*. When these little pieces go into circulation, Japan may congratulate herself on having the prettiest copper coins in the world.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN LOAN.

It is confidently affirmed by vernacular newspapers that the Ministry has decided to float 200 million *yen* worth of bonds in Europe; namely, 160 millions of Public Undertakings Bonds and 40 millions of Railway Bonds. A British syndicate is said to have offered to take the loan at 4 per cent., paying 90 for the bonds, but the Government expects better terms. There is a question as to whether the whole should be taken at once, or whether the loan should be floated by instalments as required. The latter plan appears most economical at first sight, but possibly the terms obtained by taking the whole loan at once would be so much better as to outweigh the disadvantage of having to pay interest during a longer period.

LIFE ASSURANCE IN JAPAN.

The Annual Report of the Nippon Life Assurance Company for 1897 shows a state of affairs which must be very satisfactory to the shareholders. The subscribed capital is 300,000 *yen*, and the amount paid up only 120,000 *yen*. On this there was declared a dividend of 12,000 *yen*, or 10 per cent., together with a special dividend of 30,000 *yen*, or 25 per cent. This special dividend is the result of the first eight-year period of the Company's working. Another result was that the policy-holders received a bonus of 33,000 *yen*. There are now 61,302 policy-holders, and the amount of their policies is 16,826,840 *yen*—formidable figures when we consider that the paid-up capital is only 120,000 *yen*. On the other hand, the reserves aggregate 1,317,467 *yen*, and they were increased by no less than 305,464 *yen* during the year under review. Going back to the second year (1890) of the Company's existence, we find that it had 5,926 lives on its books, representing 2,001,100 *yen*, and that its reserves then aggregated 39,103 *yen*. Roughly speaking, therefore, its liabilities in connection with premiums increased eightfold between 1890 and 1897, and its reserves were multiplied by 33. Evidently the Company's object is to build up a great business on a very small capital, and to effect that end it carries large sums to its reserves every year. The tables show that the additions to the reserve during the eight years of the concern's existence were these :—

1st year	32,497	Yen
2nd year	68,060	"
3rd year	102,914	"
4th year	131,141	"
5th year	180,529	"
6th year	229,326	"
7th year	258,936	"
8th year	305,464	"

It is often misleading to compare small things with great, but without drawing any hard-and-fast inference, we may note that the Imperial Insurance Company, of England, having a paid-up capital of £300,000, has amassed reserves and assets amounting to £2,000,000 after 94 years of working, and that the Guardian, after an existence of 76 years, has reserves and assets totalling £4,650,000 against a paid-up capital of £1,000,000. In other words, these two English Companies have accumulated assets equal to 6⅔ and 4½ times their paid-up capital, respectively, after more than three-quarters of a century's operations, whereas the Japanese company has amassed a reserve 33 times as large as its paid-up capital in eight years, and has declared great dividends all the while. It does not appear to us that insurers can be very well treated by the Nippon Seimei-Hoken Kaisha. Nothing is said in this Report about rates, but it appears from the tables that the experience of the past eight years indicates a pretty large margin of safety in the Company's calculations, the ratio of actual to anticipated casualties throughout the period being 0.76 to 1—that is to say, the company fared better than it had expected to the extent of 2.4 per cent. in the matter of risks. An epidemic of cholera, however, might soon sweep away that margin, so that perhaps, on the whole, it is not too large. As for the premia, we observe that 602,403 *yen* was collected in 1897 on policies aggregating 18,437,470 *yen*. Hence the average was 3.8 per cent., and inasmuch as 59 per cent. of the lives insured were under 40 years of age, the rate shown by these figures seems large. If the Company can continue its operations during the next twenty years in the same manner as that followed during the past eight, it will find itself in the happy position of having built up an immense business on a very slender foundation. Its expenses, however, are growing with very respectable rapidity. They were 36,925 *yen* in 1892 and 167,661 *yen* in 1897.

THE OPENING OF THE DIET.

The *Official Gazette* publishes an Imperial Rescript summoning the Diet to meet in Tokyo on the 7th of November. It may be presumed that the special session, consequent on the dissolution of the Lower House, and the regular session, will be run into one. Under ordinary circumstances, the regular session does not commence until late in December; a very inconvenient arrangement, one great objection to it being that the Budget never comes up for discussion until after the New Year's recess—that is to say, until the 10th of January at soonest. Hence it does not reach the Peers until a late period in the session, and has to be rushed through the Upper House with unseemly haste. According to the Law of the Houses, fifteen days are allowed for the Budget Committee to prepare its report. Hence, since the House rises for the New Year's recess on the 25th of December, it is evident that the Diet must be convened for the beginning of that month if there is any idea of getting a vote on the Budget in the Lower House before the recess. That has never hitherto been attempted, and probably the Government will experience some difficulty in having the Budget ready by the 10th of November, on which day the Diet will commence legislative business. The difficulty will be overcome, however, and, for the first time in Japan's parliamentary history, we may expect to see the Budget sent to the Upper House before the New Year. The Peers will thus have plenty of time to scrutinize it, and if they prove as critical as rumour predicts, want of leisure, at any rate, need not restrain them.

THE NEW ITALIAN MINISTER TO CHINA.

His Excellency the Chevalier de Martino, who proceeds to Peking to represent Italy at the Chinese Court, will leave Yokohama at an early hour on Saturday morning by the R.I.S. *Marco Polo*, and will travel direct to Taku, calling only *en route* at Nagasaki, where the cruiser intends to coal. We observe from the Shanghai papers that the Chevalier was expected to reach his post by the end of this month, but it will scarcely be possible for him to arrive in Peking before the 8th or 9th of October. M. de Martino's presence in the Chinese capital will add considerably to the strength of the party of progress, and his long experince in the East constitutes a special qualification. The crisis in the fortunes of the Chinese empire certainly demands the services of able men at the foreign Legations in Peking.

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THE OPINION OF THE CHINESE LEGATION.

A few days ago, the public was edified by a reported interview with a member of the Chinese Legation. It betrayed an almost comical state of unconcern and perfunctoriness on the part of the Middle Kingdom's officials in Tokyo. The *Mainichi Shimbun* now publishes another interview, which is decidedly interesting. The Chinese official—an anonymous personage, of course—emphatically dismisses the idea that the Emperor is dead. That he says, is a pure canard, but he makes no attempt to set forth the grounds of his confidence. There is no doubt, of course, about the restoration of the Empress Dowager to power, and possibly the event may have given rise to more or less disturbance. But the root of the whole trouble is a collision between the southern—or Cantonese—faction and the Manchu party in the capital. The Kiaochou incident and the Port Arthur affair thoroughly aroused the bulk of the people from their apathetic mood, and convinced them that the only chance of preserving the empire's integrity and independence is to inaugurate reforms on Occidental lines. The leaders of the southern section are notably resolute on that point, and they have so precipitately and unreservedly given effect to their radical views that a collision with the comparatively conservative Manchus became inevitable. Kang Yu-Wei never succeeded in ingratiating himself with the Empress Dowager. Her Majesty's return to power would, therefore, be certainly followed by his loss of influence and dismissal from office. But he had the ear of the Emperor and it is probable that His Majesty warned him, perhaps even assisted him, to fly from Peking.

We may mention here that no official telegram suggesting the Emperor's death has been received up to the present in Tokyo. Indeed, so far as can be ascertained, His Majesty is alive. On the other hand, while the official telegrams have hitherto made no allusion to his illness, two messages from Peking to the *North-China Daily News* were very explicit. The first, dated at noon on the 23rd ultimo, described His Majesty as so seriously ill that fears were entertained for his life; the second said that the Foreign Representatives had called at the Tsung-li Yamên to inquire about his condition. As for Chang Yin-huan, telegrams of uncertain *provenance* have been received in Tokyo saying that he had been condemned to death, but would probably be respited in deference to the representations of a certain Minister.

ASHIO COPPER MINE.

Tokyo is threatened with something like an invasion. An immense body of farmers—estimated by the police at 7,000 and by other authorities at from eleven to fifty thousand—set out, on the 27th instant, from the districts which recently suffered so much injury owing to the destruction of the poison-prevention works at the Ashio Copper Mine. Doubtless our readers remember how, session after session, the irrepressible Mr. Tanaka Shozo used to address Questions to the Government and accompany them with long and vehement impeachments of the owner of the mine, of the officials who allowed him to carry on his money-making operations without due precautions to prevent the discharge of the poisonous products into the Watarase River, and the consequent wasting of large tracts of arable land along the course of the stream. The Government finally took up the question vigorously, and the owner of the mine erected, at a very heavy outlay, large works for disinfecting or destroying the injurious products. These works were destroyed by the recent floods, and the Watarase, swollen to an unusual height, carried the poisonous matter and spread it over a wide area in the prefectures of Gumma, Tochigi, Saitama, and Ibaraki. The tenants and owners of the devastated lands seem to have concluded that only a monster demonstration can obtain for them the relief they desire, namely, remission of taxes, and a great body assembled, by previous arrangement, on the 27th ultimo, and set out for Tokyo by various routes, intending to come together at Dokan-yama near Oji. The police authorities at Kawamata, on the Tonegawa, attempted to stop the party passing along that route, by breaking the bridge over the river, but the farmers made their way down the bank to a ferry, and, finding that the ferry boats also had been removed, obtained possession of some junks, and got across in parties of 700 to 800 at a time. It is stated that the provisioning of the whole body was undertaken gratuitously by Mr. Kimura, a silk-merchant of Ashikaga, and that a certain Mr. Noguchi is in chief command. The police have made arrangements to stay the main body at Senju and Itabashi, but presumably the leaders will be allowed to proceed to Tokyo and state their case at the Departments of Home Affairs and Agriculture and Commerce.

The police have shown so much vigour and vigilance that of all the big crowds which set out from the north to enlist official sympathy with their hard plight, only about a hundred people have managed, thus far, to make their way to Tokyo. They are quiet folks enough, too heavily weighted with care and too sharply tormented with hunger to be boisterous or aggressive. Sleeping on the roadside or in the fields, and feeding on anything they could find, many of them seem to have thought that their duty would be discharged if they reached Tokyo and laid themselves down in the shadow of the *Noshomusho*. Their prayer is to have their lands restored to a productive condition; the Watarase River dredged and embanked; a fresh survey made of the devastated districts; their taxes remitted, and the owner of the mine, Mr. Furukawa, compelled to pay compensation for the injuries his work has caused.

Mr. Tanaka Shozo succeeded in inducing one party of the petitioners to retrace their steps. He went to met them at Soka, beyond Senju, and harangued them into confidence. It was a characteristic speech. Had the former Government been in power, their demonstration might be right enough, he said, but there was no fear that the present Ministry would treat them with indifference. He himself would undertake to procure justice for them, and, if he failed, he promised to forfeit his life. Mr. Tanaka is nothing if not vehement. He never descends below superlatives when he speaks in public. Some of the Tokyo journals are disposed to hold him responsible for this commotion, and it may reasonably be contended that the strangely intemperate harangues delivered by him from time to time in the House of Representatives must have produced a very exaggerated impression of their wrongs among the people on whose behalf they were uttered.

A THIEF TO CATCH A THIEF.

The remarkable success achieved by the Japanese police in recovering articles stolen from the person has always been understood to be the result, first, of the very stringest control exercised by the Authorities over the business of pawnbrokers and dealers in second-hand goods, and, secondly, of the assistance which the detectives derive from the thieves themselves. It often happens that a watch stolen from somebody's pocket at a railway wicket or in the street is returned intact to its owner within twenty-four hours. Now there is no conceivable system of ordinary detection by which that result could be attained. Once the watch has passed into the hands of a pick-pocket, and he has got clear away with it, he can defy the police if he pleases, and there is nothing, nor can there be anything, to prevent him from extracting the jewels and melting down the gold or silver at his leisure. If the article is to be recovered, the police must have some back-stairs route for getting at it. That is precisely what they have. Pickpockets in Japan seldom carry on their operations on individual account. They work in gangs, and each gang has its head-man, the whole business being systematised and organized in a most thorough manner. The police are well acquainted with the head-men, and have long been in the habit of utilizing their services for the detection of serious crimes. That involves, of course, some reciprocal consideration on the part of the police, and the only possible consideration is that the pick-pockets enjoy a measure of latitude within certain limits. *Doku wo motte doku wo seisu* (to control poison with poison) is an old Japanese proverb, and we believe that the police have acted on it ever since Tokugawa days. But the present Chief of the Metropolitan Police is altogether opposed to such methods. He has issued an instruction to the effect that no intercourse of any kind must exist hereafter between the police and the pickpockets. We suspect, therefore, that there will be no more instances of signal recovery of property stolen from the person. The police will no longer be able to make application to a head-man of pickpockets for the restoration of this or that article. The head-men, on their side, will find their position somewhat irksome, since they are known to the police, and can be pounced upon at any moment when a theft occurs within their district.

The following Indian telegram possesses more humour than is usually allowed to filter into these prosaic productions:—The Bombay Legislative Council concluded its sitting and the discussion of the Budget estimates on Saturday evening. The year opens with a balance of *nil*, and with the necessity of putting by 20 *lakhs* for future balance. As Mr. Nugent, who prepared the statement remarked, financially the Bombay Presidency is on its beam ends.

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THE FORMOSAN RAILWAY.

The projectors of the Formosan Railway are said to be divided into two sections, one favouring the immediate dissolution of the Company; the other seeking to postpone that result as long as possible. The former section is headed by Messrs. Shibusawa, Okura, and Imamura; the latter, by Messrs. Ono, Matsuki, and Manaka. After five postponements of the date fixed by the charter for the commencement of building operations, it certainly does seem that the Company should step out of the arena. The project was taken up originally at the suggestion of Marquis Ito, after his visit to the island, and was warmly promoted by the Government, a guarantee of 6 per cent. being given as well as important facilities and valuable concessions. But the people of Japan have no money just now which they can afford to invest on such terms. There is nothing for it but to transfer the undertaking to official hands. Baron Kodama, the Governor-General, is said to have foreseen that issue for some time, and to have caused plans and estimates to be prepared. The chief of the civil section, Mr. Goto, is to bring the documents to Tokyo soon, and on their receipt a bill will be drafted seeking Parliamentary consent to convert the enterprise into a State project. The capital required is 30 million *yen*, and it will probably be obtained by the sale of bonds. The *Nippon*, never averse to putting a bad construction on events, alleges that the reluctance of Messrs. Ono, Matsuki, and their followers to abandon the undertaking is due to the difficulty they foresee in winding up the accounts satisfactorily. The three thousand shareholders have already paid up 385,000 *yen*, and three hundred of them have furnished an additional sum of 15,000 for expenses of promotion. All that money, says the *Nippon*, has not remained intact, and the day of settling is anticipated with some trepidation. We find it hard to credit our contemporary's insinuation.

THE WEALTH OF JAPAN.

There never yet has been published any detailed estimate of the wealth of Japan, highly interesting as such an investigation must be. Two or three times we have attempted to make approximations in these columns, but we could never claim to have made any exhaustive research. The last number of the *Tōhō* contains the first minute table hitherto compiled. It is signed "Onjōji Kyōshi," and the method adopted is that of the English political economist Mulhall. We translate the statement in full:—

I.—PRIVATE LANDS.

	Area, in acres.	Value, in yen.
Wet fields	6,870,357	2,207,894,142
Dry fields	5,723,560	507,235,012
Building lands	953,067	284,605,008
Salt fields	16,920	3,661,006
Forests	18,288,225	48,506,124
Moors and Pastures ...	2,685,687	4,763,466
Marshes, Ponds, &c. ...	51,982	2,131,544
Total	34,589,798	3,058,796,320

With regard to this table, we may observe that the valuations seem altogether too low. Rice lands are put down at 321 *yen* an acre, or 80 *yen* a *tan*, whereas the average market price is probably 250 *yen* a *tan*; dry fields are valued at 89 *yen* an acre, or 22 *yen* a *tan*, which is curiously cheap; building land stands at 298 *yen* an acre, a figure smaller than that for rice-growing land; and forests are reckoned at only 2.60 *yen* per acre. Surely it is a flagrant error to suppose that the building land throughout the empire averages only 25 *sen* per *tsubo*, and the forest land only seven shillings an acre! Proceeding with the tables:—

II.—LANDS IN POSSESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

	Area in acres.	Value in Yen.
Moors	18,411,360 / 29,561,372	48,605,990 / 52,028,015
Land attached to the various offices ...	287,483,460	20,174,732
Total...	335,456,192	120,808,737
Mines...		347,480,700
Grand Total of Lands and Mines		3,527,085,739

III.—LIVE STOCK.

Cattle	1,136,278	Number.	17,068,031
Horses	1,530,603	"	37,470,692
Fowl	4,485,290	"	995,734
Various...			1,000,000
Total			59,896,727

HOUSES AND BUILDINGS.

	No. of Houses, &c.	
Private Dwellings ...	7,884,263	788,426,300
Other Buildings		262,808,766
Official Buildings (area *tsubo*	1,198,964	31,332,050
Total...		1,082,567,116

It will be observed that the average value of private dwellings is put at 100 *yen*, and that official buildings are estimated at 26 *yen* per *tsubo*.

IV.—HOUSE FURNITURE AND FITTINGS.

Total Value... ... ... Yen 541,283,558

V.—RAILWAYS.

	Mileage.	Value in Yen.
State Railways	593	43,703,046
Private Railways	1,697	71,223,473
Trams		1,245,300
Total...		116,171,819

VI.—SHIPS.

	Tons.	
Steamers	213,221	21,606,395
Sailing ships	41,471	912,362
Junks (2,960,887 *koku*)...		5,921,774
Total...		28,440,531

VIII.—MERCHANDISE. Yen.

Wholesale goods	196,056,000
Retail goods	202,738,302
Miscellaneous	29,582,840
Total...	428,380,142

VIII.—SPECIE.

Gold Coins and Bullion	31,510,800
Silver Coins and Bullion	29,712,601
Gold Coins in circulation	5,480,000
Silver Coins in circulation	52,610,000
Specie otherwise held	20,407,800
Total...	139,721,201

IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Miscellaneous	1,974,515,611

X.—RECAPITULATION.

Lands	3,527,085,739
Live Stock	59,896,722
Buildings	1,082,567,116
Furniture and Fittings	541,283,558
Railways	116,171,819
Shipping	28,440,531
Merchandise	428,380,142
Specie and Bullion...	139,721,201
Miscellaneous	1,974,515,611
Grand Total	7,898,062,444

The above figures are based on statistics for 1894 and 1895. In our opinion, the value of lands should be nearly doubled, and that of buildings increased by fifty per cent. It is worth noting that Giffen's estimate of the wealth of the United Kingdom in 1875 was 8,548 millions of pounds sterling, or over ten times the figure for Japan. On the whole, a *yen* in Japan is approximately the representative of a sovereign in England.

MARQUIS ITO IN CHINA.

From Mr. Ooka Ikuzo, the well-known member of the Diet, who accompanies Marquis Ito on his Chinese trip, there have come to the *Chuo Shimbun* some interesting notes. It appears that the Marquis, after having been received at Taku and escorted to Tientsin by a party of officials, was invited to dine with the Viceroy of Chihli on the 12th ultimo. An equipage—the familiar sedan chair—came from the Viceroy's *Yamén* to carry the Marquis, under a strong escort of soldiers. The dinner was in the Hall of Medicine, presumably at the College, and is described as a very brilliant affair. Marquis Ito was met by the Viceroy at the gate, and, as he stepped out of his vehicle, the troops, of whom a large force was drawn up, presented arms. All the prominent personages in Tientsin were present at the dinner, including Mr. Yuan Shi-kai, the celebrated Chinese Resident in Sōul before the war, and General Nieh Tsz-ching, of Pyong-yang fame. The sight of these gentlemen suggested some embarrassment to the Japanese guests. But the Chinese soon showed that they had completely laid aside all umbrage in connexion with that time. In fact, their eyes have been opened to much larger issues, for Kiao-chou and Port Arthur have shown them the absolute necessity of preparing to avert the calamities that threaten the Empire's integrity. They recognise, therefore, that in the course pursued by Japan lies the only chance of safety, and instead of counting this country an enemy, they entertain towards it strong feelings of friendship, and are desirous of profiting by its example. Nothing could exceed the eagerness shown by every one, from the Viceroy downwards, to obtain suggestions from Marquis Ito, and His Excellency Yang related that memorials had reached him urging the advisability of inducing the Marquis to lend his valuable aid to China in the position of Adviser of the Government.

The following day, the 13th Sept., the Marquis was entertained by the Governor of Tientsin, and on the 14th he started for Peking, leaving at 11 a.m. by special train, and reaching the capital at 3 p.m. There again a most enthusiastic welcome awaited him, the same eagerness for reform being exhibited on all sides, and the same earnest inquiries addressed to him. Calling at the Tsung-li Yamén on the 15th, he met Prince Ching and three other Ministers, but, although closely questioned by them about his ideas on the subject of China's policy, he practised unwonted reticence. On his way back, he called at Li Hung-chang's residence, and Mr. Ooka gives a graphic account of the unfeigned delight shown by the old Viceroy on meeting him. Li stood outside the vestibule, supported by two attendants, and on seeing Ito, he clasped both his hands, and, looking fixedly and affectionately at him said:—

Li—Ah, I see the grey hairs have come.

Ito—Yes; I have grown terribly old.

Li—Don't say so. You seem young and hearty.

Ito—Well, after all I am 14 or 15 years younger than you. I am a child compared with you, am I not.

The Viceroy then led his visitor in, and after they had pledged each other in a glass of champagne, the conversation turned upon many subjects, Korea, China, in the latter, foreign politics,

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and other matters, all of which were discussed in the frankest manner. But of course the details are not given by Mr. Ooka. He quotes the following fragment only :—

Li—Our Emperor is very earnest in all administrative matters, and spares no effort to promote the country's interests. He gladly takes counsel with all who can be useful. People here talk about asking you to become our Prime Minister and entrusting to you the work of carrying out large national reforms. But I do not suppose that you would agree or that your Sovereign could spare you.

Ito—Such a position would be beyond my capacities. I should have no choice but to decline. But I can assure you that the ability displayed by your Emperor, and the wisdom he displays in seeking counsel excite the greatest admiration, and are a source of rejoicing to foreigners.' But experience has established the rule that clever monarchs must have clever Ministers to assist them, or they can not accomplish anything great. Who are His Majesty's advisers?

Li—Prince Bismark made a similar remark to me when I met him on the occasion of my last visit to Europe.

Ito—Yes, indeed. Bismarck was himself a conspicuous example. The Emperor William had such implicit confidence in him that the voice of even the Empress herself would not have been listened to in opposition to his.

Li—Nothing less can succeed. When that state of affairs exists, then and only then is it possible to work genuine reforms. But I am not prepared to say who are the advisers of our Emperor or whether His Majesty has any competent persons at his side.

At this point the conversation ceased to lend itself to publication. Mr. Ooka adds that the talk about getting Marquis Ito to become the Emperor's adviser does not appear to have been mere jest. It was renewed when the Chinese Ministers came to return Marquis Ito's visit. They said that if he could be induced to accept the task for a period of even three years, it would be of immense benefit not merely to China but to the East in general. They also begged that, when received in audience by the Emperor, Marquis Ito would speak without the least restraint upon all topics raised by his Majesty.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

The Japanese must be a good deal gratified to find that China is really beginning to sit at their feet for instruction in the alphabet of progress. To obtain that kind of recognition from their big neighbour has long been an object of ambition to the people of this country. They knew that for many a day China despised them; regarded them as renegade upstarts; apostates from the creed of the Orient. Four years ago, they had the satisfaction of proving to her in the most signal way, that whatever moral comfort she might derive from her conservatism, its material result had been impotence. It really was a very keen satisfaction, we imagine, and on the whole the Japanese can not be said to have been unduly inflated by it. But what the best of them hoped was to see China make practical and voluntary acknowledgement of her error, as she is now doing. We do not wish to be interpreted as predicting the renovation, the resurrection, the rejuvenation of China. There has been nothing of that kind in the case of any State since the history of the world began to be written, and the one solitary exception to the universal rule is not going to be furnished by a nation whose whole time and energy are absorbed in the grim struggle for every-day existence. But, whatever the fruit of China's new mood may be, the mood is there, in semblance at all events, and Japan would be more than human if she did not hug herself a little and chuckle softly over the news that two hundred Chinese youths are coming in the train of the new Minister to learn "how it is done." People say that when the Chinese Government made application to Japan with regard to this project, there was considerable delay in obtaining a reply, and that the Emperor Kwangsu betrayed some impatience. They say, also, that when the answer did come, it was found to be at once practical and cordial, for Japan promised not only to welcome the students, but also to pay the expenses of their education. We hope she did not do that, for it would have lacked the grace of true courtesy; but it will become her well if she can persuade her own students and young folks in general to treat the new-comers with civility, and to spare them any display of the bumptiousness and self-assertion now unfortunately forced on the attention of the *Ke-tojin* and the *Ijin-papa* in this country.

SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

In No. 75 of the Short Essays Dr. Katō is contributing to the *Taiyō*, he strongly recommends Japanese scholars to take some steps to make their writing better known in Europe and America. The University memoirs have a very limited circulation. The publication of a journal in a foreign language in Japan is at present attended with enormous difficulties. Hence Dr. Katō recommends his fellow-countrymen to make an effort to gain access to the learned magazines of Europe and the United States. The one obstacle to this is the inability to write an article in a foreign tongue that shall be entitled to rank with the literary contributions of Europeans. But this difficulty can be overcome by submitting manuscripts to the careful revision of foreigners versed in the languages in which they are written. Judging by the reception which the memoirs of the Imperial University have met with by learned societies in Europe, it is very much to be regretted, says Dr. Katō, that the names of so few Japanese are found among contributors to the pages of foreign periodicals.

In Essay 78, Dr. Katō discusses Party Cabinets, and argues that people who advocate such Cabinets here are not aware of the many evils attending them. There is nothing more oppressive and more despotic than the rule of victorious parties in certain countries. Japan is not ready for Party Cabinets, and has taken no steps to guard against the abuses to which this form of government is exposed.

In the next essay Dr. Katō dwells on the paucity of those who think independently on any subject. What is called public opinion is only the opinion of a few leaders of thought whose utterances are reiterated by the unthinking masses.

* * *

The *Kyōiku Jiron* has a good deal to say on the need of establishing closer relationship between Japan and China. The Chinese are at the present moment investigating Japanese educational methods, and it is to Japan's interest to respond to the conciliatory action of the Celestials in every way possible. The two countries have much in common. It should be Japan's ambition as the Eastern pioneer of Western civilisation to lead the Chinese into the paths of progress. In order to obtain full and reliable information on Chinese affairs, the editor of the *Kyōiku Jiron*, Mr. Tsuji Takeo, has been despatched to China, and his letters will shortly appear in the pages of the Magazine. Mr. Otori Keisuke contributes to the *Kyōiku Jiron* an article advocating the study of Chinese in Japan to a greater extent than has hitherto been the fashion. We show a remarkable want of enterprise in this particular case, says Mr. Otori. Here is a huge country, thickly populated and with endless resources, at our very doors, whose ideographs and written forms of speech are familiar to us, and yet how few of us make any attempt to master Chinese colloquially. The number of Europeans who can make themselves understood in China is very large. One reason of the backwardness of the Japanese in learning how to speak Chinese is the practice of reading the words of Chinese sentences out of their proper order. In ancient times Sorai stood forth as a strong advocate of discontinuing the habit of altering the order of the different parts of a sentence in reading Chinese. Dr. Shigeno is in favour of modern Japanese commencing to study Chinese by reading the words and interpreting them as they stand in the way that Occidentals do. The pronunciation known to the Japanese is what is called the 漢音 *Kan-on*, or the 呉音 *Go-on*. In ancient times the former was common in the north of China, the latter in the south. Both methods of pronunciation have in the lapse of ages so changed in China as not to be recognisable to the Japanese at the present time. For all the purposes of officials, says Mr. Otori, a knowledge of Mandarin is sufficient, but merchants should study one or more of the many dialects in use among traders, either the Foochow, the Shanghai, or the Amoy colloquial.

* * *

The following table prepared by Dr. Sugita Naoyoshi on the eyesight of University graduates is of sad interest :—

Department.	No. of students examined.	No of students with good sight.	Short-sighted stud'ts.	Far-sighted studts.	No. of students with various defects in sight.
Literature	201	68	128	2	3
Engineering ..	321	175	143	2	1
Medicine	132	54	75	1	2
Law	266	23	230	4	9
Science	92	37	55	0	0

* * *

In the *Tōkyō Asahi Shimbun* a writer signing himself 天外生 *Tengwaisei* draws attention to the comparative popularity of the various professions, as shown by the list of yearly graduates at the Imperial University. The following table gives the percentage of students for each subject, extending over the past five years :—

Subject.	A.D. 1894.	1895.	1896.	1897	1998.	Average.
Law	35	38	31	24	30	31
Medicine	10	11	9	10	9	10
Engineering ..	19	21	26	28	31	26
Literature ...	10	11	16	22	1	16
Science..... ...	6	8	6	16	7	7
Agriculture ...	20	11	12	6	4	10

DIVISION OF LAW STUDENTS INTO FRENCH, ENGLISH, AND GERMAN.

	A.D. 1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Total.
English Law..	28	41	54	40	48	211
French Law...	4	4	1	2	2	13
German Law..	8	11	6	1	14	40

The above figures show that in 1896 and 1897 there was a considerable decrease in Law Students, but that this year they have again increased. The figures for medicine show little fluctuation. The increase of Engineers and the decrease of scientific

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farmers are worthy of attention. Literature holds its own from year to year, being much more popular than science, whose votaries are astonishingly few. The increased interest taken in English Law during the last few years is a fact worth noting.

* * *

The Russian Language School located in Sapporo has, we observe, included Chinese as well as Russian in its curriculum. This school was founded in 1895 by Mr. Nakano Jirō. It was considerably enlarged two years later, accommodation for boarders being furnished and a spacious school—house erected. There are 74 students attending at the present time. The school staff consists of a Japanese director, a manager, and a superintendent of the teaching department, 1 Russian professor, 1 Chinese professor, 1 Japanese professor of Russian, and 3 Japanese professors of Chinese, and a number of subordinate officers.

* * *

In the *Tōkei Shūshi* appears an address of Count Okuma's on Finance and the development of the present Finance Department. We give the gist of the Count's remarks:—The term 會計 *Kaikei* is now exclusively applied to money accounts and their management, but thirty years ago it was used in a much broader sense, and included business that is now undertaken by the Home Department, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Department of Communications, and even the Department of Justice. At that time nobody in Japan knew anything of the elements of finance as it is known to-day. The art of arranging statistics was also unknown. When, in the second year of *Meiji*, I began to pay attention to the subject, my first efforts to obtain from the *daimyō* reliable figures as to products, population, taxes, &c., were failures. The Government of that time was almost solely dependent on land taxes for its revenue. Even in the great cities there were no such things as municipal taxes. There were what were called 冥加金 *myōgakin*, or thank-offerings, which, being voluntary, were very uncertain. The taxes were paid in rice, and the quantity received depended on the crop. In no two years was the revenue at the disposal of the government alike. The money realised was divided into 12 parts, and thus the expenses of administration were met month by month. But in the year in which intercalary months occurred the Government was often in great straits, no adequate provision having been made for the extra month. With the change in the calendar came the régulation that all taxes were to be paid in money. It was a long time before we decided on the best method of arranging statistics. We consulted several Americans on the subject, and at last began to see our way. An office called the 統計寮, *Tōkeiryō*, was established in the third year of *Meiji*; but its methods were not such as would meet with approval now. When Mr. Kido went to Europe as ambassador he succeeded in obtaining the services of Mr. Mayet, to whose labours the Department of Finance was immensely indebted in later years. It may be said that Mr. Mayet's arrival and advice marked the commencement of the modern era of finance in Japan.

* * *

Mr. Fukuchi Genichirō, whose *nom de plume* is Ochi Koji, contributes to No. 272 of the *Kokumin-no-tomo* an article entitled *Kokutai, Shakai Shugi*, the National Constitution and Society. With those who think that there is anything irreconcilable between the principle of nationalism and society, Mr. Fukuchi does not agree. As regards the Japanese Constitution, though nominally the Emperor has always had supreme power, in all times this power has been limited, and the actual administration has been in the hands of ministers. These wielders of the real power of government, briefly enumerated, were the houses of Fujiwara, Taira, Minamoto, Ashikaga, Toyotomi, Tokugawa, and the Satsuma and Chōshū Clans. Now they have been succeeded by the Constitutionalists. None of the forms of government that have been devised can be said to be exactly suited to the constitution of Japanese society. There are those who think that Parliamentary government like that of England will suit Japan, but such is not my opinion, says Mr. Fukuchi.

Coming to the structure of Japanese society, Mr. Fukuchi argues that though there is not such a wide difference between the rich and the poor as exists in many other countries, the poor have invariably been oppressed by the rich. In the future, legislation must pay more attention to the improvement of society generally, and the development of government must proceed side by side with the amelioration of the condition of the large population of the empire.

* * *

It is stated in the *Gwaikō-jihō*, of which Dr. Ariga is the Editor, that Doctors Tomii and Motono have translated 3 section, containing 734 articles, of the Japanese Civil Code into French, and that the work was issued in Paris last March. They have appended to the translation a history of Japanese Law. This work, combined with Dr. Lönholm's valuable English translation, says the *Gwaikō-jihō*, will help to prepare the way for the easy operation of the new Treaties.

To the *Osaka Mainichi* Mr. Hara Kei, the editor, a few months ago contributed a long series of articles, extending over seven or eight weeks, on Japan's relations with foreigners and preparation for mixed residence. Last May these articles were issued in book form, and sold so rapidly that the third edition of the work appeared on July 19th. The articles are written in a popular style, and the views advanced are of a liberal type. The introduction of foreign capital is recommended, and it is urged that permission be given to foreigners to hold land in their own names.

* * *

Increased attention is being given to Japan's relations with foreign countries and to the rapid extension of Western Powers in Eastern lands. Mr. Nakagawa Seijirō has published a work entitled 西力東漸史 *Seiryoku Tōzenshi*, "A History of the advance of Western power in the East," which covers 570 pages and is pronounced by the *Kokumin-no-tomo* to be the best work on the subject that has appeared. The title is somewhat misleading, as Mr. Nakagawa by no means confines himself to the doings of Occidentals. He discusses Japan's foreign relations very thoroughly, giving an historical account of her connection with Western countries and sketching the rôle that she ought to endeavour to play in the near future. In the opinion of the *Kokumin-no-tomo* Mr. Nakagawa's work differs from such volumes as the *Hirado Boyeki-shi*, the *Kodai Shōgyō-shi* and the 內政外教衝突史, *Naisei Gaikyō-Shōtotsu-shi* (The Friction between Home Government and Foreign Religions). These histories are confined to special aspects of Japan's foreign intercourse, while Mr. Nakagawa's work traverses the whole subject in a most thorough manner. The *Seiryoku Tōzenshi* sells at 70 sen per copy at the Shunyōdō, Tōkyō.

* * *

Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō, in an interview with one of the staff of the *Taiyō*, is represented as giving utterance to the following opinion on Oriental ethical teaching:—Although some very fine religions have sprung out of Eastern soil, as regards Buddhism and Confucianism, it may be said that they are defective in not laying stress on the importance of public-spiritedness. This is a characteristic of Brahminism as well. Throughout the whole of India there is no such thing as public spirit. The reason of the omission of this virtue from the ethical systems of the East is apparent. By Buddhism the world is regarded as defiled and defiling; hence its doctrine is that each individual should endeavour to separate himself from it as much as possible. But the Japanese as a people have more public spirit than is taught by the religions they have espoused. Sacrifices for the State and the public good are very common. In the moral education of the future great attention should be paid to the cultivation of a public spirit. It is most essential that the influence of the strong individualism taught by the creeds should be counteracted.

* * *

Count Soejima has published a work called *Seihin Kyōiku*, the "Education of the Mind," which sells at 60 *sen* per copy at the Seishikwan, Tsukiji, Tōkyō. The Count some little time ago delivered a course of lectures on Japanese national characteristics and the best method of developing the inherent powers of the race. These lectures were taken down as delivered and are now given to the public in book form.

The *Rikugō Zasshi* has a good deal to say on this volume. It points out that the educational agencies enumerated by Count Soejima do not include Christianity and Western Science, both of which have played no mean rôle in moulding the minds of leading men in modern times. Count Soejima has not even traced the effects of Buddhism and Confucianism on the native mind. The foundation of his system is certainly lacking in stability. He assumes the existence of the gods and the immortality of the soul, and treats man as the lord of creation. As a protest against the materialism of the age this is to be commended, says the *Rikugō*, but it is to be regretted that Count Soejima did not select a more scientific basis for his theory of mental development. The *Rikugō Zasshi*, however, writes favourably of some parts of the work. Specially does it commend the manner in which blind sectarian bigotry is condemned and shown to be contrary to the traditional instincts of the best class of Japanese. In order to illustrate what is the general sentiment on this subject the Count relates the following story. In ancient times there was in Hizen a brave knight called Nabeshima Heigorō, who belonged to the Nichiren Sect. On being

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informed by a priest, one day, that all who did not belong to the Nichiren sect would go to hell, Nabeshima at once said that he wished to leave the sect and enter the Zenshū. On being asked the reason he replied that since his lord and master belonged to the latter sect, he, his master, would go to hell and confront the great Emma in the land of shades. He, Nabeshima, could not think of allowing his master to stand alone at that critical moment. Together had he and his master lived, and in death they should not be divided.

* * *

The *Shakai Zasshi* publishes a long article signed "Mushikian," entitled *Shinhōten to Nihon Kokumin*, "The new Codes and the Japanese People." The tone of the article is one of regret that so much outrage has been done to Japanese customs and rules of life in the new Codes. The first part of the article is historical. The various collections of laws in ancient times are noticed in order. From the dawn of history down to the end of the Tokugawa era Japanese laws were kept free from foreign elements.* But the revised laws (*Kaitei Ritsurei*) published early in the Meiji era were to a considerable extent founded on foreign Codes. "Mushikian" maintains that under foreign law crime has increased in Japan and morality degenerated. The reason assigned for this is that the old laws of Japan being based on the traditional instincts and inherited sentiments of the people, compliance with them was comparatively easy, but the newly imported laws in many cases are quite strange, if not distasteful, to the minds of the people. There is all the difference in the world between a nation which practices virtue from custom, law or no law, and whose laws embody deeply seated notions of right and wrong, and a nation that has grown to think that written laws are the only laws that need be observed and that any amount of vice may be committed so long as it does not bring the perpetrator within the clutches of the written law. This is the difference that separates the present generation of Japanese from their pre-Meiji forefathers. In modern times it is most common for parents and children and brothers to go to law against each other—conduct almost unknown in former times. It is a thing of everyday occurrence to find two men disputing and unable to agree, because one quotes the law and the other moral usage. One will say, "According to our Japanese custom it is wrong to do such and such a thing." To which the other replies, "A fig for your customs; the Law allows me to do it, and I mean to exercise my rights." This is one of the most serious of the consequences of our adopting laws that are not based on national customs.

Another particular in which modern Japanese differ from their predecessors on which "Mushikian" dwells is in the amount of general knowledge of the laws under which modern Japanese live. In ancient times it was never intended that any but the administrators of the laws should comprehend them. Take that noted collection called the *Teiyei-shikimoku* (A.D. 1232) promulgated in Hojō Yasutoki's time. It was written in stiff Chinese, which no peasant could understand. The same may be said of the 南朝法制 *Nanchō-hōsei* (The Law of the Southern Court;† and of the *Kemmu Shikimoku* (A.D. 1336). In the Tokugawa days 4 bodies of laws were in constant use known as (1) the 公武法制 *Kōbu-hōsei*, "The Law for Court Nobles and Military retainers;" (2) The 公家法度 *Kugehatto*, "The Law for Court Nobles;" (3) The *Buke Sho* (諸) *hō* "The Law for Military Retainers;" and (4) The 僧家法度 *Sōke hatto*, "Law for Priests." But not even the persons whom they most concerned knew anything of their contents. But at the present time there is a very widespread interest in the provisions of the new code, and in hundreds of instances before taking action merchants and others are careful to inquire into the laws which affect the transaction they contemplate. It is the progress of education that has made this possible. But the evil connected with this state of affairs is a readiness on the part of people to rush into lawsuits to an extent hitherto unknown.

The *Shakai Zasshi* has some comments on newspaper and magazine writing which are worth transcribing:—The devotion of space to short comments on current events has become a feature of provincial as well as metropolitan papers. In Tōkyō the *Nichi Nichi* has its *Kinji Hempen*, the *Asahi* its *Kōjinroku*,‡ the *Yomiuri* its *Hagakishū*, the *Mainichi* its *Dajare Hagaki*, the *Jiji* its *Ippitsu Mōshiagesōrō*, the *Nippon* its *Bonkotsubō no Chōmen*, and the *Yorozu Chōhō* its *Suntetsu*. For Chinese verses on current events the *Nichi Nichi*, the *Mainichi*, and the *Yorozu Chōhō* are the most noted.

Coming to magazines, the *Nippon jin* for many years has kept on its even way, and has discussed the political questions of the day with a freshness and thoroughness that is quite exceptional.

The *Keisai Zasshi* for the past 12 years has not degenerated in any way. Its utterances are those of mature and well-informed minds.

Among new magazines the *Gaikō Jihō*, occupies a high position. Its articles are usually signed and show great research. On the subject of foreign intercourse there is nothing to compare with this periodical.

The new *Kokumin-no-Tomo*, a monthly magazine resting on the ashes of the *Far East* and the *Katei Zasshi*, though increased in size, lacks spirit.

The *Waseda Bungaku* retains its modesty of tone and mildness of spirit, and is very carefully edited and most reliable.

The writers for the *Taiyō* are principally men belonging to the staff of the magazine. The illustrations of this periodical attract more attention than its articles, but among the large amount of material that it collects there is much that is worth reading.

Though the *Tōkyō Dokuritsu Zasshi* is only 20 pages in length and is regarded by some as a mere channel for the outlet of the wrath of Mr. Uchimura Kanzō, it is a necessity of the age in which we live.

The new political party has started a magazine called the *Kensei-tō Tōhō* (憲報). It is in all respects exactly like the old *Shimpō-tō Tōhō*. But this latter paper paper was always miles ahead of the *Jiyū-tō Tōhō*.

Since Tōkyō has become the headquarters of the *Hansei Zasshi* this magazine has grown very prosperous. Supported as it is by the Otani brothers, it can afford to pay good writers.

The *Ten-chi-jin*, as its title indicates, covers a very wide area. Mr. Takahashi Gorō, its editor, is extremely active. The publication is full of valuable matter. Nevertheless it is not appreciated as it ought to be. The mass of readers are by no means good judges of the real merits of the journals offered for sale.

Among Buddhist magazines the *Bukkyō* and the 十善寶窟 *Jūsen-hōkutsu* are the only ones worthy of special mention.

The *Rikugō Zasshi* discusses serious subjects only. It is more literary than political. Its articles on economy are written with ease and are free from bias, but we regret to say fail to attract much attention.

The *Kyūbakufu* has more material at its disposal than it knows what to do with. Its sale is large. Its editor, Mr. Togawa, is perhaps better versed in Bakufu affairs than any one living. Then come Messrs. Katsu, Tanabe, Fukuchi, and Kimura. When these men die, who will be left to write the history of the Bakufu?

The *Shinseiki* is an organ of the Protestant orthodox party, and, under the editorship of Mr. Kosaki, has a good deal to say to young men. No very striking opinions are expressed on current events. Its tone is unassuming. It can only be regarded as the young man's friend.

In the *Nihon Shugi*, omitting comments on passing events, the articles most deserving attention are from the pen of Dr. Motora, entitled "A talk on Middle Class Education and Ethics."

The *Kokkai Zasshi* has become much more serious than it used to be. The *Tetsugaku Zasshi* has of late been publishing articles by new writers. A year and a half ago its items of news were well worth perusal, but it only takes half an eye to see that of late the magazine has greatly fallen off. The *Dainihon Kangoku Kyōkai Zasshi* and the *Kangoku Zasshi* both discuss prison reform and kindred subjects; the latter seems to be the best supplied with material suitable for publication.

* The fact of large importations from China is overlooked here.—(*Writer of the Summary.*)

† The reference is to the divided empire consequent on the rebellion of Ashikaga. The Southern Emperor was the rightful sovereign.

‡ Kōjin—red dust, literally. The term is applied to scraps of news, to the 101 trifles of life.

THE AMERICANS AT MANILA.

AGUINALDO GIVES WAY.

The United States gunboat *Petrel*, which arrived at Hongkong from Manila on Sept. 19th, reports that Aguinaldo has complied with the ultimatum of General Otis and that collision with the Americans and the insurgents has thus been avoided. One of the insurgent chiefs, however, stationed at Pasay, declined to remove his troops at the time that Aguinaldo removed his, and Aguinaldo, knowing what would be the outcome of his officer's stubbornness, asked General Otis for three or four days' grace so that he might commune with the man and endeavour to get him to listen to reason. Apparently there is some prospect of the differences between the Americans and the natives being satisfactorily arranged, for a correspondent at Manila writes:—"The natives are very friendly towards the Americans, and simply delighted with the prospect of becoming Americanos. Vessels which a few weeks ago flew the insurgent flag are now adorned with the Stars and Stripes." Apparently, however, the American soldiers in Manila are heartily sick of the place, and would be only too glad to hear that they had been ordered to return home.—*Daily Press.*

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

Now that a general idea has been obtained of the Budget for 1899 1900, the theory that the Government's programme of military expansion is disproportionate to the nation's resources seems to be gaining strength. The *Mainichi Shimbun* has never ceased to insist on the necessity of reducing the dimensions of the programme, but hitherto it has been a voice crying in the wilderness, for no one seemed to endorse, or even attend to, its views. But the *Yomiuri* has now embraced the same cause, and the *Yomiuri's* adherence is significant, for whereas the *Mainichi* represents the doctrines only of the section led by Mr. Shimada Saburo, the *Yomiuri* is supposed to be in touch with the Constitutional Party in general. We are bound to say, however, that the attitude of the *Yomiuri* has greatly perplexed us of late. It is controlled by Mr. Takata Sanaye, who holds high office in the Department of Education. Yet it writes almost as though it were an Opposition journal, and goes even to the length of directly attacking Count Okuma's foreign policy. Perhaps, therefore, its adoption of the armament reduction doctrine does not mean so much as might be supposed at first sight. Concerning the arguments advanced by these journals, there is little to be said. They take the line that the limit of the economies which can be effected by administrative reform is one or two million *yen*, whereas by cutting into the Army's appropriations a reduction of several millions can be at once effected. In short, the root of the present financial difficulty is in excessive military expansion, and no amount of paring and pruning in other directions can place the finances on a solid basis. There is no doubt that the policy of withdrawing the Army and Navy from the general purview of the Cabinet tends to strengthen the hands of the anti-expansionists by creating a feeling of umbrage and discontent. That sentiment seems, indeed, to be the real inspiration of the *Yomiuri's* writing, for it calls upon the various sections of the Constitutional Party to lay aside their petty squabbles and join forces for a united assault upon the Army and Navy. "If the two services are to remain as they are now, it would be better to dissolve the Constitutional Party at once and abandon all idea of responsible cabinets." That is the very extreme position taken by our contemporary. Its chief object, of course, is to substitute party politicians for the present holders of the military and naval portfolios, but its writing seems also to be permeated by a strong undercurrent of dissent from the magnitude of the Army appropriations.

* * *

It is the conclusion of the *Mainichi Shimbun* that the spirit which animates aspirants for official posts in Japan is entirely wrong. They regard office much as a merchant regards his business, namely, as a source of income and a means of livelihood; whereas their true object ought to be the service of the State. No man should consider himself qualified for a high administrative position until he has acquired a fortune sufficient to render him entirely independent of the emoluments of office. That is the rule practically observed in England. Harcourt was making fifteen thousand pounds sterling at the bar when he entered political life, and he was rich enough to give up his legal practice and become a public servant. Chamberlain also was a man of wealth before he accepted office, and Cobden had ample means from the first. Such a state of affairs is ideal. Perhaps it is too soon to expect anything of the kind in Japan. In the meanwhile, however, let there be an end of all the foolish talk about balancing power and dividing prizes between parties, and let men be chosen for office with regard solely to their fitness. The place-hunting fever had its origin in the appointment of persons entirely without claims to such distinction. Seeing that not fitness but favour was the basis of choice, men who otherwise would never have entertained any serious aspirations, began to think that they too should have a chance, and so the mania grew.

* * *

Some very serious complaints are urged in the columns of the *Jiji Shimpo* against the new Civil Code. An anonymous writer, who calls himself a barrister, alleges that, in the first place, the Code having been somewhat hastily framed to meet the requirements of foreign policy, is, in many respects, opposed to the customs of the country, and these, therefore, furnish no guide to its interpretation. On the other hand, the text lacks explicitness, and often lends itself to two or three renderings, in which respect it compares unfavourably with M. Boissonade's draft, the latter being very minute and drafted with wonderful prescience of contingencies. The only hope for the satisfactory administration of the new Code is that authoritative precedents should be established as quickly as possible. But unfortunately authoritative precedents do not accumulate in Japan. The seven Courts of Appeal have final jurisdiction in many classes of cases, and they give their decisions quite independently of each other, so that suitors do not know which of the various judgments rendered should be deemed conclusive. It is simply a question of chance. The lower tribunals, also, show a strong disposition to interpret the Code without much reference to decisions rendered by the Supreme Court or the Appeal Courts. The public are consequently quite perplexed, and law-suits are multiplying at an alarming rate. Such are the views of the writer in the *Jiji*. They would be disquieting were they not obviously premature. The new Civil Code has not yet been three months in operation, and it is plainly quite impossible that its operation can have furnished experiences sufficient to warrant such criticism. We shall not be wrong, probably, if we judge the critic to be one of those who, having been connected with the drafting of the first Code, are prejudiced against the Code that supplants it.

* * *

The Specie Bank is the object of an uncompromising attack in the *Mainichi Shimbun*. No less than four long articles are devoted to the assault. Their gist can be easily stated. In the first place and before everything, the Bank is charged with utter subservience to officialdom. Its largest shareholders are the Bank of Japan and the Imperial Household, and every recommendation having an official cachet is accepted by the management without query. No matter how unqualified a person may be, if he is put forward by the Finance Department or the Bank of Japan, he is sure of an appointment in the Specie Bank. Out of the Bank's available funds, ten millions are lent to it by the Nippon Ginko at 2 per cent., and it takes very good care not to offend such a benefactor. On the other hand, its treatment of the public is almost scandalous. For remitting money within the limits of Japan, it charges 30 *sen* per 1,000 *yen*, whereas other Banks perform the same service for 3 *sen* for the first thousand *yen* and 1 *sen* for every additional thousand. Similar extortion marks its action with regard to foreign bills. It buys at the selling price and sells at the buying, charging a small commission, indeed, but putting its hand into people's pockets in both ways. The consequence is that every Japanese merchant acquainted with the English language avoids the Specie Bank and repairs to the Hongkong and Shanghai. It behaves most unfairly to Japanese emigrants in Hawaii and America. They have necessarily to remit money through the Bank, but until the sums deposited reach a certain figure, they are not sent over, and meanwhile the Bank does not allow any interest on them. Finally it buys the gold in America and Hawaii at rates most severe to the sellers, and, in short, exploits them all round. There is a great deal more about the Bank's arbitrary method of treating forenoon and afternoon balances; about the lazy, perfunctory habits of its employés, and about its general indifference to the convenience of the public, the final conclusion being that the institution is a kind of "asnate for superannuted *protegés* of the Finance Department" (*Okuratho no rokiu-sha no genroin*). This is not the first crusade made by the *Mainichi* against the Specie Bank.

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The meeting of prison officials at the Department of Home Affairs has attracted some attention. Journalistic opinion is plainly in favour of Count Itagaki's proposed reforms, but there is a feeling that to carry them out at once in their entirety would involve an outlay which the Treasury can not easily face. The system called *kojin-teki gushu-ho*, or individual treatment, will certainly be forthwith adopted, but the system of separate cells (*bumbo sei*) will have to be carried out more gradually. The *Nippon* says that the draft bill submitted by Count Itagaki to the meeting about the treatment of foreign prisoners provoked considerable discussion. It was finally approved, however. It provides that foreigners shall receive special consideration to whatever extent is necessary for the preservation of their health (*kenko wo iji seshimuru no teido ni oite sōtō no shinshaku*), but that they may be gradually familiarized with Japanese methods of living. The latter reservation will doubtless be viewed askance by many persons.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpo* takes a highly unfavourable view of the trouble between the Minister of Justice and the Chief Public Procurator. It says that the question would have been settled long ago had not the Prime Minister been anxious to avoid the embarrassment of having another portfolio to dispose of. It says, also, that the Liberals have greatly complicated matters. Intensely chagrined at their failure to obtain either the principal or the second place in the Foreign Office, they have set their hearts upon getting the portfolio of Justice for one of their people, and have accordingly persuaded the Ministers of War and of the Navy to join them in voting against Mr. Ohigashi, whom they hope to drive out of office. Appended to this severe judgment there is an explanation of the comparatively small strength of the Progressists for purposes of resistance, since their two principal sections—the old *Kaishin-to* and the *Kakushin-to*—have never really coalesced, and since the Shimada section has now raised a turbulent head. But we spare our readers any recapitulation of these weary analyses.

* * *

Turning to the question of foreign politics, the most remarkable article we find is a vehement crusade in the *Nippon* against Germany. It call Germany the enemy of peace, basing the charge on her behaviour towards America at the Philippines and on her seizure of Kiao-chou. Her proceedings at Manila admit of no defence, in the *Nippon's* opinion, and the United States, whose conduct has the sympathy and applause of the civilized world, has rightly demanded an explanation. As for her seizure of Kiao-chou, it inflicted a serious injury, not on China alone, but also on Japan and, in truth, on all nations. Germany is swayed by a spirit of aggressive aggrandisement and her methods of pursuing her aim are startlingly arbitrary. She is inflated with success and spurred by pride. Why do not the nations of the Occident combine to restrain her? If they really desired peace, they would recognise the necessity of controlling its principal enemy. There was no occasion to wait for the Czar's invitation to concert measures of tranquillity. We need scarcely remind our readers that the *Nippon* is the *Nippon*. Its columns are capital reading, full of vehemence and superlatively outspoken, but we should never go to them for an exposition of sober public opinion.

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The *Jiji* has a really delightful article about the birth of a progressive spirit in China. For centuries the world's teacher, the leader of the van of civilization, China, in her old age, is obliged to become a pupil. Who can fail to sympathise with her necessity or to applaud her courage. She is coming to Japan for help, Japan who has played the part of taster and is now able to declare that the viands are not poisonous. Japan must treat her with all courtesy

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and deference. Japan is but one step ahead of her neighbour: a short forty years comprises the whole of her reforms. The victory that she gained over China in war was a fortunate mistake (*kega no kômyô*), and that she should be applauded for it by foreign nations only makes her feel ashamed. She owes China an immense debt of gratitude. She has received innumerable and invaluable benefits at the hands of her neighbour, and an opportunity now offers for repaying a small fraction of them. What, then, should be China's method of procedure? It appears to be very generally supposed that she should have a new Government, and that officialdom should take the lead in all the reform movements, just as officialdom did in Japan, carrying the nation forward with breathless rapidity. Surely that is a great mistake? If the two nations did not differ radically in anything else, their enormous disparity of size would alone suffice to forbid their adoption of the same method. China is to Japan as an elephant to a dog. The huge animal must adapt its movements to its bulk. Japan has made one great mistake in a cognate matter. She tried to apply her own fashion of quick reform to Korea's case, and she failed signally. When the students which China intends to send arrive in Japan, they ought to be confined, as far as possible, to technical and scientific courses, and should not be allowed to fill their heads with political theories, which only breed a fever in the blood and, by imparting to them the character of revolutionists, would incapacitate them for playing a really useful part on their return home. Japan must spare no pains to help her neighbour. China has been teacher in the past, and it is now the pupil's turn to aid the teacher. We need scarcely say that this article was published before the receipt of the news about the administrative revolution in Peking.

YOKOHAMA CHORAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama Choral Society was held on Tuesday evening at the Van Schaick Hall, Mr. J. T. Griffin presiding.

The CHAIRMAN briefly recalled the proceedings of the last meeting, the minutes being unavailable; and the HON. SECRETARY (the Rev. E. S. Booth) made a brief statement to the effect that as far as the last season was concerned there were three attempts at practices, but they were without success; and finally the attempt was abandoned for want of people to take part.

Mr. H. SHARP said when he took over the Hon. Treasurership from Mr. Walford there was a balance of *yen* 91.48, which had since been reduced by the payment of *yen* 10.50 for insurance.

The CHAIRMAN then said a few words with reference to the programme for the coming season. He said some members of the musical community had asked him whether it would be possible to obtain the services as conductor of the Society of Mr. Junker, a prominent musician who was on a lengthened tour for the sake of his health, and who proposed to spend the winter in Yokohama. It was suggested that with this gentleman as conductor they could give comic opera and other pieces under his direction. He (Mr. Griffin) replied to these gentlemen that as president of the Society he could not pledge it, and he recommended them to attend that meeting and put forth their views on the matter. Since then he had received further information and had found it was the wish of a certain number of the musical community to engage under Mr. Junker whether the Society took the matter up or not. Mr. Junker of course wanted a monthly salary, and he had been guaranteed that for six months by a syndicate that had been formed. In return Mr. Junker would give some three or four concerts. He (Mr. Griffin) for his own part thought it would not be well for the Society to pledge itself to anything of the kind, and he would recommend that they should agree to stand aside for the present season to give Mr. Junker a free course; let him and his friends do all they could. It would of course be quite in order for any members to join the choir, and he thought it would be the best plan for them to do so. They would not be incurring any risk or binding themselves as a society. He would willingly join himself, but that was impossible, as Mr. Junker only wanted ladies.

Mr. FRASER, the SECRETARY and the TREASURER expressed approval of the plan, the Secretary adding that it was certain that the Society was not in a position to give any financial help.

The CHAIRMAN embodying his views in a resolution, it was seconded by Mr. SHARP and carried, and the meeting ended.

THE ANGLO GERMAN UNDERSTANDING.

There is much talk in the American papers reaching Japan by the Canadian Mail concerning the reported Anglo-German alliance. It does not, however, bear exactly the look of authenticity, and evidently those pests of serious newspaper readers—the descriptive reporter and the interviewer—have been inventing much more than they actually ascertained. For instance, the New York *Tribune* publishes a statement to the effect that "Joseph Chamberlain" (it appears to be *de rigueur* in an American paper to refer to a public man in that rudely democratic fashion) had "frankly said to a *Tribune* reporter that the treaty with Germany had been signed." Mr. Chamberlain also "made it clear that the English Government favours the retention of the Philippines by the United States." When asked as to the opinion he held regarding the most advantageous course which the United States could pursue respecting the Philippines, he replied "diplomatically," "However much I would like to talk upon this matter, I must not do so, for the simple reason that anything I might say in that direction might seem like giving advice or suggestion to the United States by a foreign statesman—and that, besides being invidious, would be imperti nent." And then he commenced, according to this interviewer, a rambling, inconsequential conversation on things in general, the West Indies, the views of European Powers as to a possible British-American alliance, and so forth. This of course must be pure invention. We cannot admire Mr. Chamberlain's "new diplomacy" as instanced in his famous Birmingham speech, but it is incredible to think that even Mr. Chamberlain amuses himself by chatting to a penny-a-liner representing a New York paper on matters of State importance.

Discounting these very positively expressed but transparently untruthful stories, however, there appears to be something in the talk over an understanding between the two Powers. A London telegram of a more sober description says that Germany and England are supposed to have come to an understanding on all African questions. In February, 1895, Germany made a formal claim upon Lord Kimberley, the British Foreign Secretary, for the maintenance of the *status quo* in South Africa, the special object being to protect the Transvaal from British control. Germany would, it is said, now withdraw absolutely from the claim and leave Great Britain a completely free hand in South Africa. Steps necessary for England's acquisition, by amicable arrangements with Portugal, of part of Mozambique would also receive the assent of Germany, who would, too, recognize the permanence of the British occupation of Egypt, when, next year, England will asks Europe for a curtailment of the jurisdiction of the mixed tribunals. As a *quid pro quo*, Germany asks for a settlement of the frontier in Togoland. The neutral zone, called Dagombiland, between Ashantiland and Togoland, would be divided, giving Germany the bulk of the zone. Further, assent would be given to the arrangement which the German Emperor expected to make with the Sultan during his visit to the Holy Land, to facilitate the German colonization of Asia Minor. A statement is also made that England and Germany have agreed upon the joint creation of a railway through the German sphere of Shang-tung, China, to the British sphere of the Yang-tze Valley, but this cannot be confirmed. So far we have seen no quotation on the subject from any journal of real authority.

MR. ROBERTON'S PICTURES.

There are probably many in Yokohama and Tokyo who admire good landscape painting, and not a few to whom an opportunity of enriching their own collections of pictures will be welcome. These would do well to pay a visit to Keil's Building, where Mr. A. J. Roberton is giving an exhibition of water and oil colours. Mr. Roberton is an artist to the finger tips, and his work is marked by a touch of distinction that many industrious landscape painters painfully lack. It is not mere photography in colours, and the smallest of the sketches has an individuality of its own. In his studies of Japan, both of scenes in the vicinity of Yokohama, and the more impressive neighbourhood of Nikko, he has seized with admirable results the essential features of Japanese scenery; the shimmering tremulous blue of sky and sea are reproduced admirably in the sketches of Negishi and Mississipi bay, while the dark masses of mountain and foliage characteristic of the hill resort are caught by a no less happy inspiration. Nature in her sterner aspects is seen in the landscapes of the Himalayas and in several fine pictures of the English Lake District, but perhaps the gems of the collection are studies of the delightful scenery of Surrey and Kent. Those who know those two charming counties will be glad to have the memory of them and their distinctively English scenery—the smiling meadows and verdant hedgerows dotted with majestic forest trees, the lazy rivers and the rustic homesteads—revived in so pleasant a manner. It reminds one that there are other objects in the world than paddy fields, bamboos, Japanese houses, and hideous godowns.

AN INTERVIEW.

A representative of the *Fiji Shimpo* proceeded to the Chinese Legation last Saturday, and this is the conversation that passed, he says, between him and one of the Legation Officials, who, for the rest, seemed wholly unconcerned, and were amusing themselves according to their wont:—

Q.—Did you receive any telegram yesterday with reference to the events in Peking?
A.—No.
Q.—Have you sent any telegram to make inquiry,
A.—No.
Q.—Why have you not sent a telegram?
A.—Because we didn't know whether the news was true.
Q.—But if you didn't know, was there not all the more reason for inquiring?
A.—They should have telegraphed to us.
Q.—But are you not uneasy?
A.—No.
Q.—Why are you not uneasy?
A.—Because we don't know.
Q.—That is very fortunate. Good-bye.
A.—Good-bye.

A PORTUGUESE HOLIDAY.

The birthday of the King and Queen of Portugal by a happy coincidence falls on the same day, the 28th September. Wednesday was therefore a fête day among the Portuguese community in Yokohama. At the Portuguese Club the national flag, lanterns painted with national colours, and the arms of Portugal were displayed, and in the evening the exterior of the Club was brightly illuminated. The interior was very nicely decorated, the picture of Dom Carlos I. being conspicuously exhibited.

The popular Consul-General, Snr. Freitas, gave a reception in the evening, and the health of Their Majesties was enthusiastically drunk.

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YOKOHAMA HARBOUR REGULATIONS.

The following regulations have been issued by the Yokohama Harbour Office. They are to come into operation simultaneously with the Open Port Regulations:—

Art. I.—The limits of the Yokohama Harbour shall be subdivided into four sections, namely, anchorages for warships, steamers, sailing vessels, and miscellaneous ships and boats.

Article II.—The space within the breakwater shall be divided as follows:—

INSIDE BREAKWATER.

No. 1 Section shall be that which lies to the northward and westward of a line drawn from a mark post on the Breakwater in a N.E.½ N. direction to the New Hatoba.

No. 2 Section shall be that which is comprised within a line drawn southward and eastward of the above-mentioned straight line.

OUTSIDE BREAKWATER.

No. 3 Section shall be that lying south of a line drawn E. from the White Lighthouse to the boundary line of Harbour limits.

No. 4. Section shall be that lying north of a line drawn E. from the Red Lighthouse to the boundary line of Harbour limits.

Art. III.—Nos. 1 and 2 sections specified in the preceding article shall be used for the anchorage of steamers, small sailing ships, and miscellaneous craft.

No. 3 Section shall be used as anchorage for warships.

No. 4 Section shall be used as anchorage for vessels laden with explosive or inflammable cargoes and sailing vessels of and above 300 tons.

Art. IV.—Though generally restricted to No 3 section the Harbour Master may, according to circumstances, permit warships to anchor within the breakwaters. Torpedo catchers and torpedo-boats may take moorings within the breakwaters at places specified by the Harbour Master.

Art. V.—In case of ships and boats lying in the Harbour limits seeking shelter through danger from heavy weather, they may, without waiting for the permission of the Harbour Office, take up moorings at suitable spots.

Art. VI.—The fairway for vessels entering inside the breakwater shall consist of the space between two parallel lines running east and west from the lighthouses situated at the extremity of each breakwater. This fairway shall extend to 5 cables from the lighthouses outside the breakwaters and 2½ cables inside.

Art. VII.—In case of rough weather the Harbour Master will indicate buoys or anchorages for incoming ships by means of special signals from the Light-ship.

Art. VIII.—When an incoming ship has reached the anchorage pointed out by the Harbour Master she shall moor with two anchors.

Art. IX.—A ship that has arrived after sunset shall lie at anchor till sunrise outside the breakwaters clear of the fairway. It is, however, provided that regular mail steamers possessing buoys or anchorage previously assigned them may, when permitted by weather or other circumstance, at once proceed inside.

Art. X.—With the exception of warships no ship shall use swinging booms while lying at anchor. This restriction does not apply to vessels anchoring outside of the breakwaters.

Art. XI.—Steamers entering or leaving harbour must not proceed at more than half speed. After passing the entrance of the breakwaters or moving inside the breakwaters, the speed must be limited to that sufficient to maintain steerage way. Sailing ships must only use enough sail to give them way or must employ tug-boats.

Art. XII.—Under no circumstance shall ships cross the course of other ships or overtake them while in the fairway or within the breakwaters.

Art. XIII.—Under no circumstances shall vessels obstruct the passage and moorings of others.

Art. XIV.—When a steamer employs the service of tug-boats within the breakwater the following restrictions must be adhered to, except in cases specially permitted by the Harbour Office:—

1. The distance from the stern of a tug to that of the lighters or boats towed shall not exceed 350 feet.

2. Lighters, etc., may be towed in pairs, but the length of the tow shall not exceed 350 feet.

3 More than one sea-going vessel may not be towed at a time.

Art. XV.—Under no circumstances shall a ship or boat approach within 600 ft. of the Customs Pier at the Western Hatoba except those ships or boats which are going alongside the Pier.

Art. XVI.—Warps for shifting purposes shall not be kept fast to mooring buoys or piers any longer than is actually necessary.

Art. XVII.—Storm-warning signals will be hoisted on a signal staff within the premises of the Harbour Office.

Art. XVIII.—In heavy weather, if it be necessary to drop a second anchor, a vessel must veer one shackle of chain on the buoy before doing so.

Art. XIX.—The provisions enacted in the Law for the Prevention of Collision at Sea, besides those specified in the present Regulations, shall apply to all matters relating to the anchorage or passage of vessels within the Harbour.

THE LATE SIR GEORGE GREY.

Sir George Grey, whose death at Kawau Island, Auckland, New Zealand, Reuter has just announced, was a man who in his time played many parts. A son of Lieut.-Col. Grey, who fell at the storming of Badajos, one of the most famous of Wellington's Peninsular exploits, the future P.C. Consul came of illustrious stock. He first entered the Army, joining the 83rd Foot, but at the age of 29 received the important appointment of Lieut.-Governor of South Australia. This was in 1841. Those were stormy times and Grey faced every question bravely. Within five years he found himself in New Zealand as Governor, and he reigned there till 1854 with considerable success. Then he moved on to the Cape as Governor and Commander-in-Chief and made a name for himself as a friend of the native races. His record was stormy, and he was not sorry when he received his reappointment to New Zealand—1861-67. The Maori wars had left a legacy of thorny questions behind, but Sir George was just the man to deal with them. Sympathetic to a degree with all the aspirations of the subject race, he yet held the balance of justice at a level which none dare question—and so peace fell on the land. In 1872 he retired after thirty years hard service for the Crown. He returned to England but the environments were not to his liking and New Zealand became his home for the rest of his life. Fate plays strange pranks with her favourites, of whom Grey must be counted one. Thirty-six years from the day when he first exercised autocratic power over the islands of New Zealand Sir George Grey took the oath of allegiance to the Governor and became Premier of the House of Legislature and led the Parliament of those sunny lands until 1891. Many a time and oft was he in opposition to the Crown, but his fighting was always in the cause of freedom in political opinion. He sowed his grain in a receptive field, and there is no doubt—though the dead politician would be the first to deny it—that a good many of the socialistic fads that now distinguish the legislative enactments of New Zealand owe their initiative and logical outcome to the trains of thought set in motion by the active brain of Sir George Grey.

Mr. Macdona, M.P., has obtained a concession for a railway from Shanghai to Canton along the coast. The Kowloon-Canton railway concession has fallen to Britishers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"MINT PRICE" FOR SILVER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I would not even, if you would allow it, open a discussion on Bimetallism, but would say in answer to your note at the foot of my remarks of 21st Sept., that I am certain the Bimetallists would be quite content with a "Mint Price" for silver on terms identical in meaning with the "Mint Price" for gold, and as it is quite clear without legislation this happy result cannot be attained, the coinage of silver must remain on entirely a different footing from the coinage of gold which is free and unrestricted.

I have heard the statement that the value of gold is fixed by Act of Parliament over and over again, but I may cite Mr. Holder, one of the S. Australian Ministers, as an instance. He made the statement in my hearing at a public meeting at the Town Hall, Brisbane. With regard to your remark, I cannot admit that the word "Authority" has correlation with any Bimetallist.

Yours, GOLD STANDARD.

Sept. 22, 1898.

[We share our correspondent's unwillingness to engage in a discussion on bimetallism. The subject occupied quite enough of our space seventeen years ago, and has long passed beyond the realm of newspaper controversy. But we repeat that the statement attributed to bimetallists by "Gold Standard" is too manifestly absurd to be endorsed by any sensible man. We note the very contemptuous attitude of our correspondent towards bimetallists in general, and congratulate him and his fellow-thinkers on their splendid confidence in their own doctrine.—Ed. *J.M.*]

THE DOSHISHA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Allow me to point out two or three mistakes in the letter of Rev. S. L. Gulick, published in the *Japan Times* for Friday, Sept. 9th.

I am not commissioned to represent any person or persons in the Doshisha, but happening to know the facts I may, perhaps, make the corrections needed and asked for better even than any one more intimately concerned.

Mr. Gulick, referring to the articles by Mr. Abe in the *Christian* and the *Japan Times*, says:—"It is implied throughout both articles that the Doshisha rejected the Protestant and missionary view and takes the 'progressive' theological position." "It is clear," he continues, "that Mr. Abe is not stating merely his own view, but what he understands to be the view of the Doshisha on these matters. Otherwise his argument that the difficulty is wholly a theological one would have no bottom." Then upon this assumption Mr. Gulick proceeds to ask questions and to discuss the situation.

Now is it so "clear that Mr. Abe is not stating merely his own view, but what he understands to be the view of the Doshisha on these matters?" I read Mr. A.'s article as it appeared in the *Japan Times*, but it never occurred to me that he was speaking for anyone but himself.

But supposing, for a moment, that Mr. Abe did think he was representing somebody beside himself in the Doshisha, is it right or fair to assume in public print that Mr. A. *correctly* represents what is termed "The Doshisha" before ascertaining from others in the Doshisha whether he really does so or not?

Better that any number of articles should have no bottom than that men be *assumed* to hold views which you wish to criticise when a little investigation, not to say thought, would suffice to show one that such assumption does injustice by implying that every one in the Doshisha holds such and such views unless he appears in print and repudiates them.

Some men—and everyone knows that this is especially true of the Japanese—rather suffer under an imputation of this kind than seem to publicly criticise a colleague or friend by disclaiming the impeachment.

Some men are not particularly anxious to appear in print even to protect themselves.

But the facts are that Mr. Gulick's assumption is not correct. Mr. Abe was writing as a

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critic for himself alone as far as the views in question are concerned.

It would have been much better if Mr. Gulick had defined what he meant by "The Doshisha."

Did he mean the body of Japanese teachers in the various schools under the Doshisha management?

If so, then there is no such concensus of opinion as that which is assumed to be, not even among the men most immediately concerned in theological subjects.

Did he mean the Board of Trustees?

Then, again, as he must know, there is no such concensus of opinion or view upon the subject in question.

In this connection it may be interesting and instructive to some to know that of the fifteen Trustees now in Japan—two of the whole number are abroad—there are at least seven (and I may add one more) of whose orthodoxy there is no doubt not even on the part of the missionaries. Of these eight five are prominent pastors, two are prominent business men, and one is a well known lawyer and former Judge.

It seems to me that this fact should have considerable significance and bearing in regard to not only the theological side of the Doshisha question but in regard to the *moral* side as well.

When such men favour the recent changes, or even acquiesce in them, I begin to wonder whether the changes mean what "the majority" have said they do.

Again, Mr. Gulick is mistaken in claiming that Christianity has been taught compulsorily in the Doshisha "from the beginning until a few years ago."

If Mr. Gulick will look into the first circular of the Doshisha printed in English in 1885 he will find the following *note* printed at the bottom of page 5: "Attendance on this exercise (*i.e.* Bible class) is voluntary throughout the course."

Subsequent Catalogues and the Records show that, while the Bible appears as one of the studies, attendance upon it was sometimes voluntary and sometimes required, and that the same was true of attendance upon chapel; though, as might be expected, attendance upon the latter was more often required than upon the former because the chapel exercises were designed to serve other purposes besides a religious purpose.

I am, Sir, Yours truly, C. M. CADY.

Kyoto, Sept. 14th.

KOREAN NOTES.

The engagement of the Beachcomber Brigade, as telegrams to Japanese papers informed us, raised quite a storm in Sŏul. Several days before the men landed we find the *Sŏul Independent* remarking:—"The Government is spending millions of money to keep up the little army. If His Majesty so far distrusts his own people as to entrust his safety to a band of Foreigners, the evil consequences of the estrangement and jealousy of the soldiers may far outweigh any temporary benefit to be derived from this extraordinary step. When the Russian officers were dismissed from the Body Guard last spring did not the Ministers of His Majesty assure Russia that Koreans were able to take care of themselves? Not a year has gone since this assurance was given and lo, a foreign Body Guard for the Palace! We can not see any cause for congratulation in this unwise and unnecessary departure of the Government. Earnest efforts for reformation, on the part of His Majesty's officials, will soon make the easily satisfied people of Korea happy and contented, and we repeat what we said once before that His Majesty will find his safety better secured in the love of his people than in a battalion of hired bayonets."

The new bodyguard put up at the Bijuo Hotel, but before their services were really requisitioned they received their marching orders. Mr. Greathouse's Shanghai excursion has cost the Korean Treasury a pretty penny.

The *Independent* has been told that a scheme is afloat to establish in Korea a national bank, under the name of the Bank of Tai Hau. The capital is to be $50,000,000, of which $10,000 will be furnished by the Imperial Household.

The Independent Club is still pegging away. On the 15th September it felt moved to address a letter to the Acting Premier, H.E. Yun Yongsun, on the subject of "Court Whisperers." Naturally the letter was not couched in the language with which we associate Far Eastern memorials. It ran:—

"We have the honour to remind Your Excellency that, in spite of the augustness and sacredness of the Palace, its premises have been invaded night and day by a "crowd of nameless little men," (not including the Ministers of State, and members of the Imperial family) who have obscured the sacred vision of His Majesty and introduced "muddiness" in national politics. The hearts of the people have on this account long been angry and indignant.

"On the night of the 11th inst., unexpectedly, an event of unprecedented (wickedness) happened in the Palace. This was due to the fact that our Prime Minister had neither kept the subordinate officers under proper control, nor expelled a single bad man (from the Government.) Our Club has no other object in view than to protect the interests of the Imperial family with loyalty (to our Sovereign) and love (for our country). We therefore beg that Your Excellency will expel the "crowd of little men" at once in order to keep the Palace clean and undefiled."

Within the next five days, Yun Yongsun found time to compose an answer, and this is what he said:—

"In answer to your communication in regard to the question of clearing the Palace and its premises (of whisperers), I must say that no one can but admire your loyalty and patriotism. I am ashamed to admit that, as the Vice-President of the Council (Acting Premier) I have been able neither to exercise proper control over subordinate officers nor to expel a single bad man from office. But the duties of the Imperial Household are different from those of other departments. I shall therefore refer the matter to the Minister of the Household so that the best measure may be adopted for rectifying the abuses (you have mentioned.)"

A memorialist attached to the Korean Court is disgusted with the system of punishments now inflicted in the peninsula. He thinks they are much too soft and comfortable. In his opinion the recent plots and acts of high treason are all due to the misplaced leniency of the law officers of the Crown. He urged the Emperor to "order the authorities to revive the ancient law of torture, decapitation, etc., in order to prevent any recurrence of disloyal schemes and to render the Imperial family safe." The *Independent* is horrified at the suggestion and thinks the memorialist deserves punishment for daring to insult the emperor by forwarding such a petition.

CHINESE NOTES.

Shanghai witnessed a big fire on the night of the 17th Sept., when 100,000 taels worth of tea, cotton, and other goods were consumed in a godown on the Kin-lee-yuen wharf belonging to the China Navigation Company. The buildings were insured in the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, while as regards the destroyed goods quite a number of insurance corporations are involved. The cause of the outbreak is not definitely known, but is supposed to be due to spontaneous combustion of cotton.

A melancholy interest attaches to the news published in the Shanghai papers concerning the young Chinese Emperor, prior to Sept. 22nd. In the *N.-C. Daily News* we find a paragraph relating to his studies. It runs:—His Majesty Kwang Hsü, who during the late war with Japan began studying English and French, has recently given up the latter language and now gives his sole attention to getting a mastery over English literature. His Majesty has a very quick ear and pronounces extremely well, and he devotes two hours' close study daily to his lessons. The Imperial Tutor is a gentleman who has been to the United States, and the determination of his Majesty to push his projects of reform has doubtless been greatly strengthened by this daily, intimate intercourse where official etiquette becomes considerably lessened.

An opium shop on the Shansi Road, Shanghai, caught fire on the 16th, and before the flames were extinguished 13 other houses were destroyed. The property was owned by Messrs. Lester, Schultz, and Dowdall and Hanson. Most of the property was insured, the companies involved being the Hongkong, the North British, and the Imperial.

One of the latest edicts issued by the Emperor Kang Hsü approved of the memorial of Hanlin Bachelor Ting Wei lu suggesting that a National Budget be issued annually, according to Western custom, and commanded the Board of Revenue to make up monthly statements of accounts to be printed and published for the information of the whole empire. Criticisms could then be made and economy in various items of expenditure suggested which might be beneficial to the Empire. "As we are now earnestly prosecuting our schemes of reforms for the country," says the edict, "a National Budget, according to Western customs, is one of the most important matters to be attended to, and it is our earnest hope that good will come out of them all."

Mrs. de T. tried to get Mrs. B.'s amah away from her and actually went to Mrs. B.'s house when she was out and offered the amah more money. The next time the ladies met at a dinner party Mrs. B. took no notice of Mrs. de T. Some one who sat between them said:—

"Mrs. B. you know Mrs. de T., do you not?"

"No—I believe not," said Mrs. B.; "she sometimes calls on my amah, I understand!"—*Foochow Echo.*

Two natives of Shanghai named Chang and Wan having, it appears, invented a certain kind of ornamental incandescent electric light, applied recently to Tsai Taotai for a patent in accordance with the recent Imperial edict granting such privileges to inventors, etc. Tsai Taotai, the *N.-C. Daily News* learns, has reported favourably to Viceroy Liu on the subject, recommending that a patent be granted to the two artisans with the sole right to make the lights for 15 years.

The new copper cash coined from the foreign mint of the Hupeh Viceroyship were lately put on the Hankow market and are greatly appreciated by the people. The new cash are somewhat smaller in size than those coined at Canton, but they are of greater weight.

Writing on Sept. 20th, the *N.-C. Daily News* said that there seemed to be considerable excitement in Fukien province over the movements of the Kwangtung and Kwangsi rebels, and dispatches are to hand to the effect that a large body of malcontents from a place on the Kukien coast called Yangkou, belonging to Yenpingfu prefecture, have raised the flag of rebellion, headed by several well-known and wealthy notables of the first-named town. So also in the district of Shouning, in Funing prefecture, several risings have taken place, culminating in the union of all the insurgent bands into a formidable whole. The Viceroy Pien has sent troops to quell this rebellion.

Judging from an Imperial decree telegraphed to Shanghai under date of Sept. 17, Kang Yu-wei, the now proscribed reform leader, had already incurred the Emperor's displeasure by staying too long in Peking. The edict ran:—We are surprised to find that, although we appointed Kang Yu-wei Chief Editor of the official *Chinese Progress* magazine at Shanghai, some time ago, the said Kang Yu-wei is still staying at Peking. In our anxiety for the education of our subjects and the difficulty of procuring men of education and enlightenment to assist us in our work, we were pleased to find in Kang Yu-wei a man of this calibre, and so as soon as he had an audience

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with us we at once commanded that he should undertake the direction of the magazine in question, as we were of opinion that newspapers were one of the most important instruments for educating officials and people, and our appointment of Kang Yu-wei showed our confidence in him to undertake an important office. He has now all the funds he requires for his work and we command that he make no further delay in going to Shanghai."

News is slowly reaching Shanghai of the devastations recently caused in Shantung province by another outburst of China's perennial "sorrow." In one letter we find the following sentences:—"This time the floods are more appalling and disastrous than any within living memory—at least so it is reported. Villages swept away by the hundred, tens of thousands ruined and homeless, crouching on the banks under the pitiless rain." Another writes:—"The floods have issued forth near the old site of Chitung city, and are sweeping the lowlands to the east to a width of 20 miles in places, and finding an outlet at the junk-boat station of Yang-chuehkou, where the canal from Chinanfu enters the sea. This area is not densely populated, comparatively speaking, being for the most part an alkaline plain. Some two hundred villages are said to have been flooded—a low estimate according to the extent of the flood. Hundreds of refugees are flocking to the cities along the southern border of the devastated region."

The great Southern Viceroy, Chang Chih-tung, has decided to start a manufactory of smokeless powder. A foreign chemist has been engaged, the necessary machinery purchased, and working will commence as soon as the necessary buildings are completed.

The *Peking Gazette* announces that Sept. 27th was the date for changing the summer hat for the winter head-covering.

A native of Canton recently appeared at the *yamên* of the Court of Censors with a magnified air-gun he had apparently made, with a request that it should be presented to the Emperor and that if acceptable he desired to have a monopoly of the manufacture for a certain term of years. The *N.-C. Daily News* remarks that it was further stated that the air-gun is made to "fire" dynamite shells of a couple of ounces weight.

The *Universal Gazette's* Wuchang correspondent reports the arrival at that port of 10,000 additional spindles for the Hupeh Cotton Weaving Mills, the machinery having been ordered through the agency of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co., of Shanghai.

The *Universal Gazette* states that owing to the overflow of the banks of the Fêng river, caused by recent incessant rains, the northern end of the Grand Canal, in the district of Wutsing, near Peking, commencing from the populous market town of Yangchun to a place called Hanyangpu, a distance of fifteen to twenty miles, is one inland sea of muddy water. All the towns and villages *en route* are under water, with the waves rolling several feet above the highest point, the area inundated being estimated at about 100 square miles or so.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 17th inst. said that Sir Claude Macdonald passed through Tientsin on his way to Peitaiho on the 14th.

The eldest son of the Rev. J. Gilmour, of Mongolia, has been accidentally killed by falling over a cliff at Port Rush. He was in training to become a medical missionary.

The Emperor in one of his latest edicts strictly prohibited the purchase of office in future. Alas, that the era of reform should have been a short-lived.

The *N.-C. Daily News* gives the following account of a recent bicycle accident at Shanghai:—A young lady, Miss Gill, was cycling along the pathway near the entrance to the Recreation Club when by some means or other she lost control of the machine and rode clean into the creek, which at the time contained not less than two and a-half feet of water. She was rescued by some members of the Recreation Club, her clothes in a saturated condition, and herself evidently very much unnerved. In consequence, however, of the recent Municipal Order as to 'rickshas she had to walk drenched from head to foot a quarter of a mile before she could proceed expeditiously on her way to the house of Dr. Zedelius, where she is engaged as governess; and that too on a chilly evening, clad in summer attire.

The *N.C. Daily News* has the following remarks to offer on the cotton-mill strike at Shanghai:—

It appears that an arrangement was come to on the part of the masters whereby the system of payment should be changed from time to piece work,—the origin of so many labour disturbances at home. The result was notified to the workpeople, but was not received in the majority of instances in a favourable spirit, so much so that in consequence of the small number of hands returning to work at the Soy Chee Cotton Mills the premises had to be shut down after the midday meal. There were also signs of discontent at the Laou Kung Mow Mill, but, although an indifferent system of intimidation was practised on the part of the women at Soy-chee, work at Messrs. Jardine and Matheson's Ewo factory was conducted without the least outward signs of disapproval. That a labour struggle has been initiated there can be no doubt, but it is not thought that it will assume any more serious proportions. Should it, the action of the workpeople will, in the opinion of an expert, recoil on their own heads, as the movement will only tend to lower the price of cotton. The cause of the dispute may not be far distant from the fact that Chinese compradores are engaged at certain places whilst at others, as at Ewo, the hands are paid direct.

Writing on Sept. 22nd, the *N.-C. Daily News* stated that the dispute in the local cotton industry at Yangtsepoo had been very much minimised and any serious interruption to trade was not anticipated. "The whole affair originated with the Soey Chee people, this mill being practically governed by the compradore, though the proposed change in the scale of wages would not really affect the operatives, that is to say except the loafers. The change from day wages to contract or piece work has been rendered necessary by the increasing competition from the Indian markets, the machines in the Bombay districts obviously turning out more yarn (though of precisely the same pattern), than those in Shanghai. It consequently became equally obvious that the operatives did not succeed in producing all the machinery was capable of and by paying them per production it would stimulate them to greater efforts. One mill manager with an extensive experience of Indian mills states that so far from the average operative suffering from the change she would be able without doubt to very much increase her wages, and the alteration would enable the management to discover who were the bees and who the drones. Full and adequate notice had been given of the proposed change, but it was not until Monday, when the new scheme came into operation, that any noticeable disapproval was manifested. On the following day, Tuesday, the Soey Chee people struck and a number of them intimidated the workers at the Laou Kung Mow Mill with such effect that after the midday interval only about twenty-five per cent. resumed work. When the tactics of Soey Chee became known the manager of the Ewo Mill locked the employés in and work was continued without the least trouble or murmuring. The Yah Loong Mill happens to be closed, and will remain so for a couple of weeks or so pending considerable internal alterations and enlargements. Yesterday work at the Soey Chee Mill was suspended, but of the malcontents at Laou Kung Mow the great majority resumed their labours, and over two-thirds of the entire employees were at work, whilst the Ewo Mill was, as on the previous day, in full swing. There is likewise no trouble at the International Mill, where the hands are still paid by the day, the change always have been. The disruption is not regarded by the masters as anything but a temporary ebullition of ill-feeling on the part of a number of lower class workers egged on by a certain small number of individuals who would suffer by the change to direct payment. A few appearances in the Mixed Court would doubtless clinch matters."

In local mandarin circles at Shanghai it is stated that the authorised bank note issue of the Imperial Bank of China will for the present be of the total value of Tls. 1,500,000, namely, one million dollars in dollar notes of various denominations, and Tls. 500,000 in tael notes. Of these bank notes to the value of $650,000 and Tls. 315,000 have already arrived for circulation, divided as follows:—150,000 one dollar notes; 30,000 five dollar notes and 35,000 ten dollar notes; also 65,000 one tael notes; 30,000 five tael notes and 10,000 ten tael notes.

The *N.-C. Daily News* is in receipt of a telegram from Peking which says that the Chief of the Commission coming to Japan to study the educational system of this country, the Hanlin bachelor Li Shêng, who, by the way, is a resident of Shanghai, has been instructed by the Tsung-li Yamên to take over the post of acting Minister to the Court of Tokyo in the event of his arriving here upon the expiration of office of H.E. Yü Kêng, the present Chinese Minister, and to remain as acting Minister under the arrival of H.E. Huang Chun-hsien in October next.

The following Wuchang notes are from the *Universal Gazette*:—The Hupeh cotton spinning and weaving mills at Hanyang are now running short time. Business since spring had been exceedingly good, most of the output having been sent to the order of Szechuan merchants. Lately, however, owing to the bankruptcy of a number of Szechuan hongs, aggregating it is said a total of something like three million taels, there has been no money to take over the yarn and piece goods of the two mills in question, in consequence of which the authorities there now have nearly 3,000 bales in excess on their hands.—A putdey from Lanchou, Kansu, lately arrived to take over a large quantity of Mauser rifles, ordered through Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., of Shanghai, the money for which is to be paid by Viceroy Chang from the annual contribution of Hupeh to the military exchequer of Kansu and Chinese Turkestan. This consignment of arms and ammunition filled over a dozen junks.—H.E. the Viceroy, in his scheme for the widening of streets of the provincial capital, intends to make house-owners on either side of the streets give up a strip of land equal to three feet in width, a uniform compensation being given at the rate of Tls. 40 per foot.

H.E. Chang Chih-tung is leisurely pursuing his schemes of progress far removed from the turmoil of Peking Court intrigues. Just lately he announced his intention of building an Observatory in connection with one of his new Colleges of Western Learning in Wuchang, and a very large-sized and powerful telescope is to be ordered from abroad for it.

Rumours were circulating in Peking about the 18th or 19th that "owing to His Majesty the Emperor's recent indisposition and, further, on account of the immense amount of extra business arising from the inauguration of his reforms, Her Majesty the Empress Dowager may very likely return to the active direction of affairs again, in order to lessen the Emperor's labours." Very specious.

Writing from Wei-hai-wei on Sept. 16th, the correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* remarked:—

Inside, the bay off Liukungtao looks quite bare of ships once more. Four or five days since Admiral Seymour and most of the fleet again went out for a cruise. I understand they were to spend a day or two at Chefoo and then divide up, some of the ships going to Taku, the remainder to Newchwang. It is also said that the Admiral is to pay a visit to Port Arthur on one of the destroyers. In

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about a week they are expected to return here. In the meantime the *Grafton* and *Undaunted*, with the destroyers, are still with us, and the *Waterwitch* continues her survey work. For about four months past the Chinese training ship *Fuchi* has been in the harbour. I hear that she leaves to-morrow for Chefoo *en route* for Tientsin, but she probably return to Wei-hai wei in about two weeks.

Commander Grant has been appointed, for six months, Naval Commissioner of Wei-hai-wei. He has made an energetic and capable Warden of Linkungtao and will doubtless in this higher office give satisfaction.

It is said that two battleships and a destroyer will be stationed here for the coming winter. The rest of the ships will go South. There is talk of Admiral Seymour in company with Sir Claude Macdonald taking a voyage up the Yangtze this autumn, on one of the destroyers. It is surely well that the highest English officials stationed in China should now and then in person visit that region. Such a journey on such a craft can scarcely be called a pleasure trip.

An examination for the Imperial Clansmen to be sent to travel in foreign countries was held recently, the result being that out of 50 candidates 12 were selected.

A member of the Board of Punishment recently memorialized the Throne pointing out that while the import trade of China continues steadily to increase, the export of her staple products, tea and silk, as steadily declines, and he urged that steps be adopted to revive the cultivation of both staples by means of practical schools with experts at their head to study these two branches of industry. The memorial was approved, and it was commanded that steps be taken for the establishment of industrial schools in each province for the study of sericulture and tea cultivation on the most modern lines. Will this reform be carried out now?

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The new P. & O. steamer *Isis* arrived at Port Said on the 16th ult. with the passengers who left London on the 12th, a transit of *four days* from London to Port Said.

The cook of the ship *Dunfermline*, Charles Bithery, who committed a murderous assault on Edwin Poole, mate of the vessel, was convicted at Shanghai before Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, Assistant Judge, and sentenced to one year and eleven months' imprisonment.

The American kerosene ship, whose wreck was reported yesterday in a Nagasaki telegram, was the *Earl of Hopetoun*, as we correctly surmised. The disaster took place on the 8th September in the Gaspar Straits, while on a voyage from Philadelphia to Nagasaki. The Captain, when seen by a *Free Press* representative, declined to give any information respecting the loss of his ship.

Late on Tuesday night a young Goanese named Caetano Xavier Cobral, employed as a baker on the P. and O. steamer *Formosa*, overbalanced himself while stepping on the gangway of the ship from the Pier. He sank immediately, being probably stunned by falling against some portion of the Pier. The body has not yet been recovered.

A seaman named Castella, belonging to the ship *Manuel Llaguno*, has been conveyed to the International Hospital at Kobe suffering from serious injuries inflicted by a fall from the 'tween decks of the vessel down the fore peak. It appears, says the *Kobe Herald*, that the poor fellow was handing up a piece of wood to one of his shipmates who was on the upper deck, and, not noticing that one of the hatches by the side of him was off, stepped on one side and fell in the hold. He brought up on the keelson with a fearful crash, and then bounded over and his head struck the ship's side. When picked up he was insensible. His scalp was smashed in, and blood was oozing copiously from his nose and mouth. He has also sustained severe internal injuries, having, it is surmised, fallen on his chest in the first instance. The man is in a precarious condition.

"W.D.H." writes as follows in *The American Soldier* (Manila) in the course of an article on the political future of the Philippines:—It is obvious, which each day makes more evident, that this climate is not adapted to American physiques, by the large sick lists and intense discomfort of those required to perform duties which are based upon the capacity of the individual in a temperate climate. I feel sure that if a vote were taken in the invading American army to-day it would overwhelmingly favour our relinquishing the Philippines, except as to coaling and trading privileges. The experiment of Americanizing Cuba and Porto Rico must be given a fair trial before we add to the difficulty of the problem by annexing land on the opposite side of the globe, in a latitude which tends to weaken physical and mental powers.

H.B.M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before R. G. E. Forster, Esq., Acting Consul-General.

Tuesday, Sept. 27th.

THE CASE OF EDWARDS: AN EXTRAORDINARY STATEMENT.

Maurice Edwards Brown, *alias* Max Edwards, *alias* C.M. Edwards Baines, was charged on remand with obtaining goods by false pretences from Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Messrs. Brett & Co., and a Japanese tradesman at Kobe.

Mr. Ohashi, Assistant Procurator of the Yokohama Saibansho, stated that the prosecutor in the third case, Nako Yataro, of Kobe, had decided not to press the case, and he (Mr. Ohashi) had therefore to apply that it be withdrawn.

Mr. Forster assented.

The evidence of the various witnesses was then read over, and the usual warning given to the accused.

He elected to make a statement, and the following was taken down:

On the 18th July I went down to Messrs. Kelly and Walsh about 10 a.m. I bought some cigars and a novel to the extent of *yen* 17.35. I told him I would pay at the end of the month if he would send the bill to No. 2 Bluff. He asked me to give him a receipt, which I did so. I wrote the name of M. Edwards, the name I was known in Yokohama. He give the goods and I went home. At the same time I went to Messrs. Brett and Company and obtained some perfume and a bottle of capsules to the extent of *yen* 8.50. I told him to send the bill to No. 2 Bluff at the end of the month, and I would pay for them. He agreed. He gave me a piece of paper to write my name and address for a receipt, which I did so. I wrote the name of the Edwards, as I could not give any other name, as I was known in Yokohama as Edwards. He trusted me with the goods, and I left the shop and went home. At the same day at about six p.m. I was at the Club Hotel. Immediately afterwards I met Mr. Harry Sharp, of Kelly and Walsh's. He took me to one of the corners, and asked me if I would pay for the goods which I obtained in the morning. As I did not have it at that time in my pocket I told him I would pay at the end of the month. He sent the bill to No. 2 Bluff. He said I was not stopping at No. 2 Bluff, I told him if he wanted proof I would give it him. He said he would not have the proof, but he wanted to have the money the same evening. If I did not pay him he would hand me over to the Japanese authorities. I told him then that I was frightened, and said in two days' time I would pay him the money, and asked him to wait till I could write a letter to my manager. After then he left and went away. I went home, as I had some money to the extent of *yen* 9, and came down to look for Mr. Sharp to pay him some money and the remainder I'll pay him later on. But I did not find him. I went home and after dinner came down again; to the Grand Hotel to look for him. I did not find him. Immediately afterwards, while I was coming out from the Grand Hotel, I met the chemist of Brett and Company, the man who sold me the goods at the shop. He asked me if I would pay for the goods which I obtained in the morning. I told him "I cannot do so at the present moment, as I have made arrangements with you that the money is to be paid at the end of the month." I however, gave him back the bottle of capsules, which I had in my pocket. He asked me if I would come down to the shop with him to see the manager, who is supposed to be Mr. Thomas. As soon as I entered the shop by the back door Mr. Thomas came down. As soon as Mr. Thomas saw me he told his assistant to call for a policeman and give me in charge, as I had obtained goods under false pretences. While the assistant had gone for the policeman I asked Mr. Thomas what was the matter; I would pay for the goods just now without any further trouble. He declined to do so, and said he must have me arrested by the Japanese authority and put in gaol. I took out six dollars to give him. He refused to take it. He said he must keep me in gaol. He said, "It is not a matter of six dollars; as you have taken from several people the Yokohama goods under false pretences." I told him that had nothing to do with him as long as I paid. In the meantime his assistant came with the policeman. He told his assistant and the policeman to take me over to the police station, and kept there that night till the next day. When we came to the Police Station he stated his affair to the Inspector of Police. I stated mine afterwards. The Inspector said he'll have nothing to do with this case; he'll have to apply to the Consul. The Inspector asked me what Consul am I. I told him American, as I thought, my father being an American, I called myself an American too. Before leaving the Police Station he took out the money from my pocket, and showed it to the assistant of Brett and Company. I told him if Mr. Thomas would not accept his bill to be paid he can do anything he likes, as I cannot do anything but pay him. And before he made any reply I left the Police Station. I went home. Next day I was very much busy and could not go and pay my bill at Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, as I had intended to pay nine dollars and the remainder afterwards when I received some money from Kobe. I waited till the evening. I went to the Grand Hotel, as I was expected to see Mr. Harry Sharp there. As I did not find him there, and while I was coming out of the Grand Hotel I met a friend of mine. He told me he saw my name on the paper—that I am to be arrested by the Japanese authority, as none of the Consuls would recognise me. As I did not believe it and wanted to make certain of it I went myself and looked at the paper, which was fact what he had told me. I was ashamed to go home that night, being my name in the paper. Next day I was trying very hard to meet a friend and get some money from him to pay Mr. Harry sharp. But I failed to find him. I said I would go down to see Mr. Kosakabi, a Japanese by whom I was employed, and try with him to arrange things for me. I started for Kobe that day. When I went to Kobe I was looking for him, but it happened that he had some business in Osaka and I had to wait till he comes back. While waiting one day I was at the Boat House at Kobe. Immediately after I left the Boat House European constable and a Japanese detective were waiting at the door for me. I was arrested and brought to the Japanese Police Station. I managed to explain the matter to the Inspector. He let me off. After three days I was arrested again and brought here. I was taken down to the Japanese Saibansho, and there the Judge asked me if I was M. Edwards. I said "Yes." He asked me if I was the person who obtained goods from Messrs. Brett and Co. and Messrs. Kelly and Walsh. I said "Yes" Immediately afterwards I was taken to the Japanese gaol. I was kept a fortnight before I was brought again to the Saibansho. There the Judge asked me a few questions, and then he detained me about one hour till Mr. Harry Sharp and Mr. Thomas came. They explained their matter to the Judge. I did not hear the statement of Mr. Harry Sharp nor of Mr. Thomas, as I was kept down below till they finished their statement, and then I should be sent to the gaol again. But before they took me to the gaol, I asked permission to ask Mr. Thomas a few questions. They asked Mr. Thomas if he was willing to see me, but I determined to see him and ask him a few questions before the Judge. And while I was taken upstairs I asked Mr. Thomas why did he not accept the money which I offered to him in the shop. He said, "It is not a matter of six dollars; it is a thing that you have obtained goods from several other people, and although I spend 100 dollars I will see you convicted." In fact, he did not tell it to me, but told it to the Judge, and he was trying to make it very hard on me. He took the advantage of doing so because he saw me in the hands of the Japanese. And if he had no intention at doing anything to me why did he himself give evidence against me when he was not the person to sell the goods to me and was not present in the shop when the goods were sold to me. And here he did not himself come to give evidence against me, but sent his assistant, which was right. That's all.

The statement was read over, and at his desire the prisoner was allowed to add the following:—If I had the intention of doing forgery could I have not run away when I had the chance then

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days at Kobe, but my intention was not of doing any forgery at all. My intention was to pay them to avoid further trouble. I should not even have gone to Kobe, but I saw in every paper in Yokohama my name to be arrested, and seeing so I was frightened and went to Kobe, as I have heard several things about the Japanese that if I am in the hand of them I shall be treated badly. And so they have treated me very badly.

Mr. Forster—I cannot go into that. I cannot go into any such matter in the present phase of the case.

Prisoner—Only one sentence, sir. "So they have treated me very badly." That's all.

The Assistant-Judge added this to the statement, and then said, "As I am of opinion this is decidedly a case to go before a Jury I commit you for trial."

Before His Honour Judge WILKINSON.
THURSDAY SEPT. 29TH.

APCAR MICHAEL APCAR versus HENRY MOSS.

This was a case in which the plaintiff, an Armenian by birth but Japanese by adoption, sued the defendant, a house agent, for the return of two copies of a lease alleged to be obtained from him improperly by the defendant.

The petition was as follows:—

1st that the said Henry Moss, the agent of U. Durand, the former owner of the house No. 140 Bluff, at present occupied by me came to my office one day about five months ago and asked me to lend him for a day or two the lease of the said house which I had in my possession as the said U. Durand wanted to sell the said house and the buyer was desirous of seeing the said lease before concluding the purchase, and that thereupon I in good faith handed the said lease to the said Henry Moss, but although five months have passed and I have repeatedly demanded the said lease from the said Henry Moss yet the said lease has not been returned to me.

The plaintiff therefore prayeth:—

(1) That the defendant may be ordered to return to the plaintiff the said lease and the costs of this suit.

(2) That the plaintiff may have such further or other relief as the nature of the case may require.

The answer to the petition was as follows:

That the said Henry Moss, acting on behalf of Mr. U. Durand, did, on or about October 22nd, 1897, draw out a draft of a lease for the letting of the house No. 140-A Bluff and handed it to the said Apcar Michael Apcar for his signature thereto, but he refused to sign it until he had seen the nature of the repairs. Upon consulting with my principal, Mr. U. Durand, he instructed me that if the said Apcar Michael Apcar would not sign it I was to trouble no more about the matter and on or about the 7th of March, 1898, Mr. Durand gave me instructions to sell the property which I did to Mr. Langfeldt. On or about the 12th, of March I called on Mr. Apcar acquainting him of the sale of the property and requesting the return of the unsigned copies of the lease left with him for signature. He handed me one, but I told him I must have both of them, when he handed me the other.

The Plaintiff, sworn, said he was a Japanese subject. In the autumn of last year he took the house 140-A Bluff, which was then in the possession of Mr. U. Durand. Defendant was not at that time acting as Mr. Durand's agent. Witness at the end of September wrote Mr. Durand a letter agreeing to take the house on a three years' lease at 85 dollars a month, and he received a reply on October 1st, "Thanks for your letter. That is all right. I accept it entirely.—U. Durand." Two lease forms were made out and sent to witness, but he did not sign them immediately because he wanted to see repairs executed to his satisfaction first. As a matter of fact he had never signed them at all. On September 29th defendant wrote as Mr. Durand's agent agreeing that repairs should be effected, but that no additions should be made to the house. Some time later defendant came and asked him for his lease, which he said he wished to show to Mr. Langfeldt. Witness said "You will return them," and defendant replied "Yes." He then gave defendant the two unsigned copies of the lease. Witness paid one month's rent after this incident, and, then finding the lease was not returned, he told defendant he should pay no more rent until it was given back. Defendant said he would try to get it back and witness paid him a month's rent on that promise. It did not arrive, however, and after waiting some time witness again went for it, but defendant declined to give it up. Witness was ejected from the house by order of the Japanese court. He had never refused to sign the lease; he was only waiting for the repairs to be effected. The repairs were not finished when he gave back the lease. He had had to get another house at heavy rent, and he must claim 5,000 dollars damages for the loss and inconvenience he had undergone.

The Judge—You have not made any claim for 5,000 dollars.

Plaintiff—Well, I think the Court —

The Judge—No, you have made no claim of the kind, and I must confine my attention for the present to the case as it stands.

Defendant, on being asked if he had any question to ask, said there was no agreement, but only a proposal for an agreement between plaintiff and Mr. Durand.

The Judge—Of course there is an agreement Mr. Moss. You received rent, didn't you? Was there not an agreement to pay rent?

Defendant—No signed agreement.

His Honour—There was an agreement, that is, clear.

Defendant, in cross-examination, said the house was unsafe without proper repair in an earthquake country like Japan. He was not going to have his wife and children killed for defendant's sake. Great pieces of plaster fell from the ceilings in an earthquake. It was untrue that he had driven workmen away; he had merely kept them away from a room where his wife was lying ill. He was always willing to sign the lease when the house was repaired. He agreed to let Mr. Langfeldt, who bought the house and another gentleman look over the house. He handed the leases to defendant as a gentleman and in good faith.

Ecca da Silva, a Portuguese subject, said one day he was in plaintiff's office on business when defendant called. Mr. Moss asked for a cheque for rent. Plaintiff said he was not going to pay until the lease was returned. Defendant said, "Well, the property's sold; and you don't want the lease." Plaintiff said, "I have nothing to do with the sale of the property: I want my lease back. I only know Mr. Durand, and he supports the existence of a lease." Defendant said "Well, you give me a cheque, and I will send you the lease to-morrow." Plaintiff said "You are sure you will do so," and then gave defendant a cheque.

Cross-examined—He did not hear defendant tell plaintiff that a lease without two signatures was mere waste paper. He would swear positively that he said, "Give me a cheque and I will send it next morning." It was on that consideration that plaintiff gave him the cheque.

Plaintiff at this point again commenced to speak about damages.

The Judge—Oh, that is outside the case. The case is only as to these pieces of paper.

Defendant—But they are no use to me. I have left the house now, and if I get the lease it is no use to me.

The Judge—That is all I can decide at the present moment, whether the lease shall be returned or not. When that is decided you can of course take any further action as you may be advised. That is all I can say.

Defendant was then called to give his version. He stated when he went to plaintiff he said he had received instructions from Mr. Langfeldt, who had bought the house from Mr. Durand, to get back the unsigned leases. He asked plaintiff to let him have them and plaintiff said, "Yes," and gave him one, but witness said, "I must have both," whereupon he handed witness the other. Then he asked witness, "Will you bring them back?" Witness's answer was, "I don't know, but I think not." Plaintiff afterwards declined to pay the rent unless he was given back the leases, and witness told him that he had no leases, that the lease forms were signed by one party only, that plaintiff had refused to sign them, and that they would be no use to him if he had them back. Plaintiff, however, said he would not pay the rent until he got back the leases. He afterwards put the matter into the hands of the owner, and had since had no communication with plaintiff. The lease forms were in plaintiff's possession for over five months, and the house had been put in good repair outside, and only wanted a little cleaning inside. It had since been resold by Mr. Langfeldt to Mr. Feicke.

His Honour, in giving judgment, said—I consider the documents ought to be returned to the plaintiff. It seems to me only necessary to say that I am satisfied that the plaintiff was under the impression that the defendant had promised to return them to him. I do not say that that belief was purposely induced by the defendant. If that were the case I should endeavour to have the services of a jury. But I am satisfied that it was induced by the words he used, and that if he had allowed the plaintiff to believe that they would not be returned he would not have given them up. Whether the documents can now be if any use and if so what use to the plaintiff it is not necessary to consider. I decide that he intended to have them, and the order will be that the plaintiff is entitled to have the documents delivered to the plaintiff forthwith, and that the defendant do deliver them accordingly and pay 24 *yen*, the costs of the Court.

Defendant—The documents are not mine.

His Honour—The Court has them now. It is very lucky for you they are in Court and that they are not in any one else's possession. The order is that the Registrar deliver them to the plaintiff.

On the application of the defendant His Honour allowed a week's delay in the delivery of the documents for the defendant to consider with his friends as to any further action they might take.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

REPORTED ASSASSINATION OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

LI HUNG-CHANG'S PARTY SUSPECTED.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Shanghai, Sept. 23, 2.19 p.m.

A report has reached here from Peking that the Emperor of China has been assassinated. That is the news as it is current in Shanghai, but I am inclined to believe that the story has been exaggerated, and that His Majesty has been simply deposed. It is also reported that Kang Yu-wei, the head of the Reform Party, is accused of the murder, and that the gates of Peking have been closed to prevent his escape. The Taotai of Shanghai has offered two thousand dollars reward for Kang Yu-wei's arrest, and vessels arriving from the north are rigorously searched. Many persons here believe that if the Emperor has been assassinated, the efforts of his murderers are being directed to fix the guilt upon Kang, but that Li Hung-chang and his party are really guilty.

THE EMPEROR STILL ALIVE.

Shanghai, Sept. 23, 6 p.m.

The *Shanghai Mercury* this afternoon received from Peking what it believes to be authentic information to the effect that the Emperor is alive.

KANG YU-WEI ARRESTED AT SHANGHAI.

BRITISH CONSUL INTERVENES.

Shanghai, Sept. 24, 6.15 p.m.

Kang Yu-wei, the Reform leader, who is charged with administering poison to the Emperor Kwang Hsü, has arrived in Shanghai by the British steamer *Chungking*. He was at once arrested by the Chinese officials, but the British Consul objected to the proceedings of the Chinese officials and protested against the arrest. Kang Yu-wei, in the meantime, has been taken aboard H.B.M.'s war vessel *Esk*, now lying in the river.

(FROM THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

LI HUNG-CHANG AND GREAT BRITAIN.

Peking, 24th Sept., 1.50 p.m.

The commotion has almost ended. Strong measures will probably be confined to the party of Kang Yu-wei. It was reported that H.E. Chang Yin-yuen had been arrested, but such is not the case. Li Hung-chang is desirous of resuming office, but the idea meets with opposition from the British.

WHOLESALE ARRESTS.

Peking, 24th Sept., 6.20 p.m.

The statement that affairs had begun to settle down must be understood in the

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sense that the arrest of prominent men had temporarily ceased. From this morning the arrests have recommenced, and many have been made in Shanghai and Tientsin. Chang Yin-Yuen was at the dinner given yesterday by Prince Ching to Marquis Ito, but vigorous measures are now being taken to apprehend him.

ILLNESS OF PRINCE CHING.

Peking, 25th Sept., 4.48 p.m.

Chang Yin-yuen has been deprived of his office and handed over to the Board of Punishments. Prince Ching is reported to be sick. His illness is supposed to mark his disapproval of the measures taken with regard to Chang Yin-yuen.

[Prince Ching, referred to in the above telegrams, was recently appointed to the post of Ching Superintendent of Octroi in Peking, an office yielding about 100,000 taels yearly to its holder. Prince Ching, just before receiving this valuable post, had been nominated President of the Board of Rites, vice Huai Ta-pu, who was among the officials cashiered for refusing to present Wang's memorial to the Throne. The report sent from Peking by the *Fiji Shimpo's* correspondent, that Prince Ching had proposed to Li Hung-chang the deposition of the Emperor, seems very difficult to credit.—Ed. *J. M.*]

THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER AND LI.

Peking, 11.40 a.m., Sept. 23.

At midnight last night the ceremony of installing the Empress-Dowager was performed. The Palace was strictly guarded by troops. Prince Kung and others proposed to Li Hung-chang that the Emperor should be deposed, but Li would not agree, and the method of investing the Empress Dowager with Regent's powers was resorted to. Several advocates of reform have been arrested, but the rest have made good their escape. The Russians are observing the action of the Japanese with close attention.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

THE EMPRESS DOWAGER ASSUMES REGENCY.

Shanghai, Sept, 23.

On the 21st an Imperial Edict was issued announcing that the Empress Dowager would attend to Government affairs as Regent.

A telegram has since been received from Peking that the Chinese Emperor is dead.

The Taotai of Shanghai has issued an order for the arrest of the supposed guilty party. A reward is also offered for his apprehension.

THE EMPEROR SICKENS.

Peking, 26th Sept., 10.34 a.m.

The Emperor Kwang Hsü is seriously ill, and physicians of note have been summoned from various parts of the country to Peking. It is believed that this is preparatory to His Majesty's deposition.

ARREST OF REFORMISTS.

Peking, Sept. 26.

The previous intelligence to the effect that Kwan Yu-wei has been arrested was incorrect. Eight persons have been taken into custody, including Chang Yin-yun, and these were all pro-English and pro-Japanese.

Peking, 7 a.m., Sept. 24.

Chung Yang-un has been arrested at Tientsin on a charge of complicity. It is said that the Emperor has been already imprisoned in the Palace and that he is rigorously guarded by soldiers.

Shanghai, Sept. 26.

Chang Yin-wan, Liang Chi-chao, and 14 other reformists have been arrested in Peking. Most of the followers of Kwang Yu-wei in this city have made their escape.

PEKING QUIET.

Peking, Sept. 28.

Peking is very quiet. Only seven persons are now under arrest for political reasons.

KANG YU-WEI.

Hongkong, Sept. 28.

Kang Yu-wei arrived here from Shanghai by the P. and O. steamer *Ballarat*, which he boarded at Woosung.

Peking, Sept. 29.

It has been decided by the Court that Chang Yin-wan has no connection with Kang Yu-wei. He is, however, still kept in jail

CAN THIS BE CREDITED?

His Majesty the Chinese Emperor has ostensibly resumed the reins of Government, and the offices which were closed have been re-established.

Chang Yin-wan, who was sentenced to death, has had his sentence suspended. He is still in jail.

(From the "Japan Times.")

SIR H. KITCHENER MADE A PEER.

London, Sept. 23.

Sir Herbert Kitchener, Sirdar, or Commander-in-chief in Egypt, has been raised to the peerage, and rewarded by a grant of £25,000.

LORD SALISBURY.

Lord Salisbury has returned to London.

CRETAN AFFAIRS.

Germany and Austria have refused to take part in the Conference regarding Cretan Affairs, but have promised not to help the Sultan of Turkey. Other Powers are in favour of the joint control of the island. The first step is the retirement of Turkish troops.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

REPORTED ADMISSION BY ESTERHAZY.

Lieut.-Col. Picquart has been arrested on a charge of forgery in the Dreyfus affair—the forging of a letter to Major Esterhazy. There is great excitement in Paris.

London, Sept. 26.

The *Observer* publishes an interview with Major Count Esterhazy, who is reported to have admitted that the forging of the Bordereau telegram was under orders.

London, Sept. 28.

The French Cabinet has finally resolved to refer the question of the revision of the Dreyfus Case to the Court of Cassation.

ABDICATION OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

GATES OF PEKING CLOSED.

London, Sept. 24.

An edict issued at Peking definitely announces that the Emperor has resigned power in favour of the Dowager-Empress. It is rumoured at Shanghai that the Emperor is dead, and that the gates of Peking are closed. The *Times'* Peking Correspondent states that the Edict announces that the Emperor has ordered all the high officials to pay homage to the Dowager-Empress on Friday next.

London, Sept. 26.

It is believed that the movements of the British fleet in Chinese waters betokens some serious action.

SEMI-PUBLIC FUNERAL FOR THE LATE SIR GEORGE GREY.

London, Sept. 24.

Queen Victoria has sanctioned a semi-public funeral for the late Sir George Grey in St. Paul's Cathedral.

ARGENTINE AND CHILI ON THE BRINK OF WAR.

The Argentine Republic and Chili are on the brink of war over the boundary question.

London, Sept. 26.

An agreement has been signed whereby Argentina agrees to arbitrate with Chile on a greater portion of the frontier, while refusing to do so with the remainder.

ULTIMATUM TO THE SULTAN.

POWERS AGREE TO ENFORCE ACCEPTANCE.

Reuter's correspondent at Paris learns that four Powers are about to send to the Sultan an ultimatum demanding compliance with the Cretan settlement project. Otherwise, the measures whereon the Powers are already agreed will be taken to enforce acceptance.

WITHDRAWAL OF TURKISH TROOPS DEMANDED.

It is stated in Vienna that the four Powers have presented an ultimatum to Turkey, demanding the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from Crete by the fifteenth of October.

MR. CURZON RECEIVES A PEERAGE.

The Hon George N. Curzon, late Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has been raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Curzon of Kedleston in Ireland.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

ANOTHER DERVISH STRONGHOLD TAKEN. FASHODA INVESTED.

MARCHAND DECLINES TO RETIRE.

London, Sept. 26.

Sir Herbert Kitchener has returned to Omdurman after having established posts at Fashoda and on Sobat. No fighting is reported.

London, Sept. 27.

Lieut. Parsons, with the Kassala garrison, captured Dedaref on the 22nd after three hours' severe fighting, 500 Dervishes being killed and 96 Egyptians killed and wounded.

Sir Herbert Kitchener left a garrison at Fashoda consisting of Cameron Highlanders, and two Soudanese battalions. Captain Marchand declined to retire without orders from Paris.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE IN NEGOTIATION.

London, Sept. 28.

Negotiations concerning the question of the occupation of Fashoda have been opened in Paris. The English newspapers emphasize the fact that the only solution is the withdrawal of Capt. Marchand from the place.

ARRIVAL OF MAJOR McDONALD AT LADO.

It is reported that Major Macdonald has arrived at Lado.

NEW KOREAN PREMIER.

Söul, Sept. 25.

Mr. Sim Sun-tak was appointed Premier the day before yesterday.

REPUBLICANS DEMAND THE RETENTION OF THE PHILIPPINES.

COL. ROOSEVELT NOMINATED GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK.

London, Sept. 29.

The republican convention at Saratoga has nominated Col. Roosevelt to the governorship of New York State, and adopted a platform, declaring that the responsibility incurred forbids the returning of the Philippines to Spain.

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 387.

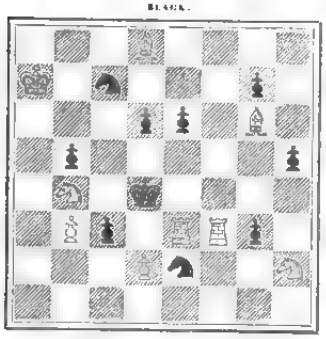
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to K Kt 7	1—K to B 3
2—P to B 5	2—K takes P (forced)
3—Q to Q B 7 mate	
	1—K takes P
2—Q to Q 4 ch	2—K to Kt 6
3—Q to Kt 4 mate	
	1—K to Q 3
2—Kt to Kt 5 ch	2—K to K 3
3—Kt (B 2) to Q 4 mate	
	1—K to Kt 3
2—Kt to Kt 5	2—K to R 3 or 4
3—Q to R 7 mate	if 2—K to B 3 or 4
3—Q to B 7 mate	

Correct solution received from W.H.S., Marco, and S.S.

PROBLEM No. 390.

By J. F. TRACY, Bridgton, Me.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in three moves.

GAME No. 434.

PINNING THE K Kt.

Pinning the K Kt by B to K 5 is a fad with very many players. They always do it, and they do it as soon possible. We are acquainted with several *pinnists* who ride this hobby so far as to offer it as a defense to the Ruy Lopez, play 3—P to Q 3, and 4—B to Kt 5. Lasker says:—"Don't pin the K Kt until you have Castled." In other words:—B to K Kt 5 is a weak move when your game is in an undeveloped condition. One of the smartest examples of taking advantage of this that we have seen is found in the following little skit between Mieses and Oehquist:—

CENTER-COUNTER GAMBIT.

White—Mieses.		Black—Oehquist.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK
1 P K4	P Q4	5 Kt B3	B Kt5
2 PxP	QxP	6 P Q5	Kt K4
3 Kt QB3	Q Q-q	7 KtxKt	
4 P Q4	Kt QB3	and White wins.	

If B takes Q, 8—B to Q Kt 5 ch, etc.

GAME No. 435.

FROM THE VIENNA TOURNEY.

HOW PILLSBURY BEAT THE FRENCHMAN.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—Pillsbury.		Black—Janowsky.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	24 Kt Kt4	KtxKt
2 P QB4	P K3	25 QxKt	P B3
3 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	26 P KR4	RxR
4 B Kt5	B K2	27 KtxR	R QB-q
5 P K3	Castles	28 Kt K2	P B4(d)
6 R B-q	QKt Q2	29 QxBP	R B7
7 Kt B3	P QKt3	30 Q Kt4	B B-q
8 PxP	PxP	31 P B5	Q KB2(e)
9 B Q3	B Kt2	32 Kt B4	BxP
10 Castles	P QB4	33 Q Q-q	Q B5
11 Q K2	P B5(a)	34 Q R5	R B8ch
12 B Kt-q	P QR3	35 K R2	Q KB2
13 Kt K5	P QKt4	36 QxRP	K B-q
14 P KB4	P R3	37 Q Q6ch	K Kt-q
15 B R4	R K-q	38 P KR5	K R2
16 R B3	Kt K5	39 R Kt5	B Q2
17 BxB	QxB	40 Q KKt 6ch	QxQ
18 BxKt	PxB	41 PxQch	K Kt-q
19 R Kt3	Kt B3(b)	42 R Q5	B Ksq
20 P QR4	P Kt5(c)	43 R Q8	K B-q
21 Kt Q q	P B6	44 Kt Q5(f)	R B3
22 PxP	PxP	45 R R8(g)	Resigns.
23 RxQBP	KR QB-q		

Notes (abridged) by Emil Kemeny, in *The Ledger*, Philadelphia.

(a) This gives Black the majority of Pawns on the Queen's wing, and by continuing P to Q R 3 and P to Q Kt 4 Black's position will be a pretty safe one. The general opinion is that Black thus obtains an advantage, and most players avoid a similar development by delaying the capture of the Q P until Black has moved P to Q B 4, when an exchange of both Pawns takes place. White in the present might have played P takes B P instead of Q to K 2. Mr. Pillsbury, however, prefers the present development. He believes, that by correct play he can prevent Black from making headway on the Queen's wing, while an advantage may be gained by White in the center or on the King's side. The play is hardly in accordance with the principles of "modern Chess," yet it seems to yield very satisfactory results, at least so, if Pillsbury handles the White forces.

(b) This promising-looking play has a serious disadvantage. White Kt at K 5 will remain in a commanding position and Black has no proper reply to the threatening P to Q R 4 move. Had Black kept his Kt at Q 2, White could not so successfully continue P to Q R 4, for then Kt takes Kt and Q to Q 2 would have been answered by Black. If Black intended to move his Kt to B 3, he should have played P to K B 3 first. If then Kt to Kt 4 Black moves P to K 4, followed by Kt to B 3, and the P to Q R 4 may be answered with Kt to Q 4 and eventually with Kt takes Kt. Black then would be able to maintain his advantage on the Queen's wing. The text move gives White the preferable game.

(c) Which loses a Pawn, yet Black was unable to avoid it.

(d) An ingenious move, which, however, does not prove satisfactory.

(e) Better than B takes P, followed by R takes Kt, for in that case Q takes B, Q to B 8 ch, and Q takes R P would have given White an easy win.

(f) A powerful move, which completely paralyzes the Black forces. Black now is unable to move either King or Bishop, and his position is hopeless.

(g) The position is a very instructive one. Black can move only his R P or his Rook. If P to B 4, then P to Kt 4 K to Kt 3, K to B 4, and K takes P follow. If Black moves his Rook, he must keep it on the Q B file, in order to prevent the Kt to B 7 play of White, which would either win the exchange or bring about an exchange of Rook and Knight against the Rook and Bishop. If Black plays R to B 5, R to B 7, or R to B 8, White continues K to Kt 3, P to B 4, K takes P, K to B 5, P to K 4, etc., winning easily.

MORE NOTES ON THE VIENNA TOURNEY.

In commenting on the Vienna Tournament, the Chess Editor of the *Hereford Times* remarks that he doubts if the title of *Chess Champion* is worth very much to any one who has not defeated Dr. Tarrasch in a match,

It is stated that Mr. Pillsbury attributes his indifferent play in the last ten days of the tournament entirely to exhaustion, and that in comparison with his appearance two months ago he looks a physical wreck.

Walbrodt has already been mentioned as the eccentric competitor of this tournament, and an incident occurred which shows that he is keeping up his character. He had to play Tarrasch an important game upon which depended whether the latter or Pillsbury would take thelead. His non-arrival, after his clock had been going an hour and a half, caused no little excitement, but he at length arrived, calmly sat down to his board, made his move, and then quietly opened his voluminous correspondence and read his letters. This matter disposed of, he ordered his frugal morning coffee, lighted his cigar, and then only he settled down to work, having lost a Pawn in the meantime as a preliminary of the day's work. This was only what was expected, and all were waiting for the news that Tarrasch had won the game. The sole undisturbed person in the room, however, was Walbrodt. Not only did he not lose the game, but he held his own, disdained to capture the Pawn he had lost—of which he had opportunities—and when time was called for adjourning he had accomplished in half an hour's time what it took his opponent two hours to accomplish. Then, to everyone's amusement, after the game was resumed Dr. Tarrasch was short of time, whilst Walbrodt had plenty to spare, and at a late hour the doctor had to be satisfied with a draw.

In Dr. Tarrasch we have a player who, while possessing a sound, cautious, though a more laborious style of play than Pillsbury or any of his other contemporaries, is also a tournament champion who has achieved greater success in such contests than any living player. It will be remembered that he has won four international tournaments, with the loss (accidentally) of one game only, in succession. His victory at Vienna, crowning as it does all his previous achievements, undoubtedly therefore marks him out as the strongest player of his time, who in a set match must be considered as second to none, with the exception, perhaps, of Lasker alone.—*Daily News.*

The *Australasian* says a few humorous incidents were noted during the progress of the tourney:—Mr. Showalter had king, rook, bishop, and three pawns, but did not succeeded in scoring a win against Mr. Pillsbury, who had king, rook and bishop; Dr. Tarrasch won from Mr. Baird, but not till he had overlooked a mate in three; Herr Schlecter, who had an even position with Herr Maroczy, made an illegal move, and lost the game though having to submit to the penalty of moving his king; and Mr. Blackburne, who had a choice of winning from M. Janowski by any one of several simple variations, showed extraordinary ingenuity in discovering the only line of play that gave his opponent the chance of escaping with a draw.

The *Glasgow Herald* has the following interesting remarks:—

In the deciding match of four games between Tarrasch and Pillsbury, Tarrasch won two Pillsbury one, and one game was drawn, and thus the "Modern School" has again triumphed. We do not use the term in an offensive sense, because undoubtedly Tarrasch must be a chess master of the very highest order, and in playing as he does he only proves himself to be a consummate general as a good chess player.

It may be presumed that everyone who entered the tournament did so with the determination to do his best to win. That was the goal for which they were all striving, and if, in order to succeed in this, one requires not only fine chess powers, but patience, tenacity, shrewdness, and a strong infusion of what might be called German phlegmatic imperturbability combined with Scotch pawkiness, and if these are not to your liking, then you may blame the conditions of the tournament or even the game itself, but you cannot quarrel with the man who proves that nature has pre-eminently endowed him with the qualities necessary to win.

It certainly cannot be said that, however, sound and safe it may be, Tarrasch's style (or perhaps we should say the style he adopts in such tournaments, for he can be brilliant and dashing on occasion) is calculated to arouse enthusiasm, and the ordinary amateur will confess to a shade of disappointment and regret that the more attractive and sportsmanlike—we had almost said the more manly—style of Pillsbury and Janowski did not carry off the palm. These players, and especially Janowski, will have the consolation of knowing that it is to their games that the public will turn for refreshment and delight, and if Pillsbury needs any consolation he can reflect that after all no one, and least of all Tarrasch, will be inclined to suggest that his final victory over Pillsbury is due to superior chess power or to any other cause than the fortune of war.

Steinitz has strongly and persistently argued that the results of such tournaments afford no criterion of the respective chess powers of the combatants, and while this may have been, and will be true of some men and of some tournaments, these, we think, are exceptions, and that it still remains true that the best men will generally be found about the top.

Now, suppose an ordinary amateur had been asked to name the leading players of the present day, would he not probably have subscribed to the following list:—Lasker, Pillsbury, Tarrasch, Steinitz, Janowsky, Tchigorin, Blackburne, and Burn? Lasker, of course, did not compete at Vienna, but look at the position of the others.

Blackburne's lower place was undoubtedly due to the great strain of such a severe and prolonged contest acting upon a constitution weakened by frequent ill health.

YOKOHAMA CHESS CLUB.

As notified by advertisement, the annual general meeting will take place at Wright's Hotel on Monday, 3rd Oct. at half past 5 p.m. We hope the members will appear in a body and continue the good work this season that they have done last year.

The Secretary's report and balance sheet to be submitted to the meeting, will be found elsewhere in this issue.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M. Co.	Glengyle 1	Su. Oct. 2
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Sydney 2	W. Oct. 5
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 3	Th. Oct. 6
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 4	Th. Oct. 6
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Oct. 10
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Th. Oct. 20
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Oct. 24
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Oct. 26

1 Left San Francisco on the 13th Sept.
2 Left Hongkong on the 27th Sept.
3 Left San Francisco on the 17th Sept.
4 Left Hongkong on the 28th Sept.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	Sa. Oct. 1
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa. Oct. 1
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Glengyle	M. Oct. 3
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Oct. 5
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Oct. 5
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Oct. 7
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	F. Oct. 7
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Sydney	W. Oct. 12
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Oct. 24

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 23rd September,—Shanghai via ports, 17th September, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,181, Todd, 24th Sept.,—London via ports, Kobe, 23rd Sept., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 25th Sept.,—London via ports, Kobe, 24th Sept., General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 26th Sept.,—Vancouver, B.C., 12th Sept., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Wittenberg, German steamer, 2,363, Madsen, 23rd Sept.,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 14th Sept., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 28th Sept.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 27th Sept., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Hohenzollern, German steamer, 1,900, E. Wolterstorff, 28th Sept.,—Hongkong, 23rd September, Mails and General,—H. Ahrens & Co. Nachf.

Nanyang, German steamer, 1,050, Schanaus, 29th September,—Iloilo, Sugar.—Chinese.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 29th Sept.,—Shanghai via ports, 24th Sept., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 29th September,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 28th Sept., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Oanfa, British steamer, 1,970, J. A. Davies, 30th Sept.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 28th Sept., General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, C. H. Butler, 24th Sept.,—Portland, Oregon via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Dodwell Carlill & Co.

Octavia, German steamer, 2,026, Temme, 24th September,—Calcutta, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Saint Jerome, British steamer, 1,845, R. F. Reid, 24th Sept.,—Kobe, General.—Sale & Co.

Alesia, German steamer, 3,533, Meyerdierchs, 24th Sept.,—London, Hamburg and Antwerp via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Siam, German ship, 1,691, A. Garlichs, 25th Sept., —Portland, Oregon, Ballast.—Captain.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R Archibald, 26th Sept.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, F. W. Horton, 26th September,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Natal, French steamer, 2,073, Remes, 28th Sept., —Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M S S. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 28th September,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wittenberg, German steamer, 2,363, Madsen, 28th Sept.,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, W. Brady, 28th Sept.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tacoma, British steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 29th Sept.,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai via ports :—Mr. Z. H. Berry; Mr. H. Patter, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Geo. Mudge, Mr. W. Cartwright, Mr. Y. Konoshita, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Hulbert and child, Mr. O. Stuebel, Mr. A. Klinkes, Mr. J. Davieson, Mrs. U. Makino, Capt. and Mrs. L. W. Bickel and child, Capt. J. P. Robert, Mr. T. Matsumoto, Mr. Chas. Wallsen, and Mr. R. Mizutani, in cabin; twenty-six, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports :—Capt. Winbel, Mr. A. B. Macdonald, Sir Edgar Boehm, Mr. L. C. Putman, Mr. Jose Seiles, and Mr. W. W. Rich, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. E. Kimpton Adams, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Aldrich, Mr. Chas. Aldrich, Mr. Talbot Aldrich, Rev. W. S. Ament, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Bushnell, Miss A. G. Bushnell, and maid servant, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Buckheister, Miss Buckheister, Mr. E. E. Bartram, Bishop Corfe, of Korea, Miss Rowena Bird, Mr. & Mrs. Bainbridge, Miss Bainbridge, Mr. C. L. Collins, Lieut. C. W. Cowper, Mr. A. P. Chance, Mr. T. W. Coakley, Miss Chapin, Capt. Carey, Miss R. A. Casey, Miss Curtis, Miss E. Delafield, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Evans, Mr. R. Frater, Miss George, Miss H. George, Miss F. E. Greswold, Mr. E. M. Hand, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Hutchins, Miss E. Hutchings, Miss E. J. Holbrow, Miss F. E. Hill, Rev. and Mrs. C. Inwood, Mr. S. A. Knapp, Mr. William Kaelin, Miss F. Keiser, Rev. E. C. Lobenstein, Miss Lobenstein, Miss A. Lanius, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Loose, Miss M. Mutsun, Mr. T. Masuda, Miss M. C. Morrison, Miss M. S. Morrill, Miss M. I. Mack, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mansfield, Mr. G. E. Moser, Mrs. McMichael and son, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mossop, Mr. and Mrs. R. Nunemacher, Miss A. Nisbeth, Mr. P. Nagaya, Rev. D. R. S. Norris, Mr. J. A. Patton, Mr. Geo. W. Patton, Miss F. B. Patterson, Mrs. Porter, Mr. F. Ruffin, Mr. M. F Robertson, Rev. and Mrs. H. T. Reid, Mrs. W. W. Rich, Miss Margaret Rich, Miss Doris Rich, Master Donald Rich, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. A. Seymour, Mr. Juan Selles, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Schaefer, Miss Simonds, Dr. and Mrs. H. Slade, Mr. and Mrs. Skatowe, Mr. C. S. Taylor, Miss D'Etta H. Thompson and two children, Dr. George Montgomery Tuttle, Mr. R. W. Vick, Jr., Mr. G. Vogel, Col. John Weir, Miss Wimbish, Miss A. Weckhoff, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Wills and maid, Mr. Feetham, and Mr. Horikoshi, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Hohensollern*, from Hongkong :—Mr. J. L. Wilkinson, Mr. J. Goosmann, and Mr. R. P. Dipple, in cabin; Mr. Chun Sin Sing, Mr. C. Verhoeven, and 2 Chinese, in second class.

Per British steamer *Tacoma*, from Hongkong via ports :—Mrs. Gorman, Mr. Easson, and Mr. J. Nickel, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for Hongkong via ports :—Mr. Otto Heim, Mr. Marshall, Mrs. J. A. Norris, Mrs. John Gibson, Mr. Edmunds Plaza and native servant, Mr. C. J. Gibbs, Mrs. C. J. Hutchins, Mr. H. T. Hancock, Mr. Hubbard Smith, Mr. Charles Rogers, Mr. Brandenberg, Rev. I. N. Ogood, Mr. C. H. Hilbert, Mrs. W. P. Elliott, Mrs. W. H. Whiting and child, Mrs. and Miss Dudgeon and maid, Mr. Allred Loureiro, Mrs. Ogood, Mrs. H. W. Gale, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Wildman, Mr. John Liddell, Mr. M. Bieber, Rev. H. G. Welpton, The Misses Gale, Mr. A. J. S Lefroy and servant, Mrs. C. W. Vance, Mr. E. R. Ray, Mrs. N. E. Irwin, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hunt, Mr. E. A. Sargent, Mr. A. Buchel, Mr. Robert W. Mustard, Mr. G. T. Moule, Mr. H. Skott, Mr. A. McLeod, Mrs. C. E Gove and child, Prof. H. W. Vaughan, Mr. John W. Slater, Mrs. Bruce Robertson and infant, Mr. C. W. Baird, Mrs. T. P. Evans and children, Miss I. E. Lovatt, Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Hodges, Mrs. John Liddell and child, Mr. Jas. Ambrose, Miss Mary R. Cogdale, Miss A. Akio, Mr. T. W. Cavendish, and Mrs. E. P. Wickham and infant, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Hongkong via ports :—Mrs. Groundwater, Lady Hornby and 2 daughters, Mr. W. H. Drummond, Mrs. Pakenham, Capt. C. F. Mould, Mrs. N. Mumford and 2 children, Mr. A. S. Nobbe, Mr. M. B Pollishwalla, Mr. C. B. Mowrawalla, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Rodewald, Misses Rodewald (3), Mr. S. H. Hancock, Capt. C. Simonds, Captain Thwaites, Mr. H. B. Morehead, Mr. Frank Souter, Mrs. Twentyman and 4 children, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Smith, Miss Nellie Smith, and 2 native servants, Mrs. Langhorne and 2 children, Mrs. R. M. Campbell, Miss Campbell and native servant, Misses J. and B. Campbell, Mrs. and Miss Taylor, Mr. G. C. Murray and native servant, Miss G. Pritchard Morgan, Miss Keanse, Mrs. Lawless, Surg.-Major and Mrs. Machead, Capt., D. MacKenzie and native servant, Mrs. MacKenzie, 2 children, and native servant, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Murphy, Mr. Chr. Neilsen, Miss Pakenham, Messrs. N. H. and D. H. Illingworth, Sir Nicholas Hannen, Lady Hannen, Mr. Beau Hannen, Miss Hannen, and two native servants, Mr. Jose Selles, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, Mr. Leslie Gordon, Mrs. W. Church, Mr. B. Runge, Mr. A. S. Garfit, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Wurbe, Mrs. R. W. Brown and native servant, Mr. R. W. Brown, Messrs. S. L. Orr, and J. M. Ferguson, Mr. J. R. Kirby, Mr. W. W. Rich, and Mr. E. Orth, in cabin.

CARGO.

Per French steamer *Natal*, for Marseilles via ports :—Raw Silk for Europe, 507 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 236 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The market for yarns has assumed quite an active aspect, and prices are advancing daily. Grey shirtings also show a healthier feeling, though not to so great an extent, while indications point to an improvement in fancy cottons and woollens.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38¼ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2.85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38¼ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.60 to 2.30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2.00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.28 to 0.43½
Mousseline de Laine—Chaps, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.18½ to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb,	per lb 0.55 to 0.67½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	per piece. 7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 3 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.10 to 3 0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARDS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	44.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	76 00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	70.00 to 72.00
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2 100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.00 —
Chinese	18.00 —

METALS.

The fact of prices being firmer at home has a tendency to restrict operations, which are less extensive than at the commencement of the month.

	per picul.
Round and square 4 inch. and upward	$ 3 85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4 00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4.90 to 5.10
Galvanised Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5 90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	$ 5 71 to 5 95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (¾ to 4 inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

No changes to report, the usual steady trade continuing at last week's prices.

American	$2 05	—
Russian	1.95 to	2.00
Langkat	—	1.85

SUGAR.

Prices are 10 to 40 *sen* higher for Chinas, and Manilas have experienced a rise of 20 to 50 *sen*. White refined is firm in face of a fair demand.

	per picul.
Brown Taiwan	$4.70 to 4.75
Brown Manila	5.90 to 6.50
Brown Daitong	4.20 to 4.25
Brown Canton	4.10 to 5.25
White Java and Penang	7.00 to 7.50
White Refined	7.70 to 9.65

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The demand from Europe has increased, and prices have slightly hardened, but there is little doing with the United States, and stocks of full-

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sized filatures are now rather heavy. Sellers, however, decline to lower prices.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	$955 to 960
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/13 deniers	870 to 880
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, 10/13 deniers	850 to 860
Filatures—No. 2, 13/18 deniers	890 to 900
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 13/16 den.	860
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	830
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	810
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	780 to 790
Kakedas—Extra	860 to 870
Kakedas—No. 1	840 to 850
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	790 to 800
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is quiet, but quotations remain firm. The present stock is estimated at 9,510 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 122½
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Oshu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	110 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 95
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

The past week or so has been marked by some increase of business, no less than 6,747 piculs changing hands from the 19th to the 28th. *Yen* 20 to 25 *yen* teas have been chiefly in demand, the cup quality being unusually good for this time of the season. Prices at first hardened somewhat owing to the supplies from the country being cut off, but with the restoration of communications a weakening tendency has become manifest.

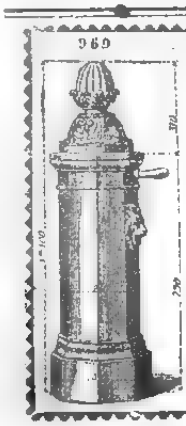
QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$33 & upwards
Choice	31 to 32
Finest	29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Silver from London rather firmer, but sterling quotations from China unaltered, causing rates here to continue steady for the mails per steamers *Tacoma* and *Doric* as under.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0 5/16 to ⅜
— — Bills on demand	2/0⅜ to 7/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 9/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 11/16 to ¾
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 13/16 to ⅞
On Paris—Bank sight	2.56
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.60
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	50¼
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07
— Private 4 months' sight	2.10½
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	75
— Private 10 days' sight	76⅛
On India—Bank sight	152½
— Private 30 days' sight	155½
Bar Silver (London) on 5th inst.	28 5/16



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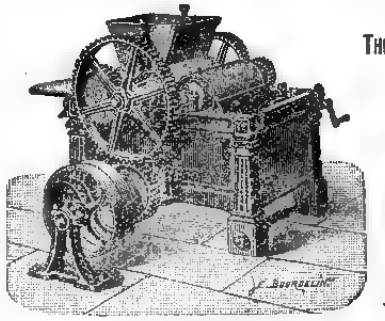

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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 15.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, OCTOBER 8TH, 1898. 明治三十一年十月八日 Vol.. XXX.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, OCT. 8TH, 1898.

BIRTH.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. R. S. MILLER, Tokyo, on Sunday, October 2nd, a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On Saturday, October 1st, at The British Legation, Tokyo, and afterwards at Christ Church, Yokohama, John H. RENTIERS, H.B.M's Consular Service, Japan, son of the late J. H. Rentiers, of Calcutta & London, to HARRIET LILIAN, third daughter of the late Dr. Robert Mack, of Canonbury.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MR. FUKUZAWA is reported to be lying *in extremis*.

MARQUIS ITO has arrived in Shanghai from northern China.

THE autumn regatta of the Y.A.R.C. took place this afternoon.

OPINION is strengthening that the Emperor Kuang Hsü has been murdered. The Empress Dowager merely awaits a favourable opportunity to announce his demise.

THE Crown Prince's visit to Nagoya has been postponed on account of indisposition.

PROFESSOR BELL, the inventor of the telephone, is visiting Japan with his family.

THE Tokyo Confidential Bank has received official sanction, and will shortly open business.

THE American naval estimates for the coming year amount to $47,000,000, the largest on record.

THE Count of Turin, nephew of the King of Italy, arrived in Yokohama on Wednesday, proceeding to Tokyo next day.

THE Powers have accepted the invitation of Italy to hold a congress to deliberate on the repression of Anarchism.

THE death is announced of the Hon. Mr. T. F. Bayard, formerly American Ambassador at the Court of St. James.

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD, British Minister, has declined to deliver Kang Yu-wei, now in Hongkong, to the Chinese Government.

THE Democratic Conventions at New Jersey and Connecticut, besides that of New York, have abandoned the Silver Policy.

NEGOTIATIONS are proceeding between the French and British Governments relative to Captain Marchand's position at Fashoda.

WOR. BRO. KEIL was presented with his portrait, painted in oils by Mr. Fred. Yates, at the Masonic Temple on Wednesday evening.

ON the morning of the 2nd inst. a man was run over by a train near Uyeno Station, Tokyo. It is supposed to be a case of suicide.

HONGKONG won an unexpected victory over Shanghai in the interport cricket match played at the northern port in the last week of September.

THE Doshin Kaisha, a direct silk exporting company of Yokohama, is seeking an exit from its difficulties by reconstructing its organization.

THE Interport cricket and baseball matches between Kobe and Yokohama will be played at Kobe next week. Yokohama is sending down two strong teams.

THE Peace Conference between the United States and Spain opened its sittings at Paris on Saturday, its deliberations being conducted in absolute secrecy.

THE German military *attaché* present at the battle of Omdurman severely criticizes the strategy of the action, characterizing the charge of the Lancers as an act of folly.

THE deaths from plague in Bombay City during the past week numbered 209 as compared with 137 in the previous week. There were 4,000 deaths in the Bombay Presidency.

THE Khedive has arrived at Constantinople on a visit the Sultan. The motives of the visit are unknown, but it is supposed to be connected with the Khedival property at Thasos.

DJEVAD Pasha has consented to withdraw and encamp the Turkish troops outside Candia. Colonel Chermside takes military possession of Candia whenever reinforcements arrive.

YENDO UTAKICHI, (53), living at Motomachi, Shinjiku, Tokyo, attempted on the 2nd instant to murder his wife Miye (48), inflicting severe wounds on her with a short dagger. He afterwards committed suicide by hanging himself. Jealousy is said to be the motive.

THE British fleet is to be permanently reinforced on this station by the gunboats *Woodlark*, *Woodcock*, *Sandpiper*, and *Snipe*, which have been specially built for river service.

QUEEN LOUISE of Denmark is dead. She was the mother of the Dowager Empress of Russia, of the Princess of Wales, the Duchess of Cumberland, and of King George I. of Greece.

THE amalgamation of the Osaka Railway Company and the Kayo Railway Company is under consideration. The latter Company has been running at a loss for a long time and proposes to sell out at the rate of *yen* 5 per share of *yen* 50 paid up.

THE Government subsidy to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, amounting to *yen* 1,250,000, will, it is said, be suspended from next year. In connection with this, Viscount Soga and the President of the Steamship Company, on the 29th ult. paid a visit to Mr. Matsuda, Minister of Finance, and asked for a continuance of the subsidy for some time longer.

THE committee to consider the establishment of the Formosan Bank held a meeting on the 3rd instant at the official residence of Mr. Matsuda, Minister of Finance. The Minister presided, and spoke of the necessity of a Bank in the island, and said he hoped to establish it as soon as possible. After discussion, the committee suggested that the Government should take up shares to the amount of *yen* 1,000,000, and credit the bank with bar silver to the amount of *yen* 2,000,000, granting it also the right to issue notes payable at sight.

THE markets remain in practically the same condition as last week. As regards imports the healthier tone in yarns and textiles is maintained; in some departments fair business has been done, and in most there are at least signs of awakening activity. In metals some business is doing, and the sugar and kerosene markets show the usual steady aspect. As regards exports the markets are, on the whole, flat. Little has been done in raw silk, and less in waste silk, and in both the large stocks in hand tend to lower prices, though holders are disinclined to give way. Tea, especially the lower grades, is fairly active, though the large quantities still in the country exercise a weakening tendency on prices.

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AFFAIRS IN PEKING.

It is difficult to attach any importance to the telegram said to have been received in Tokyo, announcing that the Emperor of China has been restored. Apart from the extreme improbability of such a sudden change, we have the fact, telegraphed from various sources and therefore not to be doubted, that all the sinecures which the Emperor had abolished as part of his scheme of reform have been re-established, and we are therefore in a position to conclude that, whatever nominal share His Majesty may retain in the Administration, he is practically powerless to stem the reactionary current. The offices in question were the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent; the Bureau of Transmission of Imperial Edicts; the Directorship of the Imperial Banquetting Hall; the Directorship of Court Ceremonials; the Mastership of Horse; the High Court of Revision; the Governorships of Kuangtung, Hupeh and Yunnan; the Directorate General of the Yellow River; a number of Grain and Salt Taotaiships and Sub-prefectships, and all the Deputy Sub-prefectships. The *yamén* of the Supervisorate of the Heir Apparent's Instruction was to be turned into the head-quarters of the Bureau of Mechanical Arts and Commerce, and the *yamêns* of the other five Courts into colleges of Western learning. It was calculated that the abolition of the above six Boards would throw out of employment five thousand persons, many of whom had paid high prices for their posts with the object of transmitting them to their descendants, according to the Chinese system of hereditary sinecures. The chief officials and secretaries of the Boards were provided for by being turned over to the Board of Railways and Mines and the Board of Agriculture, Art, and Commerce, but the juniors found themselves in evil plight. We speak of the Boards as "abolished," but the fact is that the order for their abolition was given by Imperial Decree on the 1st of September, and that a month was allowed to effect that reform. It seems a reasonable inference that this step, coupled with the cashiering—on the same day as that of the Decree's issue—of the two Presidents and four Vice-Presidents of the Board of Rites for opposing the presentation of a memorial by one of their subordinates on the subject of reform, were the proximate causes of the revolution. As the month allowed for the abolition of the various posts began to draw to its close, the victims of progress found the situation intolerable, and so the plots against the Emperor came to a head. It may also be taken for granted that the re-establishment of all these sinecures indicates the character of the new regimen. Reform is dead and buried, for the present at all events. There was, indeed, little reason to hope for any different result, though, as has already been noted in these columns, many persons in Tokyo were sufficiently optimistic to think that the struggle had been between the extreme radicals and the advocates of moderate reform, and that things would still move in the right groove, though more slowly. That idea is now completely dispelled. Chinese officialdom has turned from the pearl of progress, and is wallowing again in the mud of stagnation. Meanwhile, there are evidences that Li Hung-chang's influence is restored, and that he is acting the part of a peace-maker. We hear of his interceding on behalf of Chang Yin-yuen, and interceding with considerable success. It is by no means improbable that Marquis Ito had some part in this matter. The Marquis made Chang's acquaintance on the occasion of the latter's abortive peace mission to this country in the spring of 1895, and subsequently the two were fellow-passengers from America when returning from the Coronation of the Czar. The day before Chang's arrest, he was present at a dinner given to Marquis Ito by Prince Ching, and the Prince himself seems to have resented the arrest very strongly. The Japanese statesman is not likely to have plunged his hand into the cauldron of complications which it was his lot to witness in Peking, but to the extent of using his good offices with Li on Chang's behalf, he may have made his presence felt.

Marquis Ito does not share the unfavourable opinion entertained by so many persons about Li Hung-chang. The Marquis was interviewed at Chefoo on the 13th instant by a representative of the *Osaka Asahi*, who probably accompanied him to China. News had just then been received of Li's removal from the roll of *Tsung-li Yamén* Ministers, which event was announced by Imperial Edict on the 7th instant. The Marquis expressed great regret. He thought that Li had been the victim of slanders, and he predicted that the old statesman would recover his power. It was hard to believe that pro-Russian and pro-English parties had been formed among influential Chinese, for if that were the case, the fate of the Chinese empire would be sealed. There did not seem to be any sufficient reason for regarding Li as pro-Russian. He had negotiated a loan from Russia and had been thrown into more or less close relations with her, but circumstances rather than his own deliberate choice had been responsible for that. As for the talk of his being in Russia's pay it seemed quite incredible. He was an old man. Even supposing him to be so unprincipled the love of wealth must have ceased to sway him, especially as he was already very rich. People blamed him for the result of the war with Japan. In truth he possessed no real power, and therefore could not control events. The Chinese Government did not like to be itself saddled with responsibility but had no compunction about saddling others with the responsibility for its own errors. Li sent a heart-felt complaint to Ito at that very time. "I envy your position," he wrote. "You have power. You can take the initiative. You can advance, if you deem it wise. You can retire, if you consider it prudent. But as for me, I am powerless. I can not advance at will or retire at discretion. I am a puppet." Chang Chih-tung's courageous and resolute utterances about the conservation of Chinese territory had been brought into contrast with the concession made by Li, greatly to the latter's discredit. But Li had made no concessions. His views had not been consulted. He could not choose but obey instructions. The terms of the Shimonoseki Treaty had been dictated to him. The loan from Russia had been dictated to him. His visit to St. Petersburg had been dictated to him. If only folks could post themselves a little more accurately in facts before they set up to be critics, how much more smoothly the world would move. If it was so easy for superficial onlookers to say, why doesn't such and such a statesman do so and so, or why is not a particular step taken by a certain minister; but if they knew the obstacles lying in the way of that act, or the complications involved in this step, they would not be so quick to pass judgment. "You ask me whether China's independence can be preserved long enough for her to complete the reforms necessary for its permanent preservation, I reply that such a question is hard indeed to answer. One can not discover grounds even for confident conjecture. When I was in Europe last year, I did not find that people's minds were much disturbed about the problem. I spoke with a certain well-known statesman on the subject, and laid before him the three sources from which, in my opinion, perils imminently threatened China. They were, first, frontier disputes; secondly, disturbances offering a pretext for foreign interference, and, thirdly, complications growing out of the keen competition and rivalry of foreign Powers. He replied that he did not see any cause for immediate apprehension. Yet, hardly had I returned to Japan when the Kiao-chou incident occurred. Is there any resource, you ask; any plan offering a hope of rescue. Yes, but I am not prepared to submit it for public inspection. I will say, however, that China must cut her way out of the meshes entangling her. If she remains inactive, her collapse is assured. What do I mean by 'cutting her way out,' you want to know. Ah, that is the question. I let it rest there, and pass on to note one of China's most fatal habits, her secretiveness. The Government makes some concession or gives some pledge to one of the Powers, and conceals the fact from all the rest. That is hopelessly unwise. China's best chance of preserving her integrity consists in availing herself of the restraint which the mutual jealousy of the Powers imposes on their several actions. A secret foreign policy is all very well for a strong State which can put out its foot just as far as it pleases in any given direction, but a weak Power must seek to paralyse its opponents by pitting them against each other. You speak of national reforms. Yes, but the renovation of a nation can not be effected merely by edicts from the Throne. Railways may be built and mines worked. Such things are the mere mechanics of progress. Besides, see what the result is in China. Foreign capital is brought in to start these enterprises, and they pass under foreign control by way of security. There is nothing to say against such eventualities in a country which has liberty to make its own laws and power to enforce them; a country where limits can be clearly traced and strictly observed. Japan, for example, is happily so circumstanced. She need not feel the slightest uneasiness even if two-thirds of the shares of her principal railways were in foreign hands. But with China the case is very different. If she gives a railway concession to a foreign syndicate, she may presently find foreign soldiers or gendarmes posted along the route, and virtually exercising military control over the regions through which the line passes. She has to march very warily lest the path of progress itself lead her into serious danger. The want of patriotism on the part of the people is a greater danger, you say. Why, I tell you that before

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Japan's contact with the outer world made the hearts of all her people beat in unison, she could not claim to show any larger measure of genuine national spirit than the Chinese now exhibit. Patriotism is the common heritage of all nations. The only difference is in the means of exciting it and the machinery for exercising it."

Mob violence in Peking is something very novel. There have been cases of rudeness on the part of soldiers or roughs to individual foreigners, especially in the days when the latter made a habit of taking exercise on the city wall. But the theory generally held has been that the inhabitants of Peking are too heterogeneous to combine into a dangerous mob; that the Chinese, the Tartars, and the Mongolians are not sufficiently intimate with each other to obey any common impulse. We presume that the outrages now reported were perpetrated in the Tartar city by the Manchu inhabitants, for it is among the Manchus that the revolt against progressive innovations has arisen, with its accompaniment of anti-foreign sentiment. Information received in official quarters indicates that the affair was of trifling dimensions and did not result in any injury to life or limb. But it will help to complicate a situation already sufficiently difficult.

Shanghai continues to send out sensational intelligence. The latest is contained in a telegram published by the *Tokyo Asahi* to the effect that, immediately after the issue of the edict restoring the Empress-Dowager's administrative power, that is to say, on the 22nd ultimo, the Emperor committed suicide. The telegram is dated "9.50 a.m., October 1st," and the language used is emphatic. On the other hand no confirmation of the rumour has been received from Peking, and it is confidently believed in official circles in Tokyo that the Emperor is alive and well. Three reasons are assigned for the belief: first, that, were His Majesty dead, the fact could not be successfully concealed; secondly, that the Empress-Dowager would never have consented to his assassination; and thirdly, that if he had been made away with, a serious commotion, if not a rebellion, must have ensued, whereas all accounts agree that the crisis is over. Undoubtedly these arguments have their value, but are we to conclude that all the rumours so industriously circulated about His Majesty's death are baseless? As to the Empress-Dowager's being morally incapable of conniving at such a crime, we can not forget the fate that overtook Ahluta, the young widow of Tung Chih, immediately after the resumption of power by the two Empresses Dowager in 1875. One thing is quite certain, namely, that Kwang Hsu is very much in the way from the Manchu point of view, and that if the security of the dynasty dictated his partial deposition, the same consideration might indicate a sterner necessity.

It is noteworthy that the accusation against Kang Yu-wei and his confederates has undergone a change, and now takes the form that he plotted to overthrow the Empress-Dowager. That is certainly a more plausible accusation than the original indictment, but both can not be true, and each throws discredit upon the other. The position is very peculiar. There can not be any reasonable doubt that the Chinese Government applied to Great Britain, through Sir Claude Macdonald, to surrender Kang, and, as a matter of course, the application must have been accompanied by a statement of the offence alleged against him, and by a recapitulation of evidence constituting a *primâ fâcie* case. It may also be taken for granted that the Chinese Authorities are sufficiently familiar with international law not to make such an application unless the nature of the charge warranted it, however superficial the evidence. That Kang had engaged in a political conspiracy would not have been a sufficient charge. No civilized State would surrender a fugitive on that ground. But a plot to take life would be a sufficient charge, and the original allegation, according to rumour, was that Kang had attempted to poison the Emperor. Was that the charge preferred officially by the Chinese Authorities? The thing is almost incredible. We can scarcely imagine that they had so little respect for the British Minister's intelligence, and for their own "face," as to advance a plea of such manifest absurdity. It comes to this, then, that Kang has been hounded out of his country because he sought to introduce reforms, that Chang has been banished to work on the Mongolian post-roads for the same reason, and that six patriotic men of light and learning, Kang's friends and associates, have been condemned to death, and are now awaiting execution, because they, too, would fain had led their country into the path of progress. What are we to say of a Government which perpetrates such crimes? The United States of America has just engaged in extensive and costly operations of war to save a neighbouring people from the effects of bad government, yet the Powers of Europe maintain their Legations in Peking, accredit their Ministers to the Chinese Court, and keep up friendly relations with the Chinese Government, in the face of proceedings which certainly rival anything that happened in Cuba. After all, England will probably be the first to interfere actively in Peking. She is gradually getting drawn into complications which will force her hand.

Among the six Progressists now lying in Peking under sentence of death, two, namely, Leung Kei-Chiu and Hong Kwang-yan, are members of the East Asiatic Society (*Ta-a-Kai*) of Tokyo. We observe with pleasure that the Society is moving vigorously in their behalf. The Society held a special meeting on the 1st instant, and appointed a Committee to draw up a memorial and present it to Count Okuma, which was done on the following day. The memorialists make a powerful appeal to the Prime Minister to set every possible influence at work on account of the unfortunate men. They point to Great Britain's action in saving Kang Yu-Wei, and to the successful efforts of the Foreign Representatives in Peking and Marquis Ito in obtaining a mitigation of Chang's condemnation, and they plead in the name of mercy, of humanity, and of civilized progress that whatever influence the Japanese Government possesses should be exerted to save Leung and Hong. We imagine that this memorial, timely and becoming as it is, will prove superfluous. It may be taken for granted that not Japan alone but all the Western States having relations with China are already giving their attention to this matter. It will be a wretched and humiliating business if the six Progressists are murdered in the Chinese capital within sight of the flags of the Powers of Christendom.

THE SZECHUAN TROUBLES.

The telegram which we publish elsewhere with regard to Yü Man-tze requires a word of explanation. Yü is the son of a deceased opium-den-proprietor, and is believed to hold high office in the Kalao Hui, which association he joined several years ago. He is part proprietor of a coal mine in Central Szechuan, and although the nick-name "Man-tze" (savage) has been given to him in consequence of his wild and reckless habits of life, he appears to possess great popularity and to wield wide influence in the district where he resides. For a long time he has been under a ban, and many efforts have been made by the officials to effect his capture, but his friends have always succeeded in protecting him. Last June, indeed, he did actually fall into the hands of the Authorities, and was imprisoned in the Yung-chang jail, but his followers speedily effected his rescue. From that time he seems to have made up his mind to pursue a desperate course. He gradually collected a number of discontented or turbulent persons, whom he was able to arm more or less efficiently, and during the first week in July—the exact date has never been published—he headed a raid against the Roman Catholic converts in Central Szechuan, seized M. Fleury, one of the two French priests ministering in the district, and barely failed to capture the other, M. Louis, who escaped in a wounded condition. The French Consul at Chungking, M. Haas, immediately called upon the local authorities to contrive M. Fleury's rescue, and the French Government intimated to the Tsung-li Yamên in Peking that the Governor-General of Szechuan would be held responsible for the unfortunate priest's safety. Troops were accordingly despatched from Chêngtu, early in August, but of course the difficulty was how to exercise force without imperilling M. Fleury's life, for Yü was understood to be holding him as a hostage for his own safety. We have no information about the movements of these troops, but it was generally considered very doubtful whether they could be trusted to act against Yü, as many Kalao Hui associates were supposed to be in their ranks. Yü, though said to be bitterly hostile to Roman Catholicism and its professors, showed a desire to treat directly with the French authorities, but they, of course, would have nothing to say to him. The next incident of the story was the death of the Tartar Governor-General of Szechuan, which took place at Chêngtu during the third week in August, and was said to have been self-inflicted, his mind having given way under the pressure of the difficulties confronting him. He certainly had failed completely to accomplish anything in the way of bringing Yü to justice, and on September 16th news reached Chungking that a disturbance had occurred at Hochou, a town about sixty miles to the north of that place; that the origin of the trouble was a proclamation—doubtless anti-Christian—issued by Yü; and that the American

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mission had been looted and the Catholic mission burned, happily, however, without any injury to life or limb. Now, we have the intelligence that Yü has captured another French priest, and that his followers have surrounded a town which they are about to attack. Evidently his proceedings have assumed the dimensions of a revolt, and when we consider that nearly three months have elapsed since he seized M. Fleury—who, at the date of latest advices, was said to be incarcerated in a coal mine—the helplessness of the local authorities becomes very striking. Chungking is a very difficult place to reach, and the centre of Szechuan is still more difficult. The two unfortunate priests are in very evil plight, for no pressure brought to bear upon Chinese officialdom in accessible places will invest it with power to stretch out a competent arm to Yung-chang. Of course the time will come when foreign Powers will insist upon taking into their own hands the duty of preserving order in districts which, though opened by treaty, are proved to be beyond the range of the Chinese Government's effective administration.

It is certainly very disquieting intelligence that the Szechuan insurgents have invested or captured—the latter seems to be the right version—Chungking. On September 15th Yü Man-tze and his followers looted the American mission and burned the Catholic mission at Hochou, a town fifty or sixty miles north of Chungking. It was therefore evident that the troops sent against them from Chêngtu in the first week of August had failed to effect anything. Then came news, dated September 29th, at Shanghai, that Yü had just captured another French priest, and that a body of 1,000 soldiers had been ordered to march against him, doubtless from Chêngtu. Apparently he has left these troops behind him and moved rapidly upon Chungking. It will be observed that the intelligence comes from Chêngtu, the principal town of Szechuan, situated some twenty miles to the north-west of Chungking. The natural source of intelligence should be Chungking itself, for we can not suppose that the rapidity of the rebels' movements rendered access to the telegraph impossible. There are several foreigners living in Chungking, and as Yü is avowedly anti-foreign, their fate would cause considerable anxiety but for two reasons: first, that the river supplies a ready road of escape, and secondly that unless Wü's followers have increased extraordinarily in numbers, the rebellion can not be of a really formidable character. Still Chêngtu and Chungking are very difficult of access, and if the local authorities are unable to cope with the disturbance, it may have plenty of time to develop and involve a large region before reinforcements can arrive. We believe that a British gun-boat was ordered, a few days ago, to proceed to Ichang, but it can not have arrived there yet.

ANOTHER PROHIBITED PUBLICATION.

The *Official Gazette* announces that another foreign publication has been proscribed by the Authorities as injurious to public morals, and that any copies of it found on sale will be confiscated. It is entitled "Sklodanowsky's Leben de Photographicen. Lieben-Lust und Lied."

THE FOREIGN LOAN.

Arithmetic does not seem to be a strong point with some of the journalists who are discussing the methods to be pursued in placing Japan's bonds abroad. They say that it is better to make the rate of interest low even if the bonds have to be sold cheap, and the reason they assign for their contention is that since interest will have to be paid for a great many years, a small difference in the rate will ultimately amount to a very considerable sum. That is really very naïve. No doubt fifty payments of 4 *yen* aggregate 200 *yen*, whereas 50 payments of 3½ amount to only 175; and on the other hand, if a four-per-cent. bond sells for 100, a three-and-a-half per cent. bond should sell for 88.5, so that the net gain by adopting the lower rate seems to be 12.5 at the end of fifty years. It is conceivable that the proposition, stated in such terms, might appeal to the intelligence of a school-girl. But surely persons undertaking to discuss finance should be able to understand that the rate of interest is fixed from the first, and that any change which it undergoes in proportion to the price of the bond is a change in name only and not in reality. If London is willing to buy Japanese four-per-cent. bonds at 96, it will not give more than 84 for her three-and-a-half per cents. and a borrower who has to pay 3½ for a debt of 84 *yen* is in precisely the same position as a borrower who pays 4 for 96 *yen*. In that particular phase of the interest question the actual cost of the transaction is not involved at all But it is well worth while to consider the influence that Japan's present choice may have on her future credit. As a matter of sentiment it would be well for her to raise herself, if possible, out of the ruck of nations borrowing at 4 or 5 per cent Apart from that, however, she ought to look forward to the time when her bonds, whatever price she gets for them now, will approximate in value to the best securities in the markets of London, Paris, or Berlin. She may reasonably anticipate that time, we think, and when it comes, her financial position will certainly be stronger if her 3½ per cents. are selling at par than it would be if her 4 per cents. were selling at a premium. As to the terms which she is likely to obtain in London, there can be no doubt that if she chose to give tangible security —her customs revenue, for example—she could sell three-and-a-half-per-cent. bonds at par. Possibly some people may advocate that course, nor can we question that it would be the wisest plan, provided —and the proviso is important—provided that the transaction is final. If there is no prospect of another appeal to the foreign money market, the customs revenue might be pledged on the present occasion without inconvenience. But it is difficult to emerge from the system of security when once it has been inaugurated. If Japan gives security now, she will have to pay very heavily for any loan that she attempts to raise hereafter without security, and beyond her customs revenue, we do not see what security she has to offer. Consequently, if she pledges that unique asset now, she may find herself embarrassed by and by. Besides, the national credit alone should be quite good enough to command very tolerable terms.

The sale of bonds in London on account of various productive enterprises will not commence until next year. It would be obviously unwise to go abroad for money until the sums now lying in the Treasury are exhausted. When the proper time comes, the bonds will be offered as sterling bonds, their denominations expressed in pounds, shillings, and pence. According to present intentions, the rate of interest will be low, probably 3½, but the bonds will be sold at a discount, and since they will be redeemed at par by lot, investors will have a chance of reaping a good profit. Thus, the purchaser of a 3½ per cent. bond at 90, redeemable by lot after 4 years, may receive altogether 114 in the 5th year. In other words, his investment may bring a profit of 24, which will be the same as though he had placed his money originally at 6¾ per cent. interest. Such terms ought to prove very attractive to capitalists, and, so far as Japan is concerned, they seem to offer the best chance of getting access to the stores of cheap money awaiting investment in Europe.

THE HAWAIIAN REPRESENTATIVE.

The *Official Gazette* announces that Mr. R. Irwin, Hawaiian Representative, was received in audience by the Emperor on the 29th ultimo, in connexion with his return to his country, which means, we presume, the closing of the Hawaiian Legation, inasmuch as the annexation of the islands by the United States has dispensed with any further necessity for their separate representation at foreign Courts. It is a pity that the words used by His Majesty on such occasions are not published, for in Mr. Irwin's case they doubtless embodied a warm recognition of the great service rendered by him to Japan. Without Mr. Irwin we question whether Japanese emigration to Hawaii would ever have become an accomplished fact. Certainly the system would never have been organized so cleverly and worked so tactfully as to prove not merely a source of wealth to the country, but also a means of encouraging the spirit of enterprise and furnishing highly profitable employment for thousands of people who would otherwise never have emerged from the hopelessly hard, hand-to-mouth existence of farm labourers in the remote provinces of Japan. The Emperor, who takes such a keen interest in the welfare of his subjects, must be well aware of the great boon that Hawaiian emigration has proved to them, and we do not doubt that His Majesty found in Mr. Irwin's farewell audience a fitting occasion to commend his services.

RELIGIOUS SERVICE FOR SOLDIERS KILLED IN THE WAR.

It is announced in the *Official Gazette* that a special service for the men who lost their lives in the war with China and in Formosa, whether those killed in battle or those that died of wounds and disease, will be performed in the Yasukuni Shrine at Kudan at thirty minutes past midnight on the 4th November, and that a special great festival will be held on that day and the following. A complete list of the dead is published in the issue of the *Gazette* which contains the announcement. The list occupies 32 closely printed pages, and contains eleven thousand names.

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THE ASHIO COMPLAINANTS.

To any one who has read the regulations enacted and the proclamations issued in the days of the Tokugawa for the control of the peasantry, the collection of taxes, and the enforcement of procedure relating to complaints and petitions, the magnitude of the change that has come over the lower orders in Japan during the *Meiji* era seems almost incredible. Englishmen, to be sure, have had some not very dissimilar experiences of their own during precisely the same period, for the recognition now extended to the rights of labour contrast startlingly with the treatment received by the trades unions twenty-nine years ago, when a Judge declared from the bench that they might be robbed with impunity, being too illegal to possess any title to the protection of the law. The Japanese rustic seems to have completely forgotten the restraints of old times, and to have lost all sense of awe in the presence of officialdom. Fifty representatives of the farmers in the Ashio-poisoned prefectures found their way to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce on the 30th ultimo, and behaved as if the place belonged to them, and as if they had been accustomed all their lives to enjoy free acess to public buildings. They asked to see the Minister, and, on being recommended to retire, and chose four or five delegates instead of such an unmanageable number as fifty, they vociferously protested that the Minister had promised to admit them, and that they intended to wait until he fulfilled his promise. In vain the attendants, the police, and the gendarmes counselled them to be reasonable. They said they had resolved to brave all hazards and that nothing should drive them away until they had obtained a hearing. They kept their word. Evening came; the officials withdrew, and two or three hall porters alone remained. But the fifty rustics held their ground patiently. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce is the most imposing edifice in Tokyo. It is doubtful whether any one of the fifty peasants have ever seen, or dreamed of, such a huge, massive structure. But it did not awe them one little bit. They roamed nonchalantly about the big building, making themselves thoroughly at home, and spending the night amid magnificence that must have painfully contrasted with the desolation they had left at their own homes. On the following day their patience was rewarded. The Minister gave audience to them and spoke very sympathetically and tactfully. He said that the Government had full cognisance of their condition and was most anxious to assist them in every legitimate way. Some of their requests could be complied with, but others were quite out of the question. For instance, they asked to have their lands restored to the original condition, but that would cost about 13 million *yen*, and the Government had not 13 millions to spend, nor could obtain it without the Diet's assent to increased taxes. Means were provided for helping persons reduced to a state of a state of destitution, but no machinery existed for restoring lands which had been laid waste. The Minister also dwelt upon the impropriety of attempting to bring thousands of people to Tokyo in order to present petitions direct, without recourse to the duly constituted local authorities. The peasants then withdrew, but they did not leave Tokyo. They merely repaired to a house in Shiba which had been procured for them as an office, and they are there now, Mr. Tanaka Shozo apparently keeping them company.

SPECULATORS AND SWINDLERS.

The opening of the era of mixed residence will doubtless lead to various displays of enterprise on the part of both Japanese and foreigners. In 1885, when there seemed to be a fair prospect that Treaty Revision would soon be accomplished, the general belief among the Japanese was that a great demand for land would spring up, and many people invested in building sites at prices which, even had the expectation been realized, would not have left much margin for profit. Something of the same spirit seems to be now at work, though, on the whole, people appear to be comparatively free from extravagant expectations. The *Hochi Shimbun* tells a story of a company having its origin in a peculiar circumstance. A certain Mr. Yuyama Yanao, owner of a place called the *Baku-yen*, or cascade garden, at Sano, near the base of Fuji-yama, sold the land to a foreigner for fifty thousand *yen*. The transaction is described as a swindle, but we can not discern the grounds of the statement. Having effected the sale, Mr. Yuyama concluded that the foreigner's object in buying was to utilize the water-power of the cascade for manufacturing purposes, and that if he could obtain control of the source of the stream, he might exact a heavy payment from the foreigner. In pursuance of that design, he is now said to be in treaty for the land above the cascade. Further, in conjunction with Mr. Isobe, a barrister of Tokyo, and Mr. Sakamaki, editor of the *Akebono Shimbun* of Shizuoka, he has formed a company called the *Sanri* (three advantages) Shōkai, which has for its object the purchase of places celebrated for scenic beauty and their subsequent sale to foreigners.

GOVERNORS OF PREFECTURES.

The latest cause of friction between the two sections of the Constitutional Party is said to be a somewhat extensive change in the personnel of Governors of Prefectures. Fourteen of the present Governors are to be replaced by new men, and an idea is entertained that four of the number are to be Progressists and ten Liberals. There is consequently a considerable outcry, and another most unsightly display of jealousy. It is much to be desired that the Progressists and Liberals should part company. Their union tends only to furnish unedifying spectacles, and, if much longer continued, will result in completely discrediting the system of party government. Before they succeeded in overthrowing the so-called "clan statesmen," the party politicians found nothing more blameworthy in the Government's record than the traces of *Jojitsu*, or favouritism, which they professed to detect everywhere. Favouritism there may have been. We are not in a position to pronounce any opinion on that point. But certainly it was never exposed to gaze as conspicuously as is the favouritism which these same politicians now seem to regard as fitting and proper.

INCREASED TAXATION.

Some of the vernacular newspapers say that the *saké* tax is to be increased to 14 *yen* a *koku*; in other words, doubled, the present rate being 7 *yen*. But we have reason to know that the assertion is incorrect. There is no inherent reason why the tax should not be raised to 14 *yen* or even 20 *yen*. If the Government were in a position to impose upon alcohol and Chinese *samshu* duties sufficient to prevent them from coming into competition with the home-brewed liquor, there need be no hesitation in levying 20 *yen* a *koku* on refined *saké*, for it is the beverage of the upper classes, and even though it paid such a tax, it could still be sold for a price comparing favourably with that of cheap wines in Europe. However, there is no intention of exploiting the tax to that extent at present. The rate fixed by the Government is 12 *yen*, or an increase of 5 *yen*, and the additional revenue anticipated is 20 millions. Altogether, the revenue to be derived from increased or newly imposed taxes in the 33rd fiscal year of *Meiji*—1900-1901—will be 30 millions. Count Inouye's programme for obtaining additional revenue included 16 millions, in round numbers, from an increased tax on agricultural lands, and 3¾ millions from increased charges on railways and telegraphs. These two items are ruled out by the present Cabinet, the former for reasons which have already been fully explained; the latter because it is considered unwise to adopt any measure calculated to impair the people's facilities of communication. On the other hand, Count Inouye would have raised the *Saké* Tax to 10 *yen* only, thus obtaining an additional revenue of 12½ millions, whereas the present Minister of Finance raises the tax to 12 *yen*, and gets an income of 20 millions. Hence against Count Inouye's 32½ millions (agricultural lands 16 millions, *Saké* Tax 12½ millions, and railways and telegraphs 3¾ millions) Count Okuma gets 20 millions from the *Saké* Tax alone, and obtains other ten millions from the urban building lands, from sugar, and from the income tax.

It is intended, we understand, to spend no less than 32 million *yen* on the improvement and extension of the telegraph service. The outlay will be spread over three or four years, and the money will be obtained by an issue of bonds. This item, indeed, forms part of the sum to be raised abroad and at home during the next few years. Japan will then possess a fine service of telegraphs. The building of new railways and the improvement of the old are also to be pushed on vigorously, for it is felt that to delay these productive enterprises because the required funds are not actually in hand would be very unwise policy.

According to official calculation, the ordinary revenue will aggregate 180 million *yen*, approximately, in 1901, and will amply cover the expenditures. The Army and Navy were set down in the *post-bellum* programme at 50 million *yen* as the regular yearly expenditure when the scheme of expansion was completed. But owing to the rise of prices and other causes, the expenditures for the two services will be 60 millions.

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THE DOSHISHA AFFAIR.

We are not sure whether the wisest course just at present might not be to refrain from all public reference to the Doshisha trouble, since there is a reasonable possibility that a settlement will be effected, and cōoperation restored between the Japanese and foreign friends of the institution. But as we have lent our correspondence columns for the full and free ventilation of the facts of the case, we fall under a species of obligation to refer to one point which we are in a position to elucidate. In the long and interesting letter recently published in this journal over the signature of "Edmund," the following paragraph occurs:—

> Another reported remark also needs correction. Probably no criticism of the action of the Doshisha Trustees has had so much weight as the remark said to have been uttered by Count Okuma on first hearing of the matter. It has gone round the world several times and is no doubt now being repeated somewhere by some impassioned speaker whose zeal is in inverse ratio to his real knowledge. If ever uttered by Count Okuma it was evidently uttered in view of the representations and interpretations made by men who might reasonably be expected to know wherein they spoke, but who, as has been shown, were mistaken. In any case Count Okuma is well known (at least in Tokyo) to hold views of the changes made quite the opposite to those at first said to have been expressed now that he understands the facts from the stand-point of the Trustees.

With regard to this we have made direct inquiries and their result does not confirm "Edmund's" version. Count Okuma did express emphatic disapproval of the Trustees' action when the facts were originally submitted to him, and his view of the reprehensible character of their procedure at the outset has not undergone any modification. But, as His Excellency understands, they have since changed their position, so that it no longer seems to violate the principles upon which the institution was founded, and Count Okuma's opinion of the present state of the Doshisha has, of course, changed correspondingly. His original condemnation stands, however, and its significance can not be minimized.

The arrival of Mr. McIvor has directed public attention once more to the affairs of the Doshisha. Mr. McIvor comes as legal representative of the American Board Mission. His business is to investigate and adjust the Doshisha question, and he is commissioned to act on behalf not only of the A. B. Mission but also of the trustees of the Harris fund, Messrs. Davis, Gordon, Learned, and Curtis being nominated as an advisory committee to consult with him. We understand that full power to determine the method of procedure and the terms of settlement is delegated to Mr. McIvor and the Advisory Committee, though, of course, the wishes of the Board have been definitely stated. It need scarcely be said that the prime desire of the Board is to see the Doshisha restored to what they regard as its original and legitimate condition, namely, a genuinely Christian institution. The detailed steps of such restoration are probably open to discussion, but they would doubtless include the elimination of any Trustees who have shown themselves antagonistic to the fundamental purpose of the institution; the appointment of a President, and the organization of a Board of Trustees, who shall be genuinely representative of Evangelical Christianity; some arrangement, more or less comprehensive, with regard to the religious belief of the teachers, and the furnishing of written guarantees that no departure from the principles thus restored to operation shall be made so long as the institution avails itself of the funds subscribed by Christians for its establishment and support. Failing a settlement on that basis, or some approximately similar basis, the Trustees of the Doshisha will be required to restore the money given to the institution by the A. B. Mission and Mr. Harris, as well as the property in lands and houses now held in the name of the Doshisha but purchased with foreign funds. The money to be restored would amount to $148,000 (gold)—namely, $73,000 given by the A. B. Board and $75,000 by Mr. Harris—and the property includes nine houses in Kyoto, together with the lands on which they stand, together with buildings and sites in various other places. If a settlement can not be effected amicably, recourse will be had to the courts of law, but since the latter step would necessarily involve the abandonment of all hope of restoring the Doshisha to its original *status*, we sincerely trust that it may be avoided. A similar hope is expressed in the columns of the *Mainichi Shimbun*, but that journal's method of discussing the question does not commend itself to our sense of justice. It claims that Mr. Nishima's purpose in organizing the Doshisha was, not to propagate Christianity, but to promote education, and that in attributing to him the former intention, foreigners fell into an error. They inferred his object from what they saw and knew of his character and his creed, and their inference was faulty. So long as Mr. Nishima lived, his influence averted any clash of views, but after his death the inevitable collision came. It is a most unfortunate affair, our contemporary goes on to say, and if it is carried into court, the effect upon the minds of Japanese and Americans alike will be most disastrous. The Japanese will conclude that the Americans are narrow-minded and bigoted: the Americans will conclude that the Japanese are insincere and dishonest. Such, in brief, is the *Mainichi's* argument. It may be re-stated without any perversion of terms but in such a form as to display at once the strange morality it embodies. An eminent Japanese propagandist of Christianity, a man who is devoting his whole life to the spread of the Christian creed, approaches the Committee of an association of Christian propagandists in America, seeking aid to found and endow an educational institution in Japan. He knows perfectly well that the Committee have no manner of right to divert any of the funds placed in their trust to purposes of purely secular education, or to collect any money from the association for such a purpose, and they, knowing that he knows, and believing in his integrity, place a large amount at his disposal. Nay more, they send out Christian propagandists, to organise and give instruction in the institution, and they support them in the discharge of those functions for many years. Then the Japanese suddenly turn round and say:—"You were mistaken. On our side there never was any intention of making this a Christian institution. Our object from the outset was secular education pure and simple. You have given us your money, therefore, under a false impression. But we mean to keep it and spend it in our own way. You should not have been so confiding at the outset." Does the *Mainichi* really think that such a statement of the case for the Trustees of the Doshisha constitutes an excuse, or palliates their action in any way?

THE YOKOTA AFFAIR.

Our readers are probably very tired of hearing about the Yokota affair. Yet the *dénouement* is worth telling. We are not quite sure, indeed, that the story is quite correct, for it appears in the columns of the *Fiji Shimpo* only, whereas the other leading journals of the capital allege that the question is still *sub judice*. However, the *Fiji Shimpo* is generally credible, and we can scarcely suppose that, after such a long delay, the Cabinet failed to arrive at some final decision when it held its usual meeting on Tuesday. Both sides, the *Fiji* says, have suffered defeat. All the Progressist members of the Cabinet—with the exception, naturally, of the Prime Minister, who acted the part of a peace-maker—supported Mr. Ohigashi, the Minister of Justice, and were aided by the Director of the Legislative Bureau, who was present at the meeting, and spoke against Mr. Yokota. But the Liberal members took the other side, and were joined by the Ministers of War and of the Navy, so that the majority were against Mr. Ohigashi. Victory would thus have rested with the Chief Public Procurator had not an entirely new charge been preferred against him. It appears that, a few days ago, he addressed to all the Cabinet Ministers, with the exception of the Minister of Justice, a letter asking to be heard by the Cabinet in his own defence, and using against Mr. Ohigashi language which is held to be quite unbecoming in an official document and with reference to a Minister of the Crown. On the strength of that letter the Cabinet's verdict has been given against him. We presume, therefore, assuming the *Fiji's* account to be accurate, that both the Minister of Justice and the Procurator will resign. Indeed, our contemporary alleges that Mr. Yokota will be deprived of office as a disciplinary measure. That will be a pity, for he enjoys the reputation of being a jurist of very high qualifications.

THE SEIWA TETSUDO.

A telegram from Osaka says that the Seiwa (Ise-Yamato) Railway Company is to be dissolved. It is not easy to discover the precise causes of this decision. We alluded briefly in a recent issue to the embarrassments which had overtaken the concern. They were then represented in a familiar form, namely, large expenditures and small or invisible results. The specific accusation, however, seems to be that the directors called an extraordinary meeting, and, by some irregular process, obtained permission to sell a number of shares upon which nothing had yet been paid up. Several of the principal Osaka shareholders instituted legal proceedings in the Nara local court against the directors, but there appeared to be chances of adjustment without a judical decision, when suddenly, owing to some complication not made clear by the telegram, a crisis was precipitated, and the dissolution of the Company was resolved at an extraordinary meeting. There have been a considerable number of these unsavoury incidents lately, and their effect upon the oplooking public has been very

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injurious to Japanese credit. It may be stated, we think, that until the spring of this year a distinct improvement was discernible in Japanese commercial morality as it presents itself to foreign eyes. But within the past few months, very ugly troubles have overtaken various companies and flagrantly dishonest proceedings have been revealed under circumstances where integrity might fairly have been expected. Foreign observers have thus been forced back to their old attitude of distrust. There would be great injustice in forgetting, however, that Japan, since her war with China in 1895, has been passing through an era of speculative mania precisely after the manner of other countries under corresponding conditions. Her mania, indeed, has not been as violent as theirs. She has escaped without a crisis. But the era has added a new word to her vocabulary—*Homatsu Kaisha*, or bubble company—and the morality of her people has been subjected to a test which it certainly has not supported well, but which, after all, no nation has ever supported well. These things have to be remembered and due allowance made for them. People who believe that there is any inherent lack of moral fibre in the Japanese will be found, one day, to have judged harshly and unwarrantably.

THE MAYOR OF TOKYO.

On the 1st instant, the Tokyo City Assembly came together for the purpose of exercising its newly acquired privilege of electing three citizens from among whom the Minister of State for Home Affairs will nominate the Mayor of Tokyo. It has been already explained in these columns that under the special system of municipal government hitherto operative in Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto, but abolished by a vote of the Diet last session, the functions of Mayor used to be discharged by the Governor, who is appointed by the Cabinet. The people now, however, have the right to elect a Mayor of their own choice, and the election is made by the City Assembly, which chooses three candidates and submits their names to the Home Department. The voting resulted thus:—Mr. Matsuda Hideo—a Director of the Bank of Agriculture and Industry—42 votes; Mr. Sado Tokihisa, 38 votes; and Mr. Yoshino Seikei, 33 votes.

TELEPHONES.

A new telephone exchange has just been opened at Shimbashi. The list of subscribers to whom instruments have been furnished, and of employés engaged at the exchanges is given as follows by the vernacular press:—

	Subscribers.	Employés. Men	Women
Central Exchange.....	1 400	21	67
Nadiwa Exchange	1 300	14	54
Shimbashi	1.100	13	39
Totals	3 800	48	168

The night work is done entirely by men. The women come on duty in two shifts, the first from 7 a.m. to noon; the second, from noon to 7 p.m. The men also work in two batches, the first from 7 p.m. to midnight; the second from midnight to 7 a.m. It is said that the busiest time of the day is from 8 to 9 a.m. There is talk of a large increase in the number of machines, and of radical improvements in the plant.

LIEUT.-GENERAL VISCOUNT TORIO.

The public has not heard much during the past two years of Viscount Torio, who shares with Count Soyeshima, the honour of leading the little band of Japanese politicians that call themselves Conservatives. The once celebrated officer seems to have gradually passed out of the vista of general observation since he penned the remarkable essay which showed such an unerring perception of the egoism of Western civilization. He seems likely, however, to occupy a prominent place once more in the eyes of the public, for he has suddenly stepped into the political arena under a very peculiar flag. It may easily be conjectured that the Viscount sees many objectionable features in the present administration. Party Government is to him a detestable innovation, quite opposed to the principles upon which Japan has been ruled for twenty-five centuries; and to aggravate matters, party government, as exemplified at present in Japan, means the conduct of public affairs, not by statesmen whom the Sovereign has nominated, but by a species of Jacobin Club. Whatever be the strength of the stout old General's convictions, however, he has no political following to give effect to them, and in his dilemma he has had recourse to the Buddhist priesthood of whose cause he has been such a resolute advocate all his life. A letter addressed by him to the incumbents of the great Hongwan temple and to the sect they represent, urges that the present political crisis calls for the active interference of all sincere Buddhists, and exhorts the priests to preach a crusade against the introduction of a system manifestly at variance with the time-honoured polity of Japan. A Tokyo contemporary says that a copy of this letter has come into the hands of the Cabinet Ministers, and that they regard it as a document not fitted to emanate from a man in Viscount Torio's position, namely, a member of the Privy Council.

THE REPRIEVE OF CHANG.

A telegram from Peking is published by the *Tokyo Asahi*, to the effect that Marquis Ito, on receiving news that Chang Yin-yuen had been condemned to death, proceeded at once, though the time was midnight, to the residence of Li Hung-chang, and induced him to employ all his influence for the reprieve of Chang. We doubt greatly whether that story is correct. That Marquis Ito did everything in his power to assist Chang may be taken for granted, but according to our information the midnight visit to Li Hung-chang was made by Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Charge d'Affaires in Peking. Li is very inimical to Chang, but was nevertheless induced by his visitor's earnest representations, to employ his good offices on behalf of the condemned official. What offence Chang had committed we have no idea, but the plot in which he was supposed to have been implicated had no existence. But in China to be in the way, under certain circumstances, constitutes a capital crime on the part of a high official. The regents appointed by the father of the present Emperor's predecessor were beheaded because they had been appointed regents when there were worthier candidates in the field.

JAPAN AS A MANUFACTURING COUNTRY.

In a speech delivered a few days ago by the former Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, Mr. Kaneko Kentaro, to the members of the Oriental Association (*Tohokyokai*), he insisted strongly on the expediency of adopting every possible means to promote industrial enterprise in this country. The history of the world shows, he said, that nations fall into three categories with respect to wealth. The poorest are those which, like India and Australia, export chiefly farm produce and raw materials. Next in the scale come countries which, like Germany, France, and America, work up their own products and export them in the manufactured state. And at the head of all stand countries which, like England, import raw materials from abroad and manufacture them. Japan has a fair prospect of attaining the second rank. She is beginning to produce at home fabrics hitherto imported, and to export in manufactured form materials hitherto exported raw. But a period of stagnation has overtaken her. It is well illustrated by the figures relating to the export of silk:—

Year.	Total production of silk in catties.	Total export of silk in catties.
1892	6,850,000	5,400,000
1893	7,700,000	3,700,000
1894	8,180,000	5,480,000
1895	10,000,000	5,810,000
1896	9,000,000	3,910,000

A similar falling off is recorded in the case of textile fabrics, rugs, porcelain, and so forth, while, on the other hand, the imports from abroad have steadily increased in bulk. Mr. Kaneko repudiates any adherence to the old-fashioned doctrines of Adam Smith. He is not at all perturbed about "the balance of trade." But statistics have a lesson to tell, and wise people will not hesitate to learn it. Of course the causes of the present "set back" are not far to seek. There is, first, the great appreciation of prices that has taken place, since the war, in the market for raw materials and for labour; there is also the depressing effect produced by the bursting of a number of bubble companies—the outcome of conditions always arising after a victorious struggle with a foreign country—and in this category must also be placed the high rate of interest that has ruled. These are incidental factors of disturbance. Then follows the fundamentally disabling factor that the Japanese have been for centuries accustomed to carrying on all industries on a petty scale, as domestic industries in short, and that they have not yet developed the faculty for organizing their work so as to be able to meet a large demand and to turn out great quantities of goods uniform in quality and character. In the third place, there is the fact that almost all the country's available capital has been fixed and none remains floating. In the fourth, the difficulty presents itself that the goods manufactured depend upon their technical, artistic, or experimental features rather than upon their economical usefulness. Finally, the people are not familiar with the conditions existing abroad, and are therefore unable to adapt their work to foreign tastes and requirements. Such a state of affairs suggests considerable uneasiness on the verge of the era of mixed residence. What is to be the route leading to renewed vigour of development? Is it to be cheap foreign capital in Japan-

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ese hands alone? Or is it to be foreign capital with recourse to the co-operation of foreign expert knowledge and experience? Or is it to be foreign capital in foreign hands solely, the Japanese furnishing labour only? Mr. Kaneko dismisses the third plan with contempt and pins his faith on the second.

COTTON SPINNING IN SHANGHAI.

The strike of the cotton-spinning operatives in Shanghai draws attention to a fact of which little public notice has been taken, namely, that the cotton-spinning industry in Shanghai is not realizing any of the hopes entertained at the outset of the enterprise. On the contrary, it threatens to find a place in the catalogue of the Settlement's disasters. We speak only from hearsay, having no direct knowledge of the facts, but there seems to be no reason to doubt the correctness of our information. The first difficulty is connected with the supply of raw cotton. It appears that the Chinese local authorities have resorted to their familiar device of exorbitant taxation, so that the price of the cotton when it reaches the mills is not consistent with profitable operations. That is an incident which we predicted from the very first. If it had not occurred soon, it would have occurred late. Still, there would always remain the resource of using imported cotton. Japan does not find in her immediate neighbour, China, as favourable a source of cotton supply as she finds in comparatively distant India. The story of her imports from each country during the past five years is instructive:—

IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON.

	From China.	From British India.
1893	7 805.999 *yen*.	6 052 047 *yen*.
1894	8,120 417 „	7,846.580 „
1895	13 786 101 „	7 693.224 „
1896	8 158 084 „	19 244 840 „
1897	9 527 818 „	25,720 188 „

Hence, even if the Shanghai mills were deprived of the advantage of supplies of cotton grown virtually at their own doors, they ought still to have been able to prosper with cheap labour and with an immediately available market. But cheap labour is exactly the factor which seems to have proved defective. The Chinese will not work for a low wage in the mills. They have demanded a ruinous rate of remuneration, and we strongly suspect that the strike now reported is due to an attempt on the part of employers to reduce the cost of labour to a reasonable figure. It has also been found, we learn, that female hands are unserviceable in China, the small footed women being unable to move about with sufficient ease. It is disheartening to think that the employment of foreign capital and the exercise of foreign enterprise should have encountered this check in Shanghai.

PROMOTIONS IN THE ARMY.

Six Major-Generals have been promoted to the rank of Lieut.-General. They are Baron Oshima, Baron Oseko, Prince Sadanaru (Fushimi), Baron Tachimi, Major-General Tamura, and Major-General Terauchi. Baron Oshima is to command the 9th Division; Prince Sadanaru, the 14th; Baron Tachimi, the 8th; and Lieut.-General Tamura, the 12th. Colonels Ando, Iida, and Arai have been raised to the rank of Major-General.

THE TREASURY'S PURCHASES OF BONDS.

It would seem that virtually the whole of the public loan bonds "floating" in the market six months ago have been bought up by the Treasury. The quantity offered daily for purchase by the Bank of Japan does not now exceed four thousand *yen*. On the other hand, the total purchases hitherto made aggregate about 35 million *yen*, whereas the former Minister of Finance hoped that 20 millions would satisfy the demand. It would have been possible, of course, to set limits to the transaction, but the Government rightly judged that any semblance of a disposition on the Treasury's part to stop the purchases might be misinterpreted by the people, and would probably lead to a marked decline in the market price of the bonds. As a measure of financial policy, the buying of the bonds must be pronounced a distinct success. The tightness in the money market has been relieved, and the bonds have appreciated considerably. Last year, many people argued that the Government lay under an imperative obligation either to raise a loan abroad for the purpose of redeeming the whole of the War Bonds, or to apply the remaining portion of the Indemnity to that object. Their reasoning took the line that, in subscribing to the War Bonds at the time of their issue, capitalists were actuated not by economical motives but by patriotic, and that they fully relied on the Government to find means of reimbursing them should such a step become advisable in the interests of trade and commerce. The step had become distinctly advisable, these critics said, and therefore the Government should not hesitate any longer. But the result of the transactions carried on by the Bank of Japan since June goes to prove that the bond-holders were not actuated by any desire of redemption on a wholesale scale. Thirty-five million *yen* has satisfied them.

A NEW VERSION.

Shanghai is doing itself justice. The occasion deserves to be utilized, and the manufactory of "bunders" shows no symptoms of being worn out. The Emperor having been poisoned and having committed suicide, the only remaining method of disposing of him without an anti-climax was to represent him as having disappeared. That story, accordingly, has now been circulated, with all the accuracy of detail which the public have a right to expect at this late hour. His Majesty, the telegraph says, conceived a scheme of abolishing the Empress-Dowager. We are not told what form the abolition was to take: that is left to the imagination. The duty of carrying out the programme was entrusted to Yuen Shi-kai. Yuen, however, took the Viceroy Yung into his confidence, and Yung lost no time in informing the Empress-Dowager. Her Majesty thereupon invited the Emperor to visit her at the Summer Palace on the 22nd ultimo, and the Emperor, understanding that his plot had been discovered, disappeared and has not since been heard of. There is only one thing to be said about these various tales, namely, that they all agree in representing the Emperor as a "vanished quantity."

LARCENY OF MAIL MATTER.

One of the troubles that disturbs the regularity of postal communication in Japan probably escapes the notice of many critics, not because its influence is insignificant, but because it has no precedent in other countries and is therefore not suspected of existing here. We allude to thefts of mail matter. Of course letters containing money or other valuables run a risk of being purloined in every land and under any system. But that is not the kind of thing to which we now refer. What we mean is petty larceny; the pettiest conceivable, in fact: larceny so petty that it would not seem worth the attention of the light-fingered faculty in Europe or America. The quarry at which the thief aims is a newspaper or the stamp on a letter, and his method of procedure is to go a-fishing with a wire hook in the pillar posts. Generally the newspaper is desired, because it is easier to convert into money than a postage stamp is. But the newspaper-lifter has also a tendency to interrupt the continuity of a correspondence, for his hook may come up freighted with a letter as often as with a newspaper, and it would not pay to restore the letter to the box, because the mutilated state of the envelope would betray the fact that the mail had been tampered with. The profit to be reaped by that kind of theft is so very insignificant that it could not constitute a practical temptation unless the value of money were extraordinarily great, as is the case in Japan. When a coin whose sterling equivalent is less than half a farthing has important rank in every-day accounts, a stamp or a newspaper worth four times that amount becomes well worth stealing.

SEVERIN.

Severin has emerged from prison. He managed to attract a great deal of attention during his incarceration, and he has at least the consolation of knowing that his experience will prove useful to foreigners in general, since it has helped to demonstrate the impossibility of feeding them on Japanese diet. After Severin's resources were exhausted, he had to fall back on the rice-and-barley meals constituting the ordinary prison fare, and the effect upon his health was so bad that the authorities were obliged to supply him with bread and meat as medical necessities. One of our Yokohama contemporaries, it may be noted, preferred a charge of inhumanity against the governors of the prison on the ground that, despite Severin's sufferings, they would not allow any departure from ordinary Japanese fare. It was an unjust accusation. The regulations did not create any competence to vary the fare according to the nationality of the prisoner, but the doctors solved the difficulty by ordering a change to bread and meat as medical necessities. Probably some sensation-lover will now get hold of Severin and publish a moving tale of his woes, which the public will duly credit, though they would refuse to believe the man's oath about anything else. Already, a new handle for criticism has been furnished by the *Fiji Shimpo*, which says that Severin was originally sentenced to ten months' imprisonment with hard labour, commencing from October 21st, 1897; that he appealed from the sentence; that the Tokyo Court of Appeal reversed the find-

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ing of the lower tribunal, but sentenced him to the same term of imprisonment on another count; that the Appeal Court's decision was not pronounced until 5th instant, and that, as the new sentence counted from the day of his incarceration, he was immediately released. That is obviously an incorrect account. We know that Severin went to Sugamo prison and was there put to hard labour, which would not have been the case had his appeal been *sub judice*. We know, also, that he was brought back from the convicts' prison at Sugamo to the House of Detention at Kajibashi to be tried on a new charge. Probably what happened was that, the Local Court having found him guilty on a new count, he again appealed and was successful on the second occasion.

MR. FUKUZAWA.

Our readers will learn with regret that Mr. Fukuzawa's malady does not yield to treatment as rapidly as was hoped. The distinguished patient is still in a semi-conscious condition, and has not recovered the power of speech. It is stated that the Government is desirous of conferring a title on him, but his often-declared objection to such distinctions stands in the way. There is uncertainty as to whether he would accept even a first-class order, and unfortunately he is not in a condition to be consulted.

Whenever an official of rank or the possessor of a title or a high-class order is seriously ill, the Emperor of Japan seldom fails to send a message of inquiry. It takes the form of a brief letter from the Minister of the Household Department, expressing the Sovereign's condolences and announcing some gift of wine, confectionery, or what not. Mr. Fukuzawa is said to be the first private individual who, without either title, office, or order, has been honoured by the receipt of such a message.

The hopeful accounts current on Wednesday about Mr. Fukuzawa's condition are not confirmed by subsequent bulletins. Thursday morning's medical report represented him as still in a semi-comatose condition, and not even capable of being fully roused to take nourishment. A good deal of anxiety begins to be felt about the result.

MISS TSUDA.

Miss Ume Tsuda and Mrs. Ogashina—or Miss Watanabe as she has been called since she left Japan—, who went to America a few months ago to attend the general meeting of the Women's Clubs, were invited by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury and other prominent people in England to be present at the Oxford convocation, which took place in the closing days of last month. The ladies were most successful in the United States, and will doubtless repeat the experience in England.

THE CHINESE LEGATION IN TOKYO.

Interviewed by a representative of the *Tokyo Asahi*, Mr. Li, the new Chinese *Chargé d'Affaires*, said that the recently appointed Minister to the Court of Japan, who was prevented by illness from taking up his appointment and is now lying sick in Shanghai, will probably recover soon and proceed to Peking, where he will be commended to another post. The *Chargé d'Affaires* is accompanied by three officials who are under instructions to investigate and report on the system of university education in Japan. They will probably devote two months to the inquiry.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS.

The International Association of Journalists of Japan met at the Hotel Metropole, Tokyo, on Sunday afternoon, being the first meeting since the formal formation of the Association, and the opportunity to form acquaintances and to exchange ideas was taken advantage of by a satisfactorily large number of members. After the routine business of the meeting had been disposed of, the following Resolution was framed and unanimously adopted:—

"That whereas, by the death of Mr. Henry Tennant, the International Association of Journalists of Japan has sustained a severe loss, he being not only a factor in bringing about the formation of this Association with a view to promote a fraternal spirit among native and foreign journalists, but untiring in his efforts—which there is every reason to hope are to be crowned with success—to remove the obnoxious and illogical legal obstructions in the way of the publication of newspapers in Japan by foreigners. Now therefore be it

"Resolved that a letter be sent by this Association to the family of the late Mr. H. Tennant expressive of our heartfelt regret at his untimely death and of the great respect we entertained for him.

At the termination of the meeting the members adjourned to a private dining room, where an excellent dinner awaited them. Those present included: Messrs. Yamagata, *Tokyo Independent*; Yamagata, *Yorodzu Choho*; Takayama, *Taiyo*, Mochizuki, *Japan English Journal of Commerce*; Sakuma, *Sekai-no-Nihon*; Katayama, *Labour World*; A. B. Brown, *Japan Mail*; Sato, *Nippon*; Isobe, *Chugai Eiji Shimbun*; Takenobu, *Japan Times*; F. Schroeder, *Eastern World*; Captain Brinkley, *Japan Mail*; Uyeshima, *Hochi*; Oka, *Chuwo*; Nagasawa, *Asahi* (Tokyo); Taguchi, *Keisai*; Ikebe, *Asahi* (Tokyo); Matsumoto, *Greater Japan*; E. Norman, *Japan Gazette*; Muramatsu; G. A. Adam, *Japan Advertiser*; R Hay, *Japan Gazette*; K. Takahashi, *Japan Times*; Tsuchiya, *Jiji Shimpo*.

REINFORCEMENT OF THE BRITISH SQUADRON.

It has been known in Hongkong for some time, says the *China Mail*, that the Admiralty had been advised to reinforce the British squadron with a newer type of gunboat suitable for work on the rivers and inland waters of China. We now learn that four new gunboats will shortly be sent out to Hongkong. These vessels will be sent out in pieces as freight on cargo steamers, and will be fitted up in the dockyard of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company. The names of the gunboats are as follow:—*Woodlark*, *Woodcock*, *Sandpiper*, and *Snipe*. One boat will make her headquarters at Shanghai and the other at Canton, while the remaining two will be retained in the fleet reserve at Hongkong ready for any emergency.

This will be a useful addition to the British squadron, and will be especially welcomed by the isolated foreign communities along the Chinese waterways, who are subjected to periodic scares owing to the action of the anti-foreign Chinese. Before long there may be plenty of work for these little gunboats.

DEATH OF THE HON. T. F. BAYARD.

The news of the death of the Hon. Thomas Francis Bayard will be received with general regret. Mr. Bayard was an American of the best type, while remaining still a thorough American, in patriotism and feeling; and he was as popular in London as in his own country. Born at Wilmington, Delaware, in 1828, he at first entered mercantile life, but abandoned it for law, and thence, by an easy transition, passed into the field of politics. In 1885 he entered President Cleveland's first Cabinet as Secretary of State, and, after a retirement into private life, he was appointed in March, 1893, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James. He was the first Ambassador appointed by the United States, his predecessors having the simple rank of Envoys Extraordinary. Mr. Bayard had some difficult questions to deal with, and at the time of the Venezuela dispute and President Cleveland's bellicose Message his position was a delicate one. It is probably largely owing to his tact; his English sympathies, and his personal charm of manner that official relations between the two countries are at present so satisfactory.

SAMPAN AND JINRIKISHA FARES.

At a meeting of the Foreign Consuls at Yokohama recently, Dr. Ritter, the Swiss Consul General, as Doyen of the Consular body, was instructed to convey to the Governor of Kanagawa Kencho representations concerning the frequent disputes between foreigners and coolies, and the occasional attacks on the former. These quarrels mainly arise from the coolies demanding more than their legal fare from passengers in sampans or *Jinrikisha*; and to remedy such an unsatisfactory state of things the Consuls recommend that large notices be put up at the Hatobas and the Railway station stating the legal fares for *jinrikisha* and sampans to different parts of the town and harbour, and also the proper charges for hire by the hour or day. They also recommend that *jinrikisha* coolies shall be numbered and registered and each shall carry a tariff in English to be produced on the passenger's demand. No reply has yet been received from the Governor.

BASEBALL.

YOKOHAMA V. MIKAYO CLUB, TOKYO.

The return match between these Clubs on Saturday afternoon afforded a capital and most interesting game. The Japanese team was much stronger than that which opposed Yokohama a fortnight ago, and the issue was for a long time doubtful. The game appeared at first altogether in favour of the Japanese, who at the end of the sixth innings had 11 runs against three gained by the Europeans. Onderdonk, who had been pitching for Yokohama, was then superseded by Blake, who was so successful with the ball that the Tokyo team only scored one run off him. In the eighth innings a magnificent hit by Onderdonk enabled him to make a home run, and gave Morse, on the second base, the chance to get home as well. This was the turning point in the game, which ended in a win for Yokohama by 13 to 12.

NEW BISHOP OF OSAKA.

The *Hiogo News* reports that the choice of a Bishop for the See of Osaka, in succession to Bishop Awdry has fallen upon the Rev. H. J. Foss, who has been labouring in Kobe for the last twenty years. It is superfluous for us to add, says our contemporary, that the reverend gentleman is held in the highest esteem by all with whom he has come in contact. During his long identification with the work of the Church of England in Kobe the Bishop-designate has won a very large circle of friends who will rejoice to learn of his elevation.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

It need scarcely be said that recent events in China have occupied a large part of Tokyo journalistic attention during the past week. Four years ago, most of us would have been inclined to question the profundity of Japan's knowledge of China. But one of the lessons taught by the war was that she had studied her neighbour carefully and astutely, and that she understood a great deal better than Western nations did how little real substance was behind the shadow of China's bulk. A good deal of interest and importance consequently attach to the views of the leading Tokyo newspapers at this juncture, for they can no longer be suspected of speaking without knowledge. The principal impression produced by their writing is surprise at their optimism. With scarcely any exception they take the view that the reforms in China have not been stopped but only suspended. Even the news just received that all the sinecures have been re-established, does not appear to shake this faith. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, for example, says that if once the spirit of progress has descended upon a nation, nothing can drive it out. For a moment it may lose its active vigour, but its influence will assuredly reassert itself. Japan's case illustrates that fact. The men who overthrew the Shogunate were openly pledged to an anti-foreign policy, but no sooner had they attained their political object than they were constrained to yield to the sentiment of the time and throw open the country. It will be so in China also. The nation has put its hand to the plough of reform, and can not turn back even if it would, for a power greater than selfish prejudice or political interest beckons it onward. Other journals discuss the matter from a narrower but more practical stand-point. The *Chuo Shimbun* may be quoted as their representative. It says that a careful scrutiny reduces the dimensions of the complication in Peking to comparatively small dimensions. The issue at stake was not progress or stagnation, not the nation's persistence in the path of reform or its reversion to old-time conservation, but simply whether the Canton party or the Manchu party should have the ascendancy. The Manchus have won, but the effects of their victory are confined to the north: they do not touch the south, which is the great centre of reforming influence; they do not paralyse Chang Chih-tung, who must be regarded as the head of the progressive movement, after the Emperor. These journals are strongly of the opinion that the Yangtsze valley is the real back-bone of China, the seat of her moral and material vitality; and they think that, whatever may happen at Peking, the movement which began last year along the Yangtsze and has grown steadily ever since will continue until the whole nation obeys it. At the same time, they acknowledge frankly that should their hopes prove baseless, should it be found that conservatism has really become once more the order of the time, China's condition is desperate, and her independence can not be preserved.

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There has been a great deal of writing also, virtually unanimous writing, about the increased importance which these events impart to an understanding between Japan and England. At first the papers spoke with bated breath about the possibility that Russia had taken some covert part in the plot for the restoration of the Empress Dowager. But subsequently they used much plainer language, and we have them now openly declaring that the matter concerns England and Russia and Japan and Russia, and that the triumph of the Empress-Dowager's party is so much gain for Russia and so much loss for England and Japan. They agree in urging the Government to adopt a bold course, but none indicates what that course should be. In the latter respect their utterances are most unsatisfactory. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, for example, contrasts England's resolute procedure in regard to Kang Yu-wei with Japan's action, and, having recalled the fact that all the persons arrested in Peking are members of the Anglo-Japanese party, insists that Japan should emulate British energy and British courage. But when we expect to be told what the desired step is, how the energy and the courage are to be emulated, we are put off with the vague platitude that, as a matter of course, no intimidation must be resorted to, and that nothing is needed except to "keep the cause of progress alive." Only that forsooth! The *Mainichi* is less indefinite. It wants everybody who is interested in Chinese progress to cross over to the Middle Kingdom, and endeavour to play there the part of a Parkes, a Verbeck, or a Harris.

* * *

At no time since the organization of the Constitutional Party have its elements seemed in such danger of flying apart as at present. A host of minor associations have been formed within its ranks, and though some profess to be animated by a desire to increase the cohesion of the party, the majority appear to be simply discontented agitators. A few days ago, these sections held a meeting at a restaurant in Tokyo, and our readers will be able to form some idea of the motley character of the gathering when we say that those attending represented the Dō-shi Club, the Kwanto Club, the Jōhoku-kai, the Hokushin-hasshu-kai the Hokuriku Club, the Kaga Club, the Nihonbashi Club, the Chugoku Club, the Kinki Club, the Yehime Club, Hyogo-ken Dantai and the Kiushiu-kai. They mustered over sixty strong, all members of the House of Representatives, and, on the motion of the Dōshi Club's delegates, they proceeded to pass two sweeping resolutions:—first, that the Administration must be completely remodelled; and secondly, that all the clan elements must be eliminated. These proposals led, at first, to some discussion, and were not finally endorsed until the second day. It does not appear, however, that the delay was caused by any objection to the proposals themselves. The method to be adopted for giving effect to them was the stumbling block, some being of opinion that the best plan would be to make representations to the Cabinet, whereas others held that experience having proved the uselessness of appealing to men so incompetent as the present Ministers, no plan was open except to agitate for the total reconstruction of the Cabinet. It was finally resolved that a committee should be elected for the purpose of deciding upon the steps to be taken.

* * *

Referring to these events, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* concludes that the foundations of the Cabinet are in a perilous condition. Marquis Ito handed over the Administration to Counts Okuma and Itagaki because they declared their ability to carry it on, and because he was naturally averse to continuing the conflict between the Cabinet and the political parties, with its disquieting effects upon the national mind. But it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the two Counts do not possess the competence attributed to them. They have failed above all things to accomplish anything in the field of finance. The greater part of their time and attention seems to be occupied in arranging disputes between the parties ranged under their banners. They virtually take their instructions from the General Committee of the Constitutional Party, which meets once or twice a week to formulate its views and to give directions to the Ministry. Even the appointment and retirement of high-class officials are determined by the Committee. In short, the name "Government" can no longer be given to the Cabinet. The *Kokumin Shimbun* writes in the same strain but uses much stronger language. It declares that the Cabinet is a mere bureau of political parties and that the Ministers of the Crown are the servants of party leaders. Everything is determined by the General Committee of the Constitutional Party. *Chokunin* officials, who ought to be nominated by the Cabinet in conclave, are chosen by the Committee. Even a Cabinet meeting can not be held without the Committee's sanction. The Ministers themselves hold office at the beck of the Party. Such a state of affairs has never existed in any country except on the eve of a national disaster. It need scarcely be stated that the *Nichi Nichi* and the *Kokumin* are opponents of the present Cabinet.

* * *

The incident of the Ashio sufferers' arrival in Tokyo has provoked some discussion. About fifty delegates, representing the large body of petitioners who set out originally from the four prefectures affected by the poison, reached Tokyo on the 30th ultimo and proceeded to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. They failed to obtain audience of the Minister on the first day, and the fact furnished an opportunity to the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which of late has been conspicuous for attacks upon Count Itagaki. The *Yomiuri* said that Mr. Oishi would have met the farmers and listened to their complaints had not Count Itagaki interfered, on the ground that the men had failed to comply with the proper rules of procedure. Is not the present Cabinet pledged, the *Yomiuri* asked, to abolish all red tape, and dispense with the ceremonies and circumlocutions which have hitherto hampered private individuals in their attempts to discharge business with officials. Had not these poor folk already exhausted every conventional method of obtaining redress? Had they not sought relief by every normal channel? They are not rioters. They are distressed rustics, who, seeing themselves on the verge of ruin, if not actually ruined, by agents which ought to be officially controlled, were compelled, as a last resource, to make the long journey to Tokyo on foot, and lay their prayer at the feet of the Authorities. All the principles of humanity entitle such persons to a sympathetic hearing, and it ill became Count Itagaki to interfere. This criticism is strongly and effectually traversed by the *Tokyo Shimbun*. It asks whether any valid excuse can be offered for the invasion of Tokyo by ten thousand men, carrying such rude weapons as they could find, and organized for the plain purpose of intimidation. It is the Government's duty not to countenance such proceedings. A moment's consideration of the consequences their frequent repetition would entail suffices to indicate the danger of encouraging them. This brief discussion would scarcely be worth noting but for the evidence it furnishes of dissension in the camp of the Constitutionalists. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which has always been regarded as an organ of the Progressists, and which is closely connected with an official occupying a high post in the Educational Department, has of late availed itself of several opportunities to attack Count Itagaki, the head of the Liberals. That sort of thing is plainly incompatible with any hope of the two parties' permanent coalition.

* * *

The crusade against Baron Iwasaki continues. His opponents have now been joined by the *Chuo Shimbun*, which appears to have vehement reasons for its animosity. It has commenced a series of articles under the title of *Ogon no Ma-o*, or "the evil monarch of gold," and it frankly announces its resolve to persevere in its assault until the Baron ceases to preside over the Bank of Japan. Such incidents are common in the life of all prominent men. Baron Iwasaki is not likely to be greatly disturbed by them. His disposition will be rather to join the laugh raised by the *Sekai-no-Nippon's* cartoon, where he is represented playing a flute with all the Cabinet Ministers dancing to his music.

* * *

The *Nippon* has an article which might be useful to the Manchu politicians of China could it come under their notice. It points out that one of the chief sources of danger to the integrity of China is internal dissensions, since they furnish opportunities for foreign interference. China is no longer a closed country, nor can her politics be kept independent of alien influences. Such incidents as those that recently occurred in Peking create valid excuses for outsiders to step in and gain a foothold from which it will, by-and-by, be vain to attempt their displacement.

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PRESENTATION TO WOR. BRO. KEIL.

A very notable gathering of Free Masons was held in the Masonic Temple, Yokohama, on Wednesday evening, the occasion being the presentation to Wor. Bro. O. Keil, District Grand Secretary of the District Grand Lodge of Japan, and Grand Master of the Consistory of Japan, 33°, of his portrait painted in oils by Mr. Fred. Yates, the well-known artist, and subscribed for by Masons resident throughout Japan. Despite the inclement weather there was a good attendance, several members of the craft coming down specially from Tokyo. Shortly after 9 o'clock, Wor. Bro. Gowey, Consul-General for the United States at Kanagawa, rose and briefly introduced Wor. Bro. Stuart Eldridge, M D., who was to make the presentation on behalf of the subscribers.

Wor. Bro. ELDRIDGE, on rising to address the assembly, said:—There are certain virtues which should, and generally do, distinguish Masons as such, and which, in the broad sense, include all the best of which our nature is capable; but the practice of which is modified by the temperament and moral development of the individual. Occasionally arise in our fraternity men whose lives afford a transcendent example of these noble traits of character—(hear, hear)—and we are fortunate enough to include such an one in our own number. I need scarcely, in this gathering of his friends, say that I allude to our dear brother Keil.—(Applause). With faith that good lies hid in all mankind, with hope that this leaven of righteousness will, sooner or later, be manifest in the worst of men, and with an all-embracing charity that finds fruition both in sentiment and practice, our brother has quietly pursued his way through life, cheering, blessing, and helping all with whom he has come in contact.—(Applause.) Though his broad charity has not been limited by the lines of our organization, we, as Masons, owe him a special gratitude. It is to him that we are indebted for ready, kindly, and skilled assistance in every Masonic emergency, to him that we repair in trouble, certain of sympathy and help, and it is to him that we owe even the beautiful and appropriate temple in which we are now assembled. The desire to offer to Brother Keil some evidence of our appreciation and affection has long been present among us, but we were unable to determine the form of such tribute. Masonic rank we could not give, for Brother Keil has already reached the highest honours; while the presentation of jewels or plate seemed too commonplace to express the peculiar intensity of our feeling. While the matter was being mooted the arrival in Yokohama of a portrait painter of eminence, Mr. Frederick Yates, seemed to afford an exceptional opportunity to carry out the wishes of Brother Keil's Masonic brethren, and, by a limited number of his more intimate friends among them, his portrait was ordered. The understanding was that while, for many reasons, it seemed preferable, and the higher honour to Brother Keil, that the testimonial should be the gift of the Masonic fraternity of Japan, as a whole, should any opposition or lukewarmness be encountered, the givers of the commission for the picture would themselves assume the responsibility. As was to have been expected, no antagonism, or even indifference, was met with in the canvass that ensued, but the idea was taken up with such enthusiasm that twice the fund needed could easily have been obtained. From Yokohama, Tokyo, Kobe and Nagasaki subscriptions poured in, and even non-Masons expressed themselves ■ anxious to be allowed to contribute. Touched by the kindly magnetism that surrounds Brother Keil, the artist made his work a labour of love, and of the result you are now able to judge.—(The curtain that hung over the portrait was here drawn aside amid applause.)—Rarely, I think, does the most skilled painter catch the subtle suggestion of the inner man so perfectly as in the present case, and the portrait now before you will, I trust, transmit to future generations of Masons some idea of the tenderness, kindliness, and goodness of its subject. And now, dear brother, loved friend, and loving companion, permit me, in behalf and in the name of the whole Masonic brotherhood in Japan, to present to you this superb likeness of yourself as a slight evidence of the affection and esteem with which we regard you, together with the roll of those who have honoured themselves in contributing to its production. May the Great Ruler of the Universe long spare you to us.—(Loud and continued applause.)

Wor. Bro. KEIL, on rising to accept the gift, was received with loud applause, long continued. He said:—Brother Eldridge and brethren, when this portrait was first conjectured, when the first hint was given that such a presentation should be made to me, I racked my brain to discover the cause for such an unexpected, such an unprecedented honour, and I still think that I am entirely unworthy of it.—(No, no.) Brother Eldridge in his laudatory remarks failed to enlighten me as to what I had done to deserve this from your hands, for I cannot accept for myself the terms he used. True, I have always taken a keen interest in the Order, in its working, in all its social gatherings, and in its charities. But has not every one of you done the same? I would rather accept your gift as an expression of your individual friendship for me: for are we not all banded together on one platform to stand hand to hand, foot to foot, shoulder to shoulder, in support of and to maintain the glorious principles of the Order—faith, hope, and charity. In that sense, then, I will cherish your generous gift until the last hour of my life. Once more, brethren, I thank you for it.—(Loud applause.)

The portrait has been described in a previous issue of the *Japan Mail*. It is a splendid likeness and worthy of the brush of the distinguished artist who painted it. Hanging over the Senior Warden's chair, it makes an ornament to the Masonic Temple of which the craft in Japan may justly be proud.

After the presentation, the Brethren adjourned to the banquet room, where Bro. Dr. Eldridge proposed the health of Wor. Bro. Keil. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm. Wor. Bro. Keil, in response, gave the toast of the painter, Mr. Yates, who, in reply, said that the credit for the success of the portrait lay more with the sitter than the artist. He found that the hardest workers made the best sitters, and Mr. Keil, as they all knew, was a busy man. Wor. Bro. Keil next gave "The Craft," and the assembly then resolved itself into a social gathering, gradually dispersing as the hours drew on.

CORRESPONDENCE.

VALUE OF GOLD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In the *National Review*, February, 1895, Mr. T. E. Powell, the Editor of the *Statist*, writes:—"Law then controls the value of gold and law controls the value of silver; that being so, it quite clear that the law can control, if it chooses, the relative value of the two." This can only mean that, in the writer's opinion, the value of gold in gold using countries is fixed by law.

Commenting on the above, the *Manchester Guardian*, 13 Feb., 1895, expresses full approval of Mr. Powell's article and endorses his opinion, viz., that the value of gold is fixed by law. One of the Chief Trades Union leaders, Mr. Rawlinson, of Burnley, in addressing the Blackburn Trades Council, said:—"Now while it is quite true that the mint price of gold is the same as it was in 1873, it is no less true that the value of gold may have risen as compared with commodities." However strange, almost unaccountable indeed though it be, I believe that there are many people who would treat as absurd not the statement that the mint price does fix the value of gold but the plain, obvious, and self-evident fact that it does not.

It is a curious phase of intellectual aberration that a piece of metal is coined and at once becomes worth so much by the fiat of the law.

The gold sovereign is not a standard of value at all in the sense that a yard is a standard of measure or a pound of weight.

The only thing in existence towards which the gold coin is a standard is the bank note, but its purchasing power or value depends entirely on supply and demand

Your Obedient Servant,

GOLD STANDARD.

THE DOSHISHA: A REPLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

DEAR SIR,—For some days after reading the communication by "Edmund" I felt wholly disinclined to reply to it. A communication charging, under the cover of a *nom de plume*, men, whose character stands before the community untarnished, with misrepresenting facts, with cherishing "personal prejudices, antipathies, jealousy and bitterness," is pretty well outside the realm of controversy. No member of the American Board's Mission to Japan has written anything on this subject under a fictitious name. If "Edmund" felt constrained to charge them with un-Christian and un-gentlemanly conduct, was he not in honour bound to give his own name?

Fortunately the veil behind which "Edmund" endeavours to hide his identity is hardly of material substantial enough for the purpose. We can recognize behind it a gentleman whose present connection with the Dōshisha and former connection with the Mission do hardly entitle him to the claim of being an "unbiassed observer." Moreover the case, as is well known, is nearing a final settlement in some form. The wearisome period of newspaper-discussion is pretty well over. A detailed reply to "Edmund" is therefore, not necessary, even if I should feel inclined to undertake it But the communication has been translated into Japanese and is being circulated freely by some if the trustees and by their friends. It will, therefore, not be out of place to restate briefly the facts in the case.

The constitution of the Dōshisha states that articles containing the fundamental principles of the school are unchangeable. Other articles might be amended; these six articles were declared by the constitution itself to be unchangeable. Moreover the trustees on assuming office give an oath* to labour for the interests of the company "in obedience to its fundamental principles." On the strength of this constitution the trustees have received in trust for definite purposes large amounts of money from donors in the United States. Without conference with these donors the trustees have changed these articles of the constitution which they had sworn to maintain unchangeable; for to swear to labour in obedience to unchangeable articles certainly must mean to maintain them as they are. No gain accruing from a change, no necessity, be it never so dire, can justify the change of even an iota of a constitution which is accepted as unchangeable and which they have sworn to maintain so.

The fact that the Imperial Edict is not antagonistic to Christianity has absolutely nothing to do with the matter. Hodge's "Systematic Theology," or Fairchild's "Moral Philosophy," or Ian Maclaren's "Creed of Life" are certainly not antagonistic to Christianity; but the trustees would have had no right to give the promise to anyone that the moral education of any part of the school should hereafter be based on any of these. A trust is a sacred obligation; no tampering whatever is justifiable.

The trustees felt so bound by their sense of obligation under the late Mr. Harris' letter of gift that they could not consent to a change desired later on by the donor himself, but the very rock-bed foundation on which they hold all their trusts they feel free to change without a word of conference with the principal donors.

I would not be understood, Sir, as treating this matter sarcastically; too much is at stake to allow this. But I would have the real facts stand out in the clearest possible light, so that

* The Japanese term used is *sensei*, which Brinkley's Dictionary explains as "An oath or affidavit;" *sensei suru*: "to make an oath."

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all the world may judge whether we missionaries have been fighting merely for a theological shibboleth, as we have been accused of doing, or whether fundamental moral principles are at stake.

In conclusion allow me, Sir, to state in the briefest form two more facts:

The issue lies not between the missionaries of the American Board in Japan and the trustees of the Dōshisha, but between this latter body and the American Board itself. Nor is it the case that only we missionaries have opposed the action of the trustees; the great mass of Japanese Christians, of every denomination, regardless of theological opinion, have no less plainly expressed their condemnation. Theological prejudices have nothing to do with the matter.

And again, it is not the case that we missionaries have opened a warfare upon the trustees without having ascertained the significance of the changes made. One of our number, one who has been among the most active in discussing this action of the trustees in the public press, immediately upon hearing of the decision wrote to three of the trustees, but received a reply from only one. But more than this, for five years previous to this decision of the trustees, all the missionary members of the faculty, seeing the drift of the course pursued by the president, by the trustees, and by a majority of the Japanese faculty, pleaded and remonstrated at every possible opportunity, but without avail. I think we can claim that we did all that was open to us to do. That we have been faultless none of us will claim; but to an Christian conduct we feel no occasion to confess.

Allow me to express to you, dear Sir, my sincere thanks for the generous courtesy which you have all along extended to us in granting to us so freely the use of your columns, and believe me to be

Yours most respectfully,

GEO. E. ALBRECHT.

September 28th, 1898.

THE W.C.T.U. CONVENTION.

[COMMUNICATED.]

The third annual Convention of the Foreign Auxiliary W. C. T. U. opened in Union Church, Tsukiji, on Wednesday, Sept. 28th, the anniversary of the late Miss Frances E. Willard, whose death was noticed some months ago. This being the first public Convention held by this body, the meeting possessed special interest, and was well attended. The President, Miss Mary Florence Denton, called the meeting to order, and led in the opening devotional exercises. After the business of the morning, Mrs. Fisher gave a Bible reading, her subject being Prayer. The points emphasised were:—the need of prayer; for whom we should pray, and the command given to pray for our neighbour. At the close, Mrs. Fisher was requested to place her manuscript in the hands of the Society for publication. Miss Clara Parrish led in a memorial service for Miss Frances E. Willard and Miss Maud E. Simons, in which many took part by reading selections from published testimonials, and personal reminiscences.

The annual report of the work, read in the afternoon, showed 18 departments of work adopted, 15 of which reported progress. The Treasurer's report showed 161 members enrolled, including 36 received during the year; cash received from dues, *yen* 118; toward the Florence Crittenden Home, *yen* 406.

The Rev. Dr. Soper, representing the Central Temperance Committee; the Hon. Taro Ando, the Tokyo Temperance Society; Miss Gundry, the King's Daughters' Society; Mr. Niwa, the Y.M.C.A.; Mr. Ninomiya, the Yokohama Temperance Society; and Mrs. Bailey, the Salvation Army, conveyed the greetings of their various societies. A solo by Mrs. Garst, and an address by Miss M. A. Veazey, delegate to the World's Convention of 1897, closed the session. The grand rally in the Y.M.C.A. Auditorium in the evening was an unqualified success, there being an audience of fully 700 present. The Hon. Sho Nemoto presided. Addresses were given by the Rev. Dr. Soper, Rev. K. Miyama, the Hon. Taro Ando, and others, with special music by a double quartette. The prayer service held in Ginza M. E. Church, on the morning of the 29th, for the success of the plebiscite being taken in Canada that day, was well attended notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather. The afternoon was occupied in the transaction of business, the Florence Crittenden Home being one of the chief matters discussed. The basis for coöperative work was adopted, and some necessary details arranged, with a view to the early opening of this work. By an almost unanimous vote of the Convention the relation of the Foreign Auxiliary to the National W. C. T. U. was settled. The Foreign Auxiliary becomes by this action auxiliary to the National Society. The annual fee for members is one *yen*, and whereas in the past the auxiliary has paid out of this fee an annual due of two cents per member into the treasury of the World's W. C. T. U., henceforth a yearly due of ten *sen* will be paid, and from this amount the dues for the World's treasury will be forwarded by the National Treasurer. By this change the Foreign Auxiliary becomes entitled to delegates in the National Convention, and members are eligible for election to any office in the National Society. This change was felt necessary in the interests of the general work and to effect a closer union. Fitting resolutions of thanks were passed to friends who havend kily entertained members of the Convention; to representatives of other Societies for kindly greetings; to Japanese friends for their presence; to the Trustees of the Union Church who kindly placed the building at the Auxiliary's disposal; to the president of the National Society for lending the World's banner; and to all who in any way contributed to the successful carrying out of the plans for this Convention. A resolution to memorialize the various Railway authorities to provide a non-smoking carriage in every train was also unanimously passed, as was also the following, by standing vote:—"Whereas Miss Clara Parrish, the World's Representative, is about to leave us, Resolved that we desire to record our hearty appreciation of the efficient service she has rendered in advancing the cause of temperance generally, and that of the White Ribbon cause especially; also of her dauntless spirit in the face of difficulties, her unwavering faith in the final triumph of the cause she represents, and her happy tact and bright enthusiasm in association with all. We lovingly commend her to those among whom she will next labour, wishing her 'God-Speed' as she goes on 'Around the World.'" It was also resolved to extend to Mrs. Large, as the successor of Miss Parrish, hearty co-operation in the work, trusting that by united efforts, the cause may progress until the right prevails. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President, Miss M. F. Denton; Vice-President, Mrs. C. Davidson; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. E. S. Large; Recording Secretary, Miss M. A. Veazey; Treasurer, Mrs. A. C. Borden; Superintendents of Departments—Evangelistic, Miss Belle Allen; Social Purity, Miss Anna Kidder; Schools and Colleges, Miss S. A. Searle; Sunday School Work, Miss E. P. Milliken; Loyal Temperance Legion, Miss A. E. Otto; Scientific Temperance Instruction, Miss Alice Miller; Narcotics, Miss Louise Imhof; Unfermented Wine, Miss E. A Preston; Sabbath Observance, Miss J. N. Crosby; Health and Physical Culture, Dr. Adaline Kelsey; Food Reform, Miss H. Frances Parmeelee; Dress Reform, Mrs. Topping; Press Work, Mrs. Davidson; Railways and Postmen, Miss E. R. Gillett; Work among Foreigners, Mrs. Van Petten; Petitions and Treaties, Miss Daughaday; Literature, Mrs. Large; and Organization, Miss R. J. Watson.

A fire broke out on Wednesday night about 6.40 at a house occupied by a man named Masajiro, Hirano cho, Fukagawa, Tokyo. A strong wind prevailed, and the flames spread rapidly, destroying many houses.

AN OCEAN DUEL.

(WRITTEN FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL" BY JOHN C. WERNER.)

We were sea otter hunting off the island of Iterup. Success had rewarded our efforts, and at the end of June we had already 73 splendid skins, dried and bundled up, to testify to the skill of our hunters. We had so far only been six weeks on the ground, and had almost the whole season still before us. This was during the early years of otter-hunting, and otters were plentiful, but they were rapidly getting educated, and lately we had had occasionally to do some tall chasing before we had them in our boats, and now and then one was irretrievably lost even after hours of hunting. Our schooner was small—one of the smallest that left San Francisco those days—and we had to economise with men, both in regard to room for them and the supply of provisions. So instead of the shooter having his place at the bow of the boat he was placed in the stern, where he had to sit as steersman when not chasing an otter—and in my opinion he was doing just as well. The boat was pulled by two men with sculls, and the poor otter had a slim chance to escape in a stern chase when the three boats were after him. But unfortunately it was not always a stern chase.

Before we left San Francisco I had the picking of the men, as I went as a kind of dry-nurse for the captain, who was neither a navigator nor a sailor but a dry-goods clerk, and, I must allow, a splendid shot. I was the only one on board who had been up before, and I had it all my own way before we left. The second hunter was a young fellow named Frank Fearon, a good shot, as I knew, having been shipmate with him, and a well educated man besides. The third hunter, George, was also a shipmate of mine, and but indifferent in his shooting, but still not a duffer. The crew were sailors and good men, and expected to make a pocket full of money—which they did not after all. The cook was a Chinaman, and a real *cordon bleu*, and was the only one on monthly pay. I was the shipkeeper and stayed on board the schooner. The captain had been admonished by the owner, a baker, to stand on his dignity as captain, and this the poor fool did, after he had been posted a little, and, of course, it led to troubles. On the passage across I made them drill with the boats and when we arrived on the ground they were doing pretty well, but there was really no scientific hunting as yet. When it began the the captain, as head-hunter, took the reins in his own hands, and listened but very little to any advice I gave him—he knew all about it.

When otters first began to come on board everybody took interest in the cutting open and skinning of them, and the subsequent staking out and cleaning. Even the captain did so, but for the last few weeks his interest flagged, although he still watched the operation and gave me suggestions, all of which I took in good part. He himself, however, did not deign to put his hand to a knife or a scraper until the skin was off the frame. If he only had kept his mouth shut probably nobody would have said anything about it, but as captain he had to order the men about, and to this they demurred, and high words were frequent. Out in the boats, it seemed, it was the same; more domineering than was needed. George submitted laughingly, but Frank rebelled. There had lately been several disputes about the disposal of the otters after they were killed; the captain often claiming them as his "kill," and having them pulled into his boat when perhaps one of the other hunters had really fired the shot that settled the animal. This sort of thing seems trivial enough, but it has occasioned more troubles on the hunting-ground than more important things. Bringing the otter alongside the vessel meant that the otter was killed from the boat that brought him, and testified to the skill of the hunter of that boat, although it did not bring an extra dollar to his share. There were also complaints that the captain would not use his paddle to assist

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the men in pulling the boat, when returning to the schooner, but would sit lazily with the paddle in the water, imagining himself steering, which he was not. The other boats had many times to wait for his boat to come up, in obedience to his signal, and this was especially aggravating when they were perhaps 8 or 10 miles from the schooner late in the afternoon. At least two otters had been lost through his dilatoriness that way, and no wonder that the boys were exasperated. All this was reported to me afterwards, and although I advised patience I was really wild about it, and knew there would be an explosion before long.

One day, in early June, as we were anchored close in shore with the schooner, the boats returned earlier than usual without bringing anything with them, but as we had about a dozen skins on frames drying about the deck I felt rather relieved just then at not receiving any addition to them. The captain of course took no hand in securing the boats, but, having taken his rifle below, reappeared on deck and looked around for a comfortable seat. The frames occupied every available spot; so, picking the nearest one up, he pushed it out of his way to a place where the fur and not the skin would have the full benefit of the sun's rays. I watched him with gathering rage, for this was touching me in a tender spot; I was doing my best to dry the skins in order to get them off the frames, and this idiot was ignoring me and my work.

I asked him with, I confess, rather unnecessary force, what he was doing.

He looked up at me with some astonishment—this was the first real sample he had had of my tongue—and said, "Don't you damn me, Sir!"

"Put that frame back again, and go below out of our way," was my answer, and I shook my fist at him, threatening. He looked at me again, then quietly took the frame and placed it gingerly where it had been before, and then obediently disappeared below. I expected to see him again with his rifle; he had been taking it too quietly altogether; but nothing happened. The men gathered aft as if they were going to witness a row, and wanted a share in it, and I had to tell them to go on and scrape the skins before they realized that all was over. Frank whispered that I had put my foot in it.

Things went on after this from bad to worse. Every time the boats returned there were murmurings among the men, and I was at my wits' end to know what to do. Frank Fearon, young fool as he was, was stubborn and would not give in, and so we were in a tangle. The climax came at last. One evening, about ten days after my few words with the captain, George told me the captain had deliberately pointed his rifle at Frank and threatened to shoot him. This was too much! I did not care a fig if the two did shoot one another; but I was there for otters, and at this rate otters were coming in slowly, and the season would be gone before we had enough. I did not say anything that night to either of them, but quietly told the man who pulled the after sculls in the captain's boat to stay on board the schooner the next day, and I would take his place in the boat.

At daylight the following morning the boats were lowered as usual; the captain was always the last, but he finally got over the side, and, while he busied himself in preparing a soft seat, I jumped in and shoved the boat well off from the schooner, and then picked up the sculls and started to pull. The other boats took their places, one on each side of our boat, but keeping nigh and watching developments. I had stuck a revolver in my hip pocket, not of course with any intention of having to use it, but it was not in my way, and a friend in need is a friend indeed. The skipper perceived me directly he turned round to sit down; I was so near that he could put his hand on me, in fact. I could not help smiling at his evident embarrassment; he did not know what to say at first.

"Who told you to come in the boat?" was his first query.

"Nobody told me, Sir!" I replied meekly.

"Well, I order you back to the schooner, 'pull right back,' do you hear me?" and he worked valiantly with the paddle to turn the boat round. But as we pulled against him with the sculls, he worked in vain.

He saw at last that it was no use to struggle; I had no intention of turning back; so he folded his arms across his breast in an imposing attitude and looked at me fixedly.

"Perhaps you will let me know what you are going to do?" he asked after a pause.

"Certainly," said I, obligingly; I did not feel the least excited, "I am going to pull this boat to-day and perhaps to morrow."

"And if I object to it, what then?"

"Now, look here," said I, tired of sparring, "I understand you have threatened to shoot; if any shooting is going to be done I wish to have a hand in it!"

"You!" with a disdainful grin on his lips, "you can't hit a haystack!"

"I can hit you from where I am sitting now, that's sure!" said I, and I tapped my hip pocket, "but keep your hair on, nobody is going to hurt you."

We had in the meantime been pulling hard off shore, and before long there rose an otter, and that finished our talk. After an hour's chase Frank killed him fairly, and he was pulled into Frank's boat without any objection from the captain. For a couple of hours we pulled leisurely along, but nothing more was said between us, and then another otter was sighted; this one was killed within 10 minutes, and it was doubtful whether the captain or George shot him, as they both fired together. The captain was eager to get up before George's boat and get the otter, but I took it easy with the sculls, and when we got there George had the animal already in his boat. The captain fumed considerably, but I laughed at him and asked him what difference it made who had the otter, to which he replied that it looked as if I were going to take full charge.

"I am going to know the reason why we can't get otters now as well as before, and don't you forget it," was my rejoinder.

He sulked silently after that. One more otter we shot before we turned the boats towards the schooner; it was then past four o'clock in the afternoon and the vessel was six miles and more from us.

"Pull hard, boys," said I, as we separated after the last otter was killed, "and let us get on board and have the otters cleaned before dark. "Right you are, boss!" was the answer from all.

I saw the captain was going to adopt his old tactics, as the other boats shot away ahead of us. Presently he held up his paddle.

"What is that for?" was my inquiry, "do you see an otter?" "No, but I don't want them to get too far ahead of us" was his answer.

The boats had stopped and waited for us.

"You use your paddle" said I "and they will not get ahead of us; pull away, you fellows, and don't wait for us, we will get on board before dark anyhow."

And off they were again, pulling and paddling as hard as they could. I swore softly to myself at the idiot who had charge, but just touched the water with the sculls and so did the other man. The boat barely moved through the water. The captain stood it for a while, and then said, beseechingly. "For God's sake, pull away, and let us get on board," and with that put his weight on the paddle, and we, nothing loath, pulled with a will, and were soon close behind the other boats.

Next morning I asked the captain if I should go in the boat; but he begged me to stay on board and attend to the skins.

"Mind," said I warningly, when he went over the side, "no more humbugging after this; you do your best as well as the rest, and there will be no more troubles!"

Everything went well for some time, but I saw that Frank and the captain were still at loggerheads and working against each other, but as long as they brought otters on board I did not say anything unpleasant to either of them. We had been lying at anchor in Worth's Bay for several days doing nothing; in the forenoon of this particular day the boats had been pulling along shore, the boys landed and managed to stave a hole in the bottom of a boat. In the afternoon we had the boat on deck and found a whole plank splintered. One of the men, who was handy with tools, took out the broken plank and employed himself shaping another one. The other two boats were in the water and secured on each side of the quarters. We had no skins on the frames and the men were loitering about the deck, watching the carpenter. Frank and the captain were sitting aft, overhauling their rifles, and engaged in their usual bickering, calling each other names. I was lying in my bunk in the cabin reading, and paying no attention to what was going on deck. I was so used to the daily quarrels that it sounded to me like the buzz of flies. Suddenly I heard a rush overhead, and then somebody sang out, "Come up, the old man and Frank are off to kill one another."

I was on deck like a flash, but too late! They were off, sure enough; one in each boat, and pulling the sculls vigorously off shore. The sea was still rough, and the captain was lagging behind somewhat with his boat, for he was not a good oarsman. I shouted to them to come back, but I knew well enough that I might save my voice. There was no way to reach them and prevent them from their murderous intent; that they were going to settle their quarrel for good I could see; the third boat was out of the question, and I cursed the fools in impotent rage.

"Could none of you prevent them from going?" I asked the men standing alongside me. No, nobody had noticed it particularly.

They were soon a long distance from the schooner; far enough for their purpose, I presumed, as I saw them lay in their sculls and pick up the rifles and face each other. They were about fifty yards apart, but they were both good shots, and the distance was nothing. The boats wobbled about a good deal in the sea, and the captain was rather unsteady on his legs, but Frank stood firm as a rock. I did not doubt the result, and mentally prayed for something untoward to happen to end the fight before it began. Puff, from Frank's rifle, and almost at the same time off went the captain's. Thank God! nobody hurt yet! Puff, this time the captain led, but Frank quickly responded. Still nobody hurt, and I drew a long sigh of relief; they might not have many cartridges with them and then perforce the fight would have to cease. The next shot from Frank settled it; the captain had his rifle up to fire, when we saw him drop it; then sink down on the seat—he stood in the middle of the boat—and then drop backwards into the boat with his legs still over the thwart. The other man stood for a minute with his rifle up, but, seeing no further move from his opponent, lowered it slowly, still watching him. Good God! one man probably killed and another a murderer!

"Good riddance!" exclaimed one of the men. I turned round on him savagely. "I will make good riddance of you, you hound, before we get back!" I cried, and I dealt him a stinging blow across his mouth, and the rest of them looked on approvingly.

Suddenly I saw Frank grasp his rifle again, but this time point it seaward, and fire. Could the man be brutal enough to fire at an otter after what he had done? He did it, nevertheless, and killed him too, as we saw him pull out and pick up the otter, and then pull towards the schooner, without taking any more notice of the other boat and its occupant! Such conduct was inhuman, and I could not understand it. At last he came alongside, and leisurely passed his rifle on board.

"Is he killed?" I inquired in a low voice.

"Killed be hanged," was the answer," he is only playing possum!"

I jumped into the stern sheets and grabbed the paddle, and two good men took the sculls, and we made that boat fairly fly through the

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water. An extra man was also with us to pull the other boat back. In a few minutes we were alongside, and there lay our Captin, not dead but breathing stertorously. I looked him all over, but found no wound on him, and came to the conclusion that the man had fainted or had a fit through fright, and how thankful I was I need not say. We brought him on board before he came to himself again, and he seemed to be subdued or ashamed beyond my most ardent wishes. Thenceforth he was a changed man.

I asked Frank why he did not pull over to the other boat to ascertain if the man was dead or not, and his answer was, that he could not very well be dead, as he had not fired at him at all, but shot well clear of him every time. The captain had probably done his best to kill Frank, but that I only surmise, as I never asked him about it. By common consent the episode was dropped; and we did fairly well afterwards, and returned to San Francisco the "high liner" of the fleet. The captain returned to measuring out tape and ribbons, as he probably considered that otter-hunting was not his forte, and I have no doubt that he did better in such congenial work than he figured in sea life. I think he has never forgotten his duel on the ocean, though when he tells it to his friends, as he sometimes does, it is a different yarn from mine.

THE PEKING USURPATION.

The Shanghai papers to hand by the French mail throw little light on the probable whereabouts of the Emperor Kuang Hsü, though all are inclined to believe that the unfortunate monarch was made away with as soon as the Edict reappointing the Empress-Dowager to office had been signed. The *N.-C. Daily News* prints a curious theory which it says is discussed by Chinese in Shanghai. It is that the Emperor managed "to get away from Peking with Kang Yu-wei, and went down to Hongkong in the *Ballaarat*, the idea being that the services of the *Bonaventure* would never have been given to convoy the *Ballaarat*, if she had only had an unimportant person like Kang Yu wei on board." But, as our contemporary urges, in the first place Kang is not an unimportant person, and in the second place even a coolie who has taken shelter under the British flag is not to be forcibly taken away from under it. It would have been of no use to remonstrate and exact compensation if Kang Yu-wei had once been captured. The Taotai made that perfectly clear.

It appears that Kang Yu-wei at first took passage at Tangku by the *Hitachi*, but on the advice of some Cantonese friends transferred himself to the British steamer *Chungking*. When the Customs officials and detectives boarded the *Chungking* at Woosung they found the bird already flown, and this was the story the compradore of the vessel had to tell:—"When our steamer was nearing Woosung a steam launch came alongside and two foreigners got on board. One of the foreigners had a photograph in his hand, and a search of the passengers was made by them. Suddenly one of the passengers was found to answer to the description of the photo, and the foreigner asked him whether it was his? The passenger nodded, whereupon the foreigner immediately took hold of the passenger by the sleeves and led him into the foreign passenger saloon, where a secret conference was held for a few minutes, and the passenger, accompanied by a fellow passenger in his company, went over the ship's side with the two foreigners, taking with them only personal baggage. The launch in question was then seen to go alongside a man-of-war laying some 200 yards distant from the *Chungking*, and the whole party was observed to board the man-of-war."

The *N.-C. Daily News* has been assured that Sir Claude MacDonald was in no way responsible for the dismissal of Li Hung chang; that the act was entirely off the Emperor's own bat, and that the Sovereign also warned Kang Yu-wei to flee from Peking. It is stated that the Shanghai Taotai had determined to put Kang away by the slicing process had he caught him.

By the 30th of September the local mandarins acknowledged—according to a statement appearing in the *N.-C. Daily News*,—that the four-funnelled torpedo-catcher *Feiying* was sent to Shanghai from Wei-wei-hai by Viceroy Jung Lu to chase the *Chungking* and if possible get the person of Kang Yu-wei from that steamer. It is further stated that the Chefoo Taotai was also secretly notified by telegraph to capture Kang, but the Taotai was urgently wanted at Kiao-chou at the time, and he carried the telegram with him, not daring to let it be known lest warning be given to Kang of his danger. Hence, when Kang came to Chefoo and actually landed to call upon some of his friends there, buying, *en passant*, a small basket of variegated coloured pebbles for keeping hyacinth bulbs, and some fruit, not a single *yamên* runner knew what a big prize had been in his very clutches, until the Taotai returned a day or two afterwards.

A Peking telegram reached our contemporary on Sept. 30th that "the Emperor committed suicide on the 22nd ult." This telegram was transmitted to Japan along with others for whose palpable manufacture Shanghai has been blamed. The *N.-C. Daily News*, in the course of one leading article, says:—"Our own belief though we may be wrong, is that he is only being kept alive officially until the Dowager Empress thinks she is firm in the saddle, when a sympathetic decree will be issued announcing that H.M. Kuang Hsu has been borne aloft on a dragon to be a guest on high. If he is alive and well, why do not the Foreign Ministers send in an undeniable request for an audience?"

A mandarin who arrived in Shanghai from Peking about the end of September stated that the Emperor had been confined inside the Palace and denied intercourse with everybody since the 21st ult. There is a practice amongst the Manchus, in order to prevent assassination, to provide several doubles of the Emperor, —says a contemporary—and it is possible that the so called "joint audiences" mentioned in some of the telegrams were given by the Empress Dowager and one of these doubles, a fraud which those around the Throne just now would hardly dare, even if they wished it, to expose to the world.

We gather from the *N.-C. Daily News* that when the Shanghai Taotai heard that Kang-Yu-wei was coming down from Taku he determined to send steam launches filled with runners to Woosung to meet the *Chungking* and make a search of the passengers there. But this could not be done owing to H. B. M. Consul-General's refusal to sign a search warrant.

According to a telegram in the *Shanghai Mercury*, Kang Yu-wei, on arriving in Hongkong, was interviewed and stated that he fled from Peking by the Emperor's orders, owing to the Emperor having discovered the plot to dethrone him and kill off all the reformers. He requested prompt British help for the Emperor and the Chinese Empire.

A private Chinese despatch from Peking, dated September 25th, gives, the *N.-C. Daily News* thinks, the explanation for the recent usurpation of power by the Empress-Dowager. The letter runs:—

It is confidently asserted that one of the last memorials by Kang Yü-wei to the Emperor was an earnest warning to his Majesty to be on his guard against his enemies. Kang strongly urged the advisability of removing the Empress-Dowager to some other Palace where she could not interfere with the reform measures of his Majesty. Another suggestion was that Li Hung chang should be deported to his native city and placed under surveillance. For if allowed longer to go about at pleasure within the palace precincts, his close intimacy with the Empress-Dowager and underhand treachery would one day put a stop entirely to the new *régime*, and all this hard labour would be lost for ever, by the formation of a powerful league against the Emperor. In this connection Kang denounced a number of the most bigoted of the Imperial Clansmen, who he thought were anxious to make away with his Majesty in some way or other. Although this memorial was kept strictly secret by the Emperor it somehow leaked out and so forced the Empress-Dowager and her party's hand, and she was compelled to assert herself at once. Under advice of the senior members of the Imperial Clan she deposed his Majesty, ordering the instant arrest of the author of the secret memorial for high treason, and of all who had "unduly influenced the ex-Emperor." Had the Empress-Dowager's hand not been forced in this way, the decline of his Majesty's power would doubtless have been much more gradual.

KOREAN JOTTINGS.

The *Sŏul Independent* urges Japanese and Chinese emigrants to turn their faces towards Korea, and supports its argument by some curious, not to say funny, admissions. It declares:—

Korea is a thinly inhabited country. Its natural resources are capable of supporting a population twice as numerous as at present. The climate is charming. A Japanese or Chinese settler finds moreover, in the peninsula what he could find, neither in Canada nor in the United States, nor in Hawaii nor in Australia, nor anywhere else, viz., a people who not only dare not look on him with contempt as an inferior but whom he could *lord it over*. Elsewhere he replaces the native labour by his cheapness. In Korea he commands higher wages. Other governments may frame exclusion bills or lay prohibitive taxes on his person or property, but in Korea he finds the government absolutely too weak to protect even its own people from his insults and encroachments. Elsewhere a Japanese or Chinese coolie is nothing but a coolie. In Korea he is a great over-bearing somebody with extraterritorial and other extraordinary rights which the poor Koreans must respect with actual fear and trembling. Elsewhere the governments may violate treaties against him, but in Korea *he* may violate treaties. The Article IV. in the Chinese treaty explicitly forbids any Chinese from owning establishments where he may expose and sell merchandize in the interior. But in Songdo, Kongjo, Yeisan, etc., Chinese and Japanese merchants do own shops where merchandize of all sorts are exposed and sold. In Yeisan alone, according to the report of a Japanese traveller, there are fifty Chinese houses.

A characteristic note appears in the *Independent* regarding the Poisoning Affair:—

"It is rumoured that instruments of torture have been freely used in extorting so-called confessions from the prisoners arrested in connection with the late Coffee Conspiracy. If true we feel ashamed that the barbarous custom should still obtain in the police and law courts. Even truth, if told under an excruciating torture, loses its weight in the opinion of the fair-minded. We only hope that the rumour has no foundation in fact."

Thirty-four members of the Korean Privy Council recently memorialized the Throne, advising the Emperor to restore the "five modes of punishment" in dealing with traitors. His Majesty refused to sanction such a step, but meanwhile the Independence Club called a meeting and denounced the memorial in no measured terms. As usual their wrath found expression in another lurid memorial to the Sovereign.

Kong Hongsik, the man who is supposed to have been a principal actor in the coffee poisoning conspiracy, and who has been confined in a cell in the Supreme Court, Sŏul, tried to commit suicide on the 26th ult. It is said that he stuck a knife into his throat and then into his stomach, but that the stabs did not prove fatal.

Further proceedings in the Leopold case took place on Tuesday, one of the accused's sureties having petitioned for permission to withdraw from his bond. The sitting was kept a profound secret, but we have reason to believe that another bondsman was found.

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AFFAIRS AT MANILA.

SERIOUS OUTBREAK OF DYSENTERY.

The Hongkong *Daily Press* of the 27th ult. says:—The *City of Rio de Janeiro*, which came from Manila and called at Hongkong *en route* for San Francisco, left yesterday. She is taking home some 350 men afflicted with dysentery. Of these, however, about a dozen were able to get ashore while the vessel was in Hongkong. Two died on the way from Manila, and there is not much hope for four or five others. It appears that the health of the troops at Manila is not so good as it has been, some 1,400 men being down with dysentery. The strange thing about it is that more regulars are affected than volunteers.

We understand that the *Pasig*, which had been re-named the *Abby*, has been seized in Batangas Harbour by Admiral Dewey, who had received word that she was carrying arms to the insurgents. The arms had, however, been landed when the seizure was made.

ATTEMPT TO POISON AGUINALDO.

A Hongkong telegram to the *Shanghai Mercury* dated the 25th ult., says:—On the 16th inst. an attempt was made to take Aguinaldo's life. Three Spanish prisoners who were given great liberty, poisoned the soup that was prepared for the table of the Insurgent Chief. The conduct of these three men aroused the suspicion of the steward, who tasted the soup and immediately fell down lifeless. There was great rejoicing among the Malayos on the fortunate escape of Aguinaldo.

THE COUNT OF TURIN.

The Count of Turin, nephew of King Humbert of Italy, arrived from America by the *Coptic* on Wednesday, and, with his suite, was accommodated at the Grand Hotel. The Prince has been greatly lionised in America—in the first place because he is a Prince (a quite sufficient reason with stern Republicans), and in the second because of his duel with Prince Henri d'Orleans. He left for Tokyo on Thursday and is staying at the Hama Palace as a guest of the Emperor.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The *Nagasaki Press* says that a naturalised American named Flanigan has been arrested at Chemulpo in connection with the murder of Mr. Lake.

A Washington despatch dated the 1st inst. informs the Foreign Department that Mr. Hay, late U.S. Minister to Great Britain, has been appointed Secretary of State.

The 4.30 express from Yokohama ran into some children who had strolled on to the line near the glass-works at Shinagawa on Sunday afternoon. Several lost their lives.

The British sailing ship *F. V. Troop* (Capt. Beveridge), which left Hongkong on the 9th August bound to Liverpool, put into Singapore on the 16th ult., after having been ashore on the north end of Banka Island. She is understood to be uninjured, however.

A reply has been received to the telegram forwarded from Hongkong Chinese yarn merchants to the Bombay Mill Owners' Association, to the effect that the question of curtailing production would be considered provided the China and Japan mills co-operate.

It is stated that the Formosan Government has decided to raise loan bonds amounting to *yen* 30,000,000, and to construct the railway and Keelung harbour. Mr. Goto, the Director of the Bureau for Civil Affairs, will leave Keelung for Tokyo to consult the Imperial Government.

In view of the increasing demand for Japanese silver *yen* at Hongkong, the Yokohama Specie Bank has sent down large quantities by recent steamers. In Shanghai the demand for silver has also increased, and to-day the Specie Bank will export thither no less than *yen* 1,200,000.

The comparatively low birthrate among native Americans is beginning to cause them some concern, as it does the French. In order merely to prevent the diminution of a people, that is to say, their decadence as a nation, the average family should consist of four persons. As it is, the American population seems to be increasing rather by the more prolific European immigrants than otherwise, and the matter calls for scientific investigation

The *Kobe Chronicle* quotes the *Osaka Asahi* to the effect that the import duty on wines is by the Conventional Tariff with France fixed at 10 per cent., and consequently when the sake' tax is increased, foreign wines will be comparatively cheaper. Therefore, argues the *Asahi*, the Government will be under the necessity of negotiating with the French Government in order to withdraw wines from the Conventional Tariff. The paper forgets, however, that treaty agreements cannot be so readily varied.

At the commencement of the year the French Government offered to grant an annual subsidy of $80,000 (£16,000) for a direct service of mail steamers between France and Canada, on condition that the Dominion Parliament voted a similar amount. The proposed service has collapsed, however, owing to insufficient support. It is reported that the Allan Royal Mail line proprietary is carrying on negotiations for the purpose of acquiring the contract for the Anglo Canadian service, which was abandoned by Messrs. Petersen, Tate, and Co.

Among the distinguished scientists who attended the Zoological Conference at Cambridge was Professor Hæckel, whose researches with regard to natural development and evolution have been of great value. At the sitting of the conference on Aug. 26th, Professor Hæckel referred to the importance attaching to the discoveries of fossils in lava during recent years, and said that it was no longer a hypothesis that man belonged to the primal order of lemur. Conclusive proof had been afforded that moneys and men were descended from a common stem.

The life imprisonment with solitary confinement in store for the Austrian Empress's assassin is declared by those acquainted with Swiss prisons to be vastly worse than death. A correspondent who recently visited the chief prison of the canton of Vaud, where the assassin will be confined, describes as sad indeed the result of solitary life imprisonment. One man whom he saw, the perpetrator of a series of murders in the mountains, had been in the cell for 15 years, with the result that he completely lost his reason. The governor of the prison confessed that in view of this and other similar cases, his views of capital punishment had undergone a complete change, and that he was now strongly in favour of the death penalty. Mr. Ridgeley, the American consul at Geneva, has been informed by a cabinet officer that, however much it would please the authorities to send the assassin to Austria for trial, it cannot be done under the constitution. Had the crime been committed in the private apartments of the Empress instead of on the public street extradition would have been possible. Upon a sentence of life imprisonment the assassin will be placed in a small, dark cell, from which he will never emerge, and will be fed just enough to enable him to support life.

Sir William des Vœux, in the course of a long letter to the *Times* on the Far Eastern question, says:—"If Manchuria and Korea were held out as the prize of her successful efforts, Japan's assistance might be counted on almost with certainty as an English ally. As to the doubts which are sometimes expressed whether Japanese would be able to face European troops, I can merely say that they are not entertained by those who know the Japanese best. They are unquestionably brave, and, unlike the Chinese, hold the soldier in high honour. By nature a combative race, and continually spoiling for a fight with somebody, they have devoted much attention to the science of war and have developed extraordinary capacity for military organisation, as shown in their recent conflict with China. With Japan as our ally, she might be safely left to deal with Manchuria alone, while we could devote our whole strength to the Chinese, if they should prove hostile, and to the defence of India. In the course of a few months Russian domination in Manchuria and all prospect of her ultimate control of China would be a thing of the past. As Russia knows all this well (and her fear of Japan was recently shown by her retreat from Korea, easily recognisable as a case of *reculer pour mieux sauter* hereafter), there is good reason for supposing that her recent proceedings have been taken simply on the assumption that we mean nothing beyond empty protest. "It may therefore be expected that strong action on our part at this moment, if supported in the way indicated, would not only not lead to war, but would probably avert its otherwise certain occurrence in the future. In fact, the only danger of war lies in the possibility that, as before the Crimean War, Russia will not believe us to be in earnest until it is too late for her to retreat."

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

On Thursday the *Asahi* received the following telegrams concerning the Chinese situation:—

In the late riots two Japanese were killed.

The marines of the warship *Oshima*, which is anchoring at Tientsin, had intended to land and proceed to Peking to protect the Japanese Legation, but in deference to the Chinese request the movement was countermanded.

On the afternoon of the 2nd, 50 British marines landed at Taku and next day proceeded to Tientsin with two field guns. There they have been staying upon receipt of the urgent request of the Chinese authorities not to proceed to Peking.

Thirty Russian cavalry, on the 3rd, arrived at Tientsin from Port Arthur, where they are staying for the same reasons as in the case of the British and Japanese.

The Japanese marines have not landed yet.

The Government has decided to send out to China the two warships *Suma* and *Chikushi*. The former has already left Yokosuka, and the latter will leave Kure as soon as she has been got ready.

Mr. Yano, the Minister to Peking, will leave Tokyo for his post on the 10th inst.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD AT SINGAPORE.

HIS VIEWS ON THE CHINA QUESTION.

(From the "Hongkong Daily Press.")

Singapore, 24th September.

Lord Charles Beresford on his arrival was met by the Acting Governor and Delegates from the Chamber of Commerce and Straits Settlements Association. He dined at Government House and afterwards addressed a crowded meeting. The position in China, he said, was critical for British trade. His mission aims at focussing the views of Britishers on the spot in order to impress the people at home. He advocates a commercial alliance between Great Britain and Germany and states that Japan is bound to advance. Peace is Great Britain's chief interest. Such union as he recommends would be irresistible and a political alliance might be the possible outcome. Adequate security must be given for capital invested in China. The waterways should be developed and the observance of treaty provisions and the tariffs insisted upon.

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YOKOHAMA CHESS CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the Yokohama Chess Club took place on Monday afternoon at Wright's Hotel and was attended by a fair number of members. Mr. Griffin presided.

The minutes of the last general meeting and the report of the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer were taken as read, confirmed, and passed unanimously.

Mr. Griffin was re-elected President, and Mr. Friedlander Hon. Secretary and Treasurer; Messrs. Fox, Thomas, and L. Abenheim being elected on the committee.

It was decided to meet in future at Wright's Hotel, where suitable quarters—for the sole use of the Club—were offered, the meetings to take place as before every Monday and Thursday from 5 to 11 p.m.

The proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the president.

REPORT.

Your committee have much pleasure in presenting to members the 8th annual report of the Yokohama Chess Club.

The number of members on the roll is 38 (against 43 at the end of last season) and of this some 8 or 9 have to be deducted at the beginning of the new session, owing to some of the members having left Yokohama. This decrease in the membership is no doubt to be accounted for by the lack of interest shown by members in previous years; for the last season must be considered a fairly successful one, the meetings being mostly well attended and marked by earnest zeal and enthusiasm on the part of the members attending.

In the middle of last October the Club removed its quarters from Clausen's Hotel to Farsari's Photographic Studio, which was found to be a very pleasant and comfortable place. But it being impracticable this year to continue this arrangement, new quarters will have to be found for the ensuing season.

At the commencement of last session the Secretary communicated with the Tokyo Chess Club with the view of arranging a match between the two Clubs; but, as in previous years, without result, the Tokyo Club being unfortunately reduced to a very limited number of players, from which it was found impossible to select a team. However, numerous inter-Club contests were arranged which proved very enjoyable and beneficial to the members.

Mr. Griffin having resigned the championship of the Y.C.C., which he held during the two previous years, a Championship Tourney was played during December-March, from which Mr. Friedlander issued as the victor, thus winning the Club championship for the year 1898 and with it the Keil Champion cup.

The Club has to mourn with deep regret the loss of Mr. Tennant, one of its oldest members, who died in July of this year.

The Treasurer's Account is annexed showing balance in hand of *yen* 127.22 against *yen* 154.09 as compared with last year, which is satisfactory considering the higher rent we paid this year.

The committee now tender their resignation with best wishes for the future welfare and prosperity of the Club.

Wm. Friedlander,
Hon. Secretary.

September 30th, 1898.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Oct. 1st, 1897.		
To Balance in hand	154 09	
Jan. 31st, 1898.		
„ Subscriptions (39)	117.00	
„ Entrance fees (4)	12.00	
Sept. 30th.		
„ Sale of Chessmen...	14 90	
„ Interest	6 00	
Apr. 30th, 1898.		
By Rent, Farsari		118 50
„ Fire Insurance		3.27
„ Collector's fee		3 00
„ Sub. B.C.M....		6 50
Sept. 30th.		
„ Printing, &c		45 50
		176 77
„ Balance		127 22
	303 99	303.99
Oct. 1st, 1898.		
To Balance in hand	127 22	

Wm. Friedlander,
Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and found correct.

H. Pollak.

Yokohama, September 30th, 1898.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

SEASON 1897-1898.

The Society has lost by removal and otherwise a number of families and individual members; on the other hand 49 new names were added to the Society during the season, so that the present membership is larger than a year ago.

It gives your Committee pleasure to report that the past season has been a most pleasant and profitable one. In addition to the following list of interesting papers, the programmes have included a number of most excellent miscellaneous readings and recitations. The musical programmes have been marked by unusual variety and excellence. The hearty thanks of the Society are due to the many friends who have so kindly contributed to both the musical and literary parts of the programmes.

Below is given the List of Meetings,—

SEASON 1897-1898.

Oct.	8th.	Annual General Meeting.
Oct.	22nd.	Miscellaneous Readings.
Nov.	5th.	Symposium.—"What is the Effect of modern Civilization upon Home Life?" Brief papers by Mr. A. B. Brown, Mr. Wilkin and others.
Nov.	19th.	Readings from Dickens' "Christmas Carol." Prof. Hamilton Sharp.
Dec.	3rd.	"Grub Street." Mr. W. D. Cox.
Dec.	17th.	A Review of Hall Caine's "The Christian." Mrs. C. D. McGrath.
Jan.	7th.	Recitation. Miss Scherbschewsky.
Jan.	21st.	"London; Its Slums, and the Poor" Mr. A. M. Galt.
Feb.	4th.	"Undergraduate Life at Cambridge." Mr. E. B. Clarke.
Feb.	18th.	"A Summer Campaign," Capt. W. H. Crawford.
Mar.	4th.	"Student Life at Wellesley College." Miss Louise Loomis.
Mar.	18th.	"Dante." Mr. E. B. Clarke.
Apr.	1st.	Recitations. Miss Sara A. Spencer.
Apr.	15th.	"Woman's Clubs." Mrs. F. W. Breed.
Apr.	29th.	"Some of our Four-footed Friends." Mr. A. J. Wilkin.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

Treasurer's Account, Session 1897-1898.

Thirteenth Session.

RECEIPTS.		Yen.
To Balance from last year.		481.84
To Member's Subscriptions:		
93 Ladies ...	...at Yen 2.00	186 00
90 Gentlemen	...at Yen 3.00	270.00
5 Families...	...at Yen 10 00	50 00
To Amount Received for Fraser's Lecture ...		27 35
To Interest from Bank ...		11 96
		Yen 1,027.15

EXPENDITURES.	Yen.
By Postages and Cookie Hire	31 38
By Hire of Piano	8.00
By Printing, Stationery and Advertising	119.26
By Refreshments	189.55
By Commission for collecting Subscriptions	10 00
By Rent	112 00
By Cheque to Mr. Fraser	50.00
By Rent of Public Hall...	30 00
By Balance	476 96
	Yen 1,027.15

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, 28th September, 1898.

E. B. S. Edwards,
Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with vouchers and found correct.

L. Pollard.

THE DROWNING FATALITY IN THE HARBOUR.

An inquest was opened on Saturday on the body of Caetano Xavier Cabral, late baker on the P. & O steamer *Formosa*, before Mr. R. G. E. Forster, sitting as coroner, and a Jury consisting of Messrs. H. S. Goddard, J. H. Herring, and C. V. Sale.

The body was identified by Mr. W.R.F. Hickey, chief officer of the *Formosa*.

Mr. John Holmes, the ship's surgeon, said the cause of death was in the first place congestion of the brain, followed by opium, and drowning. He had only examined the body superficially. There was a large wound two inches long down to the bone over the back of the head, caused in his opinion by deceased striking one of the pillars of the pier. His theory was that deceased in falling struck the pier, and was rendered unconscious before he reached the water. Witness was sitting in his cabin, which was near the gangway, when he heard a splash, and put his head out. He saw two persons standing there and heard the remark, "Throw him a rope." He had heard no sounds which would cause him to believe that deceased under the influence of liquor. Witness had never attended him for any disease. The accident occurred shortly after eleven o'clock.

The Jury then visited the spot and inspected the gangway of the ship, and the inquest was adjourned, until Monday, the Coroner meanwhile issuing an order for burial.

The inquiry was resumed on Monday, when Charles Henry Roper, 3rd engineer of the *Rosetta*, was called. He said he remembered the evening of Sept. 27th. He witnessed the accident. It was about five minutes past eleven. Mr. Evans, fourth engineer, and himself were walking down the Pier when they saw two people in front of them by the stern of the *Formosa*. He saw them go on the board connected with the companion ladder of the *Formosa*, and then one of the men fell from the companion ladder. Witness heard him strike something, as if he had struck the pier in his fall. There was a thud first and then a splash in the water. They both ran to the edge of the pier; Evans jumped on to the fender alongside the pier, and witness called to the quartermaster to bring a light and a rope. While he was bringing a rope they both looked at the water to see the man rise again, but they saw no sign of him. They waited three or four minutes; the quartermaster brought the lamp down, but they could see nothing. From the way in which the deceased and the other man were walking when he first saw them he should say that one at least was under the influence of liquor; that was the one who fell into the water. The other was helping him along. When the deceased fell his companion stood on the ladder and cried, "Baker, baker!" There were no lights on the pier at the time except the electric light. There was one light at the foot of the companion ladder about the height of a man from the bottom step. It was like a riding light. There was no other light there to his knowledge, and he would not swear that there was any light at the top of the ladder. He could not say anything as to the state of the tide. The board leading to the companion ladder was of the kind usually used for that purpose. It was a very dark night. He would himself have no hesitation in mounting the ladder. Efforts were made the same night to recover the body. They were commenced ten minutes or a quarter of an hour after the accident. If the man had come up to the surface at all witness would have been bound to see him. In his opinion the ladder was sufficiently guarded against swaying or moving.

By a Juror—He could not swear whether there was a rope round the board between the pier and the gangway.

John Evans, fourth engineer of the *Rosetta*, said shortly after eleven o'clock on the evening in question he was with the last witness. After deceased fell witness got under the fender of the Pier, and looked down to the water, but could see no trace of him, and no indication that anything had happened. He could not swear that there were no lights at all on the Pier. The light on the ship was in his opinion sufficient for the lighting of the gangway.

Santon Figuredo, a native of Hindostan, whose evidence was interpreted by Mr. F. J. Norman, said he was employed in the galley of the *Formosa*. He went for a walk on the night of the accident in company with deceased. They drank some gin during the evening, and returned some time between 10 and eleven o'clock. He said he went first up the gangway, and deceased followed him, and fell. He did not think deceased was drunk; witness had drunk more than he. Witness was about nine feet up the gangway when deceased fell. His going up the ladder would not cause the board at the bottom to shake.

Benjamin Johns said he was quartermaster on the *Formosa*. He was on watch from eight to twelve o'clock on the night in question. He did not see anything of the accident, but he heard some one call for a rope. The Chief Officer then came up, and when he saw what was the matter ordered witness to get a light at once. Witness went down the ladder with the light; he did not remember where he got it from, as he was too flurried to notice. He lowered the light nearly down to the surface of the water, and went down

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to look round, but could see nothing. It would be part of his duties as quartermaster to throw a life buoy over in case of accident. He did not do so on this occasion, as he was waiting to see whether the man would get up. Witness was ordered a few minutes after the accident to get a kedge from the mail boat and order all the men up for assistance. They then dragged for the deceased. They had always had a gangway similar to that now used ever since he had been with the *Formosa*. They had one light at the top of the gangway and one at the bottom. The lower light was about half a man's height from the bottom step of the ladder. The lamps were burning brightly at the time of the accident. There was no rail round the board at the bottom of the ladder; but there was a short man, rope near which a man might take hold of. There were no lights on the Pier.

The Court then adjourned for tiffin.

On resuming Mr. Hickey, the chief officer, recalled, said he was reading in his cabin when he a heard splash, and went on deck where the witness John told him that a man had fallen overboard. He told John to get a light, and ran down the ladder, and got down on the fender. He had a light lowered, but could see no trace of deceased. He then tried to find traces of bubbles, but could see no sign of them. After staying on the fender for some time he came up on the pier, and asked the Water Police and Custom Officers if they could let him have a drag. They said they hadn't one. Witness then told the quartermaster to turn the hands out and bring the kedge anchor and a line out of the mail boat. Witness dragged the place for about three quarters of an hour, but could find no signs of the body. He remained on the pier himself for about an hour and a half, and left a watch there afterwards. The body was recovered on Saturday morning. He heard some coolies on the pier shouting, and, going along to them, saw the body floating in the water. Witness reported it, and then took the body on board. Witness thought deceased must have been under the influence of liquor to fall over the ladder as he did. He had given instructions for the ladder to be lowered and raised according to the tides, so that the board joining it to the Pier should not be at too sharp an angle. At the time of the accident the angle would be about 30 degrees. He had never received complaints from any one as to the gangway. It was not customary to have a rope barrier round the platform at the bottom of the ladder; it would not be possible in the present instance. The board communicating between the platform of the ladder and the pier was supplied by the Pier Company. There might have been a light at the pier head, but he did not notice it. There were no lights on the pier near the ship. Of nine lamp-pillars on the pier, he believed, only four were fitted with lamps. A life-buoy would have been of no service in a case of this kind, especially if the person who threw it did not know where the man fell. Witness after the accident asked the man Figueda if deceased was drunk, and he replied, "Not too much."

George Frost, chief steward of the *Formosa*, said deceased joined the ship in October of last year. He was a sober and good, steady man. Witness had never seen him under the influence of liquor. Deceased and Figueda were quite good friends.

Mr. Forster having summed up, the Jury returned the following verdict: "That the deceased came by his death by falling from the ladder of the steamship *Formosa* on to the piles of the Pier at Yokohama and thence into the sea, about 11.10 p.m. on 27th September, and that the accident was due to the absence of any railing at the foot of the ladder."

THE TRADE OF YOKOHAMA.

In his Report on the Trade and Navigation of Yokohama for the year 1897, Mr. Acting Consul-General Forster states:—

The total trade of the port in 1897 was greater than in the previous year by over £3,500 000. The exact figures of the comparison are as follows:—

Exports...	1897	£ 9,211 820	1896	£ 6,683 745
Imports...	"	8.987.559	"	7 948 637
Total...	"	18 199.379	"	14 632.382

It should be borne in mind that to arrive at a true comparison an addition of 16 per cent. should be made to the value of the imports to cover freight, insurance, &c., the figures in the customs returns representing the values in the country of production.

The increase in exports is mainly attributable to the large advance in the value of the raw silk trade, whereas that in imports is traceable to an increased import of sugar, steam vessels, and railway material.

Of the total export trade of the port the United States take 52 per cent., France 28 per cent., France 28 per cent., and Great Britain and the Colonies 14 per cent. Of the imports Great Britain supplies 52 per cent., the United States 13 per cent, Germany 12 per cent., and China 9 per cent.

Gold coin and bullion has been imported to the value of £6,699,320, and exported to the value of £900,156; while silver has been imported to a value of £1,749,124, and exported to the amount of £1,051,714.

Of last year's total British trade, amounting to £6,047,013, two-thirds were with the United Kingdom itself, one-sixth with Hongkong, and the remaining sixth was distributed between India, Canada, and Australia. Though the total value of the trade with Australia was only £101,000, this was an increase of 33 per cent. on that of the previous year. The imports are mainly lead and wool, but the customs returns show that in addition to a considerable export of rice, a steady and increasing demand is springing up for Japanese manufactured articles such as silk piece-goods, floor matting, and fancy goods. The trade with Canada shows a slight increase due to the larger export of tea. The increased import of raw cotton and sugar is accountable for the increase shown in the value of imports from British India and Hongkong respectively.

IMPORTS.

The value of the import of cotton yarn shows a decrease over that of last of over £140,000. This decrease would appear to be occasioned by the competition of the Japanese spinning mills in the lower grades. A continual and increasing demand, however, exists for gassed yarns. A marked decrease is observable in the import of grey shirtings and T-cloths. The import of blankets in 1897 has fallen to less than one third of that in 1896. The competition of the local Japanese factories is evidently severely affecting this article.

A continued advance in freight on metals, which reached as high as 32s. 6d. per ton at the end of the year combined with firmer markets in Europe has made business difficult during the year. The United States are now supplying part of the demand for this market and are likely to be an increasing source of supply for manufactured iron as also pig-iron. The trade in wire nails, which was formerly done solely with Belgium and Germany, has now been practically absorbed by the United States. A large increase is noticeable in the import of galvanised sheet-iron. This may be attributed to the fashion, which is rapidly gaining ground in Japan, of substituting sheet-iron for timber in roofing. The trade is greatly interfered with by the heavy claims made by buyers for the corrosion which appears inevitable when galvanised iron is transported by sea. The margin of profit for the British importer is consequently narrowed to a serious extent. Plate and sheet-iron show a falling-off in import, due to the fact that the demand for the former has been almost supplanted by that for Siemen's steel.

Locomotive engines have been imported to a value of £316.415 in 1897, as against £96,466 in 1896. The United States share with Great Britain this trade, but the former has by far the larger proportion. The various items of machinery show a large increase over last year. In dynamo electric machinery the United States has supplied nearly seven-tenths of the total, the remainder coming from Germany and Great Britain in nearly equal proportions. In spinning machinery Great Britain has practically a monopoly, whereas in that for paper-making the import is about equal from the United States and Great Britain.

The import of railway carriages and fittings shows an increase of over £50,000 on that of 1896. Great Britain supplies practically the whole of these goods. Such frequent reference has been made in previous reports to the necessity of the manufacturer strictly complying with the specification of machinery required for sale in Japan that it would appear superfluous to refer to the matter again. It may, however, be of interest to relate that at a dinner give to a Canadian Commercial Commissioner, a large Japanese buyer of machinery stated in the hearing of the writer that although infinitely preferring the quality of British manufactured machinery, he had been obliged to transfer his orders to the United States and Germany, as he experienced such difficulty in obtaining from the English manufacturer the exact article he required. In view of the increasing competition of the United States in the metal trade too much care cannot be used by the British manufacturer in securing uniformity of quality and weight in such articles as steel rails. Many heavy claims have been given rise to from the failure to supply an article strictly in accordance with sample.

The import of kerosene shows a large increase over that of 1896. The total deliveries were:—American, 1,679,791 cases; Russian, 1,135.157 cases; Langkat, 48,862 cases; total, 2,863,813. An increase of deliveries of American oil over 1896 of 413,518 cases, and of Russian of 130.559 cases. The production of Japanese kerosene is estimated at 500,000 cases annually.

Ten steamers of the value of £618,232 were imported into Yokohama during the year under review. Of these, nine were built in Great Britain for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha (Japan Mail Steamship Company).

EXPORTS.

Silk.—The total export of raw silk for the year under review was 9,226,481 lbs. valued at £5,649,969, as against 5,225,179 lbs., valued at £3.123,229 in 1896. The supplies for the season 1896 97 amounted to 6,886,000 lbs., as against 8,426,666 lbs. for the season 1895 96. Stocks at the end of 1897 amounted to 1,238,666 lbs., making together with the export from the opening of the new season in July to the end of the year, the total available supplies for that period 7,044,000 lbs., as against 5,619,333 lbs, for the same period in 1899.

The quantity of cocoons produced was fully 25 per cent. in excess of the previous season. The silk conditioning-house, established here, was not viewed at first with favour by the Japanese merchants. They are decidedly opposed to the great exactness which the new system brings into the weighing of silk, and prefer to make use of the scales used by foreign buyers. In other directions, however, especially in testing silk for its size of thread, elasticity, tenacity, and cleanliness, the conditioning-house is becoming more used. Taken as a whole, the crop of the year under review must be considered a good one, and must have proved most lucrative to the producer.

One of the most noticeable features of the trade of the year under review is the large increase in the export of silk piece-goods (habutãe). In 1896 the value of this commodity exported was £721,769, whereas in 1897 it had risen to £911,266. Silk handkerchiefs, on the other hand, show a heavy decline, the demand in Europe, and especially in America, displaying a great falling-off.

Tea.—The total export of tea from Yokohama, as shown by the customs returns, amounted to 26.518,298 lbs., valued at £512,922. The total delivery for the season, as shown by the statistics of the Chamber of Commerce, was 27,266,419 lbs. The quality of the crop was not satisfactory, and not equal to last year, especially as regards the make of the leaf, which was coarse, and showed signs of hurried preparation and insufficient care in rolling. The Japanese merchant does not appear to realise the vital importance of keeping up the standard of the tea, in view of the increasing competition in Indian and Ceylon teas.

Although the quantity of tea exported in 1897 was much the same as in the 1896, the value shows a considerable increase. This may be attributed to two causes—first, the duty agitation in the United States, which occasioned a general rush to get teas landed in America before the new tariff came into force, and secondly, to the increased cost of labour, charcoal, and all materials connected with the preparation of the leaf. Prices throughout the year have averaged some $6 per picul higher than in 1896. In May, owing to the duty agitation referred to above, they rose as much as from $15 to $17 per picul higher than last year for similar grades.

Copper.—The export of copper calls for little remark; the figures show a decrease on those for last year. There was a little variation in prices during the year, quotations averaging 26 *yen* 50 *sen* per picul for slabs, and 27 *yen* 50 *sen* for ingots.

The output from the Ashio mines has been reduced, owing to its being necessary to carry out extensive works to prevent the passage of deleterious matter from the mines into the water-courses below.

Cotton Manufactures show a considerable increase in the item of cotton yarn, a small decrease in piece-goods, and a large falling-off in the export of cotton flannel. Hongkong and China form the principal markets for these goods.

Sundries.—The export of fish oil in 1897 shows an increase of over £24,000 on that of 1896. The export of paper in 1897 shows an increase of nearly £12,000 over that of the previous year. The Japanese paper known as *gampishi* is finding great favour both in Europe and America as copying paper, it being more durable and capable of receiving a larger number of impressions than the home-manufactured article. The export of Japanese wall-paper also shows a consider-

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able increase over last year. Amongst miscellaneous exports the items of clothing, ginger, straw-plaits, and umbrellas, show an increase during the past year, whereas those of *iriko*, or bêche-de-mer, manganese, menthol crystal, sulphur, and tobacco display a considerable falling-off.

SHIPPING.

Last year there entered this port 2,319 merchant vessels of an aggregate of 2,894,413 tons, as against 2,085 vessels of 2,757,335 tons in 1896, showing an increase of 234 in the number and 137,478 in the tonnage. British shipping shows a decrease of 62 vessels and 61,227 tons, whereas Japanese shows an increase of 300 vessels and 170,792 tons. The greater portion of the increase is in steamers, of which 1,675 entered the port in 1897, against 1,394 in 1896. The expansion in Japanese steam navigation is most remarkable, and is mainly due to the energetic extension of its business by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha (Japan Mail Steamship Company). This company has now regular monthly communication with Europe, the United States, Australia, and Bombay, in addition to lines to Shanghai, Hongkong and Vladivostock. The steamers on the European line are of the highest class and of 6,000 tons gross.

GENERAL.

Currency.—On Oct. 1 the introduction of the gold standard was effected without hitch or difficulty. Preparations had been made in anticipation, by the Bank of Japan, for the exchange on and from that date of all silver *yen* presented to it or its authorised representatives for gold *yen*. On the date in question the balance at the various banks were thus converted into gold. There was but little demand for the exchange of gold against paper, and the paper currency of the country has thus remained the ordinary circulating medium, representing gold in place of silver. The export of gold to the value of £900,156 was due to the large amount of silver *yen*-pieces which were brought up from Hongkong and the Straits Settlements for exchange against gold, in view of their enhanced value. This movement has continued during the present year. The effect of the introduction of the gold standard has, on the one hand, been to steady exchange with gold countries, but on the other, to dislocate those with silver-using countries in the Far East. The benefit to importers has also been considerable in view of the further fall of silver amounting to 7 per cent.

Docks.—The Yokohama Dock Company's No 2 dock was opened in April, and received up to the end of the year thirty-one steamers and four sailing vessels. It is calculated that No. 1 dock will be completed by January, 1899; the construction of a third dock is also under consideration. The necessary work shops are nearly completed and will shortly be in full working power. The docks at Uraga at the mouth of Tokyo Bay, of which the dimensions were also given in last year's report, are not yet opened.

Railways.—The extension of the railway system in the country steadily continues, and there are at present 1,594 miles of new line under construction, of which 612 miles are Government and 982 miles private undertakings. The doubling of the trunk line between this place and Kobe has now been earnestly taken in hand, but some time must elapse before it is completed. A greatly accelerated mail service is looked forward to on the completion of the work.

Custom House.—In consequence of the increased volume of imports the customs ground became for some time so blocked with goods of all kinds that no space was available for further landings. An extension of the premises is urgently needed. Further dredging of the harbour in the vicinity of the pier is also imperative. At present the north side is useless for large vessels owing to the shallowness of the water.

Population.—The Japanese of the town of Yokohama on Dec. 31st, 1897, amounted to 188,455 persons, and of the town of Kanagawa to 15,244, or 203,699 persons in all—an increase of 7,090 during the year 1897. The foreign population of Yokohama, exclusive of Chinese, amounted on the same date to 2,096 persons, of whose 869 were British. This shows an increase during the twelve months of 269 persons in the general foreign population, and of one in the British by itself. The Chinese population is returned at 2,015.

Direct Trade.—The responsibility of putting a home firm into direct communication with the Japanese merchant is one from which any Consul having experience of Japanese methods of business would shrink. He has no resource but to lay such matters before British houses doing business in the place. These are kept fully posted by their representatives at home in regard to any new inventions or manufactures, and they, being in constant contact with the Japanese buyer, can at once order such goods from home if they consider they could be profitably imported into this country. The representation on the spot of home manufacturers by responsible agents would, and does, secure a satisfactory return; firms, however, which do not see their way to be thus represented would do better to place themselves in communication with the London agents of mercantile houses in Japan, who could tell them at once if their goods were likely to find a market in this country. It is to be desired that organisations similar to those in the United States, devoted to bringing into close relation the manufacturer, the importer, and the exporter, with the object of extending trade could be devised in Great Britain. These institutions do not enter into trade; their sole object is through the building up of an international bureau of commercial information to aid in the development of foreign commerce. Subscribers to them can at once obtain on the spot reliable information as to the classes of goods exported to or imported from any country, together with particulars of firms doing business in the various branches. Information thus obtained would unquestionably be of greater value than that supplied by a Consul, who has no personal knowledge of the status of his correspondents.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

(From the "Japan Times.")

DEATH OF THE QUEEN OF DENMARK.

London, Sept. 30.

Queen Louise of Denmark is dead.

[Her late Majesty was a daughter of Landgrave Wilhelm of Hesse Cassel and was married to King Christian on May 26, 1843. She was the mother of the Dowager Empress of Russia, of the Princess of Wales, the Duchess of Cumberland, and of King George I. of Greece.]

DEATH OF MR. BAYARD.

The death is announced of the Hon. Mr. T. F. Bayard, formerly American Ambassador at the Court of St. James.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE IN AFRICA.

"THE TIMES" ADVOCATES VIGOROUS STEPS.

The Times declares that the immediate and complete evacuation by the French of the Nile valley and the equatorial provinces must be made a condition precedent to all ulterior discussion.

London, Oct. 3.

The French Government has agreed to negotiate on the Fashoda question forthwith without awaiting Captain Marchand's reports.

London, Oct. 4.

Captain Marchand has been promoted Major.

London, Oct. 5.

The Cameron Highlanders have returned to Cairo. Thus only the Egyptian troops remain at Fashoda. The French Government is communicating with Major Marchand via the Nile, instructing him to despatch an officer with reports, using the Nile route.

TURKISH COMMANDER WITHDRAWS FROM CANDIA.

CITY TO COME UNDER BRITISH MILITARY SWAY.

London, Oct. 1.

Djevad Pasha has consented to withdraw and encamp the Turkish troops outside Candia. Colonel Chermside takes military possession of Candia whenever reinforcements arrive.

THE KHEDIVE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

London, Oct. 4.

The Khedive has arrived at Constantinople on a visit to the Sultan. The motives of the visit are unknown, but it is supposed to be connected with the Khedival property at Thasos.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

CAPTAIN MARCHAND STARVED OF AMMUNITION.

London, Oct. 6.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* wires that there is much sickness among the troops returned from Omdurman.

The German Attaché's official report severely criticises the conduct of operations in the Soudan, and characterizes the charge of the Lancers as a folly.

Captain Marchand obtains food from the natives, but is short of ammunition. His Shillok auxiliaries have fraternized with the Sirdar's Shillok troops, and offered their allegiance to the Khedive.

AMERICAN DEMOCRATS AND THE SILVER QUESTION.

London, Oct. 1.

The Democratic Convention assembled at Syracuse has adopted a programme ignoring the Silver Question.

London, Oct. 3.

The Democratic Conventions at New Jersey and Connecticut, besides that of New York, have abandoned the Silver Policy.

PEACE CONFERENCE OPENS.

SECRET DELIBERATIONS.

London, Oct. 3.

The Peace Conference opened its sittings at Paris on Saturday, its deliberations being conducted in absolute secrecy.

THE ALLEGED DEATH OF THE CHINESE EMPEROR.

SUICIDE OR MURDER?

A statement was published in Shanghai that the Emperor of China had committed suicide on Sept. 21st, but he is really believed to have been murdered.

TO REPRESS ANARCHISM.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

The Powers have accepted the invitation of Italy to hold a congress to deliberate on the repression of Anarchism.

UNITED STATES NAVY.

BIG BUDGET ESTIMATE.

The American naval estimates for the coming year amount to $47,000,000, the largest on record.

PLAGUE VIRULENT AT BOMBAY.

London, Oct. 4.

The deaths from plague in Bombay city during the past week numbered 209 as compared with 137 in the previous week. There were 4,000 deaths in the Bombay Presidency.

(From the "Tokyo Asahi.")

THE SZECHUAN REVOLT.

Shanghai, 3 Oct., 10 a.m.

Intelligence comes from Chêng-tu in Szechuan that the insurgents have captured Chung-king.

YÜ MANTZE.

Shanghai, Sept. 29.

Yü Man-tze has again seized a French priest in Yungchang-hsien, and it is not known whether the priest has been killed or not. Yü's followers are surrounding the *hsien*, and are about to attack it. Two battalions (1,000 men in all) have been ordered to proceed to the place, as its defences are defective.

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OUTRAGES ON FOREIGNERS IN CHINA.

Peking, 2 Oct., 11 a.m.

Outrages have been committed against Japanese, British, and American nationals. The Representatives of the Powers concerned have held a meeting to consult upon the procedure to be taken. The Chinese Government has sent officials to the Legations offering due apologies, and is adopting measures to arrest the ring-leaders. Japan has not preferred any demands and is standing in a neutral position. Great Britain and America have formulated some demands.

TSUNG-LI YAMEN PROTESTS.

Peking, Oct. 3.

The Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamên have requested the foreign diplomats not to take soldiers into the Capital

BRITISH AND AMERICAN MARINES ENTER PEKING.

Peking, Oct. 3.

A German gun-boat proceeded along the upper course of the White River, and a number of British and American marines entered Peking in order to provide against any emergency in the present state of political turmoil.

TO VISIT JAPAN.

Peking, Oct. 2.

It has been decided to send fifteen or sixteen officers to attend the Japanese Autumn Manœuvres.

(Received by the *Fiji*)

CHINESE NEWS.

Peking, Sept. 28.

Yung-lu has been appointed Minister of War, and Yu-lu Viceroy of Chihli. Thus the administrative power of China has fallen entirely into the hands of Manchu statesmen.

Peking, Sept. 28.

Sir Claude MacDonald, British Minister, has declined to deliver Kang Yu-wei, now in Hongkong, to the Chinese Government.

Peking, Sept. 28.

Marquis Ito and suite are to leave here for the south to-morrow.

Peking, Sept. 29.

It is rumoured that the Emperor has confessed a plot against the Empress-Dowager. The plot is said to have been to induce Yuen Shi-kai to murder Yung-lu, to lead troops into Peking, and to attack the Empress-Dowager at her detached palace. The matter ended in a fiasco owing to the betrayal of Yuen. Those who were arrested as accomplices in the affair have been beheaded.

Kang Yu-wei seems to have fled to Hongkong by the British steamer *Ballarat*, convoyed by the British warship *Bonaventure*.

Shanghai, Oct. 1.

A Peking telegram received here yesterday affirmatively states that the Emperor of China has committed suicide. It is generally believed in this locality that the death of the Emperor, if true, may be ascribed to regicide.

Peking, Sept. 30.

Chang Yin-yuen, who has been taken into custody, was sentenced to banishment.

Peking, Sept. 30.

It is generally surmised here that the reported illness of the Emperor of China is a fabrication invented by the followers of the Empress Dowager.

Peking, Sept. 30.

The Manchurians are displeased with the recent appointment of Mr. Kwang Tsun-hien as Minister to Japan, so that it may be expected he will be replaced by some one else.

Shanghai, Oct. 3.

A Peking telegram confirms the report that the Chinese Emperor was killed by poisoning.

KOREAN NEWS.

WHEREABOUTS OF AN KENGSU.

Söul, Oct. 3.

Mr. An Kengsu, whose whereabouts have been unknown for a long while, was recently discovered.

MIN YÖNG-KWI AND LI DO-CHAI.

Söul, Oct. 3.

Mr. Min Yöng-kwi and Mr. Li Do-chai have respectively been restored to the posts of Minister of Finance and of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce.

MR. U PÖM-SÖN AND MR. AN KENG-SU.

Chemulpo, Oct. 3.

Mr. U Pöm-sön left for Japan on the 30th ult. by the *Chikugogawa Maru*, and Mr. An Keng-su and two others also left for that country yesterday on board the *Genkai Maru*.

Nagasaki, Oct. 5

Mr. An Keiju and his suite left for Shimonoseki by the steamer *Genkai Maru*.

Bakan, Oct. 5.

Lieut General Li Yen-Yo and party last night left for Tokuyama.

Pak Yong-ho has arrived here. The Korean refugees U. Hanzen and An Keiju paid a visit to him. Pak Yong ho with five others will leave about the 20th inst. for Korea. Other refugees will also shortly leave here to investigate the political conditions in their country.

Moji, Oct 5

Lieut. General Li Yen-yo, Mr. Li Chin-sai the Councillor, Mr. Kim Kwan kwo, military attaché, Mr. Kwan Yei-gen, the Councillor of the Privy Court, and their suite have arrived here from Bakan.

(From the "N.-C. Daily News.")

THE REIGN OF TERROR.

Peking, Sept. 24, noon.

(1) As soon as the Empress-Dowager took over the reins of government, besides the order to arrest Chang Yin huan and Kang Yu wei, she commanded also that the Censor Sung Peh-lu should be cashiered.

(2) Liang Chi-tsao (ex-Editor of the *Chinese Progress*) has been cashiered of his brevet 6th rank and his literary degree of M.A. (*Chujên*). An order has also gone forth for his arrest and punishment.

(3) His Majesty the Emperor, at the head of his Princes, Nobles, and Ministers, paid congratulatory obeisances to the Empress-Dowager in the Ch'ingcheng Throne Hall, yesterday, the 23rd inst.

(4) His Majesty the Emperor is all right and in good health. All rumours to the contrary have been disseminated by the members of the Kang faction.

(5) The three Taotais, Hsu Chienying, Wu Mao-ting (Woo Jim-pah), and Tuan Fang, who were appointed by Imperial Edict Directors of the Bureaux of Commerce, Agriculture, and Mechanical Science respectively, have been cashiered for styling themselves Imperial High Commissioners.

(5) A certain ex-Secretary of Legation who presented on the 22nd instant a memorial containing suggestions of reform was immediately ordered to be cashiered and deported to his native city under official surveillance.

9 p.m.

An Imperial edict has been issued ordering the immediate arrest of sixteen persons connected with Kang Yu-wei's Reform Party. Amongst these are the names of Chang Yin-huan, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue and High Commissioner of the Bureau of Control of Railways and Mines; Hsü Chihching, acting Junior Vice-President of the Board of Rites; Liang Chi-tsao, ex-Editor of *Chinese Progress*; Wang Chao, the Secretary of the Board of Rites, whose famous memorial was the cause of the downfall of the two Presidents and four Vice-Presidents of his Board —three of whom were powerful Imperial clansmen; Sung Peh-lu, Chang Yuan-chi, Lin Hs ô, Yang Jui, Tan Tze-lung, Liu Kunan-ti, etc.,—all of them said to be natives of Kuangtung or Kuangsi, and Censors, Hanlin, or Board Secretaries in rank.

At the Imperial Audience granted this morning to the Ministers of State, his Majesty the Emperor is alleged to have sat by the side of the Empress-Dowager, and nothing seemed to be the matter with his Majesty.

An Imperial edict appoints Ho Nai-ying Governor of Moukden, Fêngtien province, Lower Manchuria.

Peking, Sept. 28.

Great Britain, the United States, and Japan have avowed their intention to preserve the integrity of the Chinese Empire.

Great Britain has stated that she has protected Kang Yü-wei on the ground that he is a political refugee. Should it transpire, however, that Kang has been guilty of other grave crimes the British authorities will turn him over to the Chinese Government for punishment.

Peking, Sept. 29.

The brother of Kang Yü-wei and five other members of the Reform party were decapitated yesterday morning.

(From Tonkin Papers.)

FRENCH AFFAIRS.

Paris, September 17.

The Council of Ministers has authorised M. Sarrien to convene, in view of the revision of the Dreyfus case, a Commission appointed by the Ministry of Justice.

General Zurlinden and M. Tillaye, Minister of Public Works, are expected to resign.

September 18.

General Zurlinden has declared that, in the presence of the records, he is convinced of the culpability of Dreyfus, and cannot accept a revision of the case.

General Chanoine has been appointed Minister of Public Works.

Quiet prevails everywhere.

The English Press is disturbed about the presence of the Marchand Mission at Fashoda.

September 19.

There is no information from French official sources confirming the presence of the Marchand Mission at Fashoda.

The rumour that has appeared in the English papers about an agreement between France and England with reference to the occupation of Fashoda is considered absurd.

(From Japanese Sources.)

BRITISH CONSULS.

Hakodate, Oct. 1.

Mr. Playfair, the new British Consul, has arrived, and Mr. Layard, the ex-Consul, left for Tamsui, Formosa, to-day.

HEAVY STORMS.

Taipeh, Oct. 1.

The heavy rain ceased this morning. The damage is not so great as that caused last month.

Tokushima, Oct. 1.

Yesterday a heavy storm raged here. The Buddhist temple Onzanji was destroyed by the lightning, and a priest lost his life.

SEIZURE OF PROPERTY.

Kobe, Oct. 6.

The day before yesterday the Chartered Bank obtained judgment to attach the properties of a certain foreign firm. Amongst these properties are the merchandise of Japanese traders who have not yet received payment from the firm.

THE RICE STOCK.

Bakan, Oct. 6.

The rice-stock in this market is estimated at 10,784 piculs.

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THE FRENCH AT FASHODA.

POSITION VIEWED AS SERIOUS

London, September 16 h.

News has been received of the occupation of Fashoda, on the White Nile, south of Khartoum, by the French expedition under Major Marchand, assisted by 10,000 Abyssinians.

The *Daily Telegraph's* special correspondent with the Anglo-Egyptian forces in the Soudan telegraphs that he has had an interview with the captain of the boat which returned from Fashoda, and that the captain's description of the flag raised leaves no doubt that it is French. The Captain says the garrison at Fashoda menaced him and would have sunk his boat if they had possessed a gun. After getting out of the zone of the garrison's fire, the captain landed and ascertained from natives that the Dervishes at Fashoda had been attacked by a force of Europeans and 100 Senegalese soldiers, who defeated the Dervishes, killing 100, and drove the others from the town. The correspondent adds: "There is no doubt that this is the Marchand expedition."

The despatch was sent from Assouan, and the captain interviewed belonged to the steamer *Tewfikh*, one of the Dervish steamers which surrendered to General Kitchener on its return from Fashoda.

The correspondent described General Kitchener's efforts to prevent the news reaching England. He says:—"I wired this identical news a week ago from Omdurman. The Sirdar refused to allow any correspondent to accompany him south of Omdurman or to go independently. He compelled us to sell our horses and camels and then told us unless we returned northward forthwith he could not guarantee us transportation.

General Kitchener has sent 800 Soudanese, 200 men of the Cameron Highlanders, two batteries of Nordenfeldt mountain guns, and several Maxims on board the gunboats *Sultan* and *Sheikh*. The Sirdar accompanies the force on the steamer *Dal*. Probably they have already arrived at Fashoda. The correspondent says also, detailing an earlier movement, that the gunboat *Sultan* was sent up the Blue Nile to intercept a Dervish garrison, 2,500 strong, coming up to re enforce the Khalifa. The gunboat found and engaged the enemy, killing a thousand and driving the remainder back. He adds:—"It is officially announced that the Khalifa is surrounded and must be taken, alive or dead, within a few days."

TENSION IN LONDON.

New York, Sept. 16.

A cable from London says:—The Fashoda question between England and France has entered upon a very grave stage. All the elements of a rupture are provided by the situation. There is no mistaking the stern determination of the English people that Fashoda shall not belong to France. The French press, on the other hand, notably the semi-official *Temps*, has been steadily stiffening in its resolve to hold on to Major Marchand's prize. The news of the result of General Kitchener's advance to Fashoda is therefore awaited with the keenest anxiety.

It has been stated here that General Kitchener started for Fashoda without fresh instructions from his Government. It is stated on authority that this is not so. He asked for and received instructions by telegraph, fresh instructions in view of the discovery that Major Marchand had forestalled him on the Upper Nile. This fact renders the situation all the more serious if he adopts hostile measures against the French explorers, as he will be acting under express authority from the British Government.

What his instructions are the Foreign Office here declines to disclose.

The truth is that Lord Salisbury dares not surrender Fashoda. If is a fact, patent to any competent observer, that the mood of the English people at this moment is strongly warlike. In their present temper Englishmen will tolerate no concession, graceful or otherwise, in relation to Fashoda. Even entering upon any dallying negotiations would ruin the Government. On the other hand France is not the country to receive an affront with equanimity, so that the tension of feeling here, until this Fashoda affair is settled, can be appreciated.

INTENDED ULTIMATUM.

London, Sept. 17.

A despatch to the *Morning Post* says General Kitchener has absolute authority to claim Fashoda as Egyptian territory and to expel the present occupants forcibly if necessary. Fashoda, the correspondent says, will then be occupied by an Egyptian garrison.

The *Daily Telegraph's* Cairo correspondent says that General Kitchener intends to present an ultimatum demanding that the French expedition under Major Marchand quit Fashoda forthwith.

LATE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSASSIN.

New York, Sept. 13.

A cable from Geneva says:—Through the assistance of Mr. B. H. Ridgley, United States Consul here, a correspondent was enabled to-day to see and interview the Assassin Luchini. He is a smirking wretch, effusive, garrulous, and beaming. Luchini is small and gaunt, but athletic, with blue eyes, reddish moustache, and dirty brown hair, cut short and unparted. He smiled and tittered as he talked, cheerfully answering all of the correspondent's questions. His demeanour suggested an unhinged mind, but his replies indicated a clear and and full consciousness of his crime, in which he gloried. In answer to a query by the correspondent, Luchini said: "I killed the Empress because I am an Anarchist. We have not, we eat not, we drink not: therefore, we must make the rich and powerful think about us. I have simply executed my mission."

"Why did you select the Empress? Why not have killed a real ruler, King or President?"

"Destiny placed her in my way," he answered simply and with apparent truthfulness. "I was not looking for her life in particular. She was here and I struck her. She was one of the oppressors."

"Had you any accomplices?"

"My accomplices are all those who suffer, I am the executor of the oppressed."

Luchini declined to answer further questions, and the interview ended.

Judge Leche showed the correspondent the file (at first described as a stiletto) with which the crime was committed. It is about four inches long, very sharp at the point and with keen edges. Its wooden handle would afford a strong grip. Its construction makes it far more effective than an ordinary dagger penetrating clothes, but if Luchini had failed to reach a vital organ with it the wound would have been slight. Judge Leche asked Luchini:

"Where were you on August 30th, when the the Empress arrived at Territet?"

"I was employed in building the post-office," he answered.

"Did you strike the Empress with the left hand?"

"Certainly not; I always use my right hand, and I dealt this one with my right hand."

This with an ugly grimace, and then he bent down and showed how he dealt the blow. The Judge next asked: "If you had been able would you have murdered King Humbert or Crispi?"

"Humbert, oh yes," he said with pleasure. "But not Crispi; Crispi is a thief and he stole half a million lire; I should have taken more in his place; I take my hat off to thieves; I would never murder a thief."

Here the assassin laughed aloud. Then he said to the Judge: "I asked for cigars; shall I get them?"

"We will see," said the Judge, as he ordered him back to prison.

ITALIANS MOBBED AT TRIESTE.

London, September 13.

Special despatches from Vienna says that the entire Austro-Hungarian empire is inflamed against the Italians as a result of the assassination of the Empress Elizabeth, and that violent anti-Italian demonstrations have taken place at Trieste, where the Italians and natives have been fighting in the streets with sticks and stones and sometimes using revolvers. Six deaths are reported to have occurred there and troops were called out to suppress the disturbances.

At Gratz an Italian peddler has been lynched, and at Vienna fully 1,500 Italian employed on the municipal works have been summarily dismissed in order to avoid a popular revolt. The Italian Embassy at Vienna is guarded by a strong body of infantry.

ANARCHISTS IN ITALY.

Rome, September 13.

An Anarchist manifesto, signed by the "revolution committee" has been distributed in Milan during the past few days. The police yesterday arrested an Italian, who was engaged in distributing the manifesto. The prisoner, who had just arrived from Switzerland when he was seized, shouted, "Long live anarchy! Death to the King!"

Some of the people in the crowd present at the time of the arrest interfered with the police officers who made the capture, and several persons were injured before the prisoner was lodged in the police depot. The newspapers here remark that the recent riots at Milan commenced in a similar manner.

BRINGING THE BODY TO VIENNA.

Geneva, September 14.

The casket containing the remains borne on a four-horse car and followed by two other cars almost buried in floral offerings, was conveyed to the railroad station here at 8.30 this morning. An enormous concourse of people witnessed the ceremony. The corrège was led by the representatives of the imperial court, followed by the Federal Council, headed by the President, and the Geneva Council. The firemen lined the streets. The brilliant sunshine made a striking contrast to the gloomy aspect of the mourners. The funeral train left here at 9 o'clock.

The funeral car was ornamented with silver wreaths, surmounted by a silver cross, and had white plumes at each corner. The casket was of polished oak, with silver mountings. It was almost hidden beneath floral tributes.

On the arrival of the hearse at the railroad station, which was hung with black drapery, the coffin was removed, the remains of the Empress were ceremoniously blessed, and the casket was placed in the railroad car, which was then sealed. After this the Austrian officials embarked on the train and it departed.

The train made short stoppages at the principal towns in Swiss territory. Everywhere along the route church bells tolled, and in some places wreaths were presented.

The assassin, it is said, has written to the President of the Swiss Confederation asking to be tried at Lucerne, where capital punishment is in force. He now admits that he attended an Anarchist club at Lausanne, where it was decided to assassinate some great personage. Six members of the club have been placed under arrest.

The assassination has produced a great revulsion of feeling among the Swiss people in favour of capital punishment.

Vienna, Sept. 16.

The public were permitted to view the casket containing the remains of the late Empress of Austria to-day. It reposed on a catafalque in the chapel of the Hofburg, where masses for the repose of the soul of the deceased were celeprated incessantly at three altars until noon.

On the casket were four wreaths sent by the children and grand-children of the deceased, while many other floral offerings were upon the walls of the chapter. At the head of the casket were the imperial crown, the coronet of an archduchess and the jewelled orders of the late Empress. At the foot of the casket were a black fan and a pair of white gloves. Life Guardsmen were stationed at each corner of the catafalque. There was a steady procession of people until the church was closed at 5 o'clock, among them Prince Albert of Belgium and other personages of high rank. Even after the doors were closed thousands remained outside.

The Presidents of both houses of the Austrian and Hungarian Parliaments deposited wreaths near the casket.

After the blessing of the remains, Emperor Francis Joseph knelt down and repeatedly kissed the coffin. He asked the maids of honour whether her Majesty suffered much. They replied that she did not.

It transpires that a painful scene occurred at the church. The Emperor was prostrated with grief. Upon arriving at the Hofburg chapel on Thursday night, his Majesty became almost unconscious from the intensity of his emotion. Many of those present wept in sympathy.

In accordance with the Emperor's wishes the remains will be interred beside those of Crown Prince Rudolph. The interment on Saturday, therefore, will be only temporary.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Oct. 10
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	——	W. Oct. 19
America	P. M. Co.	C. of Peking 1	Th. Oct. 20
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Th. Oct. 20
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India	M. Oct. 24
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Oct 26
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Su. Oct. 30
Hongkong	C. P. R Co.	Em. of China	Th. Nov. 4

1 Left San Francisco on the 21st inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Oct. 7
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Sydney	W. Oct. 12
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Satsuma Maru	W. Oct. 12
Hongkong	P. & O. Co	Rohilla	W. Oct. 19
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	C. of Peking	F. Oct. 21
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Sa. Oct. 22
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Oct. 24
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Oct 28
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Oct. 31

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CHESS

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama and the Tokyo Chess Clubs are closed during the summer months.

Solution of Problem No. 388.

It seems there are two solutions to this problem, one, the author's, being as follows :—

(Author's Solutions.)

	K—B 7	Q—Kt 3 ch	Q—QB 3, mate
1.	K—K 6	2. K—Q 5	3.
		.....	Q x Kt mate
		2. Kt—Q 6	3.
	.....	Q—K 5 ch	B—B 3, mate
1.	Kt(R8) moves	2. K x Q must	3.
	.....	Q—B 4 ch	Kt—Q 7, mate
1	Kt(Kt 7) moves	2. K—K 4	3.
		.....	Q—K 4, mate
		2. K—K 6	3.
	.....	Kt—Q 5 !	Q—Kt 6, mate
1.	P—K 4	2. B x Kt	3.
		.....	Q—B 4, mate
		2. Kt(Kt 7) moves	3.
		.....	B—B 3, mate
		2. Any other	3

Correct solutions received from S.S. and Marco. The second key move, sent in by W.H.S. and Skak, viz:—B to Q 2 also solves the problem which is a pity; for the problem is otherwise a beautiful composition.

Problem No. 391.

By P. H. Williams.

Second Prize, *B. C. M.* Tourney.

(Economical Mates.)

BLACK.

WHITE.

White mates in three moves.

Game No. 436.

A smart little game from the Tournament of the German Chess Association at Cologne.

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING.

White—J. Berger. Black—Schiffers.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	14 R Q-q	PxP
2 P K3	B B4	15 Kt x P	B Q3
3 P QB4	P K3	16 B K2	Kt K5
4 Q Kt3	P QKt3	17 B B3(c)	BxPch
5 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	18 KxB	Q R5ch
6 Kt B3	B Kt2	19 K Kt-q	QxPch
7 B K2	Castles	20 K R2	P B4
8 Kt KR4(a)	B K5	21 Q B2	Q R5ch
9 PxP(b)	BxQP	22 K Kt-q	R B3
10 Kt x B	Kt x Kt	23 Kt x BP(d)	P x Kt
11 Kt B3	Kt Q2	24 R x Kt	Black mates in three moves.
12 Castles	P QB4		
13 B Q3	Kt(Q2) B3		

NOTES.

(a) Not a good move, as the Kt remains in an unfavourable position after 8..... ■ to K 5.

(b) If P to B 3, then P takes P, followed by B to Q 4.

(c) P to Kt 3 should have been played, the sacrifice with B takes P ch being somewhat obvious.

(d) Of course, White's game cannot be saved, but the text-move accelerates the conclusion.

Game No. 437.

Of the following game, *The Times* says :—This appears to be one of the finest games in the Vienna tournament, in spite of the fact that Herr Marco did not conduct the defence well. He handled his Knights badly, especially the Q Kt. Dr. Tarrasch played the game in his most characteristic fashion, 26—Kt to K 6 was prettier, but P takes Kt would be answered by P takes P, leaving B and Kt exposed. The finish is very charming.

PLAYED IN THE VIENNA TOURNAMENT.

White—Dr. Tarrasch. Black—G. Marco.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK
1 P K4	P K4	18 P Q5	P K 5
2 Kt KB3	Kt KB3	19 K' K2	P QR4
3 Kt x P	P Q3	20 P K4	Kt R2
4 Kt KB3	Kt x P	21 P KR4	Q Q q
5 P Q4	B K2	22 B K 3	P R5
6 B Q3	Kt KB3	23 K R-q	R R q
7 Castles	Castles	24 QR Q q	Kt K-q
8 P KR3	B K3	25 Kt B4	B KB3
9 P B4	P B3	26 Kt K6	P x P
10 Kt K5	Kt R3	27 P x P	Q Kt-q
11 Kt QB3	Kt B2	28 K x R	K x Kt
12 P B4	P KR3	29 P Kt5	P x P
13 Kt KB3	Q B-q	30 P x P	Kt x P
14 Q B2	R Kt-q	31 Q KR2	K Kt-q
15 P KB3	B Q2	32 Kt x Kt	B x Kt
16 B B4	P QKt4	33 P B6	P K3
17 P QKt3	P B4	34 B x Kt P and wins	

Mail News.

Dr. Tarrasch, the winner of five tournaments, has, according to the *Neue Wiener Tagblatt*, declared his intention not to engage in any more tournaments or matches, but to give his whole time and energy to his profession. The Chess-world can not afford to lose one of its greatest masters, and we do not think that the Doctor will sink into oblivion and be entirely swallowed up to medicine.

The living First-Prize Winners are Blackburne, Burne, Charousek, Gunsberg, Lasker, Mason, Pillsbury, Steinitz, Tarrasch, Tschigorin, Winawer, Bardeleben, A. Schwartz, Walbrodt, and Weiss tied for first.

The Ladies' Chess Club, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of July 6 h, are to be credited with another success in the line of chess entertainment. Instead of meeting in the stuffy clubroom in the summer they are now endeavouring to arrange chess garden parties while the London season lasts. The first of these took place last Saturday at the house of Mrs. P. I. Edwards, at Merton Park, and proved a great success. A handicap for a handsome set of chessmen was arranged for eight ladies, while later on Mr. Bowles played twenty members of the club simultaneously. In the evening a match between Wimbledon and the Ladies resulted in a close fight of 6 to 5 in favour of Wimbledon.

It is suggested than an effort might well be made by Australian chess-players with a view to one or two of their cracks taking part in a great tourney in Europe. "The Vienna list is certainly a strong one, but there is no doubt that Mr. E. M. Wallace and Mr. J. L. Jacobsen, and, perhaps, a few more of our leading players, would give a good account of themselves, even in the Vienna company."

Mr. Emanuel Lasker is very busy studying in Berlin, and will not resume chess until October, when he returns to England.

Says *The Times*, Philadelphia :—

"In the field of Chess there have been many magazines devoted to the art in the last sixty years, but nearly all have failed to make themselves sufficiently attractive to insure more than a lingering existence at best. Not even the brilliancy of La Bourdonnais, the wit of St. Amant, the learning of Staunton, the renown of Morphy, nor the profundity of Steinitz, could make their magazines 'go.' There was something lacking, nor was it supplied until Mr. William Borsodi appeared upon the scene with his new *American Chess Magazine*, which is now in the second year of its existence.

Mr. Borsodi was the first to appreciate the fact that, for a Chess-magazine to be successful it must not have the repelling appearance of a census-report, but must vie with the beautiful literary magazines in its get-up—must not only have matter, but manner—not only illustration by word, but illustration by picture—and it must charm the eye as well as improve the mind."

The publishers expect that the September number, now in the press, will "supersede" all previous numbers.

Quick Telegraphy.

Sir George Newnes said that a Blackburne move was sent to Pillsbury, and Pillsbury replied inside 30 seconds. The 7,000 miles of the double journey was covered in half a minute, which included the time required by Pillsbury to make up his mind and record his move. This was in the late cable match between London and New York.

"Skittles."

The word "Skittles," in Chess-parlance, is used, generally, to designate games in which the players move first and look afterward. These games give to Chess-nomenclature such expressions as, "I didn't see it"; "That is a fluke"; "I should have done so and so," etc. In London, at the present time, "Express Tournaments" (30 moves in 15 minutes) are quite popular: while in the U.S. we have what we call Rapid-Transit Tournaments. These have been, by some persons, called "Skittle Tournaments," and are condemned as cultivating a loose and careless style of play. Mr. L. Van Vliet, however, recommends them, and as it is rather a novelty to hear any one championing "Skittles," his words are worth quoting :—

"We cannot conceive of a more insufferable bore than a slow and tedious Chess player. . . . Apart from all this we believe in encouraging rough-and-tumble play, especially among young players, games in which the player is not afraid to let himself go, as it were. . . . If the history of the great players be traced it will be found in every case that their early training consisted in playing what we term 'Skittles.' From Skittles they learned how to combine, and to be bold, and not to be afraid of any opponent, but to play the game for what it is worth. Nothing is more amusing than to hear a player explain when he loses (never when he wins), 'I should not have played so in a match, you know, but "Skittles," what does it matter?' He leaves you to infer with awe what fearful havoc he would have played with you—how he would have pulverized you if only he had been playing a match-game. Alas! for human vanity! There have been and there are exceptions, but as a rule, in fact, in about 99 cases out of 100 the better off hand player is invariable also the better match-player."—*Literary Digest.*

Pillsbury Notes.

From *The Illustrated American.*

In his first appearance among the Chess-masters of the world, in the Hastings Tournament—a difficult position for even a veteran—his steadiness and nerve were admirable, and secured the famous victory, as he termed it "for America, the Brooklyn Chess Club, and myself." Such self-possession almost invariably characterizes his play. In his recent match with Showalter he was always promptly on hand—usually a little before the appointed hour—and until the time for play had come chatted pleasantly with friends, among whom his redoubtable opponent is to be reckoned. The opening moves, even in games following familiar lines, were made cautiously after brief but careful study. As the play developed new positions more time was given to deliberation, but in nearly all cases Pillsbury kept his game well in hand and had time to spare. When a critical situation was reached, requiring an extended analysis looking ahead many moves, it was evident that he was using every faculty in the intensity of the conflict as he grappled with the problem before him. As he leaned forward over the board there was usually a very slight movement of the head as he glanced rapidly from one part of the field to another, and an almost imperceptible motion of the eyelids, apparently marking the stage in the long analysis. As each variation was thus traced out one could usually tell when another line of play was under consideration, and a slight smile sometimes indicated that he had satisfied himself as to the outcome of that variation. When in the midst of a hard battle, he could see victory within his reach his usually impassive countenance would light up with signs of satisfaction. In one of his games Showalter had accepted a tempting bait, going far into his opponent's flank and capturing a Pawn with his Queen. He deliberated long before doing this, evidently suspecting that there was a trap in it, but thought he saw a way of escape. Meanwhile Pillsbury, as he often did, was walking up and down the room. When he heard the clock turned, which indicated that a move had been made, and seeing that the bait had been taken, he indulged for a single moment in a smile, expressing elation. The bearing of these masters to each other was always the embodiment of perfect courtesy, and never, even in the stress of the contest or under the chagrin of defeat, was there anything but the most gentlemanly demeanour. This did not interfere in the least with the hardest kind of play over the board, the winning of each game being with both the supreme object of the hour. But when the battle was over there was never anything like exultation over the fallen foe, but rather the desire, by silence or some considerate remark, to allay the bitterness of the defeat; as when, at the conclusion of his first match with Showalter, Pillsbury said to him in reply to his congratulation, "Yes, I won the match, but you played the better Chess."

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According to the *American Chess Magazine*, "Harry N. Pillsbury's playing in the Vienna Tournament stamps him as the coming champion, the step beyond Mr. Lasker being seemingly but a short one. The world's championship is a title which all Americans will feel is now justly due to our greatest player, and it is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when there will be an opportunity to bring it across the ocean again."

Showalter is reported to be anxious to have another bout with Pillsbury for the United States premiership. It is hardly likely that he will be encouraged in this respect, after the outcome of the Vienna tourney.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Indralema, British steamer, 2,020, Campbell, 29th Sept.,—New York via ports, Kobe, 28th Sept., General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Nurnberg, German steamer, 2,663, Von Binzer, 29th Sept.,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 23rd Sept., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Kangse, British steamer, 1,240, A. Harris, 3rd Oct.,—Glasgow via ports, and Kobe, 1st Oct., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Olympia, British steamer, 1,691, T. H. Dobson, 3rd Oct.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B C, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Canton, British steamer, 2,164, D. C. Gregor, 4th October,—London via ports, Kobe, 3rd Oct., General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Glengyle, British steamer, 2,244, H. Hill, 4th Oct.,—San Francisco, 13th Sept., Mails and General,—P. M. S.S. Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, Inman Sealby, 5th Oct.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 17th Sept., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,813, J. McKenzie, 5th Oct.,—London via ports, Kobe, 4th October, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Truebridge, 8th October,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 4th Oct., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Ulysses, British steamer, 2,281, R. J. Brown, 6th Oct.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 4th October, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A Lee, 6th Oct.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 5th Oct., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, James Jones, 6th October,—Melbourne via ports and Kobe, 5th Oct., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sydney, French steamer, 2,081, Auberts, 6th Oct., —Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 5th Oct., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 1st October,—Hongkong, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,617, J. W. Wale, 1st October,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hohenzollern, German steamer, 1 903, E Wollersdorff, 1st October,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 1st October,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Ounfa, British steamer, 1,970, J. A. Davies, 2nd October,—Moji via Kobe, Ballast.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Cowrie, British steamer, 3,155, S. J. G. Parsons, 2nd October,—Calcutta via Shanghai, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Marco Polo, Italian cruiser, 4,583, Captain Incoronato, 2nd Oct.,—Nagasaki.

Olympia, British steamer, 1,691, T. H. Dobson, 4th October,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Menelaus, British steamer, 2,771, W. Powell, 4th October,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Nanyang, German steamer, 1,050, Lamann, 5th October,—Moji, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 5th Oct.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Glengyle, British steamer, 2,244, H. Hill, 5th Oct.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Formosa, British steamer, 2,616, A. G. Cubitt, 5th October,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 5th October,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, T. Sealby, 6th Oct.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Nürnberg, German steamer, 2,663, Von Binzer, 6th October,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Victor, Norwegian barque, 532, S. Terjesen, 6th Oct.,—Hongkong, Ballast.—Captain.

Victoria, British steamer, 1,991, J. Truebridge, 7th Oct.,—Victoria, B C, and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Indralema, British steamer, 2,020, Campbell, 7th Oct.,—New York via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Olympia*, from Tacoma, Wash.:—Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Shoberg, Mr. J. Mac, Mr. Carl Refardt, and Mr. S. L. McCalla, in cabin; 72 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Canton*, from London via ports:—Mrs. Firth, Mr. Mayne, and Mrs. Mayne, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from San Francisco, via Honolulu:—Mr. Kawakami, Mr. Ito, Mr. Akaishi, Mr. Ueno, Dr. Sekiba, Mr. C. A. Hutchison, Miss R. Green, Mr. B. Chappell, Mrs. B. Chappell and 2 children, Mr. T. Avaki, Mrs. Beers, Miss Ida B. Luther, Miss G. C. Glenn, Mr. Y. Uchida, Mr. A. P. Brayton, Mr. M. Penrod, Prof. C Schuster, Mr. A. Reichling, Mr. R. Pollak, Mr. A. Weisenberg, Mr. Hans Czizik, Mr. J. C. Zimmerman, Miss L. Seeds, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Herod, child and maid, Prof. A. G Graham Bell and valet, Mrs. Bell, Miss Elsie Bell, Miss Daisy Bell, Count of Turin, Major Count Carpenetta, A.D C., Mr. W. J. Gorham, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Astheimer, Mr. Astheimer, Jr., Mr. Adolph Friel, Mr. W. Gibbings, Mr. Gibbings, Jr., and Miss Gibbings, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. Y. Yamashita, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Dr. John Inglis, Mrs. Inglis, Rev. J. C. Garritt, Mrs. Garritt and 2 children, Miss Jennie R. Coltman, Mr. J. S. Grant, Mrs. Grant, Master Grant, Mr. E. H. Fletcher, Mrs. Fletcher and child, Mrs. V. K. Ball and child, Mr. Jas. McCann, Mrs. Jas. McCann, and Miss Laura Jones, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Percy C. Denroche, Mr. Ing Ging, Mr. S. M. Ingalsby, Lieut. L. Gilbreth, U.S.A., Dr. Louis W. Atlee, U.S.N., Mr. W. O Rowe, Rev. W. J. Swart, Mrs. Swart, Rev. W. M. Campbell, Mrs. Campbell, and Dr. Jerome Chaffee, U.S.N., in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Wheatley, Mr. and Miss Roth, Dr. Stanley, Capt. P. B. Pattison, Lieut. P. W. Hourigan, Mr. T. D. Willet, Rev. Starr, Mr. A P. Lewis, Mr. H. Ryder, Mr. S Hankin, Mr. A. Lefroy, Mr. Chee Ka, Mr. Wong Yuk Kam, Mr. W. Heitmann, Mr. J. Thebeaud, Mr. G. Westphalen, Mr. A. T. Dudely, Mr. H. R. Parker, Capt. J. W. Lee, Captain Bjornstead, Major Tilden, Mr. N. Ginsberg, Mr. J. H. Rosenthal, Mr. E. W. Tilden, Mr. Yee We, Mr. Lo Sien Ting, Mr. T. Bunge, Mr. T. Kant, and Mr. J. T. Hamilton, in cabin. In Transit:—Rev. R. S. Duff, Mrs. K. T. Egbert and child, Mr. N. Pries, Mr. C. Schlee, Mrs. Horsey's governess, Mr. and Mrs. Murai and child, Mr. J. C. Angers, Mr. T. A. Howe, Miss Cunningham, Mrs. Horsey and 2 children, Col. Eglantine, and General Stahl, in cabin; 3 Chinese, and 1 Japanese, in second class; 252 Chinese, in steerage.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. de Cruz, Mr. Hong Wan Sang, and Mr. Styles, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Melbourne via ports:—Mr. T. J. Thompson, Mr. T. Matsuzaki, and Capt. Pender, in cabin; Mr. W. Mimura, Mrs. K. Furuya, Mr. H. Kuraya, Mr. K. Inchi, Mr. S. Wakabayashi, and Mr. R. Yezuchi, in second class; 9 Japanese, and 1 European in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Doric*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Austey Mr. R. Imamura, Mr. Wm. Reynolds Brown, Mr. F. Lloyd Jones, Mr. P. Adel, Mr. A. V. Kassianoff, Miss I. A. Leete, Rev. G. Larrondo, Mr. M Landa, Mr. H. Lomet, Rev. and Mrs. G. M. Meacham, Miss Moulton, Miss Mabel Moulton, Master Maurice Moulton, Mr. M. Moleres, Rev. Y. Ocio, Mr. W. Pattberg, Rev. C. Perez, Rev. and Mrs. S. C. Peoples and son, Mr. F. J. Reville, Mr. M. Shibata, Dr. and Mrs. Swartz and child, Master Seymour Swartz, Miss Ruth Swartz, Mr. T. A. Stetson, Mr. S. W. Smith, Miss S. C. Smith, Miss Scott, Dr. and Mrs. A. Timoth, Mr. G. Thomas, Miss Wells, Sir E. C. Boehm, Bt., Baron Buxhoeveden, Mrs. E. M. Baillie and two children, Dr. A. Bunge, Rev. A Camborian, Rev. F. Catalan, Mr. W. F. Cary, Mr. A. Campbell, Mr. W. Castendyck, Capt. and Mrs. R. Chrichton and child, Mr. W. R L Crow, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Clark, Capt. A R. van Dorssen, Mr. Frank Deardorf, Mr. I. Daunenbaum, Mr. R. E. Gill, Rev and Mrs. R. B. Grinnan, Mr. E. Gilchrist, Mrs. C. Gilchrist, Miss M. C. Hallowell, Mr. Ben Howe, Miss Heaton, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Hulbert, three children and servant, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Tamba Maru*, for Marseilles, London, Antwerp via ports 1st Oct.:—Mr. Geo. A. Boyd, Mr. Jas. M. G. Morgan, Mr. Dredge, Mr. S. Atkawa, Mr. H. G. Phillips, Mr. G. J. Penney, Paymaster M. Kanai (I.J.N.), Mrs. Kanai, Mr. Geo. R. Steven, Mr. L. Boisserie, and Consul S. Kohdera, in cabin; Mr. John Kirkpatrick, Mr. W. Scantleburg, Mr. Robert Black, Mr. Alex Brown, Mr. A. J. Bringams, Mr. John Roff, Mr. John McTear, Mr. Alex. Boyd, Mr. Charles S. Cullen, Mr. D. Abercrombie, Mr. and Mrs. H. Suyama, and Mr. E. H. Millard, in second class; 72 Japanese, in steerage.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The healthier tone in yarns and shirtings is maintained, and all departments show the stimulus of the approach of the new tariff.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 14 inches	1.60 to 2.30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens, Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.28 to 0.43½
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 23 yards, 31 inches	0.15½ to 0 22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb,	per pair. 0 55 to 0 67½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches,	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16, 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	44.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	76 00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	112.00 to 165.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.00 —
Chinese	18.00 —

METALS.

There is some enquiry at prices remaining practically at last week's level,

	per picul.
Round and square 4 inch. and upward	3.85 to 4.10
Iron Plates, assorted	4.00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4.90 to 5.50
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5.90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5.95
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 5½ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The market is fairly active, prices having a slightly hardening tendency.

American	$2 05	—
Russian	1.95 to 2.00	
Langkat	—	1.85

SUGAR.

The usual steady trade has been done, at rates remaining at about last week's level.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$4.70 to 4.75
Brown Manila	5.90 to 6.50
Brown Daitong	4.20 to 4.25
Brown Canton	4.10 to 5.25
White Java and Penang	7.00 to 7.50
White Refined	7.70 to 9.65

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Little has been doing either with Europe or America. Rather more than 500 bales were ship-

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ped by the *Rosetta*, and this practically represents the transactions up to date.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.....	$955 to 960
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.....	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.....	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers.....	870 to 880
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den. ...	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers.....	850 to 860
Filatures—No. 2, 13 18 deniers	890 to 900
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	860
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	830
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	810
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers.....	780 to 790
Kakedas—Extra	860 to 870
Kakedas—No. 1	840 to 850
Kakedas—No. 1½.....	
Kakedas—No. 2	790 to 800
Kakedas—No. 2½.....	

WASTE SILK.

There has been little doing during the past week, and prices remain at the same level. There is still a large stock on the market.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 127½
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best.....	120 to 125
Noshi—Oshu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good.....	110 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 95
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

There is still some activity in the market for certain classes of tea, chiefly of the lower grades, but the large supplies still in the country have a weakening tendency on prices. The stock in Yokohama is estimated at 731,000 lbs.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$33 & upwards
Choice	$31 to 32
Finest	29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Silver still on the decline, being $\frac{1}{16}$ lower from London and causing sterling quotations in China to follow suit by a further fall of $\frac{1}{2}$; rates here on China have hardened, but otherwise there has been no change, closing for the mails per steamers *Empress of Japan* and *Victoria* as under.

Sterling	—Bank T.T.....	2/0$\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$
—	— Bills on demand...	2/0$\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{16}$
—	— 4 months' sight	2/0$\frac{9}{16}$
—	Private 4 months' sight ...	2/0$\frac{11}{16}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$
—	— 6 months' sight ...	2/0$\frac{13}{16}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$
On Paris	—Bank sight.....	2.56 to ½
On Paris	—Private 4 months' sight..	260
On America	—Bank Bills on demand..	49¾
—	Private 4 months' sight...	50⅛
On Germany	—Bank sight	2.07
—	Private 4 months' sight...	2.10½
On Hongkong	—Bank sight	4% dis.
—	Private 10 days' sight ..5	105½% dis.
On Shanghai	—Bank sight	76
—	Private 10 days' sight ...77	10 77½
On India	—Bank sight	152½
—	Private 30 days' sight ...	155
Bar Silver (London) on 5th inst. ...		27 1/16

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And rest for tired mothers in a warm bath with CUTICURA SOAP, and a single anointing with CUTICURA (ointment), purest of emollients and greatest of skin cures. This treatment will afford instant relief, and point to a speedy cure of the most torturing, disfiguring, humiliating, itching, burning, bleeding, crusted, scaly skin and scalp humours, with loss of hair, when all else fails.

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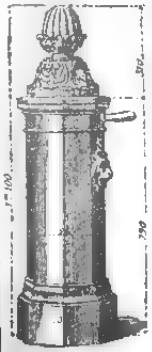

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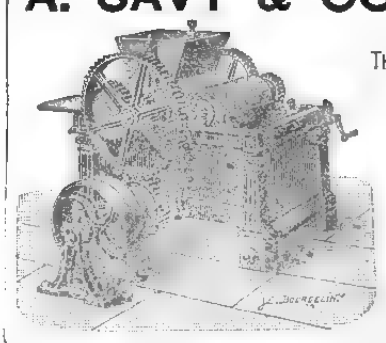

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, OCT. 15TH, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MARQUIS ITO is now expected to return to Japan about the middle of December.

COUNT OKUMA has been suffering with rheumatism since the 9th inst. He declines to see visitors.

MR. FUKUZAWA'S condition shows a slight improvement, and hopes are held out of his ultimate recovery.

A KOBE despatch states that the price of foreign rice has risen by 10 *sen*, owing to an attempt to form a corner.

THE principal members of the Constitutional Party met on the 8th inst., and discussed the increase of the land tax.

HERR JUNKER'S choir and orchestra started the season's work with practices at the Public Hall on Monday evening.

THE feast of Confucius was celebrated with much *éclat* by the Chinese community of Yokohama on Tuesday and Wednesday.

NEWS from Peking continues to be very unsatisfactory. It is rumoured that the Powers intend to take steps to force the Empress Dowager to declare the whereabouts of the Emperor Kwang Hsü.

SIR ERNEST SATOW, the British Minister, proceeded to Atami on the 9th inst. It is said that he will stay there for some weeks.

THE dead body of a man, apparently about 40 years of age, was found on the 6th inst. in the river Tsukuda at Kyobashi, Tokyo.

THE Public Procurator to the Court of Cassation, having exhaustively examined the papers, has reported in favour of a revision of the Dreyfus case.

A CRICKET match between the Y.C. and A.C. and the officers of the P. & O. steamers *Canton* and *Rohilla*, played on Wednesday, resulted in a win for the home side.

KOBE won the Interport cricket match this autumn, beating Yokohama by an innings and 25 runs. In the baseball matches Yokohama won 2 games and lost one.

BURGLARS have been making visits to several houses on the Bluff this week. Their biggest haul were the regatta prizes of Messrs. Hayward and Morton.

ON the 8th inst. the members of the Union Club held a general meeting at the principal office of the Constitutional Party, and discussed international questions.

A ST. PETERSBURG despatch dated the 7th inst. states that Mr. Matunine, Russian Acting-Minister to Söul, Korea, has been appointed Consul to Melbourne, Victoria.

MR. LUHING SAN, the Chinese Consul at Yokohama, has resigned, and Mr. Yangsi Shi, has succeeded him. The latter arrived at Yokohama a few days ago.

THE medicine dealers have established an Anti-Taxation Association in Tokyo, and a day or two ago received a body of journalists, to whom they explained their views.

MR. LI, the Acting Chinese Minister to Japan, has paid his official visits to the Departmental Ministers. Mr. Yeng Kwan, the ex-Minister, will leave Tokyo on the 21st inst.

THE Chinese Ministers are said to entertain a fear that the Russian cavalry men just introduced into Peking as Legation Guards have come to make a permanent stay.

MR. KOMURA, the new Japanese Minister to the United States, was entertained to dinner by the American community of Yokohama, at the Oriental Hotel, on Monday evening.

ON the 10th inst. the dead body of a man was found on the bank of the Akegawa River, Koshigaya, Tokyo. There were wounds on the head and shoulder. It is considered a case of murder.

THE Kyushu Railway Company recently contracted with the agent of Messrs. Peacock and Company for a loan. The amount is kept secret, but the rate of interest is reported to be 6 per cent. per annum.

GREAT BRITAIN, Germany, Japan, Italy, Russia, and France have all introduced Legation Guards into Peking, despite the protest of the Tsung-li Yamên. With the exception of Russia the Guards are composed of marines.

FURTHER details of the damages caused by the late storms in Hokkaido show that 24,163 houses were flooded; 1,814 houses washed away; 1,324 houses otherwise destroyed; 395 houses damaged; 241 persons drowned; 7 crushed by falling buildings; and 42 injured. Of rice fields 1,548 *cho*, and of vegetable fields 54,538 *cho*, were devastated.

THE elder son of Baron Iwamura, ex-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, was on the 5th inst. married to Miss Sato, daughter of the wealthy farmer, Nakao Hatsutaro, of Shimo-Gosho, Yehime prefecture.

THE Financial Affairs Committee of the Constitutionalists held a conference on the 11th at the official residence of Mr. Matsuda, Finance Minister, and discussed the financial schemes of the Government. Mr. Matsuda presided.

THERE are 700 sick in the Cairo hospitals, being equivalent to six per cent. of the whole Soudan force. Sir Herbert Kichener is returning to Cairo. An enthusiastic reception is being prepared for him.

THE insistence of the English newspapers that the evacuation of Fashoda must precede negotiations is deeply resented in French official quarters. It is declared that no French Government dare accept such a position.

A STUDENT named Takeya Kinnosuke (17), living at Kita-Makicho, Kyobashi, Tokyo, committed suicide by drinking a big quantity of hydro-chloric acid. He had been suffering from brain troubles for some years.

ABOUT the 12th proximo, the Chrysanthemum Garden Party will be held in the Akasaka Detached Palace. The Princes of the Blood, high officials of all departments, the foreign diplomatic officials, and members of both Houses will be invited.

THE Kwanto (Eastern) Club held a meeting at the office of the Industrial Club on the 9th inst. They are not in concurrence with the Government in to financial policy, and almost all are in agreement as to the necessity for an increase in the land tax.

ON the 2nd instant a man named Kaneko Ryotaro (21), living at Hinokizawa village, Murakami-gori, Yamagata Prefecture, murdered Kaneko Kichi (49), his adopted son (34), his wife (25), and their child (5). After the crime, the offender gave himself up at the police station.

THE new harbour regulations for Yokohama came into force on the 10th instant, and caused a little friction at first, the French flagship *Bayard* declining to move outside the breakwater to the new man-of-war anchorage, owing to her propeller being slightly damaged. An American sailing ship also asked to be allowed to retain her present moorings until her ballast was put on board.

A GREAT strike in the building trade has broken out in Paris. Forty thousand strikers were out on Saturday and probably 60,000 will be on strike by to-day. Disturbances hitherto have been slight, but military precautions have been taken, and 20,000 troops are prepared for an emergency. It is rumoured that the strike has been fomented, for political purposes. The Exhibition works are stopped.

THE Formosa Railway scheme has finally fallen through, the promoters finding it impossible to raise the capital on satisfactory terms. In view of this fact, the Governor-General of Formosa is alleged to have decided to recommend the State construction of the railway, and Mr. Goto, Director of the Bureau of Civil Affairs in the Foreign Government, is holding consultations with the authorities in Tokyo.

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THE PEKING ENIGMA.

It is impossible to view the progress of affairs in China without considerable uneasiness. The telegrams say that after the Foreign Representatives had decided to summon detachments of marines to Peking for the purpose of protecting the Legations and the small foreign community in that city, the *Tsung-li Yamén* earnestly protested against such a measure, on the very natural ground that it would be humiliating to China and that nothing of the kind had ever been considered necessary in the past. A meeting of the Corps Diplomatique was held to consider the protest, and the decision arrived at was that the circumstances did not warrant any departure from the programme previously contemplated. Of course the presence of a few scores of foreign marines in Peking is not, in itself, a matter of much consequence. But the fact that the foreign Representatives should have discerned danger calling for such a step is unpleasantly significant. The conditions in Peking are altogether different from those in the provinces. There is no Chou Han in the capital to issue anti-Christian brochures, nor are there any missionaries to disturb the people's traditional beliefs. If danger menaces foreigners, it has its source in politics. In short, the only inference we can draw from the decision of the *Chefs de Mission* is that they regard the recent revolution as not merely conservative but also anti-foreign. If that be so, there is no telling what the situation may bring forth. During the past year China has been subjected by foreign Powers to the slicing process which she is herself accustomed to employ in the case of her worst criminals, and the question is, has she really begun to appreciate what is going on, and is she beginning to think that unless she make a struggle, her execution will be only a matter of time? If we could answer in the affirmative, there would be one satisfactory feature at any rate in the outlook. But a strong movement of national self-assertion, directed by the retrogressive Manchus, and a similar movement inspired by the spirit of progress, are two very different things; the one provoking as much antipathy as the other would attract sympathy. Still more urgent questions, however, in our opinion, are the manner in which the foreign Powers will treat the situation, and the effect likely to be produced by the presence of foreign marines in Peking. Those that seek opportunities may easily find them in the conjunctures not unlikely to arise, and those that do not wish the slicing process to become an execution, may be driven to more than diplomatic protests.

The great difficulty of the reform party in China was that they were entirely without military strength. Behind the men that planned the *Meiji* revolution in Japan stood the *Samurai* of Satsuma and Choshu, the best soldiers in the empire. Such attempts as the conservatives made to stem the tide of progress were quickly crushed. But the Chinese reformers consisted of the youthful Emperor only and a small band of unarmed patriots, courageous indeed, and intelligent, but helpless in the face of physical resistance. Probably they cherished some vague hope that the nations whose sympathy and encouragement they received—England and Japan—would extend to them something more than moral support. On the other hand, the whole military strength of the country was under the control of the Manchu politicians and therefore at the disposal of the Empress Dowager. One possible means of supplying their deficiency presented itself to the reformers. It was Yuen Shi-kai. Representative of China at the Korean court in the days when the Peninsular Kingdom virtually acknowledged the suzerainty of Peking, Yuen showed himself a man of forceful character and great moral resource. For several years, indeed, he played in Söul the part of an omnipotent dictator. Subsequently appointed to command a *corps d'armée* in the Ying-chow campaign, he showed his address by escaping all responsibility for the Japanese successes, and later on, when his patron, Li Hung-chang, fell from power, Yuen survived his fall and is now at the head of the foreign-drilled troops of Tientsin, "Li's army" as they were called. Splendid looking troops they were too, ten years ago. Men of grand physique, well set up, carefully drilled and admirably armed—thirty-seven thousand of them. But when the war came, "where were they?" Some said that they were shattered at Ping-yang; some that they melted away in the retreat from the Yalu; some that the only stand they ever made was at Kinchou. Whatever befel them then, they are once more organized at Tientsin now, and Yuen Shi-kai commands them. The reformers made a stupendous mistake about Yuen. They thought that they could enlist his sympathy and obtain the support of his corps. Perhaps Yuen purposely educated their misplaced confidence. Perhaps they inferred his sentiments from the foreign character of his troops' tactics. At any rate they showed their hand to him and he at once betrayed them to their enemies. Of course their error only precipitated events. Without a military backing their cause must have collapsed sooner or later.

On the 23rd of September, Mr. Yuen—then acting Viceroy of Chihli, if we are not mistaken—entertained a number of Russian officers at dinner in the Astor House in Tientsin. We have that fact on the authority of Mr. Ooka Ikuzo, who was in Peking at the time. There is no general reason why Yuen Shi-Kai should not dine and wine Russian officers if he pleases, as many as he pleases and as often as he pleases. But the 21st of September was the day of the revolutionary movement in Peking, and if Mr. Yuen did not know that suspicions of Russian complicity were certain to be entertained, he must have suddenly lapsed into a condition of moral obtuseness very inconsistent with his record. He knew it perfectly well, we may assume, and whether he acted defiantly or imprudently in organizing a Russian banquet at such a time, the public can judge. We are glad that his guests were not English officers.

There are some comments of Mr. Ooka's which deserve to be reproduced. Russia has thirteen thousand troops at Port Arthur, he says, and can easily send a strong force to Peking, should she find it convenient to do so. Unless Japan and England are content to see China's progressive movement permanently checked, they must break the military strength of Yuen Shi-kai and set limits to the armed potentialities of Russia. The Czar's peace proposals are not to be depended on for a moment. Suffer things to drift a little longer in the present channel and China will inevitably become what Korea was eighteen months ago.

Thirteen thousand troops are just one half of the number assigned by rumour to Port Arthur. Rumour has probably been at its old trick of doubling figures. We have never believed in twenty-six thousand. Whence could they have come and how? As to Russia's easily moving in force upon Peking, we venture to doubt it altogether. To move by land would be a stupendous operation. It would mean preparations on a vast scale; the organization of an immense transport service, and the early spring to commence the movement. Some people may say that it would be easy to carry the troops from the Liaotung Peninsula across the Gulf of Pechili. Certainly it would, provided that Russia had full command of the sea, a condition which depends on England and Japan. But in truth such an eventuality as an armed Russian advance upon Peking does not deserve to be seriously considered. The thing is out of the question at present. Russia is not ready for any such enterprise, even if she had the mind to undertake it. Of course we are not suggesting that she had no share in the recent complication. Very likely she has been playing for her own hand, like all her rivals in the field. But the project that suggests itself to her is not connected with any such contingency as a military advance upon Peking. Her policy, a very natural policy, is to bring about a state of affairs which will necessitate a definite understanding between the Occidental Powers interested in China. It is perfectly clear to everybody that the purpose of certain States in pushing China towards progress is to educate her capacity for self-defence, and that Russia is the country against which the precaution is taken. But Russia does not care to sit quietly awaiting the maturity of these preparations to oust her. She prefers to keep China in the old groove, or to reduce her affairs to a condition so chaotic that England and Japan must abandon the idea of setting her on her feet and enter into some sort of general compact for the division of her substance. If we believed in China's resurrection, we should doubt the possibility of Russia's success. But it seems to us that the current of events is with the Northern Power, and that China will ultimately be found to have committed suicide at the latter's bidding without detecting the craft which induced her to raise her hand against herself.

It would seem that the Manchu statesmen in Peking construe the reform movement not as the result of a genuinely progressive impulse, but as a political scheme to overthrow Tartar authority and replace it by Chinese sway. They are said to be daily eliminating the friends of reform from the administrative sphere, and substituting for them men of Manchu origin, so that the government will soon be Manchu pure and simple. Such a method of procedure greatly augments the danger of the situation, for it invests the question with a racial, instead of a merely moral, character. The struggle will no longer be between conservatives and liberals, but between Manchu and

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Chinese. On the other hand, the prospect for reform will be distinctly improved if it becomes the watchword of natives against aliens. It would be a strange thing if a wave of Western civilization were to sweep the usurping dynasty out of the high places of the empire. We have been accustomed to think that the fall of the dynasty must precede any successful advance towards reform, because the whole organization of the Manchu system of government makes for conservatism. But there is a possibility that reform, instead of being the consequence, may prove to be the cause, of the Manchus' fall.

The new "Legation Guards" entered Peking on the 7th instant. There were 66 Russians from Port Arthur, including 25 troopers; and there were 48 German marines and 48 British. The Germans made their entry subsequently to the other two detachments. The numbers, though numerically insignificant, are politically significant. It is plain that Germany and Great Britain acted in concert. Chance could not have produced the numerical identity of their detachments, especially since military units did not enter into the question. We might be equally certain, and for the same reason, that Russia acted independently, were it not that her guard is a military force, and its number may therefore have been dictated by considerations of organization.

JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION AND THE CHINESE CRISIS.

Our readers would be left under a false impression if we did not record the fact that within the past few days there has been a great deal of strong, and even excited, writing in the vernacular press with reference to events in China. The idea conveyed by a perusal of our Tokyo contemporaries' articles is that they somewhat exaggerate the importance really attaching to the entry of legation guards into Peking. They are evidently inclined to regard the event as likely to be the precursor of serious complications, and they also let it be very plainly seen that, in their opinion, Russian influence counts for a great deal in the set back which the cause of progress has suffered. As usual there is much vague declamation, but the general feeling may be interpreted as a desire for some self-asserting course on Japan's part, which shall enable her to make her voice strongly heard in favour of the maintenance of Chinese independence. The two strongest and clearest articles have appeared in the *Jiji Shimpo*. That journal considers that, although the forces sent by the Powers to Peking are numerically insignificant, their entry into the city is of great moment, and their presence there will probably be very lengthy. Nothing could have more strikingly demonstrated China's want of political understanding than her consent to such a measure. An era of active foreign interference in her domestic affairs has now commenced. She is closely threatened with the danger of drifting into a condition analogous to that of Korea; a condition preluding her dismemberment. Japan is interested above all other States in preventing that conjuncture. She must make up her mind to prevent it. She must use all her influence to induce the Chinese Government to put an end to foreign interference, and she must resolutely make such preparations as failure in that endeavour may necessitate. Perhaps we ought to note that some of these journalistic utterances are obviously influenced, more or less, by a desire to direct the attention of politicians from party bickerings to foreign policy.

BARON IWASAKI.

It is stated that Baron Iwasaki has made up his mind to retire from the presidency of the Bank of Japan. The reason assigned is that the Minister of State for Finance, in an interview with a representative of a news agency, used language which suggests that the Bank had maintained a high rate of interest for a needlessly long time, thereby consulting its own interests rather than those of the country. Baron Iwasaki naturally resents such reflections on the management of the institution. The *Jiji Shimpo*, writing on the subject, supports Baron Iwasaki and condemns the action of the Minister. According to the present rules of the Bank, the sanction of the Minister of Finance is needed when any change is made in the rate of interest. The *Jiji* condemns such a provision on the ground that if a competent man be appointed President of the Bank, he should be trusted to arrange these matters, and should only be required to report his decisions to the Minister. But, at all events, while the law exists it should not be abused, as seems to have been done in the present case. For it is evident that the Minister's object in speaking as he did is to create the impression that the lowering of the rate is due to his interference, and was effected in spite of the opposition of the Bank's officers. He wants, in short, to gain popularity in business circles at the expense of the reputation of the Bank's President. That is the *Jiji's* view. Apparently it is Baron Iwasaki's view also, or he would not resent the Minister's utterances.

There appears to be no doubt that Baron Iwasaki has tendered his resignation of the Presidency of the Bank of Japan, and that the document is now in the hands of the Vice-Minister of the Household Department. The Baron is said to have called on Marquis Saigo, Viscount Katsura, Viscount Tanaka, and Mr. Oishi, and to have explained to them the reasons of his resolve. They naturally endeavoured to dissuade him, but his determination proved irrevocable. According to some authorities, the explanation he gave was that he differs in policy from the present Minister of Finance, but the truth seems to be that the Minister's recent remarks, made to a news agency for purposes of publication, gave offence to the Baron. They conveyed the impression that a high rate of interest had been maintained by the Bank of Japan for its own selfish objects, in spite of the Minister's protests, and that a reduction was finally effected, not of the Bank's free will, but in consequence of pressure brought to bear by the Finance Department. There has undoubtedly been a great deal of political trickery in the treatment to which Baron Iwasaki has been subjected of late by a section of the vernacular press. It suits the aims of the Cabinet's enemies to deprive it of the active support of a man possessing such wide influence in the financial world, and they have not hesitated to blacken Baron Iwasaki's personal character in the hope of rendering his position distasteful to him. We do not imagine that he has allowed himself to be swayed by devices so obviously insincere which, for the rest, are common elements of political struggles the world over. But it is possible that the equivocal utterances of the Minister of Finance derived a somewhat factitious importance in Baron Iwasaki's eyes from the disgraceful journalistic calumnies by which they had been preceded. We note that the principal Liberal organ, the *Tokyo Shimbun*, is hostile to the Baron, whose affinities have always been with the Progressists. The fact will not tend to bridge the gulf that is gradually growing between the two parties. That Baron Iwasaki's retirement is a great loss to the public service and to the successful conduct of financial affairs need not be affirmed in these columns. The incident is rendered doubly regrettable by the fact that it constitutes a species of triumph for the unscrupulous enemies of a high-minded and thoroughly unselfish man.

THE POLITICAL HORIZON.

The general meeting of the Kensei-to politicians, which takes place at the beginning of November, seems to be looked forward to with some misgivings. It was to have been held during the present month, but a postponement has been effected, apparently for the purpose of endeavouring to trace some clear lines of understanding beforehand. The friction between the Liberals and the Progressists in the capital is bad enough, but what seriously aggravates the situation is that the provincial sections have of late developed a self-assertive tendency which seems to destroy any hope of effective union when the general meeting takes place. Speaking briefly, the politicians in the provinces entertain a conviction, more or less vague, that some larger measure of administrative reform is needed than that mapped out by the Reform Committee and approved by the Cabinet. But it would seem that their idea of reform, when stripped of all circumlocutions and euphemisms, is simply the creation of official vacancies which they themselves, or their nominees, will proceed to fill. At all events they concur, for the most part, in demanding a radical alteration, if not the total repeal, of the Official Appointment Regulations, in order that the field for selecting "men of talent" may be widely extended, as they grandiloquently put it. Naturally if the delegates from the various sections present themselves at the meeting, each determined to propound and push his own proposals, the result will be chaotic. Hence the leaders are said to be earnestly seeking some *via media* to a general agreement, and the journalistic representatives of the Opposition are predicting confusion and collision.

This phase of Japanese politics does not appear at all singular in our eyes. It is preliminary to the re-organization of parties on lines of principle, not on considerations of person. The assailants of the so-called "clan government," by perpetual iteration of the contention that sweeping administrative reforms were needed, finally came to credit their own assertion, and now find themselves inconveniently bound by it. They sought

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to justify their campaign against the *Meiji* statesmen by accusing them of flagrant abuses, and they have now to prove that the accusation had some substratum of fact. It is a difficult task, for the outcry about clan usurpation was almost wholly fictitious, and the much-abused administration turns out, on closer scrutiny, to be carried on by men whom there is no conceivable excuse for removing from office. But it is not merely a question of fulfilling extravagant pledges or vindicating unreasonable accusations. There is also the natural desire of these professional politicians to make something out of their hardly won victory. However leniently we view the situation, one feature can not be overlooked, namely, that a number of the men in the Constitutionalist camp have made a business of politics, and can not afford to lose the first opportunity of getting some profit out of the work. To these people administrative reform has only one end, namely, the opening of a path to the sweets of office, and thus we have, on the one hand, the disinterested partisan who wants to prove to the nation that his assault upon the "clan statesmen" was just, and, on the other, the professional politician who wants to prove to himself that he has not toiled in vain. Things could scarcely have been expected to turn out differently in the absence of some great principles about which men could have grouped themselves. The dilemma of the moment is to find such principles. The Progressists and the Liberals would not remain for an hour in the same camp could either discover a plausible motto for the standard of separation. Not much more time will be needed for the search, we think.

DEATH OF M. SIENKIEWICZ.

A telegram reached Tokyo on the 11th instant announcing the sad news of the death of M. Sienkiewicz, who represented France for many years at the Court of Japan. It appears that M. Sienkiewicz had been ailing for several months. He proceeded to Switzerland for the benefit of his health, and intelligence received from thence at the beginning of September showed that he was suffering from an affection of the lungs so acute that movement was scarcely possible. His numerous friends in Japan will be profoundly pained to learn of his untimely decease, and will sympathise keenly with his bereaved widow and family.

MR. FUKUZAWA.

Mr. Fukuzawa is said to be slightly better, but his strength is greatly reduced, and much uneasiness is felt about his condition. It is alleged that the Emperor desired to confer a title an him, and that the family were consulted. But they believed that if he recovered he would be firm in his old objection to receive any distinction of the kind, and they therefore asked permission to decline the honour.

We are glad to be able to report an improvement in Mr. Fukuzawa's condition. He now takes nourishment with relish, is no longer subject to lapses into a semi-comatose state, and has quite recovered consciousness, though his articulation is still impaired. There is said to be a fair hope of the distinguished patient's restoration to health.

VISCOUNT TORIO.

Viscount Torio denies emphatically that he addressed to the incumbents of the Hongwan Temple any letter such as that attributed to him by the newspapers. He sees only one way of accounting for the rumour, namely, that Mr. Ishikawa, *Hitsuji* of Hongwan-ji, sent to the temples of the sect a circular containing very strong political views. The subject of the document was the so-called radical "reforms" advocated by party politicians. Those reforms, according to Mr. Ishikawa, aim simply at popular government, and their effect would be to materially impair the sovereignty of the Emperor. Men talked of autocracy and of oppression, but in truth the worst kind of autocracy and the most intolerable form of oppression was that of the people themselves. "Radical reform" which had for its purpose the disturbance and diminution of the sovereign's power was revolution, and revolutionary politicians were not suffered in any country. Were they allowed the least latitude, they would trespass to any lengths. What was past could not be remedied, but it behoved all good subjects to be on their guard against farther changes which would set the constitution at nought.

Viscount Torio has, of course, no responsibility for a document compiled by a dignitary of a Buddhist sect, however cordially he may endorse the principles it embodies. But the Viscount has been composing a brochure on his own account. He calls it, *Odo Benron*, or an Exposition of Monarchy, and he read, with great gusto, certain passages from it to a representative of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* whose report we are now translating. It is a whole-hearted profession of conservative faith. The Viscount charges party politicians with calling themselves the people's representatives, and by speech and pen encouraging the youth of the nation to believe that the Restoration of the *Meiji* era was the work solely of clansmen, and that a second great restoration is now to be effected by securing the administrative power for the people themselves. They had been educated in that evil faith by their leaders Counts Itagaki and Okuma, who thus played a part not at all becoming to the Sovereign's assistants and advisers. Nor did the leaders confine themselves to putting dangerous notions into the heads of their followers: they urged the Emperor also to transfer his power once more to his subjects, thus opening the way to a repetition of the old system (*i.e.* of the Shogunate). Such doings were entirely opposed to all sound political and moral principles. They were entirely subversive of loyalty, and should be opposed by all good subjects.

There is certainly a very close resemblance between Viscount Torio's *Odo Benron* and the letter penned by the *Hitsuji* of the Hongwan-ji. Both documents are frank declarations of conservatism founded on precisely the same principles. Count Okuma, when he went out of office last year, predicted that a conservative party would soon be formed. He was right.

In connection with the action of the *Shitsuji* of the Hongwan Temple of Kyoto, who circulated the conservative brochure recently spoken of in these columns, the Minister of Home Affairs is said to have asked the Abbot of the Temple to come to Tokyo. The Abbot, however, pleaded ill health. Then the Governor of Kyoto was summoned. But he excused himself on the ground of stress of business Finally the Governor's Secretary came. We do not see that any official measure against the procedure of the *Shitsuji* is possible. He has an indisputable right to take a hand in the game of politics if he pleases. He explains, according to the *Jiji* and the *Chuo*, that, while generally opposed to any interference in politics on the part of priests or other religious representatives, he thinks that there are exceptions to the rule, and that the present occasion is an exception. But the strange thing is that he bases his action on the speech delivered, last July, by the Minister of State for Education. Mr. Ishikawa (the *Shitsuji*) can not persuade himself that when Mr. Ozaki spoke of a republic under the presidency of an Iwasaki or a Mitsui, he was merely using a fortuitous illustration. In the speech, and in other political incidents, he detects symptoms of an approaching attempt to interfere with the prerogatives of the Crown, and in the presence of such a contingency no loyal subject, whether he be a Buddhist priest or what not, ought to sit with folded hands. Meanwhile Viscount Torio's *Odo Benron* is appearing in the columns of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, with *kana* interlining to facilitate perusal, and people are beginning to say that the Viscount ought to be deprived of his Privy Councillorship as a disciplinary measure. An anonymous member of the Home of Peers, speaking through the columns of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, refers to the fact that Baron Sonoda's speech to the Police Inspectors and Mr. Yokota's letter to the Ministers of State were held to call for disciplinary treatment, and that Viscount Torio's brochure is much more flagrant.

PERVERTED HISTORY.

An an example of the distortion to which even contemporary history may be subjected when viewed through partisan spectacles, the story told by the *Sekai-no-Nippon* about foreign Judges and the treaty-revision programme of 1888 is very striking. The Tokyo periodical's version attributes to Count Okuma the original idea of employing foreign legal experts to sit in Japanese courts for the trial of cases where foreigners were concerned, and further charges the Count with having endeavoured to mislead the Emperor as to the significance of the provision, by representing to His Majesty that the expression "foreign legal experts" might be read in the sense of "Japanese who had become domiciled in foreign countries." Now with regard to the latter point, its extravagance would have been at once apparent had the draft of the revised treaty been examined, for it was there distinctly stated that the legal experts in question must be of foreign origin. That count of the accusation, however, has not much importance, for there certainly could not be found a dozen intelligent persons in Japan capable of believing that such a shallow and unprincipled attempt to throw dust in the Sovereign's eyes was ever made by a Minister of State during the *Meiji* era. It is the question of the Judges that interests us as an extraordinary perversion of facts; yet a perversion which, since it does not

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suggest any inherent improbability, may easily find credence. Did the idea of the foreign Judges emanate from Count Okuma? Was it he that first proposed to removed foreign distrust of Japanese tribunals by offering to place a number of European or American experts upon the Bench? Certainly not. The idea was propounded at the treaty-revision conferences in 1884, when Count Inouye held the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, and it was propounded in a comprehensive and practical form, namely, that from the Courts of first instance to the Court of Cassation, there should be among the Judges a sufficient number of Occidental experts to insure the presence of the latter in a majority whenever a foreigner appeared before the Court, whether as plaintiff or defendant. That was a very remarkable concession. It was a concession which, while fully securing foreign confidence, might also have borne excellent fruit in the interests of the Japanese themselves by furnishing invaluable object lessons to the Judges under the difficult conditions that the new system must create. But it was also a concession characteristic of the time, for certainly had not Japanese public opinion been as yet incapable of taking shape or finding expression, such a promise would have been condemned vehemently by the nation. Public opinion was still in the embryonic stage, however, and the scheme might have become an accomplished fact had it not been rendered abortive by the foreign negotiators themselves. Failing to appreciate that treaty revision was inevitable, and that the conditions upon which it might then have been accomplished could never be again obtained, but must be steadily reduced and contracted by the nation's growing perception of its rights, they allowed mutual jealousies to aggravate the irksomeness of Count Inouye's concession until it became quite intolerable. Each foreign delegate claimed that a certain proportion of the alien Judges should be of his own nationality. The result can scarcely be told in credible language. For, in the first place, these rival claims could not have been satisfied without swelling the number of proposed foreign experts until the aliens sitting on the Japanese Bench for the convenience of three or four thousand foreign residents would actually have exceeded the total complement of Judges on the English Bench; and in the second, whereas the prime purpose of the scheme was to secure the impartial administration of Justice in suits concerning foreigners, the judiciary organized under the influence of these inter-State jealousies would have consisted, not of unbiassed jurisconsults, but of national advocates, after the hopelessly discredited pattern of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt. That was one of the rocks upon which treaty revision suffered shipwreck at that time. Revived in 1888 by Count Okuma, the concession about the foreign Judges became a mere shadow of its former substance, for, instead of having Occidental experts sitting in every Court before which a foreigner might appear, these experts were to be present in the Court of Cassation only. Now the Court of Cassation can not be reached except on the plea of an error in law, and ninety-nine out of every hundred persons that appear before a legal tribunal, feel no concern about hypothetical errors of law but do feel a great deal of concern about possible errors of fact. The truth is, then, that Count Okuma, so far from originating the project of Occidental Jurists, cut down the solid dimensions it possessed when originated by another statasman four years previously, and converted it into something which even the slightly hysterical public opinion of his time might have endorsed without great difficulty. That is the curious and memorable chapter of history which the *Sekai-no-Nippon* perverts into one of the falsest paragraphs ever penned.

ONE-EYED CRITICS.

A leading article of more than a column is devoted by a Kobe journal to an attack upon the Japanese police for supplying to vernacular journals *ex-parte* versions of incidents in which their nationals and foreigners are concerned. There is no evidence, so far as we can see, that the police have done anything of the kind. The Kobe critic appears to base his statement on the fact that several newspapers published an identical account of an affair which had not yet passed beyond the stage of unrefuted complaint. But the strong probability is that the papers obtained their information from a news agency, and that the police had nothing whatever to do with the matter beyond, perhaps, answering such questions as were addressed to them by the agency within the limits of the information in their possession. It is not that, however, which induces us to comment on the article. The point is the writer's delightful blindness to the illustration his own conduct affords of the very habit he condemns. He solemnly denounces "the serious injury done by the practice of supplying *ex-parte* statements to the vernacular press, the publication of which can not but tend to excite ill-feeling towards foreigners among the Japanese;" he speaks ominously of "the effect such tactics are likely to have upon the relations between Japanese and foreigners;" and although, at the outset, he plainly shows that he is writing on the strength of pure hypothesis, he finally prefers his charge against the police as though it were proved up to the hilt. Was he himself, then, under no obligation to ascertain whether the police had actually furnished reports to the vernacular newspapers before he proceeded to publicly accuse them of doing so? Is it not a charmingly one-eyed business? To say nothing of the sweet sensitiveness of the *Kobe Chronicle*—the *Kobe Chronicle*, forsooth—lest newspaper utterances should disturb the relations between foreigners and Japanese, we have it crying out against the publication of *ex-parte* statements by Japanese journals when its own columns and the columns of nearly all the local foreign journals in Japan teem with *ex-parte* statements furnished by foreigners. Any Dick, Tom, or Harry that cares to carry a complaint to the office of a local foreign newspaper, can confidently count on the pleasure of seeing his name in print the next day, and his story published with every semblance of editorial credence, not the slightest attempt having been made by the newspaper to get at the other side's version of the incident. We know very well how difficult it is in this country to obtain mutual explanations, but the complaint of failure to make the attempt ought not to be too loudly ventilated by foreign journals.

KOBE'S KNOWLEDGE.

Some of our Kobe friends are really delightfully leisurely, credulous folks. A gentleman signing himself "Merchant," addresses the following letter to the *Kobe Chronicle*:

Sir,—In the "Digest of Laws affecting Foreigners under the New Treaties," by Dr. Lönholm, written for the Yokohama International Committee, Dr. Lönholm says that a company composed of foreigners and Japanese, if the head office is in Japan and the company is registered in Japan, can buy and own land just as a Japanese company can.

This a matter well worth attention.

Yours, &c.,

MERCHANT.

October 5th, 1898.

It apparently took this correspondent about three months to discover one of the most interesting features of the new Civil Code. Certainly he was in no hurry to inform himself about a subject which has excited a great deal of discussion and is declared to be of prime importance. Still funnier is the reply of the editor to whom he addresses himself:—

This question has been discussed by the editor of the *Eastern World*, who has had a legal training, and he points out that even supposing this is technically the case, many questions would be likely to arise the decision of which would be very doubtful under the Civil Code. Until the Japanese withdraw the antiquated law against foreigners directly owning land, the element of uncertainty must effectually hamper enterprise.—ED. *K.C.*

The editor of the *Eastern World* against Dr. Lönholm and the compilers and revisors of the Civil Code! We can imagine the indignant scorn with which such testimony would be dismissed were it unfavourable to the view which the *Kobe Chronicle* has always maintained with curious obstinacy.

URBAN LANDS.

With reference to the proposed increase of the tax on urban lands, the *Mainichi Shimbun* traverses our criticism of its utterances, and explains that it does not object to the imposition of a higher rate, but is opposed merely to a rate so high as that said to be contemplated by the Government. In short, the *Mainichi* is concerned solely about the burden of the tax and not about the principle of its imposition. We do not think that we have mistaken our contemporary's meaning or led others to mistake it. The truth is, as we have already pointed out, that the logical outcome of such a contention as that of the *Mainichi* is re-assessment. Without re-assessment the question of the Land Tax can never be satisfactorily disposed of.

THE BRITISH LEGATION.

Mr. James Beethom Whitehead has been appointed Secretary of Her Britannic Majesty's Legation in Tokyo, *vice* Mr. G. A. Lowther, who has been nominated Consul-General at Bucharest. Mr. Whitehead's record is as follows:—

Whitehead, James Beethom, is an M.A. of Cambridge, where he graduated in honours in 1881. Was nominated an Attaché, September 23, 1881. Passed a competitive examination, November 15, 1881. Passed an examination in Public Law, March 3, 1883. Was appointed to St. Petersburg, March 24, 1883, and was promoted to be a 3rd Secretary, November 19, 1883. Received an allowance for knowledge of Russian. Was promoted to be 2nd Secretary at Rio de Janeiro, January 1, 1887; transferred to Berlin, November 1, 1889.—*The Foreign Office List.*

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WEI HAI WEI.

There has been much talk of the relative merits of Kiao-chau, Port Arthur, and Wei-hai-wei as naval ports. Experts have written and tourists have discoursed, but the public remains perplexed and uncertain. An interesting contribution to the subject appeared lately in the "Journal of the United Service Institution." It is, in great part, a translation of a report prepared in 1882 by Lieut-Colonel Wagner, a German officer. Some extracts from it were published a few days ago by our local contemporary, the *Japan Gazette*, and have evoked surprised comment from the Japanese. Perhaps, therefore, a few words about Colonel Wagner's conclusions may not be useless. Speaking of Port Arthur, he says that "there is a comparatively small area of deep water for big vessels," and that it is "close to the entrance, so that a fleet anchoring there could be seen and would be within range from the open sea." An ounce of fact is worth a pound of theory. The Chinese fleet, when it lay in Port Arthur, could never be seen from the outside, and was entirely beyond the range of any effective bombardment. Port Arthur has its disadvantages, but this particular drawback, mentioned by Colonel Wagner, was not found to exist during the war of 1894-5. The Colonel has much the same remark to make about Wei-hai-wei, and the same answer may be made to it. He says:—"An enemy could entirely overlook the whole of the interior through the wide channels on either side of Liu-kung-tao Island, and every movement of the Chinese fleet could be watched." Nothing of that kind was found possible in the recent war. The Chinese vessels lay perfectly secure from observation or attack under the shelter of Liu-kung-tao. As an expert, Colonel Wagner can not have forgotten that ships, unless they are advancing with offensive intent, take care to keep beyond the range of the enemy's big guns. The forts on Liu-kung-tao held the Japanese ships at a safe distance from first to last and remained efficient throughout the war. The German officer says, further, that, "at ebb-tide the harbour is only deep enough for vessels of a medium size (up to 19¾ feet), five fathoms being only found near the open sea." Well, as to that we need only remark that the harbour was deep enough three years ago to allow of the sinking of a seven-thousand-ton iron-clad—the *Tingyuen*—and that she has remained lying on the bottom ever since.

There is one thing to be said in this context. It is that Great Britain does not want harbours where her fleets can lie secure from observation or naval attack. She does not anticipate that her squadrons will take refuge in Wei-hai-wei, or anywhere else, and submit to be watched by hostile vessels from outside. The watchers would probably have a rough time. All that she needs is a good anchorage, and a port where coal and other stores can be collected and shipped without difficulty. Wei-hai-wei answers that description excellently. As to its weakness on the land side, what occasion is ever likely to exist for strength in that direction? Nobody imagines that the Chinese braves are a menace to Wei-hai-wei, and it surely is not supposed that any European Power could land an army with a powerful seige train on the Shantung Peninsular for the purpose of driving England away from the Liu-kung-tao anchorage. We need not wrestle with shadows in such matters.

As a point of historical interest reference may be made here to an observation of the *Japan Gazette's*. "Colonel Wagner," our contemporary writes, "drew special attention to the facilities offered by the narrow neck of land between Talienwan and Kinchow for the disembarking of troops and the cutting off of the land communications of Port Arthur, thereby outlining twelve years in advance exactly the course that the Japanese forces followed. It would be easy to suppose that General Kawakami, himself trained in Germany, had profited by the German Colonel's observations." Does our contemporary mean to suggest that the Japanese disembarked troops at the Kinchow isthmus, and there cut off the land communications of Port Arthur? We can not read its comments in any other sense. But the Japanese did nothing of the kind. Their point of debarkation was in the neighbourhood of Pitszewo, some 70 miles north of the Kinchow Isthmus, and until the news reached us, many days subsequently, of the extraordinary failure of the Chinese to defend the splendidly defensible position at the neck of the Isthmus, we were all speaking and writing anxiously about the deadly struggle which was likely to take place there. The Isthmus is certainly a weak point in one sense, since it is exposed to attack by sea from the east—on the west the water is too shallow—, but at the same time, it can easily be rendered virtually impregnable against military operations. At any rate the Japanese, in 1884, did not attempt to utilize it in the manner suggested by Colonel Wagner.

COURT MOURNING.

No announcement of Court mourning for the Queen of Denmark has been made in Japan. We presume, therefore, that Denmark is not yet among the countries which have entered into an agreement with Japan for the mutual observance of this graceful custom. According to vernacular newspapers, the States that have pledged themselves *vis-à-vis* Japan, within certain limitations, are England, Italy, Spain, Turkey, and Korea. The others will follow in due course of time, no doubt. It is contended by some people that the practice of European Courts in this matter is based, not on the general principle of the brotherhood of Sovereigns, but on the fact that, during the passage of centuries, the numerous intermarriages which have taken place between the various imperial and royal families, have joined them all in close relationship, whereas no such connexion has been established with Asiatic potentates. There is much force in the contention, but we doubt whether it would survive historical analysis. From time immemorial it has been the habit of monarchs in Europe to address each other as "brothers," and there would not be much difficulty in showing that the use of the term has no reference to any ordinary relationship or connexion. The same form of speech is employed, by some European Sovereigns at all events, in addressing the Emperor of Japan—a sufficiently convincing proof, surely, that the kingly brotherhood is independent of such incidents as intermarriages.

THE FORMOSAN INSURGENTS.

Some curious discoveries have resulted from examining the documents of the Formosan bandits who lately made act of submission to the Governor-General in Taipeh. It had always been supposed that the bandits lived in the hills and only descended to the plains for raiding purposes, retiring to their mountain fastnesses when the Japanese troops showed themselves. But these new records prove that the bandits not only have their habitations in the towns and villages, but also pass for respectable citizens in the intervals of their rascality. It is found, for example, that some of the persons employed by the Japanese as detectives are bandits; that the interpreter of the gendarmes was sheltering the mistress of a bandit in his house, and that the owner of the building in which Messrs. Okura and Company have their office, was chief of a party of 50 bandits, while nominally assisting to maintain good order. These discoveries are expected to be of great value in stamping out the trouble, for they enable the Government not only to direct its efforts to the real sphere, but also to open communications with the lawless people and convey to them a true idea of the intentions entertained towards them by the Japanese. But Mr. Goto, chief of the Bureau of Civil Affairs in Formosa, from whom these particulars were obtained by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, represents the Governor-General as revolving plans for the complete extirpation of the bandits, His Excellency being persuaded that no lesser measure will be really effective. Mr. Goto strenuously denies the truth of the telegram recently received in Tokyo to the effect that the Chinese were quitting Taipeh and Kelung in large numbers, and betaking themselves to Amoy. On the contrary, he says that many of those who fled to Amoy in former times, are now applying for permission to return to Formosa.

Mr. Goto made some other interesting remarks. He said that the reduction in the staff of officials effected by the recent scheme of administrative reform, amounted to 1,000, and that by a change in the local taxes, an additional revenue of 1½ million *yen* had been obtained. Meanwhile the task of surveying was in vigorous progress. The Government, persuaded of the absolute necessity of the work, was determined to complete it, by persuasion if possible, by force if unavoidable. As for railways, their building could not be longer delayed. It was hoped, however, that in floating bonds for these and other public work, as harbours, no call need to be made on the Treasury in Tokyo.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

On the 8th instant the Bank of Japan lowered its rate of discount. Its figures now stand thus:—

Discount on private bills with security 2·7 *sen* per 100 *yen* daily, being at the rate of 9.85 per cent. per annum.

Discount on commercial bills, 2.4 *sen* per 100 *yen* daily, being at the rate of 8 75 per cent. per annum.

Bank paper, with security, 2 5 *sen* per 100 *yen* daily, being at the rate of 9 12 per cent. per annum.

Bank commercial bills, 2 2 *sen* per 100 *yen* daily, being at the rate of 8.03 per cent. per annum.

These changes do not apply to the west of Japan and Hokkaido, where a uniform reduction of 1 *rin* daily has been made.

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LI HUNG-CHANG'S DINNER-PARTY.

On the 24th of September, Li Hung-chang entertained Marquis Ito and his party at dinner. It was the third day after the restoration of the Empress-Dowager, and the minds of the ex-Viceroy's guests must have been greatly perturbed about the course things were taking. Only intimate friends were present, and the conversation was quite unrestrained. Marquis Ito, of course, sat on Li's right, and on his left was Mr. Ooka Ikuzo. Naturally, Kang Yu-wei was in everybody's thoughts, and during the course of dinner the following conversation is reported by Mr. Ooka to have taken place :—

Li (addressing Marquis Ito)—Probably Kang has made his escape to your country. If so, I hope you will have him arrested at once and sent over here.

Marquis Ito—That can not be. If he has committed any crime of a non-political character, it is not impossible that we may do as you desire. But if the charge against him has any political bearing, the principles of international law forbid us to hand him over, as you are doubtless aware.

Li—That is most unfortunate. Even in London when we apprehended one of our own people who had committed a crime, and imprisoned him in the Legation, the Minister of Foreign Affairs raised objection.

Mr. Ooka—What is Kang's crime, may I ask?

Li—What is his crime? Why, he has been behaving in a reckless manner and disturbing the public mind. What office do you fill in your own country?

Mr. O.—I am a member of the House of Representatives,

Li—Are you one of Marquis Ito's party?

Mr. O.—Not necessarily. If I do not endorse his views I oppose him.

Li—Why are you his travelling companion, then?

Mr. O.—Well, we have the same native place. Besides, in Japan we do not allow our political differences to effect our social intercourse. Marquis Ito especially is broad-minded in such matters, and made no objection whatever to my coming with him. May I ask whether it might not be better if, instead of driving Kang out and harrying him, you educated and encouraged him so as to utilize his services on behalf of the country. The history of China in modern times shows that all the progressive measures were planned by your Excellency. The results have been small, however, and for what reason? Is it not because, although your Excellency is fully disposed to effect reforms, there are few to assist you in the work?

Li—Yes; that is quite true.

Mr. O.—Thus, as Kang is certainly disposed to take that line, would it not be well to use him for furthering your plans?

Li—It is as you say. Kang may be used by and by, but at present nothing of the kind is possible.

On the 25th there was a party at the Legation, and Sir Robert Hart was among the guests. Mr. Ooka describes him as a suave, self-possessed, and capable old man, giving the impression of being fully equal to the important post he holds. During a conversation with Marquis Ito, Sir Robert said :—"China is indeed a difficult country. A year or two ago I thought I knew something about her affairs and I ventured to commit my views to writing. But to-day, I seem to have lost all knowledge. If you asked me to write even three or four pages about China, I should be puzzled to do so. There is only one thing that I have learned. In my country the rule is "break but never bend;" in China the rule is "bend but never break."

MARQUIS ITO AND THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

Mr. Ooka continues, in the columns of the *Chiuo Shimbun*, an interesting account of the doings of Marquis Ito in China. The last installment of the story relates to the interview which took place between the Emperor and the Japanese statesman in the Palace on the 20th of September—an interview which, as Mr. Ooka justly observes, possesses a melancholy interest as being the last occasion on which the ill-fated Kwang Hsü gave public expression to his lofty and patriotic aspirations. Marquis Ito appears to have been received with the utmost consideration, the treatment extended to him being in accordance with the etiquette observed towards a prince of the blood. He was conducted to a seat on the dais where the Sovereign sat, Prince Ching's chair alone being placed between the two. The Japanese Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Hayashi, together with Mr. Ooka Ikuzo and others had seats on a somewhat lower level, but were not more than three paces removed from the dais, so that they were able to see the Emperor distinctly and hear every word spoken. The conversation that passed is thus reported :—

Marquis Ito—I deeply appreciate the honour your Majesty graciously does me in granting me this audience, though I am only travelling in a private capacity. May I be permitted to say that the great changes which your Majesty has inaugurated in passing from the old to the new for the sake of the Empire's progress and prosperity, fill me with respectful admiration. They have a vital bearing on the conservation of Oriental conditions, and it will give my Imperial Master profound pleasure to learn about them from me on my return to my country. May your Majesty be long preserved to achieve these noble aims.

The Emperor—You have been long known to me, by reputation, Marquis, and I can assure you that it affords me great satisfaction to have this opportunity of meeting you.

Marquis Ito—I thank Your Majesty heartily for such gracious words.

The Emperor—When did you leave Japan, Marquis?

Marquis Ito—About a month ago, Your Majesty. I spent some ten days in Korea.

The Emperor—I hope that you did not meet with any mishap on your travels?

Marquis Ito—Thanks to Your Majesty's gracious protection I have made a most prosperous voyage.

The Emperor—I trust that you left the Emperor in good health?

Marquis Ito—When I had the honour of bidding His Majesty farewell before setting out, he was in excellent health.

The Emperor—The administration of your country's affairs, Marquis, since the Restoration has evoked the admiration of all nations, and the great part that you have taken in it is universally applauded.

Marquis Ito—I do not deserve such gracious approval. All that I did was to become the repository of my Imperial Master's plans, and to carry them out in accordance with my official duty.

[At this point the Emperor had a whispered conversation with one of the officials in waiting].

The Emperor—Your country, Marquis, and Ours form part of the same Continent and stand to each other in the closest relations of friendship and propinquity. The necessity of reform presses urgently upon this nation at the present juncture, and I am very desirous of hearing your views on the subject. I trust that you will further my wishes by making to the President of the *Tsung-li Yamin*, Wang, a full statement of your ideas about the proper procedure and processes of reform.

Marquis—I shall have the honour of complying with Your Majestys directions. If your Majesty's Ministers address to me any questions, I will venture to submit to them my views in so far as they may be of any service to Your Majesty's empire.

The Emperor—I desire nothing more earnestly than that unanimity of sentiment and community of effort (*dōshin gōriyaku*) may long continue to mark the intercourse between our two countries.

Marquis Ito—I venture with all humility to reciprocate Your Majesty's gracious desire, and to express the conviction that it will certainly be widely shared by the peoples of the two empires and reflected in the daily increasing friendship of their intercourse.

The Emperor—How long do you intend to remain in China, Marquis?

Marquis Ito—Two weeks was my original intention, Your Majesty. I expect to be in Peking for 7 or 8 days more.

The Emperor—When were you last in China?

Marquis Ito—Fourteen years ago, Your Majesty, I came for the first time to Peking. Since then I have been to Shanghai and other places in the south.

The Emperor—And what route do you intend to pursue?

Marquis Ito—I hope to visit Shanghai, Your Majesty, and then to travel through the Yangtse Valley.

The Emperor—I wish you a safe and pleasant journey.

Marquis Ito—I thank Your Majesty most sincerely.

There is not very much in the interview, except the unequivocal testimony it furnishes of Kwang Hsü's earnest convictions and his strong desire to lead China into the path of progress. We may probably take it for granted that the President of the *Tsung-li Yamén* did not comply with the Sovereign's instructions in the matter of consulting Marquis Ito about reform. Anything of that kind would have been a mere farce after the events of the day following the interview, the fatal 21st of September.

REUTER AGAIN.

It seems to be fated that many of Baron Reuter's agents should lose their sense of proportion as soon as they approach the task of drafting a telegram. Frequent examples of their incapacity to weigh the value of an item of intelligence are furnished, and sometimes their estimates are grotesquely faulty. To the latter category belongs the latest performance of the London agent, who has actually telegraphed all over the world the news that a German *attaché* in the Soudan condemns the conduct of the military operations there, and characterizes the charge of the Lancers as a folly. If a young officer, whatever be his nationality, had the assurance to pronounce a wholesale criticism upon the strategy of the Sirdar, it would have been at least charitable on the part of Reuter's agent to refrain from giving needless publicity to the precocious performance. But to telegraph the fact hither and thither, and to take even the Far East into the range of gossip, is exceedingly cruel to the adventurous *attaché* and distinctly tiresome to the public. We shall find the wires employed, one of these days, transmitting the names of prize terriers at dog shows, or statistics about the number of addled eggs in Dutch poultry-yards.

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THE OBJECT OF THE CHINESE REFORMERS.

Leung Kei-chiu is among the most distinguished—perhaps we should say the most distinguished—of Kang Yu-wei's disciples. Naturally Leung and his fellow-thinkers were objects of much interest to Marquis Ito's party when the latter visited Peking, and Mr. Ooka Ikuzo does not fail to tell us something of the impression they made on him. They are nearly all young men, he says, full of energy and hope, determined to push the cause of reform and convinced of its ultimate success. But unfortunately they know little or nothing about Europe or America. What they have chiefly studied, independently of the history and literature of their own country, is the story of Japanese political progress and material development since the Restoration. That constitutes the principal topic of their conversation and from that they draw their models. Asked to explain the chief causes which, in their opinion, were responsible for the recent commotion, they said:—First, the proposal to give up the wearing of queues and to change the long-sleeved official costume of the Manchus for foreign dress; secondly, to transfer the capital from Peking to the south; thirdly, to abolish the White-Bannermen, and fourthly, to deprive the Empress-Dowager of all share in the Government.

That is a very significant story. The public has hitherto been directing its attention solely to the changes already effected in Peking, and has found them sufficiently drastic to account for the excitement of the Manchu officials. But from Leung Kei-chiu's statement it would appear that far more radical reforms were in contemplation, and that the idea of the Manchu revolutionists was to remove the Emperor before he could carry out this sweeping programme. The "pig-tail," it will be observed, stands at the head of the list. Now the pig-tail is an evidence of submission to Manchu authority. The first historical mention of this particular form of hair-dressing is connected with the capture of Liao-yang by the Manchu invaders in the last days of the Ming Dynasty. The citizens of the captured town shaved their heads in token of surrender, and thenceforth it became compulsory for all Chinese subjects to adopt the same method of enabling the Manchu soldiers to distinguish between those that wished to yield and those that intended to resist. The abolition of the queue would therefore mean much in Manchu eyes. As for the transfer of the capital to Nanking, or some other central city, it would be like the re-establishment of the native dynasty. The White Banner-men, also, are a most important institution from the Manchu point of view. For military purposes they are useless, but they constitute a kind of feudatories, holding considerable estates and enjoying hereditary offices. It is not likely that their abolition would be quietly submitted to. Then, finally, we have the project of depriving the Empress Dowager of all further share in the Government. The inference is that Her Majesty's influence was really exerted on the anti-reform side, though it was generally supposed that she supported the Emperor's innovations. We can not be surprised, however, that the imperious old lady objected to being eliminated. Here, too, we probably see the proverbial grain of truth in the bushels of falsehood scattered broadcast about a plot to murder His Majesty. Undoubtedly the reformers went too fast.

THE SHAN-HAI KWAN AND NEW-CHWANG RAILWAY.

A telegram from Peking published by the *Tokyo Asahi* reports that the difficulty about the railway from Newchwang to Shan-hai-kwan has been arranged, the British syndicate agreeing to accept a mine in the neighbourhood of Shan-hai-kwan as security instead of the railway itself. The telegram adds that Russia has agreed to this solution of the trouble. It is to be hoped that the news is incorrect. Russia has no manner of title to interfere in these matters, and if Great Britain tamely brooks such unwarrantable attempts to hamper the free exercise of her treaty rights, it may justly be said that her statesmen are bringing disgrace and humiliation upon their country. There is one point to be noted, however. It is that China's cöoperation has to be secured for any arrangement. If China wilts before Russian interference and refuses to be stiffened by British assurances of support, the choice finally lies between abandoning an enterprise altogether or accepting a compromise. But Englishmen will not be disposed to take that view. There is not one of them, we imagine, even though he be an extreme disciple of Exeter Hall doctrines, whose breast will not burn with indignation at the thought that a perfectly legitimate British enterprise in Chinese territory is arbitrarily and openly vetoed by Russia. It will be discovered at St. Petersburg, too late perhaps, that the patience of the British nation has its limits.

BUDDHISTS IN POLITICS.

The question of religious ministrations at the Sugamo Prison has gradually assumed large dimensions, not, indeed, for its own sake, but because of the collateral issues involved. It will not be amiss to state the facts briefly as they are now published. The priests on duty at the jail were sent from the Nishi-Hongwan temple, and when Mr. Arima decided that their number should be reduced to one, and that the same facilities should be granted to a Christian pastor, Mr Fujishima, the *Shitsugi* of that temple, came to Tokyo, and had an interview with the Minister and Vice-Minister of Home Affairs. From them he learned that the Authorities intended to adopt a uniform attitude towards all creeds, and, having no objection to raise to such a policy, he returned to Kyoto. There he detailed the circumstances to the priests of Higashi Hongwan-ji, and the *Shitsugi* of the latter, taking up the case warmly, addressed to the Minister of Home Affairs the violent letter alluded to at the time in these columns. Count Itagaki, much surprised, endeavoured to secure a visit of the Abbot of Higashi Hongwan-ji to Tokyo, but the prelate pleaded indisposition and declined to leave Kyoto. He announced that he would send a substitute to Tokyo, and from first to last he seems to have adopted towards the officials an attitude of indifference. By degrees the priests grew warm over the affair, and it was ultimately taken up by the two Hongwan temples, the alleged grievances being that the reduction of the Buddhist priests at Sugamo Prison from three to one without any previous intimation to the temple from which they had been furnished, was insulting; that the newly adopted principle of equal treatment for all creeds was merely a pretext for favouring Christianity; that whereas the temple had paid from twenty to thirty thousand *yen* annually for the support of the priests ministering at the various prisons, its efforts had been contemptuously referred to by the Authorities of the Home Department, and that, while the vast majority of the prisoners were Buddhists, the new rule required that Buddhism and Christianity should be placed on an equal footing in the matter of religious ministrations.

On the 9th instant, Mr. Fujibayashi who had been sent to Tokyo as the representative of the Lord Abbot of the Nishi Hongwan Temple, had an interview with Count Itagaki. It is said that the Count spoke to him in a most conciliatory tone, repudiating the charge of partiality to any form of faith. "My wife," said the Count, "joined Mr. Kono Hironaka's wife in starting the *Bukkyo Kowakai* (Buddhist Lecture Society). My eldest son is a Christian. I allow absolute freedom of conscience even within my own family circle. Is it to be supposed that I should show partiality or favoritism in such matters to outsiders?" This language does not appear to have produced any effect upon Mr. Fujibayashi. He proceeded to set forth his case in uncompromising terms. The Minister had asked the Lord Abbot to come to Tokyo. But it was necessary to explain to the Minister that the Lord Abbot did not acknowledge any mandate save that of the Emperor himself. Besides, if the object of the Home Minister was to have Mr. Ishikawa punished for issuing the circular, there was no use in making any representation, for the Lord Abbot had already expressed unequivocal approval of Mr. Ishikawa's action. As a general rule, Buddhist priests stood aloof from politics, but high among the moral virtues inculated by them were loyalty and patriotism, and when they detected any disposition to undermine those virtues, it was their duty to interfere, even though the realm were that of politics.

The two Hongwan Temples have joined forces over the question, and the *Dai-Nippon Bukkyo Seinenkai* (Young Men's Buddhist Association) has also published a circular which is couched in almost menacing terms. Altogether no such agitation has been recorded in religious circles since the Restoration. Meanwhile the report that Mr. Arima, head of the Sugamo Prison, has resigned his appointment appears to be unworthy of credence.

AMERICAN DINNER IN YOKOHAMA.

On Monday the 10th instant, the leading American residents of Yokohama gave a banquet in honour of Mr. Komura, who is about to proceed to Washington as Japanese Representative. Covers were laid for thirty-six in one of the rooms of the Oriental Hotel; a military band from Tokyo was in attendance, and M. Muraour employed all the resources of his remarkable skill to produce a *menu* worthy of the occasion. The United States Consul-

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General presided, and His Excellency Colonel Buck was among the guests. The Prime Minister had promised to be present, but was unfortunately prevented from attending by indisposition which has confined him to his house for several days. Mr. Gowey proposed the toast of the evening in a short but happily worded speech. He spoke of the pleasure that it would afford the American people to receive, in the capacity of Japanese Representative, a man who had been educated in their country, and he expressed the conviction that, under Mr. Komura's fostering care, the excellent relations which had always existed between Japan and the United States would be preserved, and even strengthened if that were possible. Mr. Komura, in reply, said that he looked forward with the greatest pleasure to revisiting the United States. His relations with individual citizens of the Great Republic had always been as pleasant as his admiration for the American nation was sincere, and he asked for nothing better than that he should receive from United States officials and citizens of Washington such a welcome and such kindly consideration as had been extended to him when he first visited the States as a poor student.

FORMOSAN DEVELOPMENT.

It is alleged that the Cabinet has decided to devote a sum of 60 million *yen* to the development of Formosa. The figures, as detailed by the *Kokumin Shimbun*, are these :—

To railway construction	30 millions.
To harbour improvement at Kelung	10 ,,
To the purchase of lands.....	10 ,,
To public buildings	10 ,,
Total	60 millions.

This money will be raised, we read, by issuing loan bonds. If that be so, the total issue of bonds during the next few year will be 260 millions, of which the greater part will doubtless be placed abroad. We admire the financial courage of the present Cabinet. Thirty-two millions are to be devoted to the extension of the telegraph service, and sixty millions to Formosan development, and there is to be no delay in carrying out the programme of railway construction and improvement in Japan proper. That is the way to make the country wealthy and prosperous. Japan's finances are thoroughly sound and her national liabilities are quite insignificant. Think of a country with forty millions of inhabitants with industries rapidly growing, with good resources, with extremely light taxes, with an efficient navy and a powerful army, with three thousand miles of railway, with a mercantile marine of four hundred thousand tons, and with thirteen thousand miles of telegraphs,—think of such a country having only forty million pounds sterling of national debt. If Japanese statesmen are wise they will go right ahead, remembering that money spent on productive enterprises is not an addition to the country's debt but an investment tending to increase its wealth.

INTERPORT BASEBALL.

Our Kobe correspondent wires us that Yokohama won the third baseball game on Thursday by 16 runs to 14. This is a decided improvement on the former games.

THE DOSHISHA.

The information that we have been able to obtain does not confirm the statements recently circulated to the effect that an arrangement has been nearly concluded between the representatives of the American Board Mission and the Trustees of the Doshisha. Above all we are unable to discover any confirmation of the assertion that the existence of a misunderstanding, more or less impairing the American case, has been discovered. No investigation was needed to throw further light on the facts of the affair. It may be taken for granted that whatever opinions the representatives of the American Board formed, were arrived at reluctantly and after every possible allowance had been made for facts suggesting an opposite conclusion. Speaking as outsiders, we can not but bear testimony to the moderate and courteous attitude shown by these gentlemen throughout the whole course of the unhappy incident. The same, indeed, must be said for the Japanese : their writing has been markedly good-tempered and conciliatory. Mr. Yokoi's article in the *Far East* could not fail to convince every impartial reader that he and his fellow-trustees had acted in perfect good faith, according to their own interpretation of the term. It is essentially, however, a question of interpretation. To us not the faintest possibility suggests itself of endorsing the view taken by the Japanese Trustees, and we are astounded that they can induce themselves to set their own interpretation of the late Mr. Nishima's ideas against the written terms of the constitution and the obvious intention of the American subscribers and donors. Our belief is, and we say it without the least desire to be harsh, that they acted in obedience to a law of expediency which receives much fuller recognition in this country than it does in England or America. Sir Robert Hart's commentary on the character of the Chinese, that they make "bend rather than break" their motto in many cases where the Anglo-Saxon's rule is "break rather than bend" —that commentary has again and again been suggested by incidents coming under our notice in Japan also. Again and again compromise steps in where crisis would be the issue under similar circumstances in England or America, so that foreign observers soon learn the unwisdom of attempting to predict the consequence of any premises in this country. It is undeniable that such a rule of conduct has many advantages in the management of every-day affairs. What it amounts to after all, is only a recognition of the fact which every one of us learns before he reaches the evening of life—the fact that the truth invariably lies between the two extremes of its interpretation. But although that law operates wholesomely and conveniently in work-a-day existence, and although its uses may be recognised even by the most obstinate logicians in the Occident, it has never received the smallest respect in the sphere of religion. There a special conscience prevails—if such a term may be employed— ; a conscience which confines men within the narrowest limits of interpretation and makes them turn with shocked abhorrence from any suggestion of compromise. We greatly doubt whether that particular kind of "break-rather-than-bend" conscience exists in Japan. It is the offspring, to a large extent, of the fierce theological controversies by which Europe has been shaken for so many centuries, and of the cruel sufferings that men have there endured for the sake of a moral ideal. Such a conscience is to be found most forceful and most despotic under the martyr's crown. There has been no occasion for its education in Japan. Some two centuries ago, a section of this empire's people passed through an ordeal which proved that in tenacity of religious conviction and rigid conformity to a moral standard, they stood on the same plane as the men that had carried the cross to them *per mare per terras per ignes*. But, on the whole, religion has always been presented to them in a gentle, liberal guise. The principle of Buddhist propagandists and preachers in every country has always been to assimilate rather than to exterminate ; to be eclectic rather than exclusive. It is natural that the temper of their religion should be reflected in the secular mood of the people. Thus, when a problem like that of the *Doshisha* has to be solved, the concessions which the Japanese, with perfectly honorable intent, make to expediency, may appear to the foreigner indefensible and even intolerable. That is probably the sum and substance of whatever misunderstanding there has been. To certain points the representatives of the American Board must cling unflinchingly. On some counts their motto must indeed be "break not bend." Failing to obtain a satisfactory settlement of those points, they will have no recourse but to appeal to the civil tribunals, and whatever might be the issue of such an appeal so far as the main question is concerned, it would certainly ruin the Doshisha. We can not but repeat here what we have already said more than once, namely, that the prime fault rests with the Educational Authorities. Their laws practically amount to a veto against all religious instruction. They deny to parents the privilege of having religious teaching included in their children's course of study ; for to tell a man that if he chooses to send his son to a school where religious instruction enters the curriculum, the lad will be liable to conscription involving three years' service in the ranks, at twenty, whereas, if there be no such subject in the curriculum, he will be safe from conscription until twenty-seven, and can then escape with a year's modified service—to condemn a father to such a choice is virtually to deprive him altogether of the privilege of choosing. That is not the kind of freedom of conscience guaranteed by the Constitution. That taxes paid by men holding various creeds should not be given, without the tax-payer's consent, to support schools where one particular kind of creed is taught, must be universally admitted. But that a school receiving no such aid, a school supported entirely by private enterprise, should be discriminated against in the most fatal manner because its faculty and the parents of the children educated there are religious people, can only be described as an intolerable hardship. If the Educational Authorities condemn the Japanese people to face such cruel dilemmas, incidents like that of the Doshisha are inevitable, and their effect upon the reputation of this country will be disastrous.

It is reported that Mr. Hayashi, the Acting Minister in Peking, has already provided barracks for the marines from the warship *Sunia*. The barracks are close to the Legation.

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RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

CHANG YIU-WAN has been assassinated while *en route* for his place of exile. That is one of the latest items of intelligence. He was under escort, of course, and his guards were answerable for his safety. If they did not murder him with their own hands, they allowed him to be murdered, and in either case there can be no doubt about the ultimate responsibility. The Representatives of Great Britain and Japan in Peking exerted all their influence to save CHANG'S life. Marquis ITO exerted all his influence. They succeeded; congratulated themselves, and were congratulated, on their success. It now appears that they were merely toyed with. All that they gained was the substitution of a way-side inn for the execution ground in the capital.

The rules that regulate every-day intercourse between private individuals are unfortunately inapplicable to the intercourse of Governments. But there is a limit even to international immorality. Occasions arise where no State can reasonably ask an honorable servant to continue his functions at a Court where he has been deceived to the point of humiliation by methods against which there exists no guarantee consistent with the maintenance of friendly relations. We saw an example of that recently in Europe, when a British Representative had to be transferred from St. Petersburg to Constantinople. Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD and Mr. HAYASHI are now placed in an equally embarrassing position in Peking, if this report about the unfortunate CHANG YIU-WAN be true. Can they continue to transact business with a Government which has thus flouted and deceived them? Certainly they can. There is an easy exit from the difficulty. The Tsung-li Yamên will deny CHANG'S death, and neither Sir CLAUDE not Mr. HAYASHI can refute the denial. That is the sort of vicious circle within which the amity of civilized States can be endorsed now-a-days.

We talk about the ultimate responsibility for CHANG'S assassination. But there is another kind of responsibility: the responsibility of the States that encouraged the reform party in China, and led its members to believe that they would be guaranteed against danger from the pernicious forces which they were endeavouring to overcome.

In the discharge of their duties at foreign courts diplomatists are taught to consider that nothing is more opposed to the tenets of international law than interference in the domestic affairs of the countries to which they are accredited. Many people expressed profound astonishment when they learned the steps that Great Britain had taken to save the life of KANG YU-WEI. Such arbitrary meddling in the internal politics of a foreign State could not be justified for an instant, they said, except on the ground that China lies beyond the purview of all civilized laws. They forget, these critics, that there is a law entirely independent of human jurisprudence: the moral law which requires a State to accept the consequences of its own acts. It is among England's worst reproaches that she has sometimes been heedless in encouraging other countries to adopt courses which they would never have taken without such encouragement, and that she has then declined to assist them against the result of her encouragement. She has avoided that reproach in the case of KANG YU-WEI at any rate. But ought she to stop there? Should no forceful step be taken to check the savage vengeance which the Manchus seem determined to wreak on their political enemies? These questions apply to Japan also. Indeed, they have a much stronger application to Japan, for her connexion with the beginnings of Chinese progress has been more intimate than England's connexion. There would be little difficulty in answering were we quite sure about the action of the reformers themselves. But it begins to be conceivable that their plans did really include such an effacement of the EMPRESS-DOWAGER as would manifestly amount to high treason in China; perhaps in any country. There is as yet no positive evidence, but there are grounds for strong suspicion. Truly the whole thing is a tangled coil. To expect that sound and circumspect reformers will be born amid a Chinese atmosphere seems like looking to gather grapes on thistles. Yet to encourage reform and then to leave its agents in the lurch, is a sure way to destroy its vitality.

INCIDENTS OF THE CHINESE DRAMA.

"On the night of September 25th," says Mr. Ooka Ikuzo, "a member of the British Legation in Peking came to the Japanese Legation, and said that Chang Yiu-wan was to be executed on the following morning. He conjured the Japanese *Chargé d'Affaires* to spare no effort on behalf of the unfortunate man, and said that the British Minister was doing everything in his power to save him. It was a difficult situation, because, under the circumstances of the time, Li Hung-chang seemed to be the most influential person to whom an appeal could be made, and Li was known to be an enemy of Chang's. Nevertheless Marquis Ito and Mr. Hayashi took up the matter warmly, and Li was at last induced to move. With what result, we never knew exactly, but when the next morning came, Chang was not brought out for execution, nor were there any signs of further proceedings against him. It was permissible, therefore, to hope for the best." Vain hope. Chang's life was saved, only to be taken later on when he had passed beyond the sphere of diplomatic protection and was nearing his place of perpetual banishment.

THE NEXT JAPANESE DOMESTIC EXHIBITION.

The High Council on Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce is to meet at the Department of Agriculture and Commerce on the 20th instant, and among the questions to be submitted to it is one relating to the next domestic exhibition in Japan. It is inferred from that fact that the Government intends to pursue the routine originally fixed; in other words, to organize a quinquennial exhibition. The year 1900 would be the proper time, as the last exhibition was held in 1895. But 1900 is the year for the Paris Exhibition, so we may assume that there will be a postponement. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* says that the Osaka citizens are already agitating to have the exhibition in their city, and that the inhabitants of Kyoto are cooperating with them. The exhibition of 1895 would have been in Osaka had not special considerations operated in Kyoto's favour. The Osaka people then stepped aside in Kyoto's favour, so Kyoto is assisting them now.

THE COUNT OF TURIN.

His Royal Highness Prince Vittorio Emanuele has been kept pretty busy since his arrival in Tokyo. What with audiences, visits and return visits, banquets, luncheons and official entertainments of sorts, the Count must have found his time occupied to a tiresome extent. He probably enjoyed his forenoon expedition on the 9th to the Imperial Preserves at Shinhama, where wild fowl are always to be found in abundance, but even after rising at half-past five for an unconscionably early start, and tiffining at the place of sport, he had to return to Marquis Nabeshima's residence at 4 o'clock in the afternoon in order to be present at a meeting of the Italian Society. His duties did not terminate until late in the afternoon of the 11th instant, the forenoon being devoted to going round the barracks of the Imperial Guards, and the early afternoon to entertaining their officers at luncheon. There will not be much time left for seeing the really interesting side of Tokyo. The Prince has a handsome presence, and is gifted with the happy knack of saying the right thing at the right time. He has won golden opinions in Japan.

The Emperor has presented the Grand Collar of the Chrysanthemum to His Royal Highness Prince Vittorio Emanuele. His Majesty visited the Prince at the Shiba Detached Palace on the 9th instant, and handed the decoration to His Royal Highness.

H.I.H. Prince Emanuel will, to-day, proceed to Yokosuka to visit the arsenal, where Marquis Saigo, Minister of the Navy, will entertain him. His Highness will afterwards proceed to Miyanoshita and stay there some days. At the end of this month he will leave for Kyoto, Osaka, and other western cities. He left the capital yesterday afternoon for Yokohama, after being entertained at dinner by Prince Kanin.

The British Admiralty have decided to adopt an ingenious arrangement, made by the Palmer Shipbuilding Company, for cleaning the tubes of water-tube boilers. This apparatus obviates the difficulties hitherto experienced in cleaning the tubes, and promises to prolong their life.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

One of the most interesting features of the Tokyo journals' writing during the past week was a sudden awakening to the necessity of Japan's showing herself conspicuously in Chinese affairs. When the news of the reactionary movement in Peking first reached the Japanese capital, it did not appear to strike any of the newspaper editors that some responsibility devolved on Japan, since she had lent strong encouragement to the progressive movement in the neighbouring empire, and had thus materially assisted to shape the events which culminated in the recent crisis, involving the virtual dethronement of the Emperor, the execution of a number of men innocent of any offence except intelligent patriotism, and the proscription and flight of others. Even England's action in saving the life of Kang Yu-wei and carrying him off to Hongkong, did not rouse Tokyo journalists to any sense of the part that their country ought to be taking, nor was it until mob violence in Peking induced the Foreign Representatives to summon a force of marines to Peking, that Japanese publicists began to detect the exigency of the time. They then spoke up pretty strongly, though, with the exception of the *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Yomiuri*, none seem to have fully discovered the responsibilities alluded to above. The *Yomiuri*, in two articles, urged the Government to send a powerful squadron into the Gulf of Pechili, and declared that if Great Britain and Japan had made a joint demonstration in imposing force, the lives of several men whom China can ill afford to lose might have been saved, and the baleful consequences of the crisis, greatly mitigated. The *Jiji* took a still broader view. It invited the Cabinet to compare the slow, hesitating action of this empire with the prompt, resolute procedure of Great Britain, and it pointed out that if Japan did not step boldly into the arena and prove herself prepared to support the progressive policy advocated by her, she would forfeit the confidence of the Chinese reformers and incur the contempt of the Manchu conservatives. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, with its usual insight, dwelt upon a phase of the question not likely to present itself to ordinary observers, namely, that Japan now occupies a unique position in the East, for among all the Powers interested in Oriental politics she possesses the largest military force. She must therefore be prepared to act up to her position, for if military operations have to be undertaken, the task will devolve upon her primarily. Both of the last-named journals lament the party squabbles which deprive Japan of so much of her national efficiency.

* * *

A curious and powerful attack was made upon the Cabinet during the week by three publications, evidently in obedience to preconcerted agreement—the *Sekai-no-Nippon*, the *Yorozu Choho*, and the *Kokumin Shimbun*. Summed up in a few words, the gist of their assault was that the present Ministry has ceased to possess the confidence of the Emperor. In order to give our readers an idea of the circumstantial manner in which the subject was treated, we shall trace the contentions of these journals in somewhat fuller detail than their intrinsic value demands. The *Sekai-no-Nippon*, which under date an article, declaring determined opposition to any policy of the kind. So far as concerns the maintenance of the temple buildings on account of their artistic value, legislation might be tolerated. But in all other respects the State should carefully avoid any interference with religion. That principle applies with special force at the present time when the country is within a few months of the inauguration of mixed residence and the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. What is to be done about Christianity next July if laws are made now for the control of Buddhist and Shinto affairs? The best, the only wise, plan is to let religion severely alone, Leave the various creeds entirely independent, and do not seek to subject them to any law save that of the survival of the fittest.

* * *

It is the opinion of the *Nippon* that Asia will ultimately be divided between England and Russia, the southern half going to the former, the northern to the latter. On the whole, Russia's method of expansion has some advantages compared with England's There is a certain affinity between the Cossack and the Tartar. Thus the gradual encroachments of the former do not possess the aspect of an invasion in the eyes of the latter. England asserts her sway by the force of civilization and superiority; Russia creeps forward by the strength of affinity and assimilation. Japan will escape absorption by either Power. For whatever might have been the case had the old order remained in these islands, the fact is that during the past forty years the Japanese people have gradually become imbued with English ideas almost to the point of metamorphosis. They have a very slight tendency towards Russia, but their trend is almost wholly towards England. That, however, is a mere question of externals. At heart they have remained, and, will remain, Japanese. Thus, on the one hand, they have obtained security against the forces that make for England's sway, and are safe, on the other, from the influences that Russia exerts. But with the exception of Japan, Asia's fate is sealed.

* * *

There have been two rather striking utterances about the Philippines' problem during the week. One is from the *Mainichi Shimbun*. The Philippines, according to that journal, are coveted by all countries. But Japan has the greatest interest in their fate. It can not be forgotten that at the time when Hideyori was overthrown and Osaka castle fell, great numbers of Japanese *Ronin* made their way to the Philippines. Their influence there is attested by the facts that Manila came to have a *Nippon-machi* with three thousand Japanese living in it, and that the name of Luzon Sukezayemon is still remembered. It behoves Japan, therefore, to watch the course of events closely. She can no longer regard America as a peace-policy country. America has abandoned her old attitude. She has given up the Monroe doctrine. She alone among the Powers has made no response to Russia's peace proposals. But Japan has openly declared her assent to those proposals, and is therefore bound to oppose all aggression on the part of other Powers. She must insist on the independence of the Philippines. Spanish administration is intolerable. It must go; but its disappearance must be the signal for the independence of the islands.

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The *Jiji Shimpo*, on the other hand, in an article evidently intended to be read as a semi-official declaration, says that the problem of the Philippines is not to be solved by the belligerent Powers alone; Japan has to make her voice heard in the matter. The Cabinet has therefore arrived at a definite decision. The details are, of course, secret, but it will not be far from the truth to say that the Government interprets the nation's view to be in favour of Luzon's passing into America's possession, and the other islands' remaining in Spain's hands under an engagement not to transfer them to any other State.

* * *

It is scarcely necessary to say that the Opposition and independent newspapers continue to predict the impossibility of the Constitutional Party's protracted existence. They say that it has deliberately committed suicide and that nothing remains for the Cabinet but resignation. The pettinesses occupying the attention of Ministers to the exclusion of the many vital subjects calling for consideration, has became intolerably unsightly in the eyes of the public, and if things go on in the same groove, the final result will be the complete discrediting of party government. There is still time, however, for the Cabinet to shake off these crippling parasites and strike out a bold and worthy line of policy. Such is the line now taken by the critics.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

The *Tai-yō* (No. 19) has an article entitled *Kokumin-no-tokusei to Shūkyō* (National Characteristics and Religion), of which we give a short epitome. The Shintoists have taken up the cry of nationalism with zeal, but have given to the term *kokutai*, national constitution, an extremely narrow meaning. They maintain that Japanese nationality can only be preserved by means of Shintō. Buddhism and Confucianism they declare to be anti-national. They remind us that the word *sei* used for government was originally interpreted as *matsurigoto*,* or worship of the gods. Hence, according to these counsellors, the only way to revive the spirit of nationalism is to revert to a superstitious observance of the old Shintō rites and ceremonies, and once more bow the knee to the eight million gods of the land. The impossibility of any such course being followed is too apparent to need discussion. Turning to Buddhism, we find that of late Buddhist magazines have been crowded with articles on the connection of Buddhism with Japanese nationality. We are told that for over one thousand years Buddhist teaching has been moulding the thoughts and shaping the lives of the subjects of the empire, our leading moral notions are traced to Buddhist sources; the connection between Buddhism and Japanese art is minutely shown; the names of eminent men who have espoused the Buddhist cause are quoted, and all this is given as a reason for the Government's establishing a close relationship to Buddhism, for its granting privileges to its priests, repairing its ruined temples, and even reviving extinct forms of administration like that of the 門跡 *monseki*.† But how Buddhism is going to deepen the national feelings of the Japanese people, that is what the writers to whom we refer never attempt to show. Their associations called the *Sonkō Hōbutsu daidōdan* and the *Naichi Zakkyō Jumbikai*, have produced no results worthy of mention. How to lead the nation they know not. Both of our ancient religions, then, having failed to develop national feeling it is plain that outsiders must undertake this responsibility.

* * *

The following items are culled from the *Bukkyō*:—The Association of Buddhists sects known as the *Kakushū-kyōkai* has been dissolved. Its chief object having been the compilation of a history of the tenets of the various sects, and this having been published, there is no need for the further existence of the society.

The *Bukkyō* thinks it is in vain for Buddhists to try and imitate Christians in organising various industries. After preaching for centuries the necessity of retiring from the world, for them suddenly to figure as the promoters of various business concerns is, to say the least, very odd. The *Bukkyō* thinks it would be wiser for Buddhists to confine themselves to endeavouring to revive the faith and devotion of their converts. But the *Dentō* contends that there is nothing in the original doctrines of Buddhism to justify the separation from the world and the asceticism practised so scrupulously by certain sects. According to this authority real Buddhism is altruistic and practical and favours the kind of industrial enterprises of which Christianity makes so much capital in influencing mankind. It is said that some of the head temples (本山) belonging to the Buddhists are in a bad way. They are no longer held in honour by the priests of branch temples (末寺) as of old, and hence the money that finds its way to their coffers is considerably reduced.

* * *

The *Fukuin Shimpō* discusses the evangelistic methods of the three great Christian sects represented in Japan—the Roman Catholics, the Greek Church, and the Protestants. According to this authority the Protestant agents have hitherto differed considerably from the other two great sects in the manner in which they have advertised themselves. The methods resorted to by some Protestant evangelists the *Fukuin Shimpō* thinks to be undignified. The Kumiai Kyōkai is specially singled out for unfavourable notice in this connection. The native evangelists and the foreign missionaries connected with this body have used various methods of bringing themselves into public notice. There is an element of strength in all this, but there is also an element of weakness, says the organ we quote. In the evangelistic methods adopted the Greek Church hitherto has occupied a middle place between the Protestants and the Roman Catholics. Its sacred edifices have been treated with great respect, and this Church has abstained from resorting to ways of advertising itself common among Protestants. But in the matter of unobtrusiveness the Roman Catholics have hitherto stood by themselves. The manner of setting to work followed by the Jesuits all the world over is the result of the persecution to which the sect has been subjected in various countries ever since the days of Ignatius Loyola. In Japan the suspicions which from early days they awakened in the minds of the natives led the Jesuits to adopt secret methods of extending their influence. This habit of working unobserved by the world they have retained. In the art of swaying the minds of men without ostentation of any kind they are past masters. But there are signs of change in the tactics of the various sects, says the *Fukuin Shimpō*. The Protestants are no longer saying, "Go to, led us make us a name." They are beginning to see that outward display is not needed, that hitherto they have been imitating the builders of the tower of Babel, whose one thought was the attention they would draw on themselves by their edifice. Appearances are beginning to be disregarded and reality to be more highly prized. In the meantime there is a most noticeable change of policy among the Roman Catholics. They are adopting various devices to bring themselves into notice. They have employed Messrs. Takahashi Gorō and Kume Kunitake to translate certain parts of the Bible. Men like L'Abbé Francois Ligeul have been supplying the reading public with popular treatises on Christian doctrines. Then there is the *Tenchijin*, edited by Mr. Takahashi Gorō, which report says is a Roman Catholic organ.* In the *Tenchijin* they have a remarkably able expositor of their views. In the sphere of education the Roman Catholics are adopting the same forward policy. From this field the Protestants have for some years past been withdrawing their forces. The adoption of what have hitherto been considered Protestant methods by the Roman Catholics is one of the most striking signs of the times. We await with interest, says the *Fukuin Shimpō*, the developments which this new departure is bound to bring.

* * *

The *Rikugō Zasshi* has an article on the effects of mixed residence which simply repeats what has been said a number of times. The *Rikugō* writes as though mixed residence were going to introduce an entirely new order of things as regards religion, as though the creeds would all be subjected to some new kind of ordeal, and goes on to predict that Buddhism and Shintō will not stand the new test. The supposition on which so many essays of this kind are built is that the whole country is going to be flooded with professing Christians from Western lands—an utterly absurd notion. Missionaries are already settled in every part of Japan and all that mixed residence will mean will be a small increase in the number of missionaries residing in the interior and a scattering of agnostics and sceptics from Western lands, with here and there a Christian layman. Whether this will be any improvement on the present state of affairs or will lead to any developments that will be gratifying to the Christians represented by the writer in the *Rikugō Zasshi* is open to grave doubt.

* * *

At the annual meeting of the Japanese Christians attached to the Greek Church

* In modern times when *matsurigoto* refers to worshipping it is written 祭事, and when it refers to Government 政事, but in ancient times there seems to have been no such distinction. In Japan as elsewhere religion and government were inseparable.—(*Writer of the Summary.*)

† This term is applied to the temple where a priest who is, or has been, a member of the Imperial family resides or to the prince himself. The term is frequently used of the Otani brothers.

* Our own information is that the *Tenchijin* was started by the Roman Catholics Missionaries and is their special organ.

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held in Tōkyō on July 13th the following report of the work of the year was made:—There were 1,041 baptisms and 295 deaths. Subtracting the latter and adding existing converts together, the Christians now number 24,260. There are 35 pastors in full orders, called 神品, *shimpin*, 60 evangelists (傳教者, *denkyōsha*), and 56 sub-evangelists, 29 theological students, and 3 assistant evangelists, making a total of 183, to which there has been an addition of four graduates of the Theological Seminary this year, raising the whole number of workers to 187.

* * *

In the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun* appears a reply to Mr. Abe Isoo's explanation of the Dōshisha troubles, of which we gave an abstract in our last Summary. The following is the gist of Dr. Gordon's communication. The opinion expressed by Mr. Abe, namely that the real cause of discussion between the missionaries and the trustees was difference in theological views is quite mistaken. Mr. Abe in his discussion of the subject has mixed up two questions that are quite distinct, namely the question of the alteration of the articles of association by the trustees and the question of the cooperation of the missionaries and the present trustees in the school of divinity attached to the present institution. Nothing affects the matter of the alteration of the articles; it stands quite by itself. The theological views of President Yokoi and the missionaries are different, but even were they the same, the fact that a fundamental rule of the Association had been erased would still remain.

* * *

The *Kirisutokyō Shimbun*, in an article entitled "An Exhortation to the Heads of Christian Schools," strongly advises the directors of such institutions to lose no time in memorialising the Government in reference to the disadvantages under which such schools have hitherto laboured. It is almost certain, says the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun*, that the present Government would respond to any appeal made to them on this subject, as both Count Okuma and Mr. Ozaki are known to hold very liberal opinions on this subject. Mr. Ozaki has already shown himself ready to reform long-standing abuses, and he will not fail to see how great is the injustice that has been done to thoroughly efficient Christian schools in the past.

According to a statement which appears in another part of the paper we have been quoting, Mr. Ozaki, in an interview with a man who signs himself Seiken, expressed strong dissent from the action of the Mombushō in the Dōshisha affair and said that the demand for the alteration of the rules of the Association was most unwarrantable, and that freedom from liability to conscription should certainly be granted to all such institutions. Mr. Ozaki promised to thoroughly investigate the whole of the affair and will doubtless take action.

* * *

The following statistics, bearing on female schools, are taken from the *Jogaku Zasshi*. At the present time there are, in Japan, one Peers' Female School; one Higher Normal School, 30 Government or private female Schools, two Municipal Schools, 21 Ordinary Normal Schools; 65 Protestant Female Schools; 4 Roman Catholic Schools, two Greek Church, 5 Buddhist, 23 other Female Schools, making a total of 158. But it is said that these statistics do not include all the Roman Catholic schools in existence, and that hence it is correct to affirm that more than half of the Girls' Schools in the country have been established by Christians.

* * *

In an article on Science and Religion published in the *Tōkyō Dokuritsu Zasshi*, Mr. Uchimura Kanzō states his belief in the reality of miracles. He regards them as the acts of God and thinks that they should be accepted without questioning by all who believe in the omnipotence of God. As regards those miracles alleged to be performed by other than Divine agencies—these are contrary to science and cannot be accepted, says Mr. Uchimura. Science has to do with the material world; religion with the spirit world. Their spheres are different and they ought to assist, but not interfere with, each other. According to Mr. Uchimura, all conflict between science and religion is caused by a misunderstanding of the fundamental principles and laws of one or the other or of both, but there is no real contradiction between the two. Mr. Uchimura objects to science that is not religious and to religion that is not scientific, and thinks that the two methods of investigation are intended to be a complement to each other.

* * *

The *Rikugō Zasshi* from month to month manages to collect and publish a very large amount of learned matter. The number that lies before us has articles bearing the following titles: "Is Concubinage a form of adultery?" "Similarities in the Development of Confucianism and Buddhism in Japan" (to be continued); "Fine Art and Morality;" "The Historical Connection between Buddhism and Christianity." "On Superstition." "The mystery of Pain" (by the Rev. H. Minami).

The article on the development of Confucianism and Buddhism in Japan is of too abstract and technical a nature to be reproduced here. The gist of it is that one great reason of the success of the two creeds in Japan was the way they encouraged ancestral worship. None of their doctrines were antagonistic to Japanese traditional ideas on the importance of family life and on the sacredness of the Imperial throne.

Another article in the same magazine discusses the desirability of tolerating free religious inquiry in public schools. Hitherto investigation of religion has been discountenanced by the authorities and has been treated as though it savoured of disloyalty. The abolition of rules that have long curtailed the liberty of officers and students of Government schools as regards politics should be followed by the granting of freedom in the matter of religion. The *Rikugō Zasshi* contends that hitherto the Education Department has always been behind the age and has failed to see that there is no stopping half-way in the course that Japan has determined to follow. They have opposed the discussion of political subjects in the schools under the mistaken notion that the assertion of popular rights involves disrespect to the throne. Foreign religions have been discountenanced for a similar reason. There are two special considerations that make it desirable to allow perfect freedom of religious thought in Government schools; one being that there is much in the Christian religion that is improving and elevating and that is greatly needed by modern students; the other being that by granting freedom the Mombushō will make it unnecessary for bright lads with a religious turn of mind to resort to mission schools for an education. There are three objections to the education imparted in mission schools. (1) It is not scientific and cannot be made so. (2) The pupil is apt to acquire moral notions that do not accord with Japanese moral instincts. (3) Sectarian religious education is unavoidably narrow and one-sided.

* * *

The *Shinseiki* rejoices at the attention that is being given to the subject of concubinage, but thinks that the effecting of the desired reform will be a work of time. Among those who keep concubines are Buddhist priests and teachers of Confucianism, the authors of treatises on ethics and noted scholars, says this organ. The practice is favoured by the upper and middle classes rather than by the lower orders. This magazine is of opinion that the Law should interfere. The grounds for interference given by the *Shinseiki* are (1) The practice is contrary to the law of nature. (2) That it destroys all proper feeling between the sexes. (3) That it lowers mankind in the scale of Creation. (4) It is debasing to woman. Confucianism encourages the practice by its teaching, and Buddhism consigns to woman such an ignominious position that no degradation is amiss according to that creed. Christianity alone can be relied on for the suppression of the evil. The texts given by the *Shinseiki* as condemning the practice are Mat. V. 28, Eph. V. 28; 1. Cor. XI, 11.

* * *

A work by Mr. Okura Shōyei, entitled *Yesukyō Kwatsu-ron* (活論), "Living Christianity" has attracted a great deal of attention and is highly praised by various religious organs. The book is for sale at Maruya's, the Keiseisha, and other shops at 25 *sen* per copy. The following is the gist of what the *Shinseiki* has to say on the contents of the volume:—About 10 years ago there appeared from the pen of Dr. Inouye Enryō a work called *Bukkyō Kwatsu-ron*, which caused a great deal of stir and led to much discussion at the time. Mr. Okura's book, though small, is full of matter that should attract attention. Mr. Okura is a judge who has studied Christianity and become an enthusiastic disciple of Christ. The present work represents many years of thought and study. Among the subjects treated by Mr. Okura are: Chap. II. The essentials of Christianity. Chap. III. The abuses connected with Christianity. Chap. IV. The need of Christianity to the individual. Chap. V. The need of Christianity in the State. Mr. Okura shows that there is nothing contrary to the Imperial Rescript on Education in Christian teaching, and insists that it is necessary for the elevation of women, the development of trade, and the facilitating of intercourse with foreigners.

* * *

The translation of the Bible used by the missionaries and in circulation all over Japan, according to the *Shinseiki*, has adopted a style of composition that is very unintelligible to the majority of readers. A Christian called Hirata Hachirō, belonging to the Kyōto Heian Church, has hit on the happy device of rendering the epistles of the New Testament into the Japanese letter language known as *Sōrō*-

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nians have already been published, and are for sale at the Kyōbun-Kan, Ginza, Tōkyō. The *Shinseiki* says that the style is charming, at once easy and dignified. It recommends Japanese to commence the study of the Bible by reading these epistles in their own tongue.

* * *

The *Shinseiki* publishes a long article entitled "Nipponism and Comte's Humanitarianism," in which are given the views of Mr. Uemura Masahisa, expressed in an address delivered at the Ferris Seminary, Yokohama, at the annual meeting of the Nihon-Kirisuto Kyō Kai. We have no space for a lengthy notice of the arguments brought forward by Mr. Uemura to show that the *Nippon Shugi* system, if system it can be called, is a piece-meal concern that is not likely to hold together for any length of time. It seems that Dr. Motora takes the view that this new movement resembles Comte's attempt to found a religion that should possess all the merits and none of the weaknesses of orthodox Christianity. Dr. Motora proposes to reach the Humanitarian stage later on. The nationalism now preached by him is not designed to be the final goal of the devout souls who grant him a patient hearing. He will show them "a more excellent way" later on. Mr. Kimura, another great leader in the nationalistic movement, does not share these opinions and aspirations. He falls back on Shintō for material wherewith to erect the new structure. Mr. Uemura points out that these nationalistic proclivities are a natural result of the strong pro-foreign bias that preceded them. There was a similar movement early in the *Meiji* era, which, however, was very short-lived. One thing is quite plain, says Mr. Uemura, Mr. Kimura's idea of founding the new faith on Shintō theology and Dr. Motora's desire to follow the lead of Auguste Comte and establish a religion of Humanity in Japan are incompatible. It is quite manifest that the new faith has too many incongruous elements to allow of its retaining permanent hold on the minds of men.

* * *

Quite an unlooked-for turn in the affairs of the Otani sect has taken place. Perturbed by the widespread dissatisfaction expressed with their modes of administartion, three of the Otani brothers have resigned their posts and entered on new careers. Otani Kōyen has moved to Tōkyō, and will spend his time there in study and teaching. Otani Shōshin has decided to go to China and his brother Yeisei to Korea. They purpose devoting themselves wholly to mission work in these countries. The intended action of the three brothers was kept a secret until they were in a position to start off on their journeys. Without their purpose being known, they met at a tea-house at Otsu, where Kōyen penned a letter to his subordinates informing them of his resolve and giving directions as to the course to be followed in his absence. Here the two brothers bound for foreign lands took leave of Kōyen, who at once set out for Tōkyō. Shōshin and Yeisei left for Korea on August 24th, where, away from the strife of rival factions, they will calmly consider the situation of the affairs of the sect and decide on their future policy, prior to Shōshin's proceeding to China. It is affirmed that the steps taken by the Chief Abbots indicate a determination on their part to put an end to the abuses, self-indulgence, and empty ceremonialism which for a long time past have brought reproach on the Shin sect. The measures taken are said to have obtained the approval of the various relatives of the Chief Abbots in high life, such as Princes Sanjō and Kujō. The *Shinseiki*, from which we have extracted the facts given above, rejoices over the prospect of radical reform in one of the most influential of Buddhist sects.

* * *

In the *Shinri*, the organ of the German Church, the Rev. E. Schiller publishes an article on Japanese Christianity, of which we give an abstract:—It is only 29 years ago when there were only 6 Protestant Japanese Christians. At the present time they number 40,578. If to these be added the converts of the Greek and Roman Catholic Churches we have a total of 117,224. Although this number appears high, when compared with the total population of the country, it is insignificant, and the era that has passed is only a very short portion of the life of Christianity in this country. Those best qualified to express opinions on the future development of Christianity in Japan are not recent converts, but those who are well versed in its principles and history. It is an undoubted fact that Christianity assumes different aspects in different countries, that it is affected by its setting. Strong national feelings are embodied in widely accepted religions. It is a matter of course that what is called *Yamato-damashii* will blend with Christianity and give it a special colour. This modifying of the creed may appear to some as degrading, but it is not really so. Christianity is not an abstract system of doctrine that is incapable of being adapted to different situations. Though the spirit of Christianity never changes, it is capable of the widest application. The combination of Christian doctrine and national sentiment is both natural and desirable, and it is only after a creed has become thoroughly nationalised that it can be said to be thoroughly established in a country. The assertion that Christianity destroys nationalism is refuted by the intense nationalism that exists in Western Christian countries. The notion that it was Christianity that killed the patriotism of the Romans and hastened the downfall of the empire is contrary to fact. The Western Roman empire was not destroyed till several hundred years after the birth of Christianity, and the Eastern empire survived for one thousand years after the birth of Christ. Instead of eradicating national feeling, Christianity increases and deepens it, as the Japanese will find out if they give it a trial.

* * *

The *Seikyō Shimpō* (Greek Church) gives an account of a visit paid to the Christians of the island of Shikotan by Bishop Nicolai. They are 61 in number, 16 men, 23 women, and 22 children. The inhabitants speak Japanese, but some of the older men are able to converse in Russian. Bishop Nicolai received a warm welcome. The Christians are said to be very earnest and united and to be sufficiently educated to read Christian books. The Church on this island dates from very early times, and it is said that an unusual amount of harmony exists among the Christians, and that the tone of morals among them is high.

Two volumes of an Ecclesiastical History have been issued by the Tenshudō, the Roman Catholic Press at Kōbe, entitled *Seikōkai-shi*, which sell at 25 *sen* per volume. The work is highly praised by the *Koye*, the Roman Catholic organ, which asserts that no such minute history of the Church has been published in Japanese. The History is based on a course of lectures delivered at Kōbe by a foreign Missionary, which were taken down and reproduced in book form by Mr. Katayama Gizō.

* * *

We observe that the *Taiyō* gives quite a different complexion to the action taken by the Otani brothers mentioned above. According to the *Taiyō* the action of the Abbots is the result of a whole network of plotting carried on by Ishikawa Shuntai, who, it will be remembered, succeeded Atsumi Keiyen as business manager of the Otani-ha. The *Taiyō* represents this man to be a consummate schemer, who, in order to secure his own ends, has succeeded in inducing the heads of the sects to absent themselves from its headquarters. There is much that is very improbable in the *Taiyō* version, and until further evidence is forthcoming it would be rash to give it credence.

* * *

The *Bukkyō*, in an editorial, discusses the state of various parties among the Buddhists. Those who are responsible for the progress of the religion may be divided into preachers, scholars, and business agents. But these again may be divided into leaders and followers.* There are certain priests who invariably keep ahead of their brethren—men of spirit and enlightenment; nothing could induce them to be left behind in the race of life. There are, on the other hand, loiterers whom nobody can persuade to quicken their pace. These latter are entirely without ambition, and seem to have no object in life beyond the supply of daily wants. There are only 7 Buddhist scholars who may be said to be versed in modern learning and to be in every way abreast of the age. They are Shaku Sōyen, Nanjō Bunyū, Murakami Sensei, Kiyosawa Mitsuyuki, Shimaji Mokurai, Ouchi Seiran, and Inouye Enryō. Among these Murakami, Ouchi, and Inouye are the most remarkable. Murakami differs from the other two in keeping himself apart from the world and cultivating personal purity. His views are decided and he never alters them to suit the age. There is less stability and less personality with Mr. Ouchi and Dr. Inouye. To a certain extent they drift with the tide. Though in writing and speaking they use the watchwords of progressives, their ideas are still strongly coloured with conservatism. Thus it may be said that there is a want of distinctness and outspokenness even among the most advanced exponents of Buddhist thought. It cannot be said that there is any man who can be called really great in the Buddhist world. The article concludes with an earnest exhortation to young Buddhist priests to bestir themselves and endeavour to make their influence felt throughout the land.

* The terms 先輩, *Senpai* and 後進, *Kōshin* are used here. For the meaning of these *vide* Brinkley's Dictionary.—[*Writer of the Summary*]

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CONTRA BONOS MORES.

It partakes somewhat of the gnat-straining-and-camel-swallowing character that a publication like *Le Nu* should be prohibited in Japan on the ground of *fūzoku kairan*, while the pictures enclosed in the packets of cigarettes sold by certain firms should be allowed to pass freely into the hands of the public. The nude in art has at least its defensible side. It is at all events artistic, whatever may be said of its morality, and unless the painter abuses his liberty, it does not degenerate into licence. But the pictures enclosed in some packets of cigarettes are frankly salacious. They are expressly designed with immoral intent, and there is not a word to be said for them from any point of view except that of the cigarette vendor.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

The Prince Imperial, whose proposed journey to Kyoto had been deferred owing to indisposition, left Tokyo by the 8.10 train on the morning of the 10th His Imperial Highness spent two nights in Nagoya, and continue the journey to Kyoto on the 12th instant.

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Yokohama St. Andrew's Society, held at the Club Hotel under the presidency of Mr. W. Ross, Mr. W. F. Mitchell was elected President; Mr. W. Gordon, Vice-President; Mr. J. McArthur, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. H. W. Fraser, Hon. Secretary; and Messrs. C. W. Ure, C. M. Duff, J. Stiven, R. M. Stirling, and Geo. Philip, Committee. It was decided to hold a ball on St. Andrew's Day on lines similar to those of last year. The Society's funds amount to *yen* 630.70, an increase of *yen* 307 72 over last year. There were 53 resident members on the list against 48 last year—13 new members having joined during the year; and 57 absent members, against 48 last year. Mr. John Stiven has become a life member.

ATTEMPTED MURDER IN YOKOHAMA.

On Thursday night about 11.40, a woman named Tanaka Mitsu(20), employed at the small restaurant Sugiyama at Kitagata, Bluff, was seriously wounded on her neck and right hand, and slightly on the breast, by a man named Morita Totaro (26). The wounds were inflicted with a large fish knife. Morita decamped, but gave up himself at the Bluff Police Station early this morning. Jealousy is the motive alleged. The woman was sent to the Hospital at once.

WHY DID I LOVE HER?

"I loved her. Why? I never knew. Perhaps
Because her face was fair. Perhaps because
Her eyes were blue and wore a weary air.
Perhaps! Perhaps because her limpid face
Was eddied with a restless tide, wherein
The dimples found no place to anchor and
Abide. Perhaps because her tresses beat
A froth of gold about her throat, and poured
In splendour to the feet that ever seemed
Afloat. Perhaps because of that wild way
Her sudden laughter o'erleapt propriety;
Or—who will say?—perhaps the way she wept."

J. W. RILEY.

BURGLARY ON THE BLUFF.

The Japanese house on the Bluff occupied by Messrs. H. E. Hayward and N. B. Morton, has been entered by thieves, who decamped with several prize cups, won by both gentlemen in Yokohama regattas.

THE FÊTE OF CONFUCIUS.

REMARKABLE MOVEMENT IN YOKOHAMA.

INTERVIEW WITH A PROGRESSIVE CHINAMAN.

A good many people in Yokohama, seeing the lanterns and Dragon flags so plentifully displayed in Chinatown, have been asking "What is it all about?' A Chinese holiday in October is quite an innovation; Confucius' "birthday" has come and gone for many years without much public notice being taken of the fact; and foreigners are naturally a little puzzled by this sudden impulse on the part of the Chinese to celebrate the advent into the world of the great philosopher. With a view to elucidating the point a representative of this journal made his way on Wednesday into Chinatown, and threaded the mazes of that queer-smelling and mysterious quarter until he reached the Tai Tung School, where he reckoned on finding some educated and good-natured Chinese who could explain the whole thing to him. In this aim he was successful. While he was endeavouring, in the very vilest Japanese, to explain his mission to a portly Celestial to whom he first addressed himself, another Chinese gentleman came forward, and politely asked if he could be of service. Our representative briefly explained in English what he wanted.

"Well, you see," answered the Chinese, "we are celebrating the birthday of Confucius. According to our ancient history he was born 2,449 years ago."

"But this is the first time, I believe, that you have had any celebration of the sort in Yokohama?"

"Yes, and it is the first general celebration in China for a very long time. It has a political significance, and is associated with the new Reform Party, of whom I am one."

"You mean the party of Kang Yiu-wei?"

"Yes, I know Kang Yiu wei personally. The Reform Party is much more influential in China than Europeans are apt to think. And you are quite mistaken, too, in the view that there is no such thing as patriotism in China. There are many patriots, men who see that reform is vitally necessary, and who do not mind risking all for the good of their country."

"But they are crushed for the time being, are they not?"

"Yes, but only for a time. They are bound to win in the long run; they must either do that or the other Powers—like Russia—will force themselves in. The Manchus cannot stand. As for us, we are a very large and influential party, and, as I say, there are many patriots among us. Some of us may lose our heads, but what of that?—those who follow will win."

"But in what sense has this celebration a political significance?"

"Well, you see, the Reform Party in China and nearly all the intelligent and enlightened men of the country, are followers of Confucius. He is the great philosopher of the Chinese. He formed Chinese ideas, gave us letters, and founded a philosophy which even now we find, as we think, the best in the world. For a long time past he has been neglected. No feasts have been held in his honour, and the great mass of the Chinese have fallen into worship of idols and other barbarous kinds of religions. We, the Reformists, are reviving the cult of Confucius. The majority of us do not believe in supernatural religion; we are what you call free-thinkers, and are more concerned in making this world better than in thinking of the affairs of another. Confucianism has no hold on the Manchus, who have many different kinds of religions, and generally regard Confucianism with distrust and dislike."

"Then this is a Chinese celebration purely?"

"Yes, there are a number of Manchus in Yokohama belonging to the Russo Chinese Bank, and they hold themselves altogether aloof. They have nothing to do with us."

"How do you Reformists view the Manchu dynasty, since there is such a wide distinction between your objects and those of the Manchus?"

"Well, the Emperor, though he was a Manchu, was also a reformer, a friend to our party. What will happen now I can not say. But I do not think that the party at present in power will be able to stop the march of progress."

"What is your Party programme?"

"In the first place—and this is most important—we wish to put a stop to the system of giving all administrative posts to *literati*. That is a most important reform, and must be carried into effect before anything can be done. Then we wish to establish newspapers all over China. We regard them as the only means of instructing the people and giving them an interest in the affairs of state. That is the secret of what you call Chinese apathy. There are plenty, as I said before, of patriotic men in China—men who are willing to risk all for their principles—but the mass of the people know nothing of politics; they are ignorant of everything that is going on outside their own villages, and consequently it is difficult to awaken in them any sense of national questions. Then, of course, we are pledged to advocating the abolition of foot-binding for women and things of that kind. We are opposed to opium smoking also, which we consider a fearful evil, and one of the greatest bars to progress."

Our representative delicately hinted that the teaching of Confucius, however valuable, might be as little fitted to form the gospel of a modern reform party as Plato's "Republic" would be to become the text-book of political economy for present-day Europe.

But the Chinese gentleman would not have it; Confucius was great, and Confucius only was great, in his opinion. He claimed that the Sage's doctrines formed the system of morals and philosophy most suited to the Chinese character, and he hinted that modern Europe had no more practical or common-sense belief. He seemed anxious to make it quite clear that Confucianism involved no superstition, though it was not inconsistent with the profession of religion.

"Of course we do not worship that," he said, pointing to the shrine of the God of War in the Guildhall. "Some women do, and some ignorant men, but not educated Confucianists."

"The Japanese are with you to some extent in this celebration, are they not?" asked our representative.

"Yes, we have had much help from them. The Japanese are in sympathy with us as reformers, for we are trying to do in China what they have done in Japan. Many of the higher and more intelligent classes in Japan are Confucianists, and we have had much help from them in money and other ways. A good part of the 3,000 *yen* for this celebration in Yokohama has been subscribed by Japanese, and we are expecting many Japanese visitors from Tokyo and Yokohama."

A casual remark as to Li Hung-chang and his party provoked the placid Chinaman from his ordinarily gentle tone of voice.

"Li Hung-chang," he said, "is a very bad man. If I were near him I should want to put some dynamite under him. He is hopelessly behind the times. Look at the questions he put to Marquis Ito, according to the interview in the papers. They show what little conception he has of the state of things in Japan, or, indeed, anywhere but in Peking. It is a bad thing for China that he is in power again."

He expressed great satisfaction at the action of England with regard to securing the safety of Kang Yu-wei, and this led to a remark as to the kidnapping of Sun Yat-sen by the Chinese Legation Officers in London two or three years ago.

"Sun Yat-sen," he said, "had nothing to do with us. We do not know anything about him. I believe, however, he is in Yokohama now."

"You speak English well," remarked the reporter, who had been fairly astounded to hear such easy flowing periods in his own language from a gentleman wearing a queue.

"No, not at all well," was the modest reply, "but I ought to know something of it. I studied at the Victoria College in Hongkong, and I passed the Senior Oxford Local Examination there."

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BANQUET.

If the shades of the mighty dead still retain any human weaknesses that of Confucius should, as the Scotchman said, "be a proud mon the day." His worship in Yokohama has been thorough enough to please even the most exacting of deified philosophers. Confucius has had a long innings. He is the "W.G." of philosophy. He has made the longest recorded stay and one of the biggest scores, and, to carry the sporting analogy further, he seems destined to carry his bat. Confucius was born 2449 years ago—the Chinese calendars are certain on that point, and can almost tell us the exact hour of his first appearance in the world—and yet he has followers as devoted as the remote semi-barbarians he first instructed. Whether it was Confucius who first showed the Chinese how to make roast pork, or whether Charles Lamb's account of the evolution of that toothsome article can be taken as correct, is a question which must be left to the imagination, but if he did not bestow this priceless blessing it is certain that he left his nation legacies of a no less valuable if less material nature. And the cult of Confucius, old and threadbare as Europeans may consider it, seems still to appeal to the more cultivated class of Chinese mind more than any of the religious or philosophical systems of the west.

The present year is the first time that the birthday of Confucius has been celebrated to any extent by the Chinese community in Yokohama, and, as pointed out in the interview which appears to-day, it has a political significance. Only Chinese in sympathy with the party of reform at home are taking part in the ceremony; the Manchus or Conservatives have held themselves conspicuously aloof. While every Chinese shop in Main Street and in China town was exhibiting flags and lanterns and throwing crackers, the offices of the Russo-Chinese Bank, where the employés are all Manchu, remained ungarnished and silent, and though the bank was not opened, the staff kept themselves quite apart from the festivities. None of the Chinese Government officials, either in Yokohama or Tokyo, observed the day.

With these exceptions the Chinese population plunged into merry-making on Wednesday with an ardour which quite disproved the old libel that a Celestial's chief pleasure consists in sitting on his ancestors' graves. Everywhere they were to be seen in their best Sunday-go-to-temple clothes—mostly of gay blue, yellow, or red, for the Chinese still delight in primary colours; the Guild-hall and the streets round it swarmed like a beehive; and the display of lanterns and flags was sufficient to furnish a hundred church bazaars. At the Tai Tung School all the good little boys—and the good little boys number about 140—were drawn up in a double line nicely arranged according to height and length of pigtail so as to form an exquisite ascending and descending scale; and then they were marched round the streets of the Settlement to European music. Then they were given a great feed of all kinds of Chinese dainties, for which no doubt they blessed Confucius. The afternoon was spent by the devout in visits to the shrine of the Philosopher, and by the worldly-minded in social pleasures. And in the evening there were two great attractions—a grand dinner at the Guild hall and a big display of fireworks at the Recreation Ground.

At the former a representative of the *Japan Mail* was among the invited guests, and found himself, with one exception, the only European present. There were plenty of Japanese, however,—a notable fact as showing the improvement in the relations between the two races. It is not so long since a Chinaman was by no means a *persona grata* in the eyes of Japanese, and the feeling was, to say the least, heartily reciprocated. This indeed is, we believe, the first great occasion on which numbers of Japanese and Chinese have sat down at a common dinner table. There was, however, no awkwardness and under the kindly influence of the Chinese stimulants the fraternisation was complete. Among the principal Japanese guests were:—Messrs. Otani Kahei, Ikariyama, Superintendent of the Settlement Police Station; Takagi, and Higuchi, officials of the Kencho; Umeda, Mayor of Yokohama, &c. Altogether there were between 600 and 700 present.

The Chinaman is a capital host, good-humoured and jolly, and with a breath of mind and of waistcoat for which he is not commonly given credit. His appetite and capacity for eatables and drinkables would have not discredited a Gothic hero. The poor degenerate foreigner regarded with something like awe the perseverance with which the Chinese ploughed through a menu beside which a Guild-hall banquet would be a mere pleasantry. Of speaking there was a little, and what there was took place between the first few courses. It was partly in Chinese and partly in Japanese, and was of a purely complimentary nature.

Mr. Otani Kahei, who presided, explained that the Festival of Confucius will in future be celebrated every year. Mr. Nishimura, the President of the Yokohama Primary School, followed, and Mr. Tan Yik Ting, Mr. Chang Wei Lum, and Mr. Tsu Kan also spoke.

The meal was a curiosity to a new hand. It was served at small tables, and the guests were all accommodated with chairs, so that the great objection (in foreign eyes) to a Japanese dinner did not trouble the European guests. Before each person was placed a tiny cup, rather larger than a thimble, for the hot Chinese liquor, a plate about an inch and a half in diameter (which was never changed throughout the meal), a pair of ivory chopsticks, and a packet of cigarettes, one of which was smoked between each dish. The first course was simply one of trifles, parched almonds, melon seeds with astonishingly hard shells (yielding little result to an immensity of labour), and fried bananas to be eaten with soy. Then followed the famous bird's nest soup, succulent and more palatable than might be thought. Then came shark's fin, also good; pigeon soup, mushroom and chicken, stewed salmon, fried chicken and bamboo. By this time a man of ordinary appetite began to feel a sense of satiety, and looked forward to fresh courses with apprehension. But fresh courses came, notwithstanding. There was the brain of the *wong* fish, whatever creature that may be; there was a duck skilfully boned and cunningly stewed in its own skin; there was a dish of the *awabi* shell fish; there was a preparation of pork which, like the pork pie of Sam Weller, was "rayther too rich," as it consisted apparently of little but fat; there were mushrooms and bamboo done in mysterious sauces; chicken and ham; and one or two things which defied analysis. And then at last, when one was afraid the succession of dishes might last till the crack of doom, came the finishing courses of cakes, tea, and fruit. The manner of serving was simple. Each dish was placed in the centre of the table, and the guests helped themselves, a mouthful at a time, till they had satisfied their wants. Then, at the end of it all—the meal lasted from 6.30 till nearly 10—cheers were raised for all and sundry, and the visitors withdrew, each with a little present of confectionery. It was really a very pleasant evening, and gave a novice many new ideas concerning the Chinese. He learnt that the better class Chinaman can be a jolly companion, hospitable, profoundly courteous, and by no means uninteresting as a conversationalist.

It should be mentioned that the committee arranging the three days' fete consists of the following:—Messrs. Chen Chik-U, Director, T. Kingsell, sub-director; Kong-Yue-Pon, Ah Mang, Pakcheun Li, Kong-Moon, Kang Sang Wo, Kang Mow Tai, Fok-Wo, Chok Hin Chan, and Tak Lung.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT HANKOW.

OVER A THOUSAND LIVES LOST.

The river steamer *Kutwo*, which arrived at Shanghai from Hankow on Oct. 6th, brought news of a terrible fire which broke out in the native city of Hankow on Oct. 1st. When the *Kutwo* left the fire was still burning and threatening to wipe out the city. It is believed that the loss of life will be over 1,000.

KOREAN NOTES.

The *Sŏul Independent* is nothing if not oracular. In a late issue it declared that "the quickest way of offending a Korean gentleman is to ask him what business he is engaged in. The idea that a *yangban* should so disgrace himself and his ancestors as to be engaged in any business! Why, he is an officer, or expects to be one. Isn't he the son-in-law of a certain Minister of State? Or he may be the friend of one of the innumerable courtiers. He stands a fine chance of being appointed a *Chusa*, or an Imperial Grave Keeper, or, better still, a magistrate. By skillful squeezing in one magistracy he may be able to realise money enough to buy another. Nothing pays better."

Our Korean contemporary sets forth in moving terms the history of the projected Central Chamber of Commerce, which it staunchly objects to. In language that it has made peculiarly its own it says that the institution "is the latest invention of the diseased but active brain of Mr. Cho Pyeng-sik," the late President of the Council of State. The ostensible object of the Chamber is "the advancement of commerce," and the "enrichment of the National Treasury," but our contemporary sees in the scheme merely an attempt at "squeezing" on a large scale. Hence it imagines that the Government will readily grant official recognition to the Chamber.

The disgraceful proceedings of the mob who broke into the prisons and carried therefrom the corpses of the men beheaded for alleged complicity in the Coffee Pot poisoning plot, is in accordance with Korean traditions. There seems to be little doubt that Sin Kui-sun, the Minister of Law, was a party to the barbarity, as he has been openly agitating for a return to the old system of torture and mutilation where political crimes are concerned.

It seems that the Independent Club tried to impeach Sin Kui-sun and Yi Qn-woo, Minister and Vice-Minister of Justice, respectively, but the Supreme Court refused to consider the indictment on the ground that the accused were the two highest officials of the Court. Nothing daunted, the Club, on the 3rd inst., addressed a letter to the Premier, H E. Sim Soontaik, and H.E. Yun Yongsun, the Vice-President of the Council, asking them to report to His Majesty the offences of which Messrs. Sin Kuisun and Yi Inwoo are accused. H.E. Yun Yongsun promised to lay the matter before His Majesty as soon as the ceremonies connected with the annual sacrifice to the spirit of the late Empress were over.

CHINESE NEWS.

H.E. Shao Yu-lien, ex-Governor of Formosa, and at one time Taotai of Shanghai, who has made that port his residence during the last six years, received a telegram on September 30th from members of the Grand Council that the Empress-Dowager desired his assistance at Peking. It is not thought likely, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that H.E. will accept this invitation having retired from public affairs for so many years.

A Nanch'ang, capital of Kiangsi, dispatch to the *Universal Gazette* states that one of the richest members of the notables of that city, named Chu, recently petitioned the provincial high authorities for permission to construct a railway between Nanch'ang and Kiukiang, a distance of 400 *li*. The petition states that one-half of the required funds will be furnished by the petitioner himself while the other half has been promised by an American syndicate. It was believed that the necessary permission for the construction of the line would be given.

The first grant of a patent to a native of the Celestial Empire, arising out of recent reform edicts, is thus described by the *N.-C. Daily News*:—A local native mechanic, it will be remembered, went abroad a short time ago to the

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Taotai an electric incandescent lamp of unique design, suitable for dwelling houses, which the former had invented and which he styled the "Clear Moonlight Electric lamp." The Taotai thought well of the thing and reported favourably on it to the Viceroy Lin at Nanking, asking that a patent be granted the inventor, Chang Kuo-yung, in accordance with the recent Imperial edict on Copyrights and Patents. The following is the Viceroy's rescript on Tsai Taotai's petition:—"I have received the Shanghai Tao tai's petition concerning an electric lamp called the 'Clear Moonlight Electric lamp' which he claims was invented by one Chang Kuo-yung, and requesting that the said inventor be granted for a certain period of years the sole privilege of manufacturing said lamp to the exclusion of any other party or parties. I have seen this lamp, which the inventor personally brought to this *yamên* for inspection, and being satisfied with the justice of his claims hereby grant him the sole privilege of manufacturing the said 'Clear Moonlight Electric lamp' for the space of ten years as a reward for his efforts in this direction and an encouragement to others. Letters patent are hereby made out covering the ground, and handed over to the said Chang Kuo-yung to have and to hold in proof thereof. I have also notified the Tsung-li Yamên, the High Commissioner of the Peiyang Administration, and the Governor at Soochew of this matter, with the request to put the same on record and for the purpose of preventing any attempt by others to imitate the said invention."

The principal Japanese merchants and residents of Shanghai gave a grand banquet to Marquis Ito on October 6th in Chang Su-ho's garden, to which sixteen Chinese officials were also invited, amongst them being H.E. K'nei, Viceroy-designate of Szechuan, Railway Director Shêng, the Shanghai Taotai, and other distinguished mandarins. H.E. Huang, Minister-designate to Japan, was also invited, but owing to indisposition was unable to be present. The banquet was voted a success, remarks the *N.-C. Daily News*.

It is reported from Peking that, immediately after the *coup d'état* of the 22nd ultimo, the Empress-Dowager was anxious to re-instate Li Hung-chang in the Tsung-li Yamên, but was opposed by Grand Secretary Jung Lu, who told her that he "had heard while in Tientsin that if this were done the British fleet would seize Newchwang." The contemplated step was therefore laid on the shelf, for the time being, observes a Shanghai contemporary, for it is said that the Empress-Dowager is determined to put Li into power once more.

The *Universal Gazette* states that the proposed Council of Ten in the Maoching Throne-hall to advise the Emperor on State Affairs, was a project of the Reform Party, and would have been put into execution in lieu of a representative government as first proposed. The following were to be among the members of this Advisory Council:—Kang Yu-wei, Liang Chi-chao, Kang Kuang-jên, Hsü Chih-ching, Hsü Jên-chu (his son), and Li Tuan-fên, President of the Board of Rites. Of these six two have escaped; one has been executed; one imprisoned for life; one banished to Kashgaria, and one cashiered for ever.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* states that "the British, French, German, Italian, and Japanese Ministers are reported to have demanded an explanation of the Emperor's dethronement in tones which imply that the regency of the Empress-Dowager is resented, though so cleverly has it been established that it is difficult to know on what precise grounds exception can be based, in the absence of all proof that violence was either attempted or meditated," but, remarks a Shanghai contemporary, judging from the carefully guarded wording of the article, the above is merely surmise.

On the 6th October, the *North China Daily News* began its leading article with the question, "Is the Emperor still alive?" and then continued:—"It seems incredible in this age of rapid communication by means of telegraph, railroad, and steamer that a decadent nation, trembling on the verge of an international partition, should be able to hoodwink the world for two weeks and keep it still in despairing doubt as to the real situation. If we carefully calculate the probabilities there can seem to be but little doubt that Kuang Hsü has been made away with, and that the Regent is now keeping up the farce of his nominal reign until the convenient time of announcing his demise comes around. Since the failure of the *coup* of the Reform Party no Imperial Decree or act has shown any signs of the existence of the Emperor, but in every instance the position and purpose of the Empress-Dowager have been expressed and strengthened. In only one instance has there been any real effort to present him as a living man, and that was at the audience granted to the Princes and Ministers of State when the Emperor and Empress-Dowager are said to have sat together on the throne and received the obeisance of these men. The absurdity, however, of considering this as proving the existence of the Emperor at that time is at once recognised, when it is remembered that at Imperial audiences the Ministers who are being received are ushered into the Imperial presence with bowed heads and eyes fixed on the ground, and that under no consideration are they ever allowed to lift their eyes to glance upon the Dragon face of the Son of Heaven under penalty of immediate cashiering. Our translations from the *Peking Gazette* have more than once shown the severity of the etiquette enforced at these audiences. Hence the fact of these Ministers being presented does not carry with it any proof that they really kowtowed to Kuang Hsü, for the Empress-Dowager could have had any person she chose sitting beside her at the time without running the risk of an exposure on the part of the attending Ministers; and the probability of any Minister attempting the least breach of official propriety which would subject him to culpability during the present reign of terror, is minimised to the vanishing point. Except from this one occurrence we have nothing to guide us in forming a definite opinion, apart from the general shuffling of the Empress-Dowager."

In the course of a leading article on the Peking Enigma, the *N.-C. Daily News* states that the Empress Dowager "is possessed of an ample fortune, which would enable her to live in opulence in any part of the world to which she might choose to make her escape in a critical moment, and this plan we have reason to believe is one which has been carefully arranged against the day of necessity."

It is perhaps not generally known, says a Shanghai newspaper, that the Grand Secretary Yung Lu, who, until the other day, held the post of Viceroy of Chihli, is a favourite nephew of the Empress-Dowager—the son of her only sister—and that this circumstance alone, if any other were wanting, would have placed him on her side in the conflict with His Majesty Kuang Hsü and the Reform Party. Naturally, since the *coup*, Yung Lu has been made more powerful than ever, in fact, the most powerful official in the Empire, for since his recall to Peking he has been appointed not only Generalissimo of the naval and military forces of the Peiyang, but also Comptroller-General of the Affairs of the Board of War, an appointment which places him in supreme control of all the military forces of the Empire and of China's modern fleet. His rank as Grand Councillor and Second Grand Secretary further places him at the head of all the civil officials of the Empire with the exception of Li Hung-chang, who happens to hold the post of *Wênhua-tien*, or Senior Grand Secretary. The power Yung Lu holds now would enable him to carry out effectually the most ambitious personal schemes, were he so disposed.

A Chinese correspondent, writing from Newchwang to the *N.-C. Daily News*, states that the Russian men-of-war in the Gulf of Pechili have of late been following the movements of those done so, if, luckily for him and unluckily British ships, dogging the latter wherever they go, a trick the former learned from the latter in the early part of the eighties at the time of the British seizure of the island of Quelpart. In the mind of the ordinary mandarin, who has not the least idea of the actual strength and fighting qualities of the two navies, this action of the Russians has raised their prestige to an inordinate degree, as showing that the Russians are not afraid of the British and are ready to spring upon the latter at the first opportunity. "There are, indeed," continues the correspondent, "many Chinese officials whose knowledge of the West prevents them from being deceived by these movements of the Russians, but such educated officials are now under the weather, and many dare not declare their principles or show themselves in their true light since the unfortunate events in Peking. Nor would they now, had they the opportunity, venture to enlighten their conservative colleagues on points which would lead to their being suspected of favouring the reforms advocated by Kang Yu-wei."

When the Hon. Stewart Lockhart and party were engaged in their survey of the Kowloon extension in August, they met with insulting behaviour and opposition from some of the inhabitants of the Kam Tim village. It was then necessary to make some display of force before the survey party could proceed with their work, but the matter was not allowed to rest there. The Viceroy and the *Tsung-li Yamên* were appealed to, and the result was that the gentry of the neighbourhood were compelled to send an ample apology, and nine of the village residents, consisting of two undergraduates, one elder, and six farmers, were ordered to Hongkong, and, in the presence of some of the Colonial officials, made to *kow-tow* to the British flag floating at Murray Battery.

We understand, says the *Hongkong Daily Press*, that it has been decided that the Toulmin case is to go to Shanghai for trial. This is the case in which the accused, formerly captain of the American steamer *Dosing*, running on the West River, is charged with having shot the compradore. The case originally came before the American Consular Court at Canton. The accused applied for a change of venue, and Consul-General Goodnow, of Shanghai, has recently been at Canton in connection with the matter, the result being that the trial will take place at Shanghai. The *Mercury* denies the statement.

If the new régime in Peking does not alter the arrangements of the Peking University, of which Dr. Martin is to be the foreign president, accommodation will be provided for about 1,000 day students. The building is situated on the side of the Imperial Hill, being the old palace of the fourth daughter of Tao Kwan. It is expected to open about the 20th of this month. There are to be seven professors of foreign languages, we believe, schools of engineering, agriculture, and medicine, and the curriculum will include all Western sciences. A gymnasium will be attached, and athletics will be made compulsory where health permits. The grounds of the building, which occupy an area of some 1400 feet, will afford space for a good bicycle track and recreation ground. Properly carried out, the institution promises well.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Inouye, the Japanese Minister at Brussels, was yesterday released from his post. Mr. Motono, the 1st secretary of the St. Petersburg Legation, has succeeded him.

A novel development of cricket has been reported from Ceylon. In a match between two military teams one of the field attempted a catch off a high drive. He misjudged the distance, and instead of his catching the ball, it caught him on the top of the head; at least it would

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for the batsman, he had not been wearing a regulation pith helmet. The yielding substance of this tropical headgear admitted—and retained—the ball. "How's that, umpire?" was asked, when the astonished field realised that the ball had not fallen. "Out."

The dead bodies of a young man and woman each about 24 years of age, were found in the Creek near the Grand Hotel on Tuesday morning. The bodies were tightly tied together. The Harbour Police believe they drowned themselves in some other part of the Bay, and were washed into the Creek by the tide.

Miss Arnold, the nineteen-year-old St. Louis girl whom Lieutenant Hobson kissed at a reception at Long Beach, has become the fashion. The kiss of the hero of Santiago has made of her the arbiter of fashions, the director of the latest fads. In a word, the pressure of his bearded chin has made her the "rage." Dressmakers are begging her permission to name new garments in her honour. Milliners crave the privilege of calling their latest "shape" of hat by her name. Shoedealers want a new tapering heel or a novelty in dancing slippers to be known as the Emma Arnold. A composer is at work upon the Hobson-Arnold waltz. Poems have been inspired by her. The Hobson kiss, a new bar-room drink, is a rival of the famous gin-rickey, tribute to a Missouri Congressman. A famous collie, valued at 2500 dollars, is no longer known as Golddust, but as Emma Arnold. Letters and telegrams come to her in floods every day. They are requests for locks of her hair, inquiries as to how she dresses her hair, information that dramas to be known as "The Hobson Kiss," or "How the Hero of Santiago Distinguished Himself," are being cast, petitions for her autograph, and proposals of marriage; cadets and naval officers send jocose or serious telegrams, and a king of silver mines asks her to be the "sunshine of his gray life."

THE MAILS FOR CHINA.

The Postal Authorities lately published some additions to the Postage Table, from which it appears that the transmission of mail matter is now extended to every part of China, whereas it was formerly confined to some thirty places.

The explanations appended to the Table with reference to mails for China are the following:—

1. Places mentioned under A are governed by the rules of the Postal Union.
2. Full prepayment of postage is compulsory to places mentioned under B. C. and D.
3. Postcards with prepaid answers cannot be forwarded to places mentioned under C. and D.
4. Correspondence cannot be registered to places mentioned under D.
5. Correspondence is subjected to an additional charge for postage in the case of places mentioned under D.
   a. Amoy, Canton, Chefoo, Foochow, Haihow, Hankow, Hangchow, Ningpo, Shanghai, Shashi, Soochow, Swatow, Tientsin.
   b. Kiauchou, Niuchuang, Port Arthur, Talienwan, Tsimo, Tsintaufort.
   c. Chinkiang, Chinkiang Chunking, Hanyang, Hokow, Ichang, Kalgan, Kinkiang, Kuling, Kunchow, Mengtsz, Nankin, Ngankin, Newchwang, Ouiga, Pagoda Anchorage, Pakhoi, Peking, Samshui, Santuan, Szemao, Taku, Tangshan, Tatung, Tengchow, Tungchow, Whampoa, Wenchow, Wuhu, Wuchang, Woosung, Wu-üsh, Wuchow, Yochow.
   d. Places not enumerated under A.B.C.

THE INTERPORT CRICKET MATCH.

YOKOHAMA v. KOBE.

The annual interport match between Yokohama and Kobe began on Monday, says the *Chronicle*, under very favourable conditions, the weather being perfect for batting. Mr. Rizetti's band attended and played musical selections during the afternoon, when many ladies were present, tea being served in the north pavilion. Yokohama won the toss and elected to bat.

The match opened by White and E. W. Kilby facing the bowling of Edwards and G. Braess. The feature of the first 30 minutes was lack of scoring and the excellent fielding of Kobe. Maiden after maiden was sent down, and then Edwards was relieved by Gillingham. The change took effect, for White was soon bowled by Gillingham for 8—1 for 16. H. W. Kilby took White's place, and still careful play and good fielding resulted in a dearth of runs. Soon, however, Kilby got a drive to leg for 3, followed by one to off by his brother, and things got generally lively. Then Murray relieved G. Braess. His "slow breaks" resulted in a maiden as a start, but in his next, H. W. Kilby was bowled for a well-played 11—2 for 26. P. B. Clarke followed, and in his first over gave good promise for his side by a free, pretty style of scoring. His forward play and his leg drive off Murray were much admired, and the fact that runs came slowly was simply due to Kobe's excellent bowling and fielding. "40 up" was soon called, after a very pretty leg hit by Clarke off Gillingham, to be followed soon after by another off Murray. E. W. Kilby, also, was playing a good game, and after some lively leather hunting "50 up" was signalled. Edwards now relieved Gillingham, Kilby taking his over calmly and on the defensive. At 56 Godrij relieved Edwards, his second ball being a wide, but in his following over, a maiden, he settled down to his normal style. A smart piece of fielding by Wilkinson at point robbed Clarke of 3, but the co-operative play of the two batsmen soon sent "70 up." The play from both men was very pretty, and G. Braess, who now relieved Murray, was punished as the other bowlers had been. Runs came fairly fast, till at 12 30, when play was stopped for tiffin, the score stood at 87 for 8 wickets, Clarke having scored 38 and E. W. Kilby 24, both not out.

The innings was resumed after tiffin, Gillingham and S. Lucas taking the bowling. When Clarke had made 44 he was caught by Braess off Gillingham—3 for 93. Joy took the vacant wicket, but it was not Joy for ever, for he was soon bowled by S. Lucas for 3—4 for 96. Taverner came in and had no sooner settled down to work than he lost his partner, E. W. Kilby, who was given out, leg before, off Gillingham for a well and prettily played innings of 24—5 for 96. Fradgeley partnered Taverner, and put Gillingham away for 3. At 3 p.m. "100 up" was called amid cheers and cock crows, but soon after Fradgeley was caught by Walter Braess off Gillingham—3 wickets for 100 runs.

Forest came in, and a splendid piece of fielding by the bowler, Lucas, prevented an addition of 3 to Taverner's score. The Kobe fielders were just as alert as during the first part of the innings, and runs came slowly. Forrest, however, opened his shoulders for 2 to leg off Lucas, and again for 3 off the same, and things got lively again, 110 being signalled. Godrij now went on instead of S. Lucas, and sent down a careful over, which was treated with the respect it deserved by the batsmen. Things had slowed down when Taverner was caught in the slips by Godrij for 6—7 for 112. Johnson came in, but skied his first ball off Gillingham, and this was well held by J. Marshall—8 for 112. Kingdon followed, and put away a ball from Gillingham, but Abbott's good fielding prevented any result. A splendid catch at the wicket by Lightfoot disposed of Kingdon; and Lias, Kobe's old favourite, took the willow, whereupon the Kobe fielders spread out to watch for the boundary hits that made him famous when he was "one of us." They were not disappointed, for he skied his first ball off Gillingham towards the pavilion, but, unfortunately for Lias, Edwards was in evidence and held the catch beautifully. This closed the Yokohama innings for a total of 113.

Gillingham and Godrij opened the innings for Kobe against the bowling of Joy and White. Godrij at once scored off White, followed almost immediately by Gillingham, who drove to the boundary. Another hit to the boundary was held by Kingdon and Gillingham retired for 6—1 wicket for 11 runs. Murray partnered Godrij, and the latter's sweeping leg hits kept the field fairly lively. Murray cut to the boundary for 3, and the partners quickly sent "20 up." Lias relieved Joy, and was treated carefully. Murray drove to the boundary and Godrij snicked a few runs. White gave the ball to Clarke at the pavilion end, and his left-hander round the-wicket balls reminded one of Tate, who in his time was a strong bowler for Kobe. Off his last ball Godrij was caught by Lias in the slips for a useful 16—2 for 37. Wilkinson came in, and slipped to leg for 3 off Lias at once. With the score at 45, White went on in place of Lias, and off his first ball Murray gave an easy chance to point, which was not taken. Murray was hitting freely, however, and when he had scored 18, he drove hard to the pavilion. Lias leaped up and made the catch with his left hand. Rounds of applause marked this really difficult piece of fielding—5 wickets for 46 runs.

Edwards was fifth man in and "field wide" came from the Captain of the Yokohama team. He skied his third ball, but had luck with it, then drove to the boundary and "50 up" was called. A pretty cut to the boundary by Wilkinson followed. Edwards also did his share of the hitting, and some very lively work for the field was provided, Wilkinson's drives and cuts being much admired. "60 up" was signalled, and Edwards hitting out, "70 up" soon followed. Kingdon now went on in place of White, only to be hit by Wilkinson at nearly every ball. Edwards, too played Clarke for 3 and Kingdon for the like amount. R. C. K. Johnson bowled in place of Clarke, who in his last few overs had been well punished. Edwards drove Johnson's second ball to the boundary and "80 up" was called. The light was now getting very trying, but Wilkinson got Kingdon to the boundary for 3. At 88 Joy relieved Kingdon and Edwards sent "90 up" by getting away his second ball. He then drove his third ball right through the stumps at the other end, and it being now 5 o'clock, stumps were drawn with the score at 90, Edwards being 22 not out and Wilkinson 25 ditto, t with six men to bat.

The scores were as follows:—

YOKOHAMA.

F. E. White, c. Lightfoot, b. Gillingham ...	8
H. W. Kilby, b. Murray	11
E. W. Kilby, l.b.w. bowled Gillingham	24
P. B. Clarke, c. G. Braess, b. Gillingham...	44
C. R. Joy, b. Lucas.....	3
F. S. Taverner, c. Godrij, b. Gillingham ...	6
C. E. Fradgeley, c. W. Braess, b. Gillingham	3
F. S. Forrest, not out	7
R. C. K Johnson, c. J. Marshall, b. Gillingham	0
A. Kingdon, c. Lightfoot, b. Gillingham ...	1
F. J. Lias, c. Edwards, b. Gillingham	0
Byes	4
Leg byes	1
Wides	1
Total.....	113

KOBE.

Godrij, c. Lias, b. Clarke	16
J. R. Gillingham, c. Kingdon, b. White ...	6
G. C. Murray, c. Lias, b. White	18
F. E. Wilkinson, not out	25
W. D. S. Edwards, not out	22
Byes	1
Leg byes	1
Wides	1
Total.....	90

To bat:—W. Braess, C. H. Lightfoot, S. Lucas, J. Marshall, F. J. Abbott and G. Braess.

SECOND DAY'S PLAY.

KOBE WINS BY AN INNINGS AND 25 RUNS.

The match was resumed on Tuesday morning, Clarke sending down the first ball at 10.20. The weather was again all that could be desired, a perfect October day in Japan. Wilkinson received the first over, a maiden. White went on at the north end, Edwards smacking the first for 3. Edwards then drove Clarke outside the boundary for 4 and put the last ball of the over to leg. Both the following overs yielding a single to Edwards, 100 was telegraphed. Wilkinson added a single before the next over closed. White then sent down a maiden, Edwards immediately afterwards scoring two boundary hits off Clarke, Wilkinson at the same time sandwiching in two singles. Both batsmen scored in the next over too. White now (10.35) tried H. W. Kilby at the Pavilion end, and with advantage, for his third ball was hit up, Kingdon holding it at square leg—114 4 40. W. Braess took the vacant place and led off with a single. In White's next over Wilkinson made a pretty cut for 2. After a maiden over from Kilby, Fradgeley relieved White at the north end, his first over giving Wilkinson one. Kilby sent down his second maiden and then Braess took a single off Fradgeley. After 35 minutes' play Lias was put on in place of Kilby, but Braess got his third ball away very prettily for 3—120 up. After a maiden from Fradgeley, Wilkinson took a single from Lias and then 3—for a fine hit to leg—off Fradgeley. After two maiden overs Braess sent a ball from Lias to the boundary—140 up. With the score at 142 Kingdon was put on in place of Lias. Both batsmen continued to score and in Fradgeley's next over—thanks to a bye for 3—150 was telegraphed. At 11.15 Johnson was tried instead of Fradgeley, Braess taking a couple during the over. Wilkinson followed by hitting Kingdon to the boundary. At 11.30 Clarke went on again at the Pavilion end and Joy was tried at the north end. The change was ineffectual, both batsmen scoring more freely than ever. In Joy's over the long partnership was dissolved, Walter

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Braess being caught behind the wicket—170-5 21. Lightfoot took the remainder of the over. At 10 to 12 the Yokohama Captain tried the effect of another change, putting E.W. Kilby on in place of Clarke at the Pavilion end and Kingdon behind the wickets instead of Kilby. The first over yielded 4, a single to Wilkinson, and a bye for 3. White now went on at the north end. In Kilby's second over Wilkinson made a drive for 3—200 up. A few minutes later Lightfoot was caught out by Fradgeley off White—201 6 7. S. Lucas partnered Wilkinson. Another stand ensued, both batsmen hitting out freely. A separation had not been effected when time was called for luncheon, when Wilkinson had made 80 and Lucas 4, not out. The Kobe innings then stood at 201.

After the interval for luncheon Wilkinson and Lucas resumed the batting for the Kobe team, but the former was bowled after an over or two by E. W. Kilby. The Kobe Captain, who had played faultless cricket in the morning, only added 3 in the afternoon before being sent back to the Pavilion. Marshall then joined Lucas, who shortly afterwards was clean bowled by White. This brought Abbott and Marshall together, and it seemed likely another stand might be made, but it was not to be; the latter, after contributing 4 falling to a ball from E. W. Kilby. Abbott seemed to be quite at home with the ball and made 11 before G. Braess, who had taken Marshall's place, gave an easy catch. The innings closed for 246.

KOBE.

Godrej, c. Lias, b. Clarke...	16
J. R. Gillingham, c. Kingdon, b. White ...	6
G. C. Murray, c. Lias, b. Clarke	18
F. E. Wilkinson, b. E. W. Kilby	85
W. D. S. Edwards, c. Kingdon, b. H. W. Kilby	40
W Braess, c. Clarke, b. Joy	21
C. H. Lightfoot, c. Fradgeley, b. White ...	7
S. Lucas, b. White	4
J. Marshall, b. E. W. Kilby	4
F. J. Abbott, not out...	11
G. Braess, c. White, b. E. W. Kilby	7
Byes	25
Leg Byes	3
Wides	1
	246

	Balls.	Runs.	Mdns.	Wkts.
C. R. Joy	50	22	3	1
E. W. Kilby	66	20	6	3
F. E. White	150	65	6	3
F. J. Lias...	40	20	1	—
H. W. Kilby	15	3	2	1
P. B. Clarke	90	49	4	1
A. Kingdon...	35	16	1	—
Fradgeley	35	11	2	—
R. C. K. Johnson ...	25	11	2	—

It was within a few minutes of 3 o'clock when Forrest and H. W. Kilby opened the second innings for Yokohama, Edwards taking the ball at the northern end. The first over was a maiden, thanks to Gillingham's smart fielding. Indeed the first four overs were uneventful, only Forrest getting a single off Braess. The fifth and sixth overs gave Kilby a single, and then Forrest got Braess away for 2, Abbott just saving it from being a boundary hit. After a maiden from Edwards Forrest sent Braess to the boundary for 3—10 up. At 3 15 Gillingham went on at the Pavilion end in place of Braess. His first over was a maiden. Two more barren overs followed. Murray relieved Edwards at 3.20 and sent down a maiden. In the first half hour's play 10 runs had been made. Forrest got Murray away to leg in the next over for 3 and Kilby sneaked one. In Murray's third over two possible catches were given by Kilby, but neither opportunity was turned to account. Abbott made a bad miss in Murray's fifth over, letting a ball from Kilby pass right through his hands. One or two hits to leg had been made, but thanks to Edwards' presence in that part of the field (he had been ordered there shortly after Murray went on) few runs resulted. In Gillingham's next over Forrest snicked the ball for a single. Both batsmen scoring in Murray's next over 30 was telegraphed. The next four overs were uneventful, but in Gillingham's tenth Kilby was caught out by Lucas in the slips—34-1-6. Kilby had kept his wicket up a little more than three-quarters of an hour. E. W. Kilby took the remainder of the over. Forrest made two pretty strokes to deep leg for 3 off Murray in the following over—40 up. Gillingham's next over was also deadly, his fourth ball taking E. W. Kilby's stump in fine style—44 2-1. White now joined Forrest and almost fell to his first ball from Murray. Two balls later he was splendidly caught by Godrej in the slips—45 7-3. Clarke took the rest of the over, making a single. He made but a short stay, having the misfortune to play a ball on in his second over from Murray—49-4-2. Joy filled the vacancy and managed to get his last ball from Murray away to deep leg for 3. After an over from Gillingham, which gave Joy a single, this batsman was sent back—clean bowled by Murray—53-5-4. This brought Taverner and Forrest together. After another maiden over from Gillingham Forrest commenced his leg swipes again off Murray, but Edwards prevented the stroke from counting for more than one. The only thing of note in the next four overs was a smart but unsuccessful attempt at a catch by Gillingham between the wickets, and a bit to leg by Forrest for one. With the score at 56 Gillingham broke through Taverner's defence and sent his bails flying. Fradgeley took the three remaining balls of the over. Forrest took 3 for a hit to square leg in Murray's next over. The only feature of the next two overs was a single by Fradgeley, thanks to poor fielding by G. Braess—60 up. After another maiden from Gillingham, S. Lucas was tried at the north end instead of Murray. Forrest was unable to make anything of the over. More maidens followed, but at 4.45 Fradgeley was disposed of by a catch by Lightfoot off Gillingham—60 7-1. Johnson now joined Forrest. He made but a short stay, being caught out behind the wickets by Lightfoot—60-8-0. Kingdon partnered Forrest, but was caught by Murray before he had had time to add to the score. It was 5 when Lias, the last man in, went to the wickets. Forrest stole one off Lucas in the next over, Godrej not being on the ball. Gillingham sent down another maiden over—the seventh in succession. Lias then took a single off Lucas and sneaked one in Gillingham's following over. Lias then hit Lucas to the boundary for 3, Forrest also taking a single before the over closed. In Gillingham's next over the first ball took Lias's stumps—almost before the fielders had reached the outer field ready for a "slog" and a possible catch.

YOKOHAMA.

SECOND INNINGS.

T. S. Forrest, not out	42
H. W. Kilby, c. Lucas, b. Gillingham	6
E. W. Kilby, b. Gillingham	1
F. E. White, c. Godrej, b. Murray	0
P. B. Clarke, b. Murray	2
C. R. Joy, b. Murray...	4
F. L. Taverner, b. Gillingham...	1
E. E. Fradgeley, c. Lightfoot, b. Gillingham.	1
R. C. K. Johnson c. Lightfoot b. Gillingham .	0
A. Kingdon, c. Gillingham, b. Murray... ...	0
F. J. Lias, b. Gillingham...	5
Byes	3
Leg byes	3
Wides	1
	68

	Balls.	Runs.	Mdns.	Wkts.
W. D. S. Edwards ...	30	1	5	—
G. Braess	20	8	1	—
J. R. Gillingham ...	132	13	15	7
Murray	95	34	4	3
Lucas	30	6	3	—

THE "COUP D'ÉTAT" AT PEKING.

Shanghai, 5th October.

The account which we (*N.-C. Daily News*) published on Tuesday morning giving details of the *coup d'état* at Peking has been supplemented by information received from private sources. It has been well known for some months that Kang Yu wei had the ear of the Emperor at all times and that scarcely a day passed without an interview. Often Kang was accompanied by one of his friends, but next to himself the most frequent visitor to the Palace was Tan Tsz-tung, the brilliant son of the Governor of Hupeh. These two men, Kang and Tan, were allowed great freedom in their audiences and were treated as familiar friends by the Emperor. Being men of inferior rank, this special distinction caused them to be the subjects of much jealousy on the part of influential classmen and of the high Ministers of State. Their movements were also closely watched by the Empress-Dowager, who was anxious to score points against the Emperor. The struggle for power between the Empress Dowager and the Emperor has been going on ever since his accession to the throne after his marriage. It had been gradually reaching an acute stage during the last few months, because the Emperor through his many familiar interviews with the members of the Reform Party has had opportunity to learn the feeling of his subjects toward the Empress-Dowager. Never popular, she has always been feared for her astuteness and fearlessness. Her doings have been the constant subject of conversation among well-informed Chinese for years, and it is not to be denied that she has made herself to be thoroughly hated. She has encouraged bribery and corruption for her own emolument and has shown no interest in the general welfare of the people. The Emperor, knowing her sullied reputation, has been placed in a most difficult position. On the one hand, he owes her the greatest debt for having made him Emperor, and for having acted as Regent during his long minority. He was not the nearest heir to the Throne, and yet the prompt, vigorous action of the Empress-Dowager succeeded in placing him above all rivals. The very fact that he displaced other candidates made natural enemies of all their patrons, so that in the Imperial clan it is safe to say that Kuang Hsü has never been liked. Not for his own sake, but because he, a usurper, was placed upon the Throne by the Dowager who was herself a usurper, the Emperor has always had a strong clan opposition to him. During the years of the Regency, the Empress-Dowager opposed this party with all her might and did her utmost to minimise their influence. This fact placed the Emperor under the deepest obligation to the Empress-Dowager and made him loath to do anything which would appear ungrateful on his part. On the other hand, he knew her great unpopularity and that she was blamed for the settlement of the Japanese war as well as for the general state of official corruption. It seems that he attempted a compromise by giving her the highest public honour and allowing her often to name men for leading positions, while, at the same time, he secretly exerted himself to gain possession of real power by which he could reform and redeem his country.

This compromise has been in execution for several years and like all similar attempts has been the cause of endless bickerings and quarrels in the Imperial household. The latest form of the quarrel is responsible for the present situation. The Empress-Dowager, seeing that the Emperor was determined to institute reform measures and that he was bold enough to dismiss the old Minister Wêng Tung-ho, feared that he might take some rash measure which would involve the safety of the capital, and hence she resolved to have her own trusted henchman Yung Lu made Viceroy of Chihli and Generalissimo of the Peiyang troops. This gave her substantial support at any time when she might need it, for it would allow troops to be moved into Peking at any moment and would make her ruler of the situation. This appointment was strongly opposed by the Emperor, but he finally acquiesced in it. To offset its influence, however, he succeeded in appointing Yuan Shih-kai, the "ex-Resident" at Söul, who is a favourite of the Emperor and a member of the Reform party, as Assistant High Commissioner of the Peiyang forces. This gave Yuan Shih-kai more real power over the Chihli forces than Yung Lu had, for Yuan was to live with the troops while Yung was shut up in the Yamên at Tientsin. The Reform party represented by Kang and Tan were forced by the threatening attitude of the Empress and of Yung Lu to recommend vigorous action, and they proved themselves equal to the occasion. They urged the Emperor to do three things which would give him absolute control of the Empire. The first step was the beheading of Yung Lu, the second was the occupation of Peking and the Palaces by the troops of Yuan Shih-kai, and the third was the removal of the Empress-Dowager to a place of confinement where she could not interfere with the affairs of state.

The first act was attempted and here the fatal mistake was made. The Emperor issued an edict instructing Yuan Shih-kai to proceed at once to Tientsin with his troops and to behead Yung Lu. This edict was written in the presence of Kang and Tan, and was delivered by the Emperor to Tan to carry to Yuan Shih kai. He did his task faithfully and delivered the message to Yuan, who during the night of Monday, the 18th of September, moved five thousand troops to Tientsin, but instead of taking Yung Lu immediately into arrest and carrying out his orders to execute him, he showed the orders to Yung Lu and weakly apologised for the disagreeableness of his task. This gave Yung Lu time to telegraph an urgent dispatch to the Empress-Dowager, who immediately issued an edict for the arrest of Kang and Tan and their associates, and another edict ordering Yung Lu to proceed immediately to Peking. Thus the indecision of one man, Yuan Shih-kai, frustrated the *coup* planned by the Emperor and enabled the Empress-Dowager to bring her sagacity into play for her own protection. As soon as Yung Lu reached Peking and assumed his new office as a member of the Grand Council, he revenged himself on the men who had planned his death by having Tan and his associates summarily decapitated.

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Thus the present situation may be regarded as the outcome of a family quarrel and not as a protest against the reform measures instituted by the Emperor. It was not opposition to these measures which caused the Empress-Dowager to be opposed to the Emperor, but it was the possession of power which excited her envy and hatred. It is really too bad that the quarrel should have been brought to an issue over these questions of reform which involve the integrity and prosperity of the Empire. The Empress has never really shown herself opposed to such measures during her regency, but has always seemed to be rather indifferent to them and waiting only for a general demand on the part of the people. Had she been won over to the cause of reform by some skilful persuader, a different story might have been written. The Emperor seems not to have desired to pursue a conciliatory course but to compel submission. Neither he nor the Reform Party seemed to have rightly measured the forces which were opposed to them, nor the power necessary for them to attain before they could attempt such a bold move as the setting aside of the Empress-Dowager. Her henchmen are everywhere entrenched both in Metropolitan and Provincial offices. All of the Viceroys and Governors, all the Provincial Treasurers, and high officers, as well as all the high military officers are appointees of the Empress-Dowager and are therefore her supporters. Kang and his party were despised by them as trifflers. They were considered to be mere adventurers playing upon the caprices of the young Emperor. It cannot be doubted that their plan was too precipitate and dangerous, needing at every step the courage of a strong man. When this was most needed for the execution of the first step of their contemplated *coup* the reliable man was not found, and the hesitating Yuan overwhelmed them in defeat and death.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

RETURNED FROM BEHRING SEA.

(From our Correspondent.)

Hakodate, Oct. 12.

H.M.S. *Archer*, which has been engaged in the Behring Sea Patrol, arrived here this morning.

(From the "Japan Times.")

THE CHINESE IMBROGLIO.

London, Oct. 7.

The Chinese Legation here officially denies the death of the Emperor and states that the greatest harmony exists between the Emperor and the Empress Dowager.

London, Oct. 10.

Sixty-six Cossacks with two seven-pounders, twenty-five British marines with a Nordenfeldt, and thirty German marines have arrived at Peking for service at the Legations. The *Tsung-li Yamen* protested against the excessive number of the Russian force over those of the other Powers. It is feared in Peking that the Cossacks will be retained permanently.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

REVISION RECOMMENDED BY PUBLIC PROCURATOR.

The Public Procurator to the Court of Cassation, having exhaustively examined the papers, has reported in favour of a revision of the Dreyfus case.

THE ULTIMATUM TO THE PORTE.

The ultimatum relating to Crete presented on Wednesday to the Porte demands the commencement of evacuation within a fortnight after the completion of the month.

London, Oct. 10.

The French are sending 800 more men to Crete.

The ultimatum to the Porte states that the Sultan will lose his sovereignity over Crete unless its terms are complied with.

London, Oct. 12.

The Porte's reply to the ultimatum of the Powers is favourable.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH DIFFICULTY IN THE SOUDAN.

HAZARDOUS SITUATION.

London, Oct. 7.

The insistence of the English newspapers that the evacuation of Fashoda must precede negotiations is deeply resented in French official quarters. It is declared that no French Government dare accept such a position.

London, Oct. 10.

It is stated that the Egyptian War Office will be removed immediately to Khartoum to facilitate the establishment of the Military Administration.

London, Oct. 11.

The report just issued of official correspondence with France on the subject of the Upper Nile, states that Sir Edmund Monson, Ambassador at Paris, declared to M. Hanotaux in December, 1897, that Britain does not admit to any other Power the right to occupy any part of the Nile valley. Lord Salisbury telegraphed to Sir Edmund Monson in September last to inform M. Delacasse that all the Khalifa's territory passed by right of conquest to the British and Egyptian Governments, and that Britain did not consider there were any rights open to discussion. The newspapers are unanimous in supporting unflinchingly Lord Salisbury's vigorous repudiation of all compromise in regard to Fashoda. They recognize the gravity of the situation. Britain and France are standing face to face; one must recede, which Britain cannot do after the publication of the Blue Book.

London, Oct. 12.

The *Temps* and *Journal des Débats*, hitherto silent on the Fashoda affair, whilst the language of other papers was vague and uncertain, believe that an eventual settlement will be found in a delimitation of the Anglo-French spheres in the Soudan.

London, Oct. 13.

Daily interviews are taking place between Sir Edmund Monson and M. Delcasse with reference to Fashoda. It is semi-officially stated that France claims the right of connection with the Nile basin for the commercial development of the French Soudan.

THE SIRDAR RETURNING TO CAIRO.

SICKNESS AMONG THE TROOPS.

London, Oct. 8.

There are 700 sick in the Cairo hospitals, being equivalent to six per cent. of the whole Soudan force. Sir Herbert Kichener is returning to Cairo. An enthusiastic reception is being prepared for him.

London, Oct. 13.

The statement that the Egyptian War Office was to be removed to Khartoum is incorrect.

RISING OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS.

STUBBORN FIGHTING.

London, Oct. 8.

Indians in Minnesota have killed a Major and six men of the United States army. Fighting continues and re-enforcements have been despatched from St. Paul.

London, Oct. 11.

The Indian rising in Minnesota has been suppressed.

GREAT STRIKE IN PARIS.

London, Oct. 10.

A great strike in the building trade has broken out in Paris. Forty thousand strikers were out on Saturday and probably 60,000 will be on strike by to-day. Disturbances hitherto have been slight, but great military precautions have been taken, and 20,000 troops are prepared for an emergency. It is rumoured that the strike has been fomented for political purposes. The Exhibition works are stopped.

London, Oct. 10.

ORDER FOR ARREST OF DUC D'ORLEANS.

A confidential order has been issued to the French gendarmerie to arrest the Duke of Orleans in case of any attempt to cross the frontier.

CAPE PARLIAMENT MEETS.

London, Oct. 11.

The Cape Parliament has been opened. Sir Gordon Sprigg remains in office, though he has a slight minority.

The Cape Assembly has passed a no confidence vote in the Government by 39 against 37 votes.

(From the "Japan Times")

ARRESTS OF REFORMISTS.

Shanghai, Oct. 11.

Mr. Hwang Tsun-lien, who was recently appointed Minister to Japan but immediately replaced by Mr. Li Shang-to before assuming office, was imprisoned in his own residence on the 9th inst. in accordance with an Imperial order, and Mr. Wan Ting-shih was arrested. It may be expected that even moderate reformists such as Mr. Wang Kangmien, who entertains pro-Japanese views, will be arrested.

FOREIGN WARSHIPS AT TAKU.

Tientsin, Oct. 11.

The following foreign men-of-war are now lying at anchor at Taku:—British, *Iphigenia*, *Narcissus*, and torpedo boats; Russian, *Rossia*; Italian, *Marco Polo*; Japanese, *Suma*, *Akagi* and *Oshima*; and two German warship and one steamer.

CONSPIRATORS EXECUTED—SHOCKING BARBARITIES

Sŏul, October 10.

Mr. Kim Kori-ku, Mr. Koko Sho-ku, and three others supposed to be implicated in the poison-affair, have been sentenced to death. It is rumoured that they were hanged early this morning.

The wife of Kim Kori-ku was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment and a hundred strokes with the stick. Eight other accomplices were sentenced to 50 strokes each. Last night the citizens took from the prison the corpses of the men who had been executed and kicked them about through the streets, the most horrible barbarities being performed on the bodies, which were finally left on the road.

Sŏul, Oct. 12

Mr. Shim Ki-zen the Minister of Justice, was to-day discharged, he being made responsible for allowing the crowd to perform barbarities on the corpses of Kim heung-yu and others who had been hanged in connection with the late poisoning affair.

Mr. Li Kong-myong, Minister for Home Affairs, has been appointed Minister of Justice and Mr. Pak Tei-yang succeeds him with the portfolio for Home Affairs.

FORMOSAN RIOTS.

The natives have again risen at Sobunkei, Kagi Prefecture. Disorder is prevalent throughout the locality, and troops have been sent to put down the disturbances. The following telegrams have reached the authorities in Tokyo:—

Tainan, Oct. 11.

On the 6th inst., as 14 soldiers under a junior sergeant were reconnoitring at Sansoki, about 8 000 rioters appeared, and attacked them. Six soldiers were killed, and one wounded.

Taipeh, Oct. 12.

It is expected that on the 14th about 3 companies will be despatched to suppress the riot.

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at Wright's Hotel on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

Solution of Problem No. 389.
By W. B. Mason, Tokyo.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to Kt 3	1—P to B 7
2—Q to Q Kt 3 mate	
	1—R takes P or moves
2—Q to Q 6 mate	
	1—P to B 4
2—R to K 5 mate	
	1—P to K 4
2—Q to Kt 8 mate	
	1—P to Q 3
2—Kt to B 7 mate	
	1—P to Kt 3
2—P to R 8=B or Q mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Marco, S.S., Omicron, W.D.C., and J.T.G.

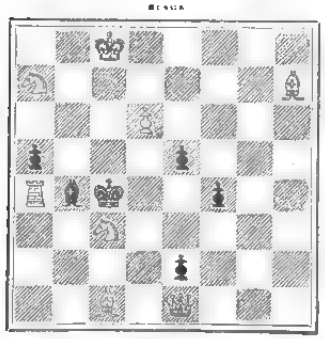
Answers to Correspondents.

W.B.M.—The play in the Kt to Q 6 variation of Problem No. 388 is as follows:—

2—Kt to Q 7	2—P to K 4
3—Q takes Kt mate	if 2—Kt (R8) to B 7 or B to R 2
3—Q to B 4 mate	if 2—Kt to K 4
3—Q to B 5 or Q to K 5 (takes Kt) mate	if 2—Kt to Kt 7
3—Q or P mates	

Problem No. 392.
By Courtenay Lemon, New York.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in three moves.

Game No. 438.

The following remarkably brilliant game was won by Schlechter from Steinitz in the tourney at Cologne:—

VIENNA OPENING.

White—Schlechter.		Black—Steinitz.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	13 P B5 !	PxP
2 Kt QB3	Kt QB3	14 Q Kt3 !	B Q3
3 B B4	Kt B3	15 QxKtP	K K2
4 P Q3	Kt QR4	16 Kt B4 !	R KKtsq
5 KKt K2	KtxB	17 Kt Kt6ch !	K Q2
6 PxKt	P Q3	18 RxBch	KxR
7 Castles	B K3	19 R Q-q ch	B Q4
8 P QKt3	P B3	20 QxPch	K Q2
9 Q Q3	B K2	21 KtxB	PxQKt
10 B Kt5	P KR3	22 RxPch	K B3
11 BxKt	BxB	23 Kt K7ch	K Kt3
12 QR Qsq	B K2	24 R Q6ch	Resigns

Game No. 439.

Played at Cologne in the first round of the tournament of the German Chess Association, August 1, 1898.

BISHOP'S OPENING

White—R. Charousek.		Black—E. Schallopp.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	18 QR KB-q	P KB4
2 B B4	Kt KB3	19 Kt R4	P B5
3 P Q3	B B4	20 PxP	PxP
4 Kt QB3	P Q3	21 RxP	RxR
5 B K3	BxB	22 QxR	Q B2
6 PxB	P B3	23 Kt QB5	Kt R4
7 Q K2	Castles	24 KtxB	Q Kt3ch
8 Kt B3	P QKt4	25 Q B2	QxQch
9 B Kt3	P QR4	26 KxQ	RxKt
10 P QR4	P Kt5	27 K K3	K Kt2
11 Kt QKtsq	QKt Q2	28 Kt B3	Kt B3
12 QKt Q2	Kt B4	29 Kt Kt5	P R3
13 Castles	KtxB	30 Kt K6ch	K B2
14 KtxKt	B R3	31 Kt B5	PxKt
15 Q K-q	Kt Ksq	32 P K5	K K3
16 Q Kt3	P Kt3	33 RxKtch	KxP
17 R B2	Kt Kt2	34 RxKtP	Resigns

Game No. 440.

Played in the Vienna Tournament:—

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—Schlechter.		Black—Schiffers.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	19 BPxP	Q R3(d)
2 P QB4	P K3	20 P KR3	Kt K6
3 Kt QB3	P QB3(a)	21 Q Q2	BxRP
4 P K3	Kt KB3	22 R B4(e)	BxPch
5 B Q3	B Q3	23 K Ksq	Q R6
6 Kt B3	QKt Q2	24 K B2	Kt K5ch
7 Castles	PxP	25 RxKtch	QxR
8 BxP	Castles	26 PxB	Q B6ch
9 P K4	P K4(b)	27 K Ksq	Q K5
10 B KKt5	Q K2	28 Q B4	B B6 d. ch
11 K R sq	P KR3	29 K B2	QxQ
12 B R4	P QKt4	30 Kt xQ	BxP
13 B Q3	P Kt5	31 BxB	KR Q sq
14 Kt K2	P KK4	32 R Ksqch	K B-q (f)
15 KtxP	PxKt	33 B R7	K K-q
16 BxP	Q K3	34 B B5	RxP
17 BxKt	KtxB	35 R K-8ch	Resigns (f)
18 P KB4(c)	Kt Kt5		

NOTES.

(a) Some authorities assert that this move is weak, hence the usual play now is Kt to B 3 for Black, followed soon by B to K 2 and Castles.

(b) Much of the game turns upon the play with these centre pawns. Both players have managed to play P to K 4—a very unusual circumstance in this opening.

(c) In considering the soundness or otherwise of White's sacrifice, this move must be taken into account. The idea is if P takes P; 19—P to K 5 to regain the piece. But the position is complicated and interesting.

(d) This very nearly proved fatal to White. If Kt to K 6, 20—Q to B sq. Kt takes R, 21—P takes B, and the Kt is also lost. There is some charming play now on both sides.

(e) It was not easy to discover the one way out of the strong attack, but this fine move is most effective in the after-play.

(f) White can capture the R and the Q R P with a check afterwards, and get to Q R 4 to defend the B.

Game No. 441.

CHESS IN MELBOURNE.

The following lively little game (from the Melbourne *Leader*) in the last tourney furnishes a specimen of the style of the young champion, who has just succeeded Mr. Esling:—

PETROFF'S DEFENCE.

White—Mr Watson.		Black—Mr. Rose.	
BLACK.		WHITE.	
1—P to K 4		1—P to K 4	
2—Kt to K B 3		2—Kt to K B 3	
3—P to Q 4		3—Kt takes P	
4—B to Q 3		4—P to Q 4	
5—Kt takes P		5—B to K 2	
6—Q to K 2		6—Kt to K B 3	
7—Castles		7—Castles	
8—B to K Kt 5		8—Q Kt to Q 2	
9—P to K B 4		9—P to K R 3	
10—B to R 4		10—P to B 3	
11—Kt to Q 2		11—R to K sq	
12—Q Kt to B 3		12—Q to B 2	
13—Q R to K sq		13—Kt to Kt 3	
14—Kt to Kt 5			
Ingenious: the sacrifice is quite sound.		14—P takes Kt	
Fatal; B to K 3 is better.			
15—P takes P		15—B to Q 3	
Kt to K 5 is preferable, though White would still win.			
16—P takes Kt		16—B takes Kt	
17—Q to R 5		17—B takes P ch	
18—K to R sq		18—K to B sq	
The mate cannot be averted.			
19—Q to R 8, mate			

International Tournament at Cologne.

The result of the Cologne Tournament will be very gratifying to English chess players, as once more an Englishman carries off the first prize. The winners are as follow:—

First Prize—A. Burn (Liverpool)
Tie for Second, Third } Charousek (Budapest), Colin (Berlin)
Fourth Prizes } Tchigorin (St. Petersburg)
Fifth Prize—W. Steinitz (New York)

Schlechter and Showalter tie for sixth and seventh places. Berger is eighth and Janowski only ninth.

Mr. Burn well deserves the highly creditable success which he has achieved. Besides tying for first place in competitions, Mr. Burn has once before won the first prize in an international tournament, and that was at Amsterdam some nine years ago, where Lasker made his début, but the strength of the competing players was nothing like what it has been in the Cologne Tournament just concluded. The latter competition has, however, this in common with the Amsterdam tournament, that both events followed closely on other and greater tournaments. This fact, if it proves anything, proves not only the tenacity and the powers of endurance of the English player, it does much more than that, for it bears testimony to his great enthusiasm for the game, for without enthusiasm even tenacity and endurance are liable to become stale and unprofitable qualities, as may be seen by the performances of such players as Walbrodt and Schlechter. It is a rare gift to be able to preserve one's form playing through two such tournaments as Vienna and Cologne, a gift which Janowski is obviously lacking. We rather regret the failure of himself and others; at the same time, however, we cannot all play like Mr. Burn, and a great player who after a seven weeks' Tournament enters another competition without being sure of his powers has only himself to blame if he fails.

The success of the Englishman will, we hope, have a stimulating effect on chess in England. It is high time that opportunities were given to older players to show their proper form, and for younger players to gain the necessary practice, in order to come forward and fill up the ranks, now rapidly diminishing, of first-class English players; this can only be done by means of annual tournaments, in which Burn, Blackburne, and the other strong players would compete with rising men, and teach them how to shoot.—*Daily News.*

Liverpool players especially rejoice in Mr. Burn's success, knowing his devotion to the game, and are proud of him as a Liverpool player.

Notes.

Lord Russell of Killowen, Chief Justice of England, has been elected President of the Metropolitan Chess Club.

"It must have been very poor chess," says "Black Bishop" in the *China Mail*, "that Ferdinand and Miranda played on Prospero's Isle, but it certainly satisfied them and led to a mating position. Girls should all learn chess. It does not lend itself well to flirtation, but for husband hunting of a responsible and respectable kind it is unequalled; and if a man marry a lady-player he may be well assured of meeting all the virtues of which even female flesh is capable. She will have tact, discretion, inventiveness, patience, good temper, and a mind far above the frivolities of her sex."

Chess players who never solve problems neglect the best means of acquiring a keen eye for mating positions, which are frequently passed over in actual play, simply because the players have no idea of their possible occurrence.—*Montreal Witness.*

An attack on the Castled King with four pieces will usually force the game and permit one piece to be sacrificed in order to clear the way.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Caledonien 1	W. Oct. 19
America	P. M. Co.	C. of Peking 2	Th. Oct. 20
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic 3	Th. Oct. 20
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. Oct. 24
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India	M. Oct. 24
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Oct. 26
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 4	Su. Oct. 30
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Th. Nov. 3

1 Left Shanghai on the 14th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 21st inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 22th inst
4 Left San Francisco on the 28th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co	Rohilla	W. Oct. 19
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. Oct. 19
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	C. of Peking	F. Oct. 21
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Sa. Oct. 22
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Oct. 24
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Caledonien	W. Oct. 26
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Oct. 28
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Oct. 31
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Nov. 4

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,021, S. Tsuji, 7th Oct.,—Otaru via ports, 2nd October, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, H. Sakimoto, 7th Oct.,—Yokkaichi, 6th Oct., General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Ternick, 8th October,—Moji, 6th October Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 8th October,—Otaru via ports, 3rd October, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, G. Ohno, 8th October.—Shanghai via ports, 1st October, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, W. Thompson, 9th Oct.,—Kobe, 7th Oct., General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 9th October,—Yokkaichi, 8th Oct., General.— Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, T. B. Lockyer, 9th October,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 8th Oct., Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, T. Murai, 9th October,—Kobe, 7th October, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higo, 10th October,—Otaru via ports, 4th October, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Yamanouchi, 10th Oct.,—Yokkaichi, 9th Oct., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Cormoran, German gunboat, 1,640, Capt. Brussatis, 11th October,—Tsingtau, 6th October.

Ghasee, British steamer, 1,827, D. S. Bailey, 11th October,—Vladivostock, 7th October, Ballast. —Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K. Yabe, 11th Oct.,—Kobe, 9th October, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, N. Muenzono, 12th Oct.,—Otaru via ports, 7th Oct., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ningchow, British steamer, 1,735, W. H. Cross 12th Oct.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 10th October, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, W. Brady, 13th Oct.,—Kobe, 11th Oct., General.— Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mastuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, J. Nirei, 12th October,—Kobe, 11th October, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Yamanouchi, 7th October,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, W. Brady, 7th October,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kunamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 7th October,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 6th October,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, T. Tibballs, 8th October,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,748, Murray, 8th October,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,031, S. Tsuji, 9th October,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, H. Sakimoto, 9th Oct.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Heathfield, British barque, 1,534, P. McKenzie, 9th Oct.,—Tacoma, Washington, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Kwangse, British steamer, 1,240, A. Harris, 9th Oct.,—Kobe and Shanghai, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 10 h October,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 10th Oct.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Ternick, 10th Oct.,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co

Marguerite Elise, French barque, 1,225, Charles Cezard, 11th Oct.,—Portland, Oregon, Ballast. —C. and J. Favre-Brandt.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001 Y. Yamanouchi, 11th October,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, Nirei, 11th Oct.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sydney, French steamer, 2,081, Auberts, 12th Oct., —Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.— M. M. S.S. Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, N. Ohno, 16th October,—Shanghai viâ ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,429, I. Miyagi, 12th October,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, H. Sakimoto, 11th October,—Yukkaichi, General.— Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K. Yabe, 12th October,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. M. Yayaguchi, Mrs. H. Nishiyama, Mr. K. Takayanagi, Mr. J. Iida, Mr. O. Heesch, and Mr. W. Salmond, in cabin; Mrs. von Ruffin, and Mr. Tobe, in second class; 17 Japanese, and 5 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. N. A. Harper, Mr. Lo Lam Chee, Mr. F. Sconnilitzheck, Mr. D. Goh, Capt. W. E. Young, Mr. M. Finch, Miss Finch, Miss E. Finch, Capt. Thomson, Mr. Alion, Mr. T. E. Kahara, Mr. R. Finch, and Mr. W. H. Gill, in cabin; 4 Chinese, and 1 Japanese, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mrs. D'Arcy Anderson, Miss D'Arcy Anderson, Mr. J. C. Angus, Mr. J. E B iscoe, Miss Cunningham, Rev. Dr. R. S. Duff, Mrs. M. T. Egbert and child, Col. Eglactine, Mrs. Jas. Flood and child, Mr. H. C. van Glahn, Mr. A. Hethey, Mrs. A. Hethey, Mrs. Hussey's Governess and child, Mr. T. A. Howe, Mr. K Kato, Mr. F. W. Kite, Mr. Chas. Larkin, Mrs. E. Lewis, Dr. A. P. Lewis, Col J. F. Lewis, Mr. R Midzutani, Mr. Y. Murai, Mrs. Murai and child, Mr. H. R Newman, Mrs. Newman, Mr. M. C. Parsons, Mrs. M. Priest, Mrs. Ross, Mr. Chas. Schlee, Mr. Snowdon, Genl. Stahl, Mr. H. Testa, and Major C. L. Tilden, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. R. H. Woolfall, Mr. J. Richarme, Mr. W. Styles, Mr. O. Heesch, Mr. J. Lyons, Mr. J Naudin, Mr. W. H. Gill, Mr. C. A. Hutchinson, Mr. J. M. Ellsworth, Mr. M. Baggallay, Mr. F. Grosset, Mr. J. W. Capmann, Mr. Mac Su Pau, Mr. So Lien Ting, Mr. Wong Yuk Nam, Mr. L. Severin, Mr. C. A. Palson, Mr. Jean, Miss M. L. Shea, Miss Bushnell and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Th. Bushnell, Mrs. Goddard, Mrs. Layard, child and European nurse, Mrs. Prentice, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Law, Miss Takebe, Mr. Alf. Woolley, Mr. J. H. de Rens, Mr. Stephen A. Garfield, Mr. H. Green, Mr. R. D. Dipple, Mr. J. Browne, and Rev. Amientes, in cabin; 3 in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. I. Honda, Mr. Y. Odagiri, Mr. C. Yamanouchi, Mr. S. Soyama, Mr. C. Shimizu, Mr. T. Naitoh, Mr. T. Shiota, Mr. T. Okonugi, Mrs. Odagiri and child, Commander K. Fujii I.J.N., Mr. B. H. Chamberlain, Mr. H. Yamaguchi, Mr. H. Ryder, Mr. F. Coward, Mr. A. Diesing, Miss J. R. Luther, Miss G. C. Glenn, Mr. Y. Katoh, Mr. Carl Refardt, Mr. Wong Shin Tuck, Mr. Yue Fong Shai, Mr. T. Nakamura, Mr. T. Fukazawa, Mr. S. Kinukawa, Mr. K. Ogawa, Mr. E. Yoshikawa, Mr. T. Shima, Lieut.-Colonel Katakura, I.J.A., Mrs. Y. Katakura, Mr. G. Katakura, Miss S. Matsushita, and Mr. U. Maruyama, in cabin; 32 Japanese, 3 European, and 2 Chinese, in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK & EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL PACKAGES.
Hongkong ...	720	—	35	621	27	1,403
Foochow.....	295	—	—	127	—	422
Shanghai ...	2,645	—	—	40	—	2,685
Kobe	3,512	—	—	—	—	3,912
Yokohama...	6,485	268	306	115	—	6,791
Total	13,677	268	341	903	27	15,216

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL BALES.
Hongkong and Canton	183	—	183
Shanghai	210	—	210
Yokohama	530	—	530
Total	923	—	923

Per British steamer *Victoria*, for Tacoma, Wash.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	HONOLULU.	TOTAL PACKAGES.
Colombo	—	—	—	131	—	134
Hongkong ...	—	—	—	225	—	255
Amoy	20	—	—	—	—	20
Foochow.....	1,245	—	—	225	—	1,470
Shanghai	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	1,436	175	—	—	—	1,601
Yokohama ...	924	1,310	572	1,058	—	3,864
Total.....	3,615	1,485	572	1,672	—	7,344

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	70	—	70
Shanghai	—	—	—
Yokohama	—	—	—
Total.....	70	—	70

Per French steamer *Sydney*, for Marseilles via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 1,302 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 167 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The signs of a revival in textiles continue. Prices are about at last week's level.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds, 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2 00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches..	1.60 to 2 30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches..	2 00 to 3 75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.38 to 0.43
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 32 inches.....	0.15½ to 0 24½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches ...	0.60 to 0.74½
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per lb	0 55 to 0 67½
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ..	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches..	0.60 to 2.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	3.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 24. Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32. Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42. Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32. Doubles	41.00 to 42.50
Nos. 42. Doubles	44.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2/60. Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80. Plain	76 00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100. Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60. Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2 80. Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100. Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach.....	18.00 —
Chinese...	18.00 —

METALS.

There is no alteration in the market. Transactions are at last week's rates.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch. and upward.	3.85 to 4 10
Iron Plates, assorted	4 00 to 4.40
Sheet Iron	4.90 to 5.10
Galvanized Iron sheets	8.50 to 10.25
Wire Nails, assorted	5.90 to 6.10
Tin Plates, per box	5.75 to 5 95
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2 10
Hoop Iron (¾ to 1¼ inch).....	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

Things are fairly active, and there is a pretty brisk demand at last week's rates.

American	$2 05	—
Russian.....	1.95 to	2.00
Langkat.....	—	1.85

SUGAR.

The market presents its normal aspect. Trade has been steady at the prices prevailing last week.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$4.70 to 4.75
Brown Manila.....	5.90 to 6.50
Brown Daitong	4.20 to 4.25
Brown Canton.....	4.10 to 5.25
White Java and Penang	7.00 to 7.50
White Refined	7.70 to 9.65

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market has been fairly active, though the demand from America is still not large. The stock in Yokohama is estimated at 24,331 boxes.

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QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	$955 to 960
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	870 to 880
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	850 to 860
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	890 to 900
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	860
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	830
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	810
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	780 to 790
Kakedas—Extra	860 to 870
Kakedas—No. 1 / Kakedas—No. 1½	840 to 850
Kakedas—No. 2 / Kakedas—No. 2½	790 to 800

WASTE SILK.

The market is inactive, purchases have been practically *nil*, and the large stock which remains on hand keeps prices at a level which holders are not inclined to accept. The appended quotations are only nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 127½
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Oshu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	110 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	60 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 95
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

The market continues active. Large arrivals continue to come in from the country, and sales have been fairly extensive, the demand being still chiefly for the lower grades. There is a stock in Yokohama of considerably over half a million pounds.

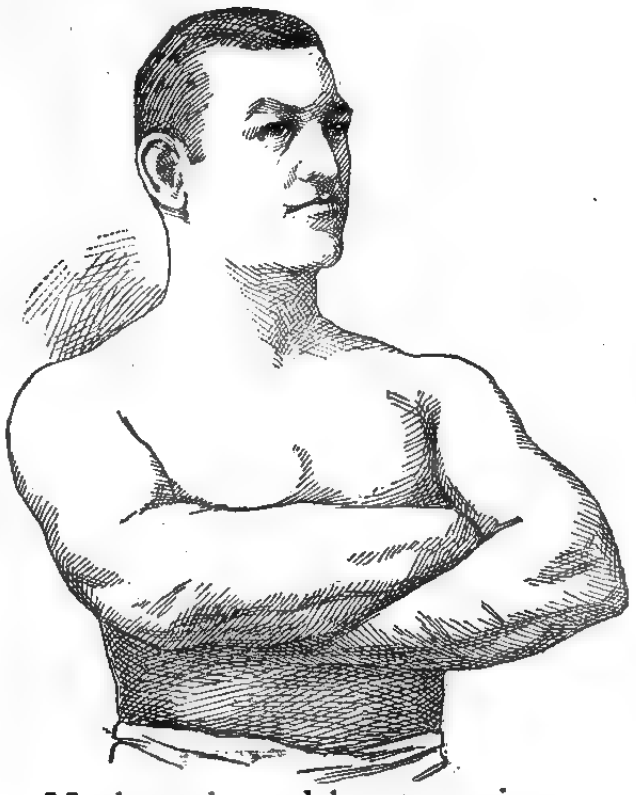
QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$33 & upwards
Choice	$31 to 32
Finest	29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Silver again ⅛ lower from London and sterling ¼ lower from Hongkong have caused a considerable rise in our rates on China, but not affected others.

Sterling Bank T.T.	2/0 15/16 to ⅜
— Bills on demand	2/0⅜ to 7/16
— 4 months' sight	2/0 15/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 31/32 to ⅜
— 6 months' sight	2/0 15/16 to ⅜
On Paris—Bank sight	2.56 to ½
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	2.60
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49¾
— Private 4 months' sight	50¼
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07
— Private 4 months' sight	2.10⅛
On Hongkong—Bank sight	5% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	6% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	76
— Private 10 days' sight	77
On India—Bank sight	152⅛
— Private 30 days' sight	155
Bar Silver (London) on 5th inst.	27 11/16



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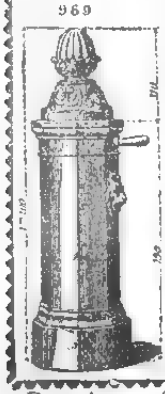

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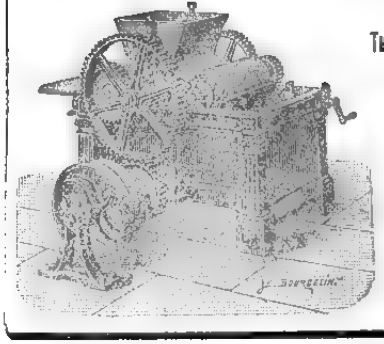

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 17.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, OCTOBER 22ND, 1898. 明治三十一年十月廿二日 VOL. XXX.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, OCT. 22ND, 1898.

BIRTHS.

At Foochow, on the 3rd of October, 1898, the wife of E. GORDON LOWDER, of a daughter.

On the 20th instant, at No. 1-C, Bluff, the wife of A. C. READ, of a DAUGHTER.

MARRIAGE.

At St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, on October 18th, by the Rev. R. F. Cubbold, M.A., ARTHUR HYDE, son of the late WILLIAM HYDE LAY, H. B. M.'s Consul, Chefoo, China, to MARION, daughter of John Croall, Esq., St. Leonards, Kelso, Scotland.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Sultan has ordered all Turkish troops to leave Crete.

THE Prince Imperial is visiting Nagoya and the cities of the south.

HERR JUNKER'S concert in Tokyo last week was a great artistic success.

MR. FUKUZAWA continues to make steady progress towards recovery.

THE Chinese gambling game *Poo Chi* is now widely indulged in Tokyo.

A MOVEMENT has been set on foot in Kobe to transform the present Gymnasium into a Public Hall worthy of the place. The cost is estimated at *yen* 4,000.

THE Emperor of China is still living. Dr. Dudgeon saw him on Monday.

THE American Peace Commissioners refuse to assume any part of the Cuban debt.

RUMOUR has it that the Amateurs of Yokohama will shortly play "The Magistrate."

WE understand that Mendelssohn's "Elijah" will be given shortly at the Public Hall.

THE Imperial Japanese Consulate at Hankow, China, was opened on the 11th inst.

THE German Emperor and Empress have been entertained by the Sultan at Constantinople.

COUNT OKUMA has entertained at dinner Mr. Kwang, the Chinese Minister, his wife and suite.

THE Chinese Ministers are begging the Foreign Representatives to withdraw the Legation guards from Peking.

YOKOHAMA autumn race meeting takes place next week. The prospects of good sport are very bright.

THE Duke of Devonshire does not think that England and France will drift into war over the Fashoda affair.

THE Foreign Representatives at Peking are petitioning for the return of Li Hung-chang to the Tsung-li Yamên.

MR. H. W. IRWIN, the ex-Minister of Hawaii to Tokyo, left Yokohama on the 19th by the steamer *Saikyo Maru* for Shanghai.

THE French papers are displaying a tone implying willingness to quit Fashoda but resenting anything likely to wound French honour.

MR. NAKAHASHI, president of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, will ask the Government for a subsidy to cover losses on the Formosan service.

ACCREDITED reports have reached London that Captain Marchand is in such straits that it is impossible for him to remain long in Fashoda.

A CASE of small-pox was discovered among the O. & O. steamer *Belgic's* passengers just before she arrived in Yokohama on Thursday evening.

PROF. CLAY MACCAULEY delivered a very entertaining address on Japanese Literature at the fortnightly meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society held last evening.

THE Hon. St. John F. Brodrick, Parliamentary Secretary to the War Office, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Curzon as Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

THE death is announced of Lady Cromer, daughter of Sir Rowland Errington, who was married to Lord Cromer, British Minister Plenipotentiary at Cairo, in 1867.

THE ex Reformists met on the 15th inst. at the official residence of Mr. Ohigashi, Minister of Justice, and discussed the question of a counter policy in opposition to the ex-Liberals.

A CHUNGKING despatch to the Government dated the 13th says that reinforcements have left for the scene of the riots. Chungking is quiet and the Chinese authorities believe that the French missionaries are safe.

ON account of the Yokota affair, Mr. Ohigashi Minister of Justice, contemplates resigning his post. The principal members of the Constitutional party are advising him, however, not to take this step before the commencement of the session.

A JINRIKISHA coolie named Kumita Kintaro, employed by Mr. Fukai, who killed his mistress in mistake for a robber that entered the house of his employer, was on the 15th sentenced to pay a fine of *yen* 100.

PAK YONG-HO, who was about to return to Korea, but was warned that it would be dangerous to do so since the poisoning affair, has taken a house at Shimonoseki, and all the Korean refugees will make it their head-quarters.

THE representatives of the Cotton Spinning Companies held a meeting on the 11th inst. at the Kaiboro Restaurant, Osaka, and discussed the Factory Bill. They elected ten commissioners to investigate the matter further.

ADMIRAL FOURNIER, who was accompanying M. Lockroy on a naval tour, has been recalled to Toulon. Four iron-clads are to be forthwith equipped there and sent to Brest. It is reported that the measure is due to the Anglo-French situation.

IT is reported that Viscount Miura, Baron Chisaka and Kadama, and other members of the House of Peers intend to draw up an impeachment against Mr. Ozaki, Minister of Education, who some time ago referred to Republicanism, in an address to an educational institution.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY, speaking at Omaha, referred to the new and grave problems confronting the nation. "We must avoid," he said, "undue aggression, and aim only at securing our own and the general welfare. Ours has never been a military government."

ON the 13th inst. the ex-Liberals held a meeting at the official residence of Count Itagaki, and decided in favour of a programme for the purchase of private railways by the Government and the increase of the land tax. The questions will be further discussed at the general meeting of the Constitutionalists on the 1st proximo.

A NUMBER of Italian anarchists have arrived at Alexandria. Bombs were found in the house of one of them, apparently intended for perpetrating an outrage on Emperor William, when at Cairo. Owing, however, to the abandonment of His Majesty's visit to Egypt, two anarchists have left Cairo for Palestine.

THE prospects as regards imports are not so good as they were. The activity in yarns and shirtings has given place once more to complete apathy. In fancy cottons and woollens the market is firmer, but little or no new business has been passing. Prices are nominal. The metal market is firm and prices have a tendency to advance. Quite large contracts have been entered into for American wire nails. Kerosene shows a considerable advance in price, owing to a strong demand. In sugars, Manila and China browns have risen 20 to 25 *sen*, and there is also a rise of 35 to 50 *sen* in Formosas. In refined sugars there has been but little business, and prices remain unchanged. As regards exports, raw silk is in demand in Europe, and American buyers have also entered the market. A fair amount of business has been done at 5 to 10 *yen* per picul decline in Filatures. Waste silk is quite lifeless. The tea market has been quite active lately, teas from 21 to 24 *yen* per picul being chiefly in demand. Prices have ruled steady, and supplies continue to come forward freely. There is still a large stock of remarkably good quality for this time of the year.

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THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER'S INTENTIONS.

The terminology of the Japanese telegrams from Peking is picturesque. The Empress-Dowager, we are told, is determined to "abolish" the Emperor. That is an ominous-sounding form of speech. Many people entertain a very shrewd suspicion that the unfortunate Kwang Hsü has been "abolished" already, but Japanese officials resolutely deny the allegation, and it must be admitted that their knowledge of China has always proved accurate. The "abolition" now supposed to be contemplated by Her Majesty means, of course, the dethronement of the Emperor. He has already been effectually deprived of administrative power, and it seems at first sight that the imperial old lady might be content with that. But who can say what difficulties the re-instated Manchus find themselves compelled to face? It is very conceivable that so long as the Emperor retains a nominal share in the government, men will be found to agitate for his restoration, and although their efforts might not be successful they would create so much disorder and paralyse the general efficiency of the Administration so seriously that all the turbulent spirits throughout the country might be expected to take advantage of the occasion. Besides, the Authorities in Peking have to solve a problem very much more perplexing and perilous than the management of domestic affairs: they have to avoid the occurrence of opportunities for foreign interference. The mine is laid that will blow the Chinese empire into pieces, and it is only a question of when and how the match shall be applied. If affairs fall into such confusion that the Foreign Powers can no longer trust the Chinese Government's ability to discharge its treaty obligations, the old empire's shrift will be short. The Empress-Dowager would not be a shrewd person at all—and she has earned the right to be called terribly shrewd—if she did not appreciate all these contingencies thoroughly, and, appreciating them, she may consider that the present division of administrative power, however shadowy the Emperor's share, increases the perils confronting the country and the dynasty. So she has made up that implacable mind of hers to "abolish" His Majesty. How is the thing to be managed, we wonder? Will the Emperor issue a decree announcing his own abrogation? Or will the Empress-Dowager dispense with the mockery of his cō-operation? Unless the Imperial Princes are on her side, it is difficult to see how she can contrive the *coup*, and the telegram describes Prince Lei, at all events, as indisposed to assist her. Then there is the question of a successor. Rumour says that Her Majesty has a natural son now twenty-three years of age, and attributes to her the design of placing him on the throne. We do not believe a word of that story, for our own part. Such a climax would render the whole transaction impossible, even in China. Of course some people may say that this is the heaven-sent dementia which precedes destruction. Possibly, but we have to remember that the Empress-Dowager has reached her sixty-fourth year without making a solitary failure. She is a bad subject for the deity of the proverb to try experiments with.

THE POWERS IN PEKING.

One thing seems pretty clear, namely, that the Foreign Representatives in Peking are not cōoperating. They certainly consulted each other before deciding to summons legation guards to the capital, but that was an almost inevitable preliminary, and evidently the consultations had no element of thoroughness, since it did not even extend to an agreement about the number of men to be summoned by each. Russia, with a comparatively small Legation Staff and without a single subject in Peking that we know of, marched in a guard twice as strong numerically as Great Britain did, though the British Legation is an immense compound, a sort of little town in itself, and though seven-tenths of all the foreigners in Peking are British subjects. Russia knows her own business very well, no doubt; but we can not always admire her diplomacy. We did not admire, for example, heartily as we welcomed, the tactics of her Representative in Tokyo at the time of the Otsu affairs. A sword-slash on the head of the Czarewitch was a very ugly thing, and no extremity to which the average Russian might have proceeded under the first impulse of indignation would have surprised us. But good often comes out of evil. A little skilled manipulation might have converted the incident into a factor of immense benefit to Russian interests in Japan. The result was very different. Neither did we admire her manner of stepping down in Korea. There was not a symptom of grace or graciousness about it. If she intended to efface herself temporarily, she might have marched out of the citadel with colours flying and drums beating, instead of evacuating it amid a good deal of ridicule, and with the sound of a most humiliating rebuff ringing in her ears. And what are we to say of this guard business in Peking? Is there anything conceivable to be gained by having 70 men there instead of 30? It is a purely wasteful parade of independence. Russia has been represented by some consummately able men in the Far East, but the curve of her diplomacy shows very marked irregularities. However, it is not of her attitude in Peking that we are thinking when we speak of a want of cō-operation. She could scarcely be expected to cō-operate. What we mean is that no evidence are discernible of combined action between even two of the Foreign Powers. At the moment of the crisis, when Kang was flying for his life and Chang was lying under sentence of death, England and Japan seemed disposed to work together. We are told of the going of a member of the British Legation by night to the Japanese *Chargé d'Affaires*, and of vigorous joint action to save the unfortunate statesman. But the *rapprochement* appears to have ended there. One cannot help thinking how completely the situation might be controlled if the United States, England, and Japan clasped hands and undertook to give some joint mandates in Peking. The *Nippon*, in its issue of the 17th instant, affirms most positively that Great Britain and Japan have resolved upon a course of emphatic interference. We should like to believe it. Things look as though there was not much more time for hesitation, and if ever a little meddling in the affairs of a foreign State were justified by the probable results, the present seems to be such an occasion.

THE HARVARD CLUB OF TOKYO & MR. KOMURA.

On the evening of the 13th instant the Harvard Club of Tokyo gave a farewell dinner to Mr. Komura, the newly appointed Japanese Representative to Washington. We have not previously had occasion to allude to this Club, and we may therefore explain that it consists of former graduates of Harvard College, whether American or Japanese. The President is Mr. A. M. Knapp; the Vice-Presidents are Messrs. T. Megata and K. Kaneko; the Secretary and Treasurer is Baron Kikkawa, and the Committee consists of Professor T. S. Perry, Mr. J. McD. Gardiner, and Mr. K. Nakayama. The dinner took place in the Imperial Hotel and proved a most enjoyable *réunion*, several eloquent and interesting speeches being delivered in the course of the evening. It is impossible to find space for a verbatim report. We must confine ourselves to saying that the President proposed Mr. Komura's health in a witty and felicitous speech; that His Excellency Colonel Buck spoke on the same theme in the genial and tactful manner familiar to his many friends and admirers, and that Mr. Komura made a happy reply. A very remarkable feature was the facility shown by the Japanese speakers in their use of the English language. An after-dinner speech is a severe test of linguistic competence, but Mr. Komura, Dr. Hatoyama, Mr. Megata, Mr. Katashima, and Baron Kikkawa all went through the ordeal with eminent success. The Harvard Club is certainly a capital idea. It helps to preserve associations rich in friendly potentialities, and it establishes an avenue of intercourse between foreigners and Japanese such as the relations of every-day life can not furnish.

A NEW SUBMARINE CABLE.

A good deal of attention is attracted by the enterprise of certain American capitalists who project the laying of a submarine cable from the United States to the Philippines. Their representative, Mr. Scrimser, is now in Japan, and has succeeded in enlisting a good deal of sympathy with his plan. Of course the Great Northern Company's contract is an obstacle, since it secures to the Company a monopoly of cable communication with the islands lying adjacent to the Pacific coast of America among which the Philippines are explicitly enumerated. But the diffulty could be got over by making the cable terminate at the Carolines. The *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Mainichi* both contend that the Japanese Government should give to the new enterprise the support its projectors solicit—namely, a guarantee of a certain amount of business yearly—, and in return should stipulate for the carrying of the cable *viâ* the Goto Islands.

On Wednesday evening a large number of the German residents of Yokohama gathered at the Club Germania to say farewell to Mr. A. Dumelin, who is leaving Japan. Mr. Wismer, the President, made the speech of the evening, and expressed thanks to Mr. Dumelin for his services to the Club, of which he was formerly President.

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POLITICS OF THE HOUR.

It is emphatically denied by the *Yomiuri Shimbun* that Count Itagaki is in any kind of concert with the agitators who want to bring about a split between the Liberals and Progressists. When Counts Okuma and Itagaki, says that the Progressist organ, undertook the task of forming a Cabinet, they gave each other a solemn pledge to stand shoulder to shoulder, and never to break apart even though a split should occur among their followers. Hence Mr. Hoshi Toru's endeavours are all in vain so far as the Liberal leader is concerned. But the *Fiji Shimpo* publishes a long statement of the views of "a certain politician" who alleges that symptoms of the two parties' severance are becoming more and more apparent daily. We need not reproduce the details.

It is really a matter of difficulty to determine what method should be followed in publishing accounts of Japanese domestic politics for foreign readers at the present moment. The subject has become profoundly tedious. There is nothing to note except a series of sectional squabbles which do not deserve to occupy public attention except as indications of the character of the party politicians who claim to have rendered a great national service by driving the Clan statesmen out of power. A few days ago we had to record a movement which seemed to promise an interesting and important result. Mr. Hoshi Toru appeared to have detected the opportunity of the time and set himself to utilize it by bringing about a final rupture between the Liberals and the Progressists. Any man who could compass that end in a legitimate and intelligible fashion would be a benefactor to his country. But Mr. Hoshi's movement has now dwindled to paltry and disappointing dimensions. It seems to have been inspired by no purpose more lofty than the establishment of the balance of power between the Liberals and Progressists—in other words, the gaining of an additional portfolio, that of Foreign Affairs, for the Liberals. We do not propose to weary our readers by an account of the processes which have led to this fiasco—the meetings, the consultations, the communications, and the replies. It is enough to say that, according to the vernacular press, the finely shaped planks of the new platform, namely, increase of the Land Tax and the State purchase of private railways, were ultimately used to construct a vulgar sign-post pointing to the portfolio of Foreign Affairs; that a proposition in that sense was submitted to Count Okuma; that he returned a resolutely negative answer, saying, in effect, that, whatever he might do if a vacancy happened to occur, he certainly should do nothing now, and that the discomfited Liberals, on receipt of this rebuff broke up the meeting they had convened to hear the Premier's reply, and took refuge in a mysterious declaration that they had another card to play. The only comment worth making is that perhaps the event may contribute something towards weakening the ties between the ill-assorted parties. Meanwhile, however, the desire to prevent a rupture has inspired the organization of another section calling itself the *Chiusée* Club, a term that signifies "neutral and correct." The names of its leaders do not suggest much idea of neutrality and correctness, since they include men like Messrs. Kono Hironaka and Oi Kentaro; but that is rather a matter for congratulation, since no combination of persons could be more mischievously employed than in endeavouring to hold the parties together, and the less efficiency they possess for the purpose the better for Japan.

It really seems as though the long talked of rupture between the Liberal and Progressist elements of the Constitutional Party were imminent. Mr. Hoshi Toru has entered the field as a frank advocate of division, thereby showing, in our opinion, that he has ability to seize the real opportunity of the time. The separation of the two parties is what the country needs above all things. They are simply neutralizing each other's useful potentialities by attempting to hold together. The effort exhausts all their strength and reduces them to a condition of helplessness which will effectually alienate public respect if a change be not made soon. Mr. Hoshi commands the allegiance of forty members of the Lower House, and even if he gained no additional followers from the Constitutional ranks by seceding, he could count on the support of the National Unionists and of several independents, so that he would find himself at the head of seventy or eighty members. But the important point is not the position he himself would gain so much as the condition to which he would reduce the Liberal Party. Obviously if the latter be deprived of forty of their number, they will remain a comparatively insignificant detachment in the Progressist camp, and will lose their individuality so completely that many claims which they now successfully assert will have to be abandoned. If, on the other hand, they go out with Mr. Hoshi, they will constitute, with the National Unionists, a party powerful enough, not, perhaps, to win a parliamentary victory forthwith, but at any rate to have a reversionary interest in the administration. Mr. Hoshi, however, does not suggest that the Liberals should necessarily go out of power. The position he takes, as we understand from the writings of various vernacular journals, is this:—In the first place, the Progressists and the Liberals did not amalgamate because they entertained the same political views. They joined hands only as a temporary measure for the purpose of overthrowing the Clan Statesmen. Hence, by unreasonably holding together for the discharge of the duties of constructive statesmanship, they form a disunited ministry, are incapable of effecting anything, and cannot even formulate a fixed policy with regard to finance, the burning problem of the day. To continue such a state of affairs would be to destroy the potentialities of party organization, to lose the peoples' confidence, and deliberately to forfeit their title to conduct the administration. That disruption and disorder already threaten is proved by the attitude of the provincial sections of the Party, and there can be no question that unless a change is made, party government will be discredited and the Clan Statesmen will find their opportunity to return to power. The trouble has its roots solely in the fact that neither Count Okuma and Count Itagaki, nor the Progressist and Liberal Parties which they lead, have anything common in politics. They differ radically, and in "I am not," says Mr. Hoshi—speaking instead of continuing their unnatural union, they should hold a frank consultation and decide which of the two shall remain in power.

Such is said to be Mr. Hoshi Toru's contention. He and his followers are further credited with adopting as principal planks in their platform an increase of the Land Tax and the State purchase of private railways. If they can not induce Count Itagaki to adopt and advance these two propositions as crucial, they will bring them forward at the general meeting of the Constitutional Party which is to take place early next month. Of course all this may be more or less exaggerated, but it certainly has the appearance of probability. If Mr. Hoshi harbours any ambition to become one of the most prominent figures in the political field, he could scarcely devise a shrewder course than that now attributed to him by rumour. He will secure the approval of the public also, for people would be glad to see a speedy dissolution of the ill-assorted union now struggling to carry on the administration.

The man of the moment is certainly Mr. Hoshi Toru. He showed the kind of qualities he possesses when he filled the presidential chair of the House of Representatives as no one had filled it previously or has filled it since. He is just the kind of politician to grasp the present situation, and if he succeeds in putting an end to the exceedingly unedifying spectacle which the Liberals and the Progressists are now presenting to the nation, he will find himself possessed of large influence. He has the further advantage of being represented by a clever newspaper organ, for it is now apparent that the *Tokyo Shimbun*, in changing its name to the *Jimmin* (The People) and altering its form, has abandoned its allegiance to the Tosa Section of the Liberals, and frankly ranged itself under Mr. Hoshi's standard. It explains its new name very artistically and also adroitly, for while paying a high compliment to the industrious, self-denying and law abiding people of Japan, as distinguished from the aristocracy, it claims to have called itself after them in token of its desire to imitate their high qualities. Then it proceeds to argue thus:—"We see no reason why cosmopolitanism and nationalism should not coexist. We see no reason why nationalism and individualism should not coexist. We see no reason why individualism and good order should not coexist. The Sovereign power is undoubtedly vested in the Emperor. But that principle is not inconsistent with liberty of the subject, and should not be allowed to impair the development of the individual's rights. It is merely a question of degree. Excess in either direction means abuse. We are for the happy mean."

The public does not take much interest, however, in the pretty phrases that flow go glibly from the pen of an editor when, in all the freshness of new enterprise, he sits down to compose the exordium of an opening number. The real interest of the *Jimmin's* virgin pages consists in the very outspoken declarations they contain from the lips of Mr. Hoshi Toru himself. He tells us all about the political campaign in which he is at present engaged and he tells as something about his views on foreign policy.

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on behalf of the *Kwantoha*, which he leads —"a rebel against the Constitutional Party, not do I seek to break it up. On the contrary, I am thoroughly loyal to it. The Liberals and the Progressists came together by virtue of a compact in which they stood on an equal footing. It is essential, therefore, that the balance of power should be preserved between them. The balance of power is not preserved at present. A majority of the Cabinet Ministers and all the Vice-Ministers are from the ranks of the Progressists. It is true that, since both form part of the Constitutionalists, the old distinction between them may seem a thing to be obliterated rather than perpetuated. I admit the theory, but deny the possibility of the practice. The two parties have radically different sentiments and cannot coalesce. They can only cöoperate. It is for effective cöoperation that we are working, and effective cöoperation can be secured only by observing the conditions of the unwritten contract that brought us together: in other words, by preserving our equality. With regard to the question of increasing the Land Tax, we are as anxious as any people to curtail all useless outlays. But our policy is positive. We hold that the country must go ahead. Wherever there is genuine occasion to spend money, we would spend it ungrudgingly. Then, further, the finances of the State must be placed on a sound basis. These considerations indicate that it may be necessary to increase the Land Tax."

Mr. Hoshi then goes on to speak of the Yokota and Ozaki affairs. The public was not aware that he and the Kwanto politicians held strong views on these questions, but it appears that they do. They think that Mr. Ozaki's reference to a republican form of government was an "unfortunate and ill-omened" (*fusho fukitsu*) use of words, and they are disposed to hold the entire Cabinet responsible. Their attitude towards the question is not yet fixed. At any rate their alleged purpose is not to embarrass the Ministry, but to anticipate the trouble which the House of Peers is more than likely to raise. With regard to the Yokota business, too, they are evidently of opinion that the Chief Public Procurator has been hardly treated and that the Minister of Justice has not had his deserts. How they can honestly reconcile all these views with friendliness to the Cabinet, we do not pretend to understand.

Mr. Hoshi is very interesting and refreshingly plain-spoken about foreign policy. There are three problems above the horizon: Korea, China, and the Philippines. What ought to be Japan's general attitude? An offensive attitude or a defensive? Undoubtedly a defensive. The results of an offensive and aggressive attitude are never permanent. History proves that fact. Hideyoshi overran Korea, but could not retain his grasp of it. England once owned large territories in France but had to give them up. If Japan attempt to gain a footing on the continent of Asia, the same fate will be hers. The only territory that she should think of holding is that essential as a basis for defensive operations. How then should she proceed? She should seek to make Korea a buffer State, and with that aim should endeavour to keep Russia beyond the line of the Yalu, and to maintain Korea's independence and integrity to the south of that line. "Concerning China, there are those that plead earnestly for the obligation of assisting her as a neighbouring State peopled by a kindred race. But that is purely a policy of sentiment, and does not lend itself to practical discussion. What we have to decide is this:—Shall we throw in our lot with China finally and completely, or shall we, in our attitude towards her, be guided solely by the dictates of our own interests, as other Powers are guided? My own mind is quite clear on the subject, but I refrain from any definite statement. Finally, we come to the Philippines. That question is plain enough. The islands should become the property of the United States."

THE JINRIKISHA COOLIE.

The fact that a little leaven often leavens the whole lump is well illustrated in the case of the *Jinrikisha* coolies of Yokohama. Certainly not more than an infinitesimally small fraction of these men are either rude, truculent or extortionate, yet the description of their behaviour given by some of the local foreign journals suggests that they are intolerable rascals, one and all. It is asserted, among other things, that a Yokohama coolie would scoff at the idea of such meagre remuneration as twenty *sen* per hour for taking a person on a shopping expedition within the limits of the Settlement. Since that assertion was published we have supplemented our own experience by that of several other folks, and in no case is this particular charge of extortion endorsed. The space and attention devoted by local journalists to the coolie and his doings are comically extravagant. Considering the life he leads and the occupation to which he is condemned, the *jinrikisha* coolie, even in Yokohama, deserves to be praised rather than abused.

One of the folks who are so irate against the *jinrikisha* coolies finds it "narrow-minded" on our part to say a good word for that very hard-worked and very poorly remunerated class of men. Conversely, it is broad-minded, we presume, to denounce the whole crowd as truculent and extortionate because a very small fraction display those ugly propensities. There is one thing certain, namely, that to abuse the Japanese is to be in the majority, and since the average human being has a disposition to be on the strong side, abuse is the order of the day. People talk about anti-foreign feeling among the Japanese, but one need not dig very deep in the foreign communities to find a good solid substratum of anti-Japanese feeling. As for the *jinrikisha* question, if there is one thing that has been proposed oftener than another, it is that a schedule of fares should be officially fixed and proclaimed in such a manner as to invalidate all excuses of ignorance. One might infer, however, from the reception given to the suggestion, that it was a brand new and brilliant discovery. The fact is that no scheduling of charges, however careful, will produce the desired results. The real remedy lies with the foreigner himself. No one ever hears the Japanese complain of the coolie's extortion, and the simple reason is that a Japanese never hires a *jinrikisha* in the streets without making an agreement about the charge. If foreigners would make it their business not to enter a *jinrikisha* until they had ascertained the price to be paid, the difficulty would speedily come to an end.

A QUAINT INCIDENT.

There are comedies happening under our eyes in Yokohama, though some of us fail, perhaps, to notice them. The latest complaint preferred against the Postal Authorities belongs to the category. A newspaper office sends a number of its journals to the Post on Wednesday evening for despatch by a steamer leaving on Thursday. The Postal officials weigh them, find them above the regulation weight, and at once return them. They are sent back the next morning, weighed again, this time in the presence of a representative of the newspaper, and again found overweight. That is a very simple story. If the postal regulations say that anything up to 50 grammes will be transported for 2 *sen*, a parcel weighing 60 grammes must, as a matter of course, pay extra postage. But these are Japanese postal regulations, and Japanese officials are administering them. Therefore they must be wrong. The newspaper people cry out that they have been shamefully treated. What is ten grammes anyhow? The papers were wet, being fresh from the press. It was "a questionable and paltry plea that they were infinitesimally over-weight," being only one-fifth too heavy. That is not all, too. In the face of an official declaration from the Postal Authorities that the papers were weighed on Wednesday, at the time of their receipt, and were at once returned as over-weight, the aggrieved journal declares that they were not weighed but were purposely held over "in a spirit of revenge for the exposure made by it," and that the weighing did not take place until after the mail had left. A few minutes, it says, would have dried them, and anyhow the weighing was simply "to trump up an excuse to cover the otherwise indefensible neglect of the post office." Of course the Post Office ought to be furnished with an oven for drying newspapers expeditiously and thoroughly. In this particular case the papers were over weight on Wednesday and also over weight on Thursday after 12 hours' drying. But anyhow the Post Office people should have been able to manage the matter. It is a terrible business; a "flagrant shortcoming"; an example of "vicious activity;" and a case of "exacting a few extra *sen* from the public by the exercise of a spirit of trumpery vigilance." What a comedy! We, too, think that the Post Office people made a mistake, but it was the mistake of being over-courteous. They should not have returned the papers to the sender as over weight, but should simply have forwarded them and charged the extra postage to the addressees. That is what an English Post Office would have done. We recommend the Yokohama Post Office to refrain from offering public explanations or trying to be civil to people who do not understand civility and who would not be happy without any grievance.

The Married Ladies of Kobe defeated an eleven of Spinsters at Cricket on Monday afternoon. The Married Ladies made 59 runs and the unmarried 56. The hitting in some cases, we read, was extremely vigorous.

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HIGH EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL'S DECISION.

The High Council of Education, which met for its eighth day's session on the 13th instant, was invited by the Government to answer several questions of much importance and interest to foreigners. The questions have been submitted in view of the near approach of mixed residence and the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. They are these :—

1.—Should foreigners be allowed to establish primary schools, middle schools, or schools of ordinary educational scope, for the education of Japanese subjects, after the Revised Treaties go into force?

2.—Is it necessary to enact any regulations with regard to religious instruction in schools established by foreigners?

3.—Ought the children of foreigners to be brought within the purview of the primary education laws?

4.—Should the status of primary schools be granted, after the abolition of the foreign settlements, to institutions for elementary education already established by foreigners within the settlements? And if sanction be not given to them, what method should be pursued with regard to the educational obligation devolving upon such of their students as are of school-going age?

5.—When the services of foreigners have to be engaged for educational purposes at middle schools, ought they to be regarded as "teachers" (*seikyo*) or only as *employés* (*yatoi*)? Further, is there any occasion to enact regulations for their control or for determining their qualifications?

6.—In the event of foreigners starting enterprises and engaging children of school-going age for a term of years, should such foreigners be required to undertake the responsibility of providing education for the children?

The High Educational Council, we may remind our readers is a body organized when Marquis Hachisuka was Minister of Education, and the main purpose of its organization was to guarantee educational policy against the vicissitudes to which it is subjected by frequent changes of the Minister of Education. The Council is presided over by Mr. Kato, and on its roll of members are borne the names of many eminent men, as Professors Toyama and Izawa, Mr. Shimada Saburo, Mr. Hasegawa Tai, etc. Mr. Takata Sanaye appears to be acting as Government Delegate at the meetings of the Council, and it is alleged that he has not shown himself properly provided with information to satisfactorily answer the various queries put to him, or fully expound the views of the Authorities. We strongly suspect, however, that it would be exceedingly difficult to find any delegate possessing all the qualifications required by such a council.

On the 15th instant, the High Educational Council, after an exceedingly animated debate, came to the following decisions with regard to the questions submitted to it by the Government :—(1) Foreigners should not be allowed to establish primary schools, middle schools, or ordinary schools for the education of Japanese. The voting was 26 to 13 against primary schools, 24 to 15 against middle schools, and 22 to 17 against ordinary schools. (2) These points having been decided in the negative, it was obviously unnecessary to answer the second question, namely, whether regulations should be enacted with regard to religious instruction in schools conducted by foreigners. (3) As to requiring the children of foreigners to observe the Primary School Regulations, no concern need be taken about the matter.

The Council is not to be congratulated on its liberality. There is an idea that some of the most prominent members voted with the majority rather than incur the enmity of the conservatvies who muster so strong in educational circles. We can not tell how that may be, but, so far as we can gather, the idea of Mr. Inouye Tetsujiro and his followers appears to be that the patriotism of Japanese children might be impaired if they received their education from foreigners. Is it possible that these gentlemen have so little faith in the strength of their nationals' patriotism? Outsiders though we be, we do not share that distrust. Patriotism is not a quality to be wrapped up in wool and preserved from contact with the air. It is the most robust of all instincts. Thousands and tens of thousands of Japanese children have been educated by foreigners during the past thirty years, and not one of them has shown any lack of patriotism.

Mr. Izawa, who advocates the idea of granting educational privileges to foreigners, has collected statistics showing that there are in Japan 69 Christian middle schools—that is to say, institutions where a middle-school education is imparted—with a total of 4,583 students; 168 primary schools, with 11,153 students; and 863 schools of various kinds with 31,246 students. The last figure is of no significance, since Sunday schools are included. There are also 19 theological schools and 276 students. The middle schools and the primary schools are conducted in strict accordance with Japanese regulations. Of course the Council's vote, even if it becomes law, will not affect these institutions, since they are not nominally carried on by foreigners. It may be well also to note that the question of schools for the education of foreign children is not under consideration at all. Schools of that kind are matters apart.

In the face of the unhappily narrow-minded course followed by the High Council of Education with regard to the privileges of foreigners in the educational field, it is pleasant to find that the leading Tokyo journal takes a robustly liberal view. We need scarcely say that the decision adopted by the Council has no legislative force. A special law would have to be passed in order to give full effect to the Council's views, for foreigners are not at present forbidden, either by law or by treaty, to engage in educational enterprise, and, according to the second article of the Civil Code, they are entitled to enjoy all rights and privileges not explicitly withheld. Besides, it appears to us very doubtful whether any attempt to deprive them of the privilege of establishing and conducting schools in Japan would not be a violation of the French Treaty, which says:—"The Japanese in France and the French in Japan * * * shall be able, reciprocally, to reside and give themselves up to the exercise of their professions." A French citizen who makes education his profession might, under that Treaty, fairly claim the right to organise an institution for the education of any persons desiring to avail themselves of it, whether Japanese or foreign. There is always open to the Japanese Authorities the resource of withholding public recognition from such schools, and thus subjecting them to the fatal discrimination of which all religious schools are at present the victims. But the view taken by the majority of the Educational Council was that foreigners should not be permitted to engage in the education of Japanese children or young people, and it is obvious that such a result could not be attained merely by withholding recognition from schools conducted by foreigners. Apart, however, from these questions of lawfulness, the noticeable point in the fine, broad view taken by the *Jiji Shimpo*. It is astonished that any question of the kind should have been propounded to the Council, and still more astonished that the Council should have answered it in such a manner. The plain truth is that from the moment when Treaty Revision became an accomplished fact, questions like that submitted to the Council ceased to be open to discussion. The undoubted spirit of the new treaties is that, within the limits fixed by law, foreigners residing in Japan shall be entitled to enjoy all privileges possessed by Japanese subjects. Still more conclusively is that principle applicable when the privilege in question is the carrying on of education for the sake of the Japanese themselves. The State's legitimate right to interfere in these matters does not extend beyond enacting and enforcing regulations for the management of the schools. There are numerous educational institutions in Tokyo and elsewhere which have been founded by foreigners at great expense. Are they to be abolished? They ought, on the contrary, to be encouraged. The fundamental contention of the Council is that if foreigners are permitted to educate Japanese children, the latter's patriotism will be impaired. Is it forgotten that foreign teachers have been working in the public schools and in the army and navy colleges for the past thirty years? Is it forgotten that thousands of Japanese have been educated in foreign countries? If the Council's theory were sound, it would be necessary to dismiss all the foreign teachers and interdict the going abroad of Japanese young people for educational purposes. In short, there would be nothing for it but to close the country and return to mediæval isolation. Foreigners, hearing of the resolution adopted by the Council, may well exclaim, "If that is the view taken by Japanese scholars and educationists, what sentiments are to be expected among the lower orders?"

What surprises us is that nobody was found to stand up before the Council and express views similar to those now advanced by the *Jiji Shimpo*. We should have expected that with such men as Professor Toyama and Mr. Shimada Saburo, occupying places at the Council board, these easily discernible truths would not have lacked expounders. Can it be true, as asserted by more than one of the vernacular newspapers, that none of the liberals had the full courage of his opinions, and that all shrank from incurring the odium of the conservatives by plain speaking? It looks very like it.

The *Chicago Record* describes Mr. Cockran as "about the ugliest man in America." He is also a wonderful orator. His words are "like the waters of an angry cataract, enriched by a musical Irish brogue." Truly, one of the most remarkable men of the century.

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CONCERT IN TOKYO.

Herr August Yunker's concert in the Hall of the Musical Academy in Tokyo took place on the 15th instant, under the patronage of the Minister President of State and several of the Foreign Representatives. The Hall was not as well filled as could have been wished, but its seating accommodation is large, and on the whole Herr Yunker and the amateurs that assisted him may reflect that they attracted an attendance exceptionally numerous considering that no attempt was made to distribute tickets through private sources. As for the concert itself, it was a finished performance from first to last. Herr Yunker certainly treated his audience most generously, for he took either a leading or a subordinate part in every number on the programme, and it is not wonderful that he felt himself compelled to refuse the *encores* which his delighted listeners showed at first a resolute disposition to insist on. We need not say anything about Herr Yunker's playing. It has already received a full and well deserved measure of applause more valuable than a newspaper can bestow. Yokohama is fortunate in having been able to offer sufficient attractions to secure this able artist's residence here throughout the winter, and we trust that several opportunities of hearing him in public during the next few months will be afforded. If we may be permitted to offer a criticism it is that the gold of the violin is preferable to its glitter, and that an expert who can make the king of instruments emit such pure white light, might fitly dispense with fireworks. However, there are those that love *tours de force*, and Herr Yunker probably thinks it courteous to minister to all grades of taste. Mrs. Mollison treated the audience to one song, and was, of course, rapturously encored. Such a voice is rarely heard outside the ranks of first-class professionals. As Mrs. Mollison bowed her acknowledgments of the tumultuous applause, a beautiful bouquet was handed to her from Miss S. Mitsui. We do not know that this graceful custom has previously been followed by any member of a Japanese audience, and, while expressing our appreciation of the new departure, we may be permitted to add that the occasion was well worthy of it. The only other vocal number on the programme was a song by Mr. Friedlander, who has a sweet, well trained baritone, not quite powerful enough, however, to be heard to advantage in a hall so spacious as that of the Tokyo Music Academy. A concerto for two violins by Miss Koda and Herr Yunker gave the well-known Japanese amateur an opportunity of showing her fine command of the instrument, and evoked much applause. The string quartettes proved not the least delightful numbers on the programme. Mr. R. Schmid's playing on the violoncello is a performance of high order. The noble instrument yields exquisitely sweet notes to his touch, and he possesses the rare art of subordinating it perfectly to its companions without sacrificing any of its own grand capacities. We need scarcely say that nothing contributed more to the success of the concert than Professor von Koeber's pianoforte accompaniments. Very great disappointment was felt that this singularly gifted amateur did not play a solo. The Musical Academy has now a piano worthy of his use, but how long it will retain its condition is problematical, and to the last moment there was a hope on Saturday that Professor von Koeber might be heard alone. The pianoforte accompaniment to Mrs. Mollison's songs was skilfully played by Miss Poole, and we can not close our notice of the concert without paying a grateful and admiring tribute to the indefatigable good-nature of Mrs. Mollison and Miss Denton in making all the preliminary arrangements, a task of no little difficulty. The following is the programme :—

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

1.—TRIO in "C Minor" ..... BRAHMS.
Prof. von KOEBER, Herr YUNKER, and Mr. R. SCHMID

2.—ARIA from "Paulus" ..... MENDELSSOHN
Mr. FRIEDLANDER.

3.—CONCERTO for two Violins ..... S. BACH.
Miss KODA and Herr YUNKER.

4.—STRING QUARTETTE :—
a—Variations from the "Kaiser Quartette" ..... HAYDN.
b—Scherzo from the "E. Minor Quartette" ..... MENDELSSOHN.
Herr YUNKER, Messrs. POOLE, F. SCHMID, and R. SCHMID.

PART II.

1.—SONATA for VIOLIN and PIANO ..... GRIEG.
Prof. von KOEBER and Herr YUNKER.

2.—SOPRANO SOLO :—
a—"Herbstlied" ..... } O. WEIL.
b—"Frühling-lied" ..... }
(With Violin Obligato)
Mrs MOLLISON.

3.—VIOLIN SOLO :—
a—"Andante Religioso" ..... THOMÉ.
b—"Perpetuo Mobile"; from the "G. Major Suite" ..... F. RIES.
Herr YUNKER.

4.—STRING QUARTETTE :—
a—"Ave Verum" ..... MOZART.
b—"Song without Words" MENDELSSOHN.
c—"Menuet" ..... BOCHERINI.
Herr YUNKER, Messrs. POOLE, F. SCHMID, and R. SCHMID.

TORTURE IN KOREA.

The Foreign Representatives appear to have taken a remarkably resolute stand in Söul with reference to the alleged use of torture at the recent trial of the men charged with attempting to poison the Emperor and the Prince Imperial. The Russian Representative is said to have asked that a foreign physician be given access to the jail. The Japanese confined himself to a general protest based on the principles of humanity. The British said that, in view of the suspicions entertained in so many quarters, it would be well to allow the prisoner to be examined by a physician in whom the public had confidence. The French declared that the use of torture was shockingly inhuman; that confessions thus obtained were quite useless, and that unless satisfactory assurances could be given that nothing of the kind had taken place, he should feel bound to take further steps. The German Consul-General used much the same language as the French Representative, and the United States Minister urged that practices so opposed to the spirit of the age should be at once abolished. The reply of the Korean Government is reported to have been an emphatic denial. A whip had been used, as was customary, but not torture. For the rest, the penal procedure of Korea did not permit that prisoners undergoing trial should be visited even by a Korean physician, and of course their inspection by a foreign doctor would be still more illegal.

The above action on the part of the Foreign Representatives marks a new and most commendable departure. Why should the representatives of civilized states remain quietly indifferent in a foreign capital while revoltingly uncivilized acts are perpetrated by the officials of the country? Diplomatic reserve is a very fine thing and a very desirable thing, but it certainly seems to be carried to excess when Occidental States observe all the forms of friendly intercourse with a country which adheres to the barbarous practices of the dark ages? It is scarcely possible to doubt that torture was employed at the trial of Kim and his associates. The Korean Government is not in the habit of asserting its independence *vis-à-vis* the foreign Powers in combination merely in obedience to the dictates of dignity. Had there been nothing to hide from the physician, he would have been admitted. We may be permitted to hope that the protest will be resolutely pushed. And why should not something of the same kind be done in Peking? Torture is employed in China's jails, and quite recently men were executed merely because they had espoused the cause of enlightened progress. If the possessors of civilization have any mission to propagate it, why should they not protest against doings of that kind?

FAREWELL DINNER TO MR. KOMURA AT THE TOKYO CLUB.

The members of the Tokyo Club entertained Mr. Komura at dinner on the 14th instant in connexion with his approaching departure for Washington. His Excellency Baron d'Anethan, the Foreign Vice-President, occupied the chair and proposed the toast of the evening in a well-conceived speech. The toast obtained an enthusiastic reception from all present —over sixty in number—, and Mr. Komura replied in brief but feeling terms. We take the opportunity of wishing Mr. Komura a safe voyage and a full measure of success in his mission. He adds to marked ability as an official the happy gift of winning friends, and it is safe to predict that his guardianship of Japanese interests in Washington will be as competent as his methods will be popular.

THE BUDDHIST TUMULT.

The Buddhists seem to be bent upon making a really formidable tumult about the jail affair. Collating the statements made by our vernacular contemporaries, we find that the commotion is developing large proportions. Not only have the two Hongwan Temples in Kyoto buried the hatchet to fight against a common foe, but the disciples of the Tōdo Sect, the Sōto sect, and the Nichiren (!) sect are said to be joining the agitation. Moreover, the believers in Shinshiu are about to send delegates to Tokyo; the business men among the parishioners of the Hongwan-ji in Tsukiji are forming an association; the Buddhists of Kanagawa and Saruki Prefectures have proposed a union with their fellow-believers of Tsukiji and Asakusa; the Yokohama Hekkyo Kai-in is moving, and the Young Men's Buddhist Association is to hold another meeting and formulate some more violent declarations. The *Sekai no Nippon*, usually most hostile to the Government, is entirely on the side of the Home Office in this in-

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stance. It declares the whole thing to be little better than a burlesque, and says that the Buddhists have allowed themselves to be made the cat's-paws of the "bat band"—the political agitators who, like bats, are active only in the dark, and have now seen an opportunity to create fresh embarrassment for the Cabinet.

A STRANGE STORY.

It is alleged by the *Tokyo Asahi* that a French warship now at anchor in the port of Yokohama has refused to remove to a berth outside the break-water, in accordance with the harbour regulations. Our contemporary's version is very circumstantial. It says that, the harbour regulations having come into force on the 10th instant, the *Bayard*—we presume that she is the ship referred to, though her name is not given and her commander's name, in transliterated form, is unreadable—should have moved to No. 3 Section of her own accord. Observing that she did not do so, the harbour authorities took steps to let her commander know indirectly that he ought to take up his proper berth. That plan having failed, however, Marquis Nembrini was sent from the Harbour Master's Office to call the Commander's attention to the regulations Again no satisfaction was obtained, and finally the matter had to be reported to the Minister of Communications and the Foreign Office. Such is the *Asahi's* story. We quote it as an illustration of the extraordinary versions that rumour sometimes manufactures out of the simplest materials. The plain facts are that, the *Bayard's* propeller being injured and in process of repair, her commander was unable to move her to the man-of-war anchorage when asked to do. He explained the situation, and permission for the vessel to remain at her present berth, pending the repair of her propeller, was sought from Tokyo and, of course, obtained at once.

ART SUPPLEMENTS

It must be admitted that Yokohama has fared better than the other Far-Eastern depôts of trade in the matter of the so-called "Art Supplements." There is in these sheets a partial absence of the shockingly offensive colour which disfigured the sheets for Singapore, Hongkong, and so forth. On the other hand, the view of Yokohama, occupying the centre of the Supplement, is about as unsatisfactory an affair as could easily be conceived. It lacks all the essential features of the place. So far as the advertising uses of these "Art Supplements" are concerned, we fail altogether to appreciate them. It seems to us that the huge, unwieldy, and not at all picturesque sheets will find their way only into the hands of those that have their firm-names emblazoned there, and that it will always be their fate to remain rolled up and stowed away in a lumber-room. A sheet designed and worked with sufficient decorative skill to present some attractive features, and to be worthy of a place on an office wall, might have value as an advertising medium, but no one will think of making wall space for these Supplements, we imagine. However, that is the advertisers' business, not ours.

DEPARTURE OF THE CHINESE MINISTER.

His Excellency Mr. Yu, Mrs. Yu, the Misses Yu, and the two Messrs. Yu (junior) left Tokyo by the 10.40 train from Shimbashi on the forenoon of the 20th instant. A very large number of people assembled at the station to bid them farewell, among them being Their Excellencies Count Okuma, Minister President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Viscount Tanaka, Minister of the Imperial Household Department, Marquis Nabeshima, Baron Rosen, M. Harmand, Colonel Buck, Count von Leyden, and Mr. Lisboa. Mr. Yu represented China at the Court of Japan for 3½ years. He came here at a time when the issue of the war was fresh in people's memory, and when, as a place of residence for a Chinese family, Tokyo had not many recommendations. Mr. Yu passed quietly through the somewhat embarrassing days of his early sojourn in the Japanese capital. He is a man of philosophically calm mien whose interest in his environment never seems sufficient to provoke any display of feeling, and it would be difficult to say what impressions Japan produced on him. But Mrs. Yu and her daughters, and the two Messrs. Yu, junior, took an active part in the social life of Tokyo and will be much missed. It must be confessed that the moment of their return to China is even less auspicious from their point of view than was the time of their coming to Japan, for they have identified themselves with Western civilization, and their welcome in Peking is not likely to be very hearty under the existing régime. That their numerous friends in Japan should wish them health and happiness, is, therefore, more than a mere conventional formula.

LI HUNG-CHANG.

At first sight it seems surprising, almost startling, that the Italian Representative in Peking should have applied for the re-appointment of Li Hung-chang to the *Tsung-li Yamén*. But if we remember, when we sit down to solve the conundrum, that one thing is axiomatic, namely, the absolute cōoperation of the British and Italian Legations, we find ourselves less perplexed. If M. de Martino has asked for Li's restoration to authority in the domain of China's foreign affairs, Sir Claude Macdonald endorses the request. That is positive. What, however, is the next step towards comprehension? We were told six weeks ago that Li's removal from the *Tsung-li Yamén* had been brought about by the British Representative's refusal to transact business so long as the old Viceroy held a paramount place there. Apparently Sir Claude Macdonald has changed his mind. Or Li has changed his method. Or his methods were misunderstood. Or Sir Claude's share in his temporary downfall was not altogether what the public supposed. We suspect that the truth may be obtained by compounding all those ingredients, and we suspect, further, that Marquis Ito supplied the formula for their composition. Marquis Ito believes in Li, and Marquis Ito, it may be observed *en passant*, is not a man of misplaced confidences. It looks as if Marquis Ito had been the means of bringing Earl Li and Sir Claude Macdonald together; and, further, it looks as if the Chevalier de Martino had acted as a *deus ex machina* to save a situation which the British Representative could not directly manipulate in the sequel of his recent record. Of course Li's detractors—with whom Shanghai abounds—will be horrified by this event, and will construe it as another symptom of the spinal complaint which, according to their prognosis, afflicts Her Majesty's Government. For our own part, we have never credited the tale of Li's bribery by Russia, and when we are told that at heart he has no policy except Li's interests, we remember that unless he has lived for fifty years a life of phenomenal deception, he is a friend of progress. Peking politics are a tangled skein at present, but the clue may possibly lead the public back to some of its old faiths. Only the most youthful among us can fail to recall the long years during which Li reigned in Tientsin, crowned by the acclaim of the civilized world as *the* enlightened Chinaman *par excellence*. We who write these words spoke with him in 1886, and heard his assurance:—"Things move slowly in China. She is too big to be bustled. Wait seven years. If I am alive then, you shall see a railway to Tientsin." In seven years the railway was there and Li was there. Should the old statesman come to the front again, we shall not be at all disposed to regard the event as another nail in the coffin of Chinese progress.

"JAPANESE ART FOLIO."

The Third Part of Mr. Ogawa's "Japanese Art Folio" maintains the reputation won by the two sections previously published. The first picture reproduced is a chromoxylograph by Kaigetsudo, one of the least known of the *Ukyo-ye* painters. It is a fine specimen of the technical processes of the artist's time, but as a picture it has not much to recommend it. Soami's landscape in rain is a very different affair—a noble example of the school which culminated in the immortal Sesshiu. To the average foreign collector the names of the great trio, Geiami, Soami, and Noami, are not very familiar, but their paintings deserve to be ranked with the best water colours of European artists. A Daruma by Shiugetsu, showing all the breadth and dash of that master's style, occupies the third place in the Folio. It is followed by a study of a white heron among water plants by Giokuraku, concerning which the editor, Mr. Shugio, tells us that "it is almost as good and strong as Motonobu's brush-work." We do not agree with him. The picture certainly has fine points, but strength of line is exactly the quality in which it seems to us to be lacking. Mitsuoki's chrysanthemums, the fifth picture in the Folio, is a lovely specimen of the Tosa master, and with regard to Hokusai's flight of sparrows, which concludes the volume, we can only say that it is about as good as Hokusai's birds usually are, which is very bad. These Art Folios are an excellent conception. If they are continued on the same lines of intelligent eclecticism, they will do more than any previous publication to familiarize the foreign public with the admirable features of Japanese pictorial art. It is a pity, however, that a little more care is not exercised in compiling the English descriptions and reading the proofs. Grammar and orthography are sometimes sadly out-

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THE BIBLE IN POLITICS.

A Professor in the Imperial University, Mr. Miyake Yujiro, whose *nom de plume* is "Setsurei," has the reputation of applying abstract principles to the concrete problems of politics in a manner that is often very striking, though not always very practical. He contributes to the columns of the *Nippon* an article headed "Christian Flagrant Sinners," and he preaches to that text thus:—"There are no greater thieves, no worse liars, in the world than the countries now about to dismember China. It was in 1877 that Japanese students first commenced the practice of delivering lectures in the English language. The place was the lecture hall of the University at Hitotsubashi, and one of the lecturers applied the term 'brutal' to the procedure of foreign States. A missionary who was present took great umbrage at the epithet, and required that a written apology should be made. The incident put an end to lectures of that kind for the time. But if we consider the action of the foreign Powers to-day, 'brutal' is far too mild an epithet to apply to it. In no dictionary can we find any adjective sufficiently strong to express it. It is a veritable case of the Biblical hypocrites that cry peace with their lips all the while they are making ready for war. Granted that politicians are more or less exempt from any obligation to observe the precepts of the Bible, it is nevertheless strange that no voice is raised against this iniquity. The destruction of Poland's independence and her partition between Russia and Austria evoked loud protests from the exponents of morality, but they watch the preparations for the Chinese tragedy without the slightest show of indignation. Has Christianity perished, then, and does it only operate to make hypocrites? We grant that it is in some respects a better creed than Buddhism, but it can not escape the reproach of being entirely without influence on international politics. When the Otsu incident occurred, the Japanese were called barbarians and many other ugly names; but when Russia, Germany, and France combined to rob Japan of the territory she had won fairly in fight, not a word of condemnation was heard from any side. Do we not remember, too, how the German Emperor, after the war between China and Japan, painted a picture of the yellow spectre looming on the European horizon? It is wonderful that His Majesty could make such a drawing, but it would not be at all wonderful if some Japanese were now to paint a picture showing the white spectre on the Chinese horizon."

THE YOKOTA AFFAIR.

Mr. Yokota's disciplinary removal from the office of Chief Public Procurator has at length been officially announced. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Kokumin Shimbun* declare that the Emperor at first declined to sanction the measure and the Minister President was obliged to offer fuller explanations. They say, further, that the explanation had reference solely to Mr. Yokota's intemperate letter, and not at all to the question at issue between him and the Minister of Justice. But both journals are bitterly hostile to the present Cabinet.

COUNT OKUMA'S LECTURE.

Count Okuma delivered his much-expected address to the Oriental Society (*Toho Kyo-kai*) on the 19th instant. Nothing could be less satisfactory than the reports published by the vernacular press. They are only the most sketchy epitomes. One thing is clearly reproduced, however. The lecturer said that according to a telegram received that day from Peking, the English physician, Dr. Dudgeon—not a French physician, as our own message ran—had visited the Emperor and found him in good health. The telegram added that His Majesty's position was assured, and that the strong representation (*Kyoriokunam chiukoku*) addressed by the Japanese Government to the *Tsung-li Yamên* had produced a palpably excellent effect, which had caused the German Representative to express his satisfaction to the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires. What the representation was, Count Okuma did not explain. As for the remaining portions of His Excellency's address, their epitomized form is neither trustworthy nor satisfactory. We await the publication of the stenographic report.

GERMANY AND ENGLAND.

We have often said that we believed in an ultimate *rapprochement* between Germany and England. After her own kinsmen, the Americans, there are no people with whom Englishmen have so much in common as the Germans. It is true that a keen commercial rivalry exists between the two countries, but competition in trade need not involve hostility. Germany's arrival at Kiao-chou was not an event to be regretted by England. Quite the contrary, indeed. The fashion of it could not be approved by the laxest moralist, but the fact was welcome to England, for it signified the entry of the Far-Eastern arena by a Power much more likely to assist than to oppose the British programme of commercial development. An understanding now seems to have been happily arrived at, and with Germany, England, the United States, and Japan working together in the East, the situation may be considered tolerably safe. The *Pall Mall Gazette's* accounts of the compact is this:—

> We are to-day in a position to give, on absolutely trustworthy authority, some important additional information in regard to the Agreement between England and Germany which we announced in these columns on September 2. The arrangement covers several matters, and provides a basis for the adjustment of any differences that may arise in the future between the two Powers in any part of the world on territorial questions. The mainspring of the Agreement is commercial—in principle the recognition of a common interest in promoting commerce.
>
> The point with which it more directly and principally deals is an understanding between the two Powers as to their spheres of railway influence in China. It is agreed that a joint line shall be made with English and German capital, subscribed by English and German banks, from Tientsin to Chinkiang. The administration of the line, so far as Shantung is concerned, is to be German; so far as the Yangtse Valley is concerned, English—the whole to be one joint enterprise. Germany agrees to support England in any claims she may prefer to the Tsungli-Yamên for railway concessions in the Yangtse; England agrees to support Germany for any in the German sphere.
>
> There is no truth whatever in the suggestion that Germany contemplates or desires any acquisition of territory herself in any way in Asia Minor. As to Egypt, Germany is, if not active in our favour, entirely sympathetic towards us. As to all other matters, a *modus vivendi* has been found in the Agreement on all questions likely to arise between the two Powers in the future.

"EXTRAS."

Scarcely an afternoon passes now without the streets of Tokyo being paraded by newsmen shouting *gogai* (extra). Japanese journalists have "caught on" to the fact that, in a time of political excitement, people will eagerly purchase everything purporting to contain intelligence, and will not be deterred from repeating the operation to-day because their experience of yesterday was disastrous. Formerly it was the custom for sellers of *gogai* to cry the nature of their wares as they moved along. They affected for the purpose a peculiar kind of voice, the latter half of a sentence being invariably pitched an octave below the tone of the first half. It was a serious effort to these generally illiterate persons to advertise the extras in such a manner, and very often their descriptions wandered as widely from the original as the sign-board of a penny show differs from the objects on view within. There is no proclamation of contents now-a-days. The simple word *gogai* suffices. Who would gudge a *sen*—the equivalent of a farthing—for the chance of learning that the Emperor of China has been murdered or that a new scheme for dividing the Liberals from the Progressists is on the *tapis*? In forty-nine cases out of fifty these *gogai* prove to be mere deceptions; often they do not contain even a pretence of information. But people can not afford to let them pass by, and newspapers which have hitherto respected themselves too much to descend to such devices are now beginning to follow the multitude. The *Jiji Shimpo* bids its readers not to trouble themselves about any *gogai* other than those emanating from the *Jiji's* office—naïve recommendation, to say the least of it.

MR. F. O. EUSTACE.

Yokohama lost on Saturday one of its oldest residents in Mr. F. O. Eustace, who left for England with his family by the *Kanagawa Maru*. Mr. Eustace has been in Japan for twenty-seven years, and it is doubtful whether in the whole of that time he has made a single enemy. Most of us have come to regard him as an inseparable part of the fine old firm for which he has worked so long and so faithfully, and every one recognises in him a type of the indefatigable, conscientious man of business who contributes so largely to the success of British commercial enterprise. We wish him a long spell of of hale and hearty years to enjoy in England the well-deserved fruits of his labours in the East.

ANOTHER VIOLATION OF THE HARBOUR REGULATIONS.

This time it is the steamer *Ulysses* which finds a place in the columns of a vernacular contemporary as having violated the Harbour Regulations. She left the port without having given the notice required by the rules; was followed and brought back; and finally was suffered to resume her voyage on condition that the captain put up a sum of 60 *yen* by way of security for the fine that might be imposed on him. That is the story. Perhaps it is a fiction as complete as was the canard about the French man-of-war. Anyhow the captain of the *Ulysses* may be assumed to have transgressed the rules simply through ignorance, so it is to be hoped that no fine will be exacted.

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THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

EVERY one of the Tokyo newspapers contained, in their issues of the 16th inst., precise accounts of claims said to be entertained by the various foreign Powers with regard to China. There can be no question that the *provenance* of this information was the same in each case, though some of the papers profess to have received it independently from Peking, and make in the phraseology changes of such a nature as to differentiate their particular version from the versions of their contemporaries. It is not pretended that these claims have been actually formulated; they represent merely the intentions of the Powers. But the conviction, clearly implied though not definitely expressed, is that European states regard the Chinese administration as having fallen into a condition of hopeless chaos and consider that since the responsibility for carrying out the treaties can no longer be satisfactorily located, a totally new arrangement is necessary. The terms of the arrangement are said to be these :

Great Britain, in the first place, to acquire administrative authority, both substantial and theoretical, throughout the whole of the Yangtsze Valley: in other words, to annex (*sekyu*) it. In the second place, to receive a concession of the whole of Kowloon Peninsula, together with the utmost possible extension of the coast line.

Italy, to have, first, unlimited mining privileges, with regard to coal and other minerals, at Chak-chu, Loon, Ping ting and Ping yeung in Shansi; secondly, mining concessions at profitable places to the north of the Yellow River; thirdly, the right of building whatever railways may be required in connexion with the mines; and full rights of water transport by the Yellow River and the Peiho.

Russia, in addition to the right of extending the Trans-Asian Railway from Tchitah and Onang in the Baikal through China and carrying it thence *vid* Kirin and Ninkton in Manchuria, to have unlimited power in the region traversed by the line; and further, to acquire sovereign rights over the portions of the Liaotung Peninsula already leased to her for 25 years.

Germany, to have an extension of territory together with absolute freedom of action at Kiaochou; and secondly, in addition to the special concession already obtained by her with regard to railways in Shangtung, to receive largely increased privileges.

France's claims are not yet clearly known, but they will doubtless relate to the two Kwangs. She seems to have lost her desire for Hainan owing to its bad climate and disorderly inhabitants.

It is easy to see that the compilers of the above relied considerably on conjecture. Some of the Powers are created with too large ambitions; others with too small. England certainly would not seek to annex the whole of the Yangtsze Valley at one coup, neither would Russia be content with Liaotung and some vague power in the regions traversed by her great railway. But though errors of detail may be discernible, we can scarcely dismiss the rumour as altogether untrustworthy. China is certainly in a parlous condition, and if her helplessness to restore order in Peking or to make head against the insurrections in the south and centre, has been demonstrated to the conviction of the Powers, it is conceivable that they may be driven to extreme measures. Rumour says that the Viceroy CHANG CHIH-TUNG has been summoned to Peking to give an account of his failure to extirpate the rebels in the districts under his jurisdiction. CHANG is not at all likely to obey the summons. He has been identifying himself of late with the cause of progress, and to venture within reach of his enemies in Peking would be a rash step indeed.

Not one of the pro-Government journals offers any comment on the above intelligence. The only expressions of newspaper opinion that we have are from the *Chiuo*, the *Nichi Nichi*, and the *Nippon*. A news agency has furnished to the journals supporting it the following statement:—"Our Government, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of right, will maintain a most conciliatory attitude towards China, and will endeavour to gradually lead her to achieve her progressive reforms." The *Chiuo* confines itself to briefly ridiculing such a policy, and suggests that it is somewhat belated. The *Nippon* contrasts it with the tall talk of the party politicians before the administrative responsibility devolved on them, and wants to know whether that was what they meant when they so vehemently upbraided the Ito Cabinet for not taking steps to maintain the balance of power and to preserve the peace of the East. The *Nichi Nichi* declares that the question between the foreign powers is not China's progress or stagnation. The real line of division is whether she shall be broken into pieces or preserved whole. It declares that no matter what party is in power in Peking they ought to be supported if they favour reform, and it calls upon the Cabinet to make a vigorous advance in conjunction with England, Germany, and America. But our contemporary somewhat impairs the force of its exhortation by adding that to make such proposals to the present incompetent Cabinet is like thrashing a horse in order to make it show its horns.

THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

IT seems that we did an injustice to Chinese politicians. They have not proceeded to the extremity of making away with the EMPEROR, however inconvenient his presence may be in the palace. Perhaps it would be harsh to analyse the motives of their self-restraint. At any rate, the event has proved that they were wise, for it would have been exceedingly embarrassing had they been unable to satisfy the importunity of the Foreign Representatives. Now the question is, what will become of the EMPEROR? Is he to remain in a suppressed and "depressed" condition while his opponents carry on the administration in his name? Are the Foreign Ministers, who have been sent by their Sovereigns and States to represent them at his Court, to become parties to the farce of recognising his authority for the despatches addressed to them by the Tsungli Yamên and for the edicts issued in his name? Their action in insisting on an audience until trustworthy evidence was furnished of His Majesty's safety, can not be too highly applauded. It will probably have the effect of insuring the EMPEROR against foul play, for the enemies of reform now know that they can not perform any tragedy they please behind closed doors, but must be prepared at all moments to draw up the curtain and let the civilized world examine the stage and its occupants. That is a great point gained. But is nothing more to be done? We have every confidence that the answer need not be negative. Great Britain is evidently moving, not with any precipitancy or bluster, but quietly and steadily. Her critics, especially her own somewhat impatient nationals, often abuse her statesmen roundly for slowness, ineptitude, pusillanimity and what not. But whether England's affairs are managed well or ill, she "gets there." No one can deny that. Her officials are, after all, the best men she has, and they know a great deal more about their work than the Crowquills, Nibdrivers and Inkquirts who arrogate the duty of instructing them. They contrive to bring the old country out at the top in every real crisis, and that is about as much as we have any right to expect. England has gone pretty far out of her way in this instance. Her despatch of one warship to rescue KANG YU-WEI and of another to escort him to Hongkong; the official asylum she grants in the Crown colony to him, his family, and all persons of his political complexion who choose to take refuge there; the guards she posts for the protection of the fugitives—these proceedings constitute a very uncommon and notable attitude; an attitude which would be slightly farcical if it stopped simply at giving safe bed and board to the discomfited reformers. Japan, too, is evidently resolved to recognise her responsibilities. Vernacular newspapers say that Mr. YANO carried with him instructions to employ every means of obtaining audience of the EMPEROR, alone if possible, or, by way of alternative, in company with the Minister of a Power entertaining the same views as Japan does; and further to spare no effort for freeing the EMPEROR from the shackles that now bind him, and restoring to him a free hand. Japan can accomplish that if she pleases. It would be incomparably the best use to which she has hitherto devoted her strength.

A London telegram which appears in the *Rangoon Gazette* says :—The Duke of Connaught's tact and good humour, combined with the keen interest he has taken in the French Army manœuvres, have produced an excellent impression in France. His Royal Highness has been decorated with the Legion of Honour.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The events now chiefly occupying journalistic attention are the meeting of the High Council of Education, the condition of the Constitutional Party, and the resignation of Baron Iwasaki. The Council of Education has not hitherto been considered of much account, princially, perhaps, because people thought very little about it, and because it was not required to discharge any particularly interesting function. But it has now been asked to answer various questions relating to the privileges that ought to be granted to foreigners, or withheld from them, in the field of education, after the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction, and the questions are themselves of so much importance that their discussion has imparted vicarious prominence to the Council also. In a previous issue we gave a translation of the questions in detail, and elsewhere in this issue we epitomise the results of the controversy that took place in the council chamber. Hence, in order to make clear what we have to write in this column, it will suffice to explain that the gist of the questions is to determine whether foreigners shall be allowed, after they pass under Japanese jurisdiction, to engage in educational enterprise in Japan. Only two newspapers comment on the purport of the questions. It is a topic which might have been expected to evoke many expressions of journalistic opinion, but editors seem reluctant to commit themselves as yet to any definite expression. The same disinclination, or diffidence, marked the proceedings of the Council, and furnishes a theme to the *Hochi Shimbun* and the *Kokumin* for dilating upon the divergent views entertained by Japanese educationists. They are indeed very divergent. For there is a party that follows Mr. Inouye Tetsujiro, one of the founders of Japanese eclecticism, and there is a party, with men like Professor Toyama for its leaders, which advocates a large-minded and cosmopolitan policy in almost everything. A fight between these two sections has been waged for years, and until victory declares definitely for one side or the other, educational progress must be slow. Each appears to have shrunk from assuming any unequivocal attitude towards the questions about foreigners in education, and the *Kokumin Shimbun* alleges that the Mombusho authorities too are unwilling to stand forth as leaders of opinion. Indeed, it is said that much of the caloric displayed at the Council's recent discussions—for there appears to have been a great deal of caloric—was due to the members' exasperation because of the Government-delegate's baffling answers to their queries. Our contemporary compares the situation to that known in Japan as *san-sukumi*, or the three shrinkers—that is to say, the snake, the slug, and the frog, any two of which, if placed *vis-à-vis*, would settle their differences very quickly, whereas when the three find themselves together, they are all reduced to alarmed inaction. As for the issue itself, the *Kokumin* is somewhat guarded in its expressions. It opines that the truth never lies at either extreme of view, but always in the middle. The conservatives among the educationists are not wholly right. Neither are the liberals. The former take altogether too narrow a view. The latter would sacrifice even patriotism on the shrine of freedom. A middle course ought to be adopted. But what the course is, the *Kokumin* does not say. Its own hesitation to be explicit furnishes an example of precisely the kind of timid reticence which it lays to the charge of the Mombusho and the two sections of educationists. The *Hochi Shimbun*, however, is open enough. It declares itself in favour of not attempting to interdict foreign educational enterprise. That is the only course consistent with the dictates of civilized enlightenment. The discussion, it thinks, is exactly analogous to that with regard to allowing foreigners to hold shares in Japanese railways. Short-sighted folks contend that if foreigners held shares, the railways might not be fully available for the public service in time of emergency, failing to see that the question turns simply upon the efficiency of the regulations and of those enforcing them. If proper rules are enacted for the control of schools, and if the rules are properly carried out, there need be no hesitation about letting foreigners engage in educational enterprise.

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Mr. Hoshi Toru's new departure naturally rouses considerable excitement. Not the least significant feature of the incident is that the party organs preserve a scrupulous silence. They evidently feel that the situation is too critical to endure discussion. The independent papers, however, speak plainly enough, though confining themselves chiefly to descriptions of the crisis, and offering no opinion about the issue most to be desired. The *Nippon* says that the tocsin has been sounded and that the battle will soon begin. There are signs of commotion everywhere. Conclaves and meetings and conferences and movements are the universal order of the day. The old "reformers" (*Kakushin-to*) are flocking to Mr. Ohigashi; the "mountain genii" (*tengu*) of learning are grouping themselves round Mr. Oishi; the Kwanto Club is marshalling under Mr. Hoshi's banner; the left wing of the Progressists are mustering about Mr. Hatoyama—it is a universal scene of alarums and excursions. The *Kokumin* makes practically the same analysis, but is more explicit. It alleges that the Liberals are quite ready to blow the conch of onset, and the Progressists would have already answered the challenge had they not been restrained by Mr. Inugai Ki. The nucleus of disturbance among the Liberals is the Kwanto Club, led by Mr. Hoshi, and the Progressists have a correspondingly vehement section under Mr. Hatoyama and Mr. Ohigashi. As to the attitude of the other leaders, Count Itagaki will not carry dissent to the point of provoking a rupture with any portion of his followers. Messrs. Hayashi and Matsuda are hesitating. Mr. Ozaki Yukio alone offers resolute opposition to the idea of division. Its result, he thinks, would be to discredit the system of party cabinets, nullify the work done by the party politicians throughout these many years, and re-open the administrative door to the Clan statesmen. The *Chuo Shimbun*, however, asserts with every semblance of confidence, that the Liberals have finally resolved upon severing their connexion with the Progressists, Count Itagaki approving of the idea and being prepared to act as leader. The decision was formulated at a conference held on the 13th instant, when Messrs. Hayashi, Matsuda, Hoshi, Kataoka, and Ebara met and agreed that the questions of increase of the Land Tax and of the State purchase of private railways must be resolutely pushed to the front even though they involved a final rupture with the Progressists. As to the time for precipitating the collision, however, secrecy is preserved. The *Tokyo Asahi* confines itself to insisting on the absolute necessity of constructing a clear and unequivocal platform for the Constitutional Party with the utmost expedition. Even Count Okuma, proverbial for rapidity of decision and promptitude of action, is completely paralysed by the present state of affairs. The main thing to be achieved when the Party holds its general meeting next month is the elaboration of a plain platform of principles to which all the members should promise loyal obedience. * * *

Three papers comment on the retirement of Baron Iwasaki, and while not one of them suggests, however indirectly, that his services as President of the Bank of Japan were open to any criticism, or the strict integrity of his conduct to impeachment, it is easy to see that all three doubt the fitness of his appointment. They do not say anything distinct, one way or the other, if we except the *Mainichi*, but they enumerate the qualifications that the president of the central bank should have, and there is no difficulty in perceiving that when they pronounce against a man of wealth, political connexions, or influence in the field of industry or commerce they intend to exclude Baron Iwasaki. The *Mainichi* frankly expresses satisfaction at the Baron's retirement, both for his own sake and for that of the country, inasmuch as his preponderating wealth and immense commercial, industrial, and financial interests exposed his action to suspicion, and invited accusations which were not deserved. It is worth noting that, at the time of Baron Iwasaki's appointment, not one of these journals showed the slightest perception of the objections which they now urge with so much sententiousness.

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The action taken by the Buddhists in the matter of the jail chaplains receives no sympathy from either the *Jiji Shimpo* or the *Tokyo Shimbun*. The former journal, following its customary principles of liberality, maintains that the creed of the men ministering to convicts is of no consequence whatever provided that their teaching tends to improve the morality of the prisoners. As for the Buddhists, instead of criticising the conduct of other folks, it were well if they looked to their own conduct. It is proverbial that the lives led by their priests are not of a nature to augment the respect due to their religion. Their procedure in this case, also, is flagrantly inconsistent with their usual attitude. For they do not in general show any disposition to eschew official interference. They are only too pleased to have the conservation of their temples made a matter of Governmental solicitude, or to obtain the recognition of officialdom in any way, and their highest prelate did not hesitate to accept a patent of nobility (Count Otani). But now they cry out against the least symptom of a disposition on the part of officials to extend a favour to a rival creed. Yet, after all, is it a matter of real importance to Buddhism whether the moral teachers at a jail are Christians or Buddhists? Impartial onlookers can only marvel at such narrowness and bigotry, and conclude that the Buddhists are working out their own ruin. But in truth all this outcry that they make

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is not sincere. They are not really moved in proportion to their display of excitement. Their motive is to parade their spurious zeal and win the applause of the thoughtless multitude. The *Tokyo Shimbun* discusses the question from a still more radical point of view. It shares the *Jiji's* opinion as to utter insignificance, as a religious question, of the form of faith professed by teachers at a jail. The function of such men is to give moral instruction, not to win converts to any particular creed, and when great Buddhists, like Count Otani, take part in such conflicts, it is like parents joining in the squabbles of their children. The really important feature of the affair, however, is that this new attitude is a complete departure from the basic principle of Buddhism; the principle which inculcates indifference to the praise or blame of men, and the duty of controverting hostile attacks not by word of mouth but by example of conduct. It looks as though the historical commencement of the fall of Buddhism were before us, when we see the ministers of the faith following in the footsteps of the Jesuits and entering the arena of politics.

ACCURACY AND VERACITY.

There are some accusations which, whatever their source, a newspaper is entitled to refute without apology to its readers for wasting space on controversial issues which have no public interest. Among them are accusations of wilful "perversion and misrepresentation." In issue after issue the *Kobe Chronicle* has preferred, and continues to prefer, such charges against this journal. The first charge is that we deliberately omitted from our reproduction of the French Treaty a clause giving foreigners the right "to exercise their professions;" the second that, having dropped out that clause, we "proceeded to argue laboriously that *métier* did not include 'profession,' supporting our contention by a misleading quotation from Littré in the apparent belief that the excerpt could not be checked;" the third that we "indulged in perversion and misrepresentation in regard to the British Memorial." However indifferent the *Kobe Chronicle* may be to the ordinary rules of controversial courtesy, we shall not follow its example by questioning whether these accusations are honestly preferred, but will merely reply to them briefly. As to the British Memorial, that is to say, the Kobe Memorial, our comments on it were prefaced by the explicit statement:—"The memorial has now been published, *in part at any rate*." What we said about it was based solely on the published portions. The "perversion and misrepresentation" alleged against us by the *Kobe Chronicle* depend entirely on our failure to notice the unpublished portions, of which we had no knowledge whatever. As to the French Treaty, it is quite true that a short clause was dropped by our printers from the fourth article, the clause, *à l'effet d'y résider et d'y exercer leur profession*. But it was reserved to the *Kobe Chronicle* to formulate the extraordinary suspicion that the omission was made by the editor of the *Mail* intentionally. With what imaginable object could such a silliness be perpetrated? In point of fact, an editor never reads the proofs of such republications. The editor of the *Japan Mail* had not examined the French Treaty as it appeared in his columns when this marvellous accusation was brought against him by the *Kobe Chronicle*. What adds to the wonder of the charge is that the omission was quite immaterial to the point at issue. The Kobe journal asks its readers to believe that the editor of the *Japan Mail* deliberately published a mutilated copy of the Treaty in order to obscure the fact that foreigners would be entitled under its provisions to carry on their professions. Now the first Article of the Treaty, as it appeared in the *Japan Mail*, contained the words:—"*Les Japonais en France et les Français au Japon * * * pourront réciproquement * * * se livrer à l'exercise de leurs professions.* Thus the clause accidentally dropped from the 4th Article was wholly immaterial: it need never have been inserted. Yet it is because this immaterial clause was dropped by a printer's error of which no editor could have been expected to take cognisance that the *Kobe Chronicle* accuses the *Japan Mail* of "perversion and misrepresentation," of want of "veracity and honesty." We come now to the last charge, namely, that, having wilfully mutilated the French Treaty, we "proceeded to argue laboriously that *métier* did not include 'profession,' supporting our contention by a misleading quotation from Littré, in the apparent belief that the excerpt could not be checked." If that charge has any significance whatever, its intention is to create the impression that our mutilation of the Treaty and our "misleading quotation" from Littré were for the purpose of proving that no provision had yet been made for insuring to foreign journalists the privilege of carrying on their profession in Japan after the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. Here, then, is what we actually wrote:—

> It was assumed at first by several foreign critics, ourselves among the number, that without some special enabling legislation on the part of the Japanese Government foreigners would not be competent to publish newspapers in Japan after the Revised Treaties went into operation. Subsequently, when the French Treaty appeared and was found to confer on foreigners the right of carrying on a *métier*, it was inferred that the difficulty had been met, since journalism is a *métier*. Dr. Lönholm, however, does not take the latter view. He defines *métier* as a "handicraft or mechanical occupation," and declares it "doubtful whether the work of an editor can be classed as a trade or *métier* at all." Of course that view is strictly accurate. *Métier*, according to Littré, is the *exercise d'un art mécanique*. Consequently the French Treaty does not cover journalism, and Dr. Lönholm says that "the Government has now under consideration a change of the law so as to permit foreigners to engage in journalism." But Dr. Lönholm omits to note a fact which disposes completely of this question. In the new Commercial Code, which has already passed the House of Peers, and which will certainly be in operation soon, we find (Book III. Chap. I., Arts. 263 and 264) an exact list of the various operations constituting "acts of commerce," and among them are specified "acts relating to the operations of editors, printers, and photographers," when such acts enter into the exercise of a profession. That is a very marked departure from the theory hitherto maintained in Japan, namely, that the editing and publishing of newspapers are acts having a *quasi*-public character and ought to be subject to special regulations in the interests of good order and morality. However, the fact alone concerns us here, and the fact is that when the new Commercial Code goes into operation, journalism will be an act of lawful commerce, and as such will be covered by the Treaties.

The whole paragraph is a criticism of Dr. Lönholm's brochure on "The Condition of Foreigners under the New Treaties." So far from "proceeding to argue laboriously that *métier* does not include profession," we merely referred to Dr. Lönholm's assertion of that fact, and then we quoted from the Commercial Code to show that, even assuming his interpretation to be correct, the privilege of carrying on journalism was nevertheless secured independently to foreigners by the terms of the new Commercial Code. As to our quotation from Littré being "misleading," the first meaning given by Littré is that quoted by us. After nearly a column of illustrations proving that *métier* means the exercise of a mechanical art, Littré adds *par extension, profession quelconque*. We were absolutely correct, then, when we said that the "strictly accurate" meaning of *métier* is the *exercise d'un art mécanique*. Its secondary, or extended, meaning is "any profession." Hence the allegation that we purposely made "a misleading quotation in the apparent belief that the excerpt could not be checked," is certainly one of the most baseless charges that we have ever had the amusement of examining. We do not suppose that the editor of the *Kobe Chronicle* would wilfully mutilate public documents when re-printing them in his columns; would wilfully make misleading quotations from a standard dictionary would wilfully pervert and misrepresent a memorial addressed by a body of his countrymen to Her Majesty's Government. But it is an act of common charity to warn him that the result of preferring such accusations is, not to hurt the accused in public estimation, but to suggest that the accuser judges others by himself, since without some very exceptional experience he could not possibly conceive suspicions so extravagant.

THE DUTCH AS COLONIZERS.

A Dutchman, who is qualified to speak on the topic of Dutch rule in Java, has communicated some of his observations to the British Consul at Marseilles. We Dutchmen in Java, he says, move like a drop of oil—very, very slowly, but all the time moving—and by and-by, when something is accomplished, it has come about so gradually that nobody knows how it happened. We pay the native priests, we support a large native police force, and we rule by the hands and mouths of the natives; but all the time we have our own people on guard, and no important move is made without our consent. Thus the people and their chiefs are contented and happy, and we keep them so by maintaining a condition more favourable than they could hope to maintain themselves. We encourage a healthy *morale* by permitting native and European soldiery to marry and live together in families, and we never send a Dutch official to the Colonies unless he is endowed with qualities likely to improve the condition of things. All our officials must work, and work hard. The improved condition of the natives over their fellows elsewhere shows, the writer thinks, what can be done. Eventually the entire colony will be ripe for similar government. The profitable side of the account is traceable to the operations of the Netherlands Trading Company, which is only another name for the Dutch Government. This Company actually plants crops, manufactures, and sells on lands held by the Government. The Government at home operates as a planter and merchant, and its immense net income is the product of legitimate toil and enterprise, and not of burdensome taxation. We succeed among strange people, he concludes, because we do more for them than they can do for themselves, and any other scheme of colonisation is bound to end in failure.

The *N.-C. Daily News* oracularly declares that it was one of the most serious misfortunes that ever happened to British interests in China that Sir Claude Macdonald was at Peitsiho when the *coup d'état* took place.

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

We have often wondered why no history of Christian literature in Japan has been forthcoming. It is well known that the list of Christian writers in this country is now a long one, but hitherto, as far as we are aware, nothing like a systematic account of their labours has been given. As far as newspapers and magazines go, the *Fukuin Shimpō* has now filled the gap with a series of articles entitled "Christian Newspapers and Magazines and their editors," which we now proceed to epitomise:—

Without attempting at present to discuss the question of the rank held by Christian books in Japanese literature, we undertake to furnish a full account of ephemeral Christian literature. The first Christian publication in Japan was the Kōbe *Shichiichi Zappō*. Mr. Murakami Shunkichi was the first editor of this journal. The *Shichiichi Zappō* was started by foreign missionaries and run for some time by means of foreign money. The subjects treated were at that time not elsewhere fully discussed. They were health, the management of households, food, and improvement in the structure of dwelling houses. It was essentially a pro-foreign organ and not a few of us obtained our first notions of foreign ways of doing things from its columns. It was at this time that a translation of the "Pilgrim's Progress" appeared under the title of the *Tenrōrekitei* 天路歷程*, and Dr. Fauld's answer to Professor Morris' lectures on Anti-Christian evolution. This was about 20 years ago. Not long after this the *Shichiichi Zappō* changed its title to the *Fukuin Shimpō* and Mr. Ukita Kazutami became its editor, being followed by Mr. Matsumura Kaiseki. The latter collected a large number of interesting items of news and put fresh life into the paper. Tōkyō followed in the wake of Kōbe at this time, and brought out a paper called the *Maishū Shimpō* (Weekly News), which afterwards developed into the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun*. But this event was followed by the decease of the Kōbe periodical, the *Fukuin Shimpō*. Full of regret at the failure of the latter, Mr. Matsumura and others started a journal called the 大平新報 *Taikei Shimpō*, which was very popular for a short time, but was cut off in infancy, and Mr. Matsumura, its editor, moved to Tokyo and joined the staff of the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun*.

The next publication to be noticed is the *Tōkyō Shimpō*, of which Mr. Suzuki Shotei was the editor. This organ was started by Mr. Hara Taneaki, who also founded a Girls' School and originated the well-known book shop called the Jujiya. The *Tōkyō Shimpō* was an earnest Presbyterian organ. It was too sectarian to be of general interest, and had a very short life.

The *Yorokobi-no-Otozure* is connected with the American Sunday School Union. It was originally started by the late Mrs. McNair. It consists of translations from foreign books and magazines. For some time the translations published were furnished by Messrs. Uemura and Ibuka, but subsequently Mr. Miura Tetsu undertook the work. This publication has not changed in any way since its commencement. It commands a larger sale than any Christian periodical. Its one defect is the absence of any minute reference to Japanese life.

Next in order comes the *Rikugō Zasshi*, by far the most important of Christian magazines. This originated with the Young Men's Society founded by Messrs. Kosaki, Ibuka, and Uemura eighteen years ago, of which Professor Kanda (Naibu) and Dr. Motora were members at one time. The original object of the magazine was the discussion and the defence of orthodox Christianity, but, after undergoing a series of modifications, it has now become an Unitarian organ. Nothing could exceed the success it attained in its palmy days. It never lacked pecuniary support, and its pages were full of learned discussions contributed by first-class writers. The battle fought by this magazine with Messrs. Fukuzawa, Taguchi, Inouye (Tetsujirō), and Toyama will ever be memorable in the annals of the Christian Church in Japan. The *Tōyōgakugei Zasshi* was started as a rival to the *Rikugō*, but it never wielded the same influence. The next step in the progress of Christian literature consisted of the founding of the Literary Association and Publishing Company known as the Keiseisha, which originated with a giant meeting held in Tōkyō in 1883, attended by Christians of all denominations. At that meeting it was resolved to devote the sum of 500 *yen* to the establishment of a Christian Publishing House. The *Rikugō Zasshi* and a new periodical called the *Maishū Shimpō* were henceforth brought out by the Keiseisha. The name of Mr. Yuasa Jirō should be mentioned in connection with the establishment of the Keiseisha and with its early history. His pecuniary contributions and personal help did much to make the enterprise successful. The *Maishū Shimpō* in its original form did not take, and it underwent a thorough transformation, the name being changed to the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun*, the paper which exercises so much influence to-day. Mr. Yokoi Tokio became its first editor. It is now in the hands of Mr. Tomeoka Kōsuke. It was started on non-sectarian principles, but is now regarded as the organ of the Kumiai Churches (Congregationalists). Next to the *Rikugō Zasshi* this paper is the oldest and the most widely read of Christian publications. It owes not a little of its success to the labours of Mr. Kosaki, who was one of its founders, and whose literary contributions to its columns, dealing with a number of practical questions, for many years lent it considerable interest.

In all evangelistic work the Methodists have always taken a leading part. They may be denominated the Cavalry of the Church Militant. Their first publication was the 美會新報 *Bikwai Shimpō*, * whose career was very short, however. It was followed by the *Yasei no Hankyo* ("The Echo of a Voice Crying in the Wilderness"), edited by Mr. Hiraiwa, which shortly after made its exit from the literary world, and its place was taken by the *Gokyō*, which still continues to be the chief Methodist organ. For some years Mr. Yamaji was the editor of this periodical, but it is now in the hands of Mr. Bessho Umenosuke. To us the magazine seems to have fallen off under its present editorship. A great deal is published for mere form's sake that is lacking in interest. On the other hand in reports of Christian work abroad this publication surpasses all others. It can hardly be regarded as a fair representation of the Methodist soldierly spirit. It can only be compared to a Court waiting-maid.

Now to come to the *Fukuin Shimpō*, for nine years it has bungled along. Its editorship is inferior. Its one redeeming quality is its independence. It aims at raising itself to the level of the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun* and the *Gokyō*.†

In addition to the above there are a number of publications whose names are hardly remembered by the Christian public, so short was their existence. Such were Mr. Suzuki's *Yaso-Shinkyō Zasshi* and Hoshino Kōta's *Hyōjun* (Standard). And among writers for magazines there have been some very singular transformation. Mr. Katō Kaku certainly caps this list. He began with being orthodox and then joined the Unitarians; at one time was content to rely wholly on foreign support, at another carried on the business of tobacco selling and editing at the same time; passed from the editorship of the most serious of religious publications to the editorship of *Punch*, and subsequently grew tried of all the occupations open to him in Japan and went to America in search of new fields and pastures green.

There have been cases of men of considerable talent and influence devoting time and money to literary efforts which have ended in failure. Such was Mr. Ishida, of the Tōhoku-gakuin, who started the *Okayama Kirisutokyō*, subsequently named the *Tōkyō Kirisutokyō*, which name, however, only served for transcription to its tombstone; such, too, was Mr. Shima Hyōdayū, who published several works and started a periodical called *Kyūsei* (The Saviour of the World), but subsequently fell sick and lived to see the failure of all his efforts. Among other disappointing literary efforts may be mentioned Mr. Etō Yoshitada's *Hankyō*, Mr. Snodgrass' *Kirisutokyō Shinshi*, the *Seikōkai* and *Hakkō* (both Episcopalian).

The arrival of the Rev. W. Spinner, a German Missionary, in Japan, marks an era in our Christian literature. It is true that the organ started by Mr. Spinner and now ably supported by the Rev. H. Minami and Dr. Christlieb, the *Shinri*, is anti-Orthodox; that its criticism is destructive and radical, but there is no denying that the whole of the Christian Church was awakened by the efforts of the Lutherans. Numbers of Christians have by this means been taught to think for themselves on questions of Biblical exegis and Christian evidences.

One other magazine remains to be noted, the *Shukyō*, now amalgamated with the *Rikugō Zasshi*, but hitherto a colourless Unitarian organ, opening its pages to any and every kind of discussion on transcendental questions. We know of no benefit that has been conferred on Japanese Christians by the body whose organ this was. And we wonder very much why

* A Chinese translation of this work was circulated in Japan many years before any attempt was made to prepare a Japanese translation.—(*Writer of the Summary.*)

* Many of the names of sects originated in China, where the characters were chosen to suit the Chinese methods of pronouncing foreign names. They are quite meaningless here. The characters used for Methodist 美以 are a case in point.

† This history being compiled by the editor of the *Fukuin Shimpō*, it is natural that he should make use of self-deprecatory terms. But in reality the *Fukuin Shimpō* is far ahead of the *Gokyō* and, in the estimate of a large number of competent judges, Original from the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun*. It is most carefully edited, and its information is usually full and accurate.—(*Writer of the Summary.*

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such a high class journal as the *Rikugō Zasshi* should have allowed itself to be converted into a Unitarian mouthpiece. Since the amalgamation its sale has decreased, and we look in vain for any satisfactory result of the union.

* * *

Dr. Matsumoto Kumpei, writing in the *Sekai-no-Nihon*, contends that one of the chief characteristics of the nineteenth century in the west is the ever-growing spirit of democracy, and that Japan has succumbed to this influence. It is nearly a quarter of a century ago that the founders of the *Jiyū-tō* began to make their voices heard throughout the country, and political life and institutions have been developing in an ever-increasing ratio on democratic lines ever since, says Mr. Matsumoto. So confirmed has been this spirit of democracy that not even the strongest of Governments have been able to act in defiance of it. Athough to the Clans belongs the honour of overthrowing the Tokugawa dynasty, Clan Government in turn has had to do obeisance to the spirit of the times. Nor can it be said that the political parties now in power represent the feeling of the majority of the people or reflect in an adequate manner the spirit of the age. The statesmen who shall fulfil this condition have yet to be created.

* * *

In No. 3, the *Sekai-no-Nihon* comments on the "waste places of the literary world." The dearth of new books is quite remarkable, says this organ. Even large publishing houses like the Hakubunkan are doing little business compared to former years. They publish a few magazines and commentaries on the Civil Code, and that is about all. There may be financial reasons for the literary stagnancy, but these do not wholly account for it. It cannot be truthfully affirmed that there is any deficiency of writers qualified to produce something interesting and instructive. The reason why so many of the books that have appeared during the past few years are a mere drug in the market is that the reading public has lost interest in the subjects they discuss. In order to write a book that shall command attention it is necessary to observe closely in what direction men's thoughts are tending. We beg to suggest, says the *Sekai-no-Nippon*, four classes of subjects suitable to the age and likely to awaken interest. (1) *The Social life of Tōkyō.* This should include a detailed account of the modes of living and the methods of obtaining a livelihood adopted by the various classes of society, beginning with the highest and descending to the lowest strata. A book called "The Social Life of London" has proved a great literary success. And the *Edo-Hanjōki* made its author (Mr. Terakado) famous. (2) *Japanese scenery, birds and animals.* We need a work on this subject like Sir John Lubbock's "Beauties of Nature" that shall be at once scientific and literary, combining accuracy with poetic fancy. Mr. Shiga is the author of a work entitled *Nihon-fūkeiron* (Japanese Scenery), but its scope is extremely limited. (3) *Forgotten Places:* The observations of travellers and their descriptions of natural scenery and noted spots might be collected and made the subject of a book. (4) *Nature and Mankind in China* [illegible] great interest to Japanese at the present time and one on which their information is most meagre.

* * *

The *Kirisutokyō Shimbun* (No. 785) prints an account of an interview held with Count Okuma on Sept. 23rd by Mr. Percy Alden, a member of the London County Council. The chief interest of the interview is in the answers to the foreign interlocutor's questions alleged to have been given by Count Okuma. We give the gist of the dialogue as it appears in the *Kirisutokyō Shimbun* in the form of question and answer:—

Q.—Are you not afraid that the Socialism that is causing a stir in England and America at the present time will be a source of trouble here?

A.—From ancient times there was always in our country a tendency to distribute property among the different classes, what we may call an equalising tendency. So much was this so at one time that there are instances of the Law sanctioning the distribution of the property of rich men among their poorer brethren. But things are different now. The spirit of free competition has been introduced from the West and the gulf that separates the rich from the poor is growing wider every day. Hence socialistic opinions are sure to be adopted here. The Government is on the look out and will do their best to remedy the evil.

Q.—It has been reported that the Government purposes issuing rules for the protection and control of artisans and labourers. Is this true?

A.—When a member of the Matsukata Cabinet, I considered it my duty as Minister of Agriculture and Commerce to go into this question and draw up a set of rules, but left the Government before my purpose was accomplished. I intend to renew my investigations and present a bill to the Diet on the subject during the next session.

Q.—What are the leading features of the system you intend to recommend?

A.—The chief points are the regulation of the employment of women and young children, the age of employés and the hours of work, and the structure and ventilation of workshops. We also contemplate helping labourers to lay by for a rainy day. Our people are very improvident and spend money as soon as they get it. We propose to put by one per cent. of the earnings of labourers and one per cent. of the money received from capitalists* to form a pension fund for each employé.

Q.—What about persons injured by machinery while engaged in work? What do you propose to do in the case of persons crippled for life?

A.—We do not propose to give the whole of the money due to such persons at one time. There will be special rules for such cases.

Q.—In what way do you propose to help the weak?

A.—These things are done easier in Japan than in most countries, owing to the traditional instincts of the people which incline them to pity the weak and extend help to them. With 40 years' experience, I may say that most of the measures we have devised for the amelioration of the lot of the poor have been eminently successful.

Q.—I quite agree with you as to the strength of the sentiment you refer to, and think that you are right in expecting this to make itself felt in future. Let us pass to another subject. What is your view as to the foreign policy of Japan in this Far Eastern Question? What is the line that England should take? And how far is Japan prepared to support her?

A.—The question is very complicated. In my opinion the aim of Japan should be to keep out of foreign complications and remain friendly with all countries. Being an island country she ought to be able to effect this. But should the progress of events make it impossible for her to pursue this policy and an alliance with some other country be forced on her, she should not shrink from pursuing this course.

Q.—What is your opinion as to the dividing up of China by Western Powers?

A.—The downfall of China would not not only inflict great injury on the whole of the East, but could not but be regarded by Western nations as a great calamity. Her independence should be maintained at all costs.

Q.—Is Japan prepared to form an alliance with any other country on this Chinese question?

A.—Japan as a country is fond of peace. Look at her history. During 300 years only twice has she waged a foreign war; the occasions being Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea and the China-Japan war a few years ago. These wars were forced on us.* There is no necessity for us to extend our empire. Though the country is small, its industries are more than sufficient for its wants, and therefore we have no desire to enlarge it. But if we should be confronted by a foreign foe, we would not refuse to go to war, and in that event we should be guided by circumstances as to making alliances.

Q.—Is it likely that Japan, America, and England will make an alliance?

A.—I have great expectations in this direction. The three countries are intimately connected with each other. First, to speak of England and Japan, England showed no small amount of sympathy with our revolution at the beginning of the *Meiji* era. She refused to join the other three Powers in insisting on the retrocession of the Liaotong Peninsula. And in the matter of Treaty Revision, she was the first country to consent to our proposals. In addition to this there is much in the English constitution that finds favour in this country. There are also many ties that bind us to America. Commodore Perry helped us to effect our revolution. Numbers of Japanese have received an education in the United States. We are indebted to American Missionaries for our Christianity, who have come in large numbers to this land. In addition to the above it has to be borne in mind that the English language is more studied and spoken in Japan than any foreign tongue. These are the chief reasons for urging the new triple alliance, and there is nothing to prevent its becoming a fact later on.

* * *

An interesting article appears in the *Taiyō* entitled *Nihonjin to Nōben* (The Japanese and Oratory). The writer ad-

* We suppose by capitalists firms or individuals which send orders to Government [illegible] are intended.

* This is not true of Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea, which is regarded even by Japanese historians as a wanton affair, dictated by Hideyoshi's personal ambition, and relinquished by the wise [illegible] that decided him.—*Writer of the Summary.*

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mits that oratory has been poorly developed in Japan. The political life led under the feudal system of government made all freedom of speech impossible. Men were careful of their words when a free expression of opinion might mean imprisonment and even death. Despotism and its accompaniments, distrust and suspicion, led to a system of espionage that was paralysing in its effects. Confucianism, too, discourages oratory by so frequently contrasting the man of words and the man of action to the disparagement of the former. In this country the philosophy of the wise men of China has been understood as encouraging reserve in speech, as designed to teach that the wise man is invariably a man of few words. Though the present age has great need of orators, with its party Cabinet and its great joint stock companies and concerns, the old antipathy to all kinds of volubility of speech is still very strong, says the *Taiyō*. Hitherto the eloquent Buddhist priest, the wayside story-teller and all others who aim at moving audiences by oratory have been regarded with undisguised, supercilious contempt by the educated classes. The majority of the learned cling to the notion that oratorical attempts to influence the minds of men in favour of certain theories or opinions differ nothing from the recommendations of the pushing shopkeeper or the efforts of the hotel tout to gain customers for his establishment. In any matter on which a Japanese has an opinion he objects to be pressed to adopt an opposite opinion, and the very forwardness of the man who tries to convert him makes him cling closer to his own views. One of the usual accompaniments of the development of such political institutions as we have adopted in Japan, says the *Taiyō*, is the rise of a race of orators. But in this country public speaking is neglected. Among the orations that we remember as in any way remarkable for their eloquence the following are worthy of special mention:—"The Sale of Government Lands in the Hokkaidō," by Mr. Fukuchi Genichirō (1881). "Oriental Statesmanship, by Mr. Baba Tatsui (1883?), "Duelling," by Mr. Kōmyōji Saburō (1889). "Oriental Schemes," by Mr. Inagaki Manjirō (1889). "The Bill for Sanctioning the Revision of the Civil Code," by Mr. Takanashi Tetsushirō (1891). "Interference with the Elections, by Mr. Shimada Saburō (Third Session of the Diet). "Criticism of the Budget," by Mr. Inoue Kakugorō (Fourth Session of the Diet). "Objections to the Cabinet Impeachment Bill," by Mr. Mutsu Munemitsu (Sixth Session of the Diet). To this list should be added Dr. Toyama's speech delivered at the Meikeikai last August entitled, "The Okuma Cabinet and Education." This, says the *Taiyō*, was a most remarkable effort. The language was choice and the arrangement of the speaker's ideas left nothing to be desired in point of lucidity and logical sequence. The subjects touched on were manifold, but they were all focussed on the one point it was Dr. Toyama's desire to make plain. Such discourses are extremely rare. That they are so is a proof that much needs to be done in the way of awakening a general interest in public speaking in this country.

* * *

Dr. Katō Hiroyuki contributes to the *Taiyō* a note on the beginning and development of Constitutional Government in Japan, in which he informs us that the term which is now heard in every schoolroom in Japan, *Rikken Seitai* (Constitutional Government), was invented by him 38 years ago. In a manuscript on this subject penned in 1861, when Dr. Katō was only 26 years of age, this term was given to the world. Little did I think at that time observes Dr. Katō, that ever such a form of government could be established in Japan. My manuscript was only shown to a few friends. Messrs. Katsu Awa (now Count Katsu) and Okubo Ichiō and a few others imbibed the new ideas. And now after all these years, continues Dr. Katō, we have our Constitution and are endeavouring to establish a party Cabinet. It is not to be supposed that the present Cabinet is to be regarded as such. In my opinion we are yet far off the establishment of such a Cabinet. Even if it be conceded that it is possible for Japan to adopt English ideas on party Government and evolve party Cabinets in an unhistorical fashion, that is, without going through the routine that other countries have been obliged to go through, it is quite certain that the final step cannot be taken in a hurry. The present administration is characterised by a greater regard for persons than principles. The Government will get no opposition in the Lower House, it remains to be seen whether the House of Peers is equal to the task of working up an opposition party.

* * *

According to some observations of Mr. Kikuchi Dairoku, the President of the Imperial University, some of the engineers who recently graduated have not been able to find employment. This he attributes partly to the cessation of work on various railways owing to want of capital. Mr. Kikuchi further asserts that there are in the various Higher Schools about 80 students who are studying shipbuilding. But there is no accommodation at the University for more than 30 such students. Mr. Kikuchi thinks that there is a great want of forethought among the students of the Higher Schools in choosing professions. Many of them pursue studies which do not enable them to earn a livelihood at the end of their college life. The shortest time occupied in passing through one of the Higher Schools and the Imperial University is six years; and it not infrequently happens that professions which seem promising when a student enters one of the Higher Schools, by the time he is ready to begin to earn money have lost all their charm from a pecuniary point of view. Another subject treated by Mr. Kikuchi in the statement published in the *Taiyō* is that of conferring University degrees on foreigners. It seems that this question has not been hitherto discussed at the University, but in Mr. Kikuchi's opinion some decision ought to be come to in reference to it. Should foreigners be required to pass the same examinations as Japanese, as they have to do in England, or should the standard be modified to suit them as is done in Germany and America?

* * *

A work that must have involved an enormous amount of labour has been issued by the *Keizai Zasshi* office. It is no other than a full translation of Herbert Spencer's *First Principles*. The translation covers 830 pages and is for sale at 1 *yen* 30 *sen* per copy. The translator is Fujii Uhei. The work is highly praised in several of the magazines. It is said to combine great lucidity with accuracy. Considering how few there are that know English and philosophy sufficiently well to enjoy the original, it is predicted by the *Sekai-no-Nihon* and other organs that the *Sōgō* (綜合) *Tetsugakugenri*, which is the title of the Japanese edition of the First Principles of the Synthetic Philosophy, will be welcomed by hundreds of thoughtful minds throughout the country. The edition used for translation is the Fourth.

* * *

We should not be giving a faithful account of the state real of the literary world in Japan did we not refer in these columns to the extreme depression and stagnancy that exists on every hand. Within the space of a few months it has been our duty to record the deaths of the *Kokumin-no-tomo*, the *Far East*, the *Katei Zasshi*, the *Gogaku-Zasshi*, and the transformation of the once famous *Sekai-no-Nihon* into an inferior publication named the *Chugai Jiron*. Again the funeral knell has been sounded, and the name of the deceased is greater than any we have now mentioned. No less a personage than the *Waseda Bungaku* has gone the way of all the earth. On the 8th of this month the office of the magazine issued an extra to say that the editorial staff were wearied of the work of trying to create a high literary tone where there is no high moral tone to form its basis and that henceforth for some time to come they would devote all their energy to education and to the elevation of social life and manners. The *Taiyō* holds on, but it lacks unity of character. It has been likened to a haberdasher's shop or a store where coarse ware is sold. It is crowded with articles, some of which are good, others very indifferent. There is no sign of careful selection, say the critics. The *Tenchijin* occupies a foremost place among recently started periodicals, but from a literary point of view labours under the disadvantage of being the organ of a religious sect and largely dependent for its tone and character on the views of its supporters. As a purely literary organ the *Teikoku Bungaku* stands by itself, and it is to be hoped that it may long continue its useful labours.

PEKING.

Seven leagues of mighty wall and parapet,
At every demi-league with watch-tower set
Crowning a gate. Within a human hive
A labyrinthine maze of streets alive
With swarming millions. Southward turned the view
Rests on yon circled dome of deepest blue
That marks Heaven's temple. Northward turning now,
Ranging across red roof and waving bough,
The eye is caught by Yung Lê's lofty tower
Whence China's tocsin sounds in danger's hour;
Then by that gate through whose submissive doors
France and Britannia entered conquerors
Look downwards: through broad street and narrow lane,
By crumbling mansion and dismantled fane,
The serried black-haired millions ebb and flow,
A restless, pauseless human sea.* * * * * *
And lo!
Mid all this teeming life lies lone and cold
The Palace blazing with Imperial gold
Where, in his stately, solitary hall
Broods the one lifeless thing—the Lord of all.

GEORGE ETC. *Daily News.*

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JAPANESE NAMES FOR NUMBER.

Hitotsu, one, is the Turkish *bir*, the Basque *pat*, the Annamite *mot*, the Kol *miad*, the Santali *midh*. These last two belong to Central India. In Japanese, every initial *h* and *f* is *b*. The roots of languages are older than the grammars of languages. On account of migration roots are very widely scattered. *Futatsu*, two, is *both*. In Central India the Kol has *barria* for two; the Santal has *baria*; the Mundala has *baria*. For three the Japanese is *mitsu*. In South India *munru* is the Tamil, *mudu* is the Telugu word. In Central India also *munu*, *mundi*, and *mudu* are very much in use for three.

We have in Japanese the remarkable peculiarity that the names for one, two, three, and six all begin with *h* or *m*. But these letters are, as being labials, the oldest of all alphabetic sounds. If the names of number were at first pronouns, it might be expected that we should have labial demonstratives in Japanese. Instead of this we have *sore*, *kono*, and *kore*. If common use of words is a guide to ancient kindred these words point to an old European connection, for we ourselves in English say *this*, *that* and *he*. The fact is that wherever we have a word we have a relic of very high antiquity. No one is ever known to have made a new root. The knowledge of the roots of language is the key to the acquisition of the lost history of the human race. Every root has its own importance, because all are alike of immemorial antiquity.

When we reach four, *yotsu*; five, *itsutsu*, we have tooth initials, but in *mutsu*, six, we go back again to labials. In *nanatsu*, seven, and *yatsu*, eight, we find tooth initials. A guttural occurs in *kokonotsu*, nine. We return to the tooth letters in *tsudsu*, ten. *Tsudsu* is the same with *to*, ten, for we know that the Japanese are fond of inserting *s* after *t*. There is a resemblance between the Japanese and Korean numerals in *neil*, four; *tasal*, five; *nilkop*, seven; *yetalp* eight; and *yel*, ten. That is to say, half the ten numerals are to some extent alike; *yel*, ten, is *ded*, and *tsudsu* is *dud*. The Koreans are much fonder of apposition than the Japanese. The Japanese would seldom make a compound like *nilkop* for seven. They are content with one root, *nanatsu*, the *dolon* of the Mongols. It is impossible not to see that *nil*, the first Korean root for seven, is identical with the Japanese root, and with the Chinese also *xitsi*. But in the Japanese *kokonotsu* we have two roots, *kok* and *not*. Possibly the two roots may be *kok* and *kon* and *tsu* a suffix. In Batchelor's Ainu Grammar the numerals are:—1. *shine*; 2, *ni*; (Korean); 3. *re* (Korean); 4, *ine* (Korean); 5, *ashikne*; 6, *iwa*; 7, *arawa*; 8, *tupesan* (Korean =*yetalp*); 9, *shinepe san* (Korean=*akop*); 10, *wa*. The Ainu *wa* is *ten*, *in hotne* twenty. We conclude that *wa* is *ton*. The Tungul is *juwan* or *tsan*. This is the Japanese root beyond question. As to *kokonotsu*, it is most probable that *notsu* is our nine, and the Chinese kieu has lost the final *k*.

With this conjecture we are free from all difficulty in accounting for *kokonotsu* as a compound meaning nine. The rules of comparison are the following:—All roots are primæval. No roots are made by any one nation. Roots belong to the whole human race as a single family, subsequently divided into many hundreds of clans. These three laws must be maintained in all sound comparative philology.

J. EDKINS.

AN ANGLO-JAPANESE ENTENTE.

Mr. Taketomi, Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, is alleged to have openly spoken to the editor of the *Nippon* as to the probability of an Anglo-Japanese alliance being concluded for the preservation of the peace of the Orient. Should the project fail it is not altogether improbable that England, being unable to prevent the dismemberment of China by her single power, would be inclined to participate in the proposed division of territory.

DESTROYING A FUR-SEAL ROOKERY.

BEING THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN STORMAWAY, AS RELATED BY HIMSELF.

[WRITTEN FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL," BY JOHN C. WERNER.]

If Captain Stormaway was not so well-known as a truthful man I should have to apologize for relating this story of his; it really borders on the realms of fiction. He has his little failings, like all of us, but like What's-his name he never told a lie; that's what he says himself, so it must be so. During a rather lengthy life he has had more adventures than probably any man living in this Land of the Rising Sun, and of course some of them would seem to be incredible when related to people unacquainted with the kind of life he has led. To others—to us who have had our own experiences of the same sort of life—they do not sound nearly so improbable.

The sea-otter and the fur-seal will soon be exterminated from the surface of the ocean, and when future generations read stories about them, as told by Captain Stormaway and other celebrated hunters, their hearts will throb with pride over the valour displayed by their forefathers in hunting and fighting for the possession of the pelts of these valuable animals. I believe I have been making an apology after all, so I had better begin his yarn before I say anything more. This story, by the way, should have preceded others already related.

I had had (says Captain Stormaway) my usual luck. Fog, fog! nothing but fog! For fifteen days had we been enveloped in it, and it began to be monotonous. Curses and prayers were in vain! Old Grimes, my first hunter, was religiously inclined when he wasn't drunk, and he tried praying, he assured me, but his voice was evidently not heard. The other two cursed from morning to night, and I am afraid I took my share in that, but the confounded fog still held its sway over us. Seals were travelling past us every day and we occasionally shot one, but that was only child's play and did not amount to anything. What I wanted was to set foot on the rookery with my boys with me and then make sad havoc with the seal-herd. Fifty thousand seals were on that rookery, I had been told! Great Scott! and here I was, almost a hundred miles from it, unable to do anything. Was it any wonder that I cursed my luck? It was a new place, never before visited, as it was probably the first year that seals had hauled up on the rocks, and I would be the first schooner to hunt there. The thought was maddening! The sea was smooth as glass; the air was wet and still,—not a breath of wind, and I was drifting about at the mercy of tides and currents and uncertain of my position. It was aggravating, but there was no help for it. If I only could get there ahead of any other schooner, and have the place to myself, what a fortune I would make! Such thoughts were constantly troubling me. Several of the other schooners were close to me, I knew, and they might perhaps have received the same information as myself, and might be at the present moment off the rookery, while I was drifting about in the fog. I did not want anybody else to have a share in it; I wanted it all "to my own cheek." Fifty thousand seals! Enough for a dozen schooners, but I wanted them all,—all!

It was twenty days since an American trading-schooner, coming from Petropaulowski, had spoken me, and her captain had told me about this new rookery he had passed, and I had quickly pulled up the mud hook and started for it. For five days I progressed nicely, and then I got into this everlasting fog and for fifteen days I had been in it, most of the time in a dead calm. I could not sleep, I could not eat, and if it had lasted much longer I should have been out of my mind.

"Pray, you old sinner, pray as you never prayed before!" shouted I to Grimes, as he stood still and motionless as a statue, leaning against the weather main rigging.

He turned his head slowly and looked at me, at first of finding it going right through to t

"In an hour from now we shall have it clear as a bell," was his welcome answer.

I had just come up from the cabin and had not yet noticed any change. But there was a perceptible change! The fog was still dense, but to the eastward a bright spot showed where the sun was trying to penetrate it. A light breeze was also springing up from the westward, already ruffling the smooth sea, and filling the sails. Gradually it thinned, and at 10 o'clock, just one hour from the time Grimes had spoken, it cleared all around us. Only to the westward it was still hazy for another hour. When it cleared, there, to my great astonishment I perceived a group of low islands magnified and distorted by mirage, but undoubtedly the group of the rookery. As I approached closer I could recognize them, and right enough, here was my El Dorado,—my fifty thousand fur-seals! Through all those foggy days fortune had favoured me, and a friendly current had sped me on my way. Never would I curse my luck again! I looked about me eagerly and even sent one of the hunters aloft to see, but nothing was in sight beside those rocks, and I was alone, monarch of all I surveyed.

But were the seals really there? That was the question. I made two tacks and then fetched right in for the big rock, or islet, where the rookery was said to be. Seals were in hundreds about us in the water, both cows and young ones. Yes, the seals were here! The whole surface of the large rocky plateau was covered with them, crowding on each other. I stood close in but had to stand out again, as I perceived several nasty-looking rocks showing jagged peaks at the water's edge. I steered in and anchored on the inside of the islet, where the water was clear of rocks and the bottom sandy. The beach was also sandy, but here there were no seals hauled up. The boats were in the water before the anchor was down, and in them crowded all hands, equipped for clubbing and skinning. This would not do! I had to exert all my authority to get them up on deck again, but they knew me, and had to obey, although growling, of course. By observing the rookery as we sailed past I could see that there would be a difficulty in landing. The rookery itself occupied the whole plateau, but access to it could only be had at one place where it sloped gradually down to the water's edge. Every where else the beach was steep and inaccessible. Off the place where landing could be effected were low rocks to some distance off shore, and over these the sea constantly broke with a thunderous roar. To get in with a boat except in the calmest weather was presumably impossible; the boat would be stove to pieces in a few minutes on those rocks. The seals swam unconcernedly forward and back through the narrow openings between the rocks, probably fully aware that we could not follow them.

I took the shooters with me in one of the boats and pointed out the difficulties to them, and so far as we could see there was really no remedy for it. We could not land here, that was certain. These seals were as safe from us as if they were by themselves. But if old Stormaway could not find a way to reach them he would be a poor man indeed! The hunters cursed and fumed, but I took it coolly; I had already a plan in my head. To the back of the rookery extended a high rocky ledge, cutting the islet in two parts. It was not very wide, about 20 feet at the base, I should say, and about 50 feet in height; the walls were nearly up and down at the inward side, towards where we were lying, but at the side of the rookery they were more sloping. To climb them, however, to reach the seals, and afterwards transport the skins across them would be beyond our strength. If the seals had only chosen the sandy beach for the rookery what an easy haul we should have had! We landed on the sandy beach and took minute stock of the situation; one of the shooters managed to climb to the top of the ledge, but that was all. A cave extended for some distance under the rock, so I set down and had some hopes

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other side, but it reached only about half-way or perhaps a little more. This cave I determined to utilize.

The schooner that I had command of, and partly owned, had formerly been engaged in the wrecking business on the China coast. We bought her cheap and without any troublesome formalities, and had not even received an inventory of her stores or what she had on board; this I had to find afterwards. One day, when I was clearing out the store room aft, I came across a case containing dynamite. There must have been ten or fifteen pounds weight of it. I concluded to let it stay where it was and not mention the matter to any one. I also discovered the detonators in a small recess in the cabin. This dynamite I now determined to make use of in removing the rocky obstacle that intervened between me and my fifty thousand fur-seals. I did not know much about the terrible explosive I had on board, but enough to understand that it was dangerous and had to be handled with care. That night we did not do anything towards it, as it was getting late, and I wanted the whole day before me. I explained my plan to the hunters, and, of course, was highly applauded by them; they all thought it was feasible.

Next morning, bright and early, we were all up and ready to begin operations. We first took a look round, but nothing was seen; nobody was near to partake of our spoils; the seals were on the rookery the same as yesterday, but the sea was breaking heavily over the outside shelf, making it still more impossible to effect a landing on the rookery. So we started to work to clear out the store-room and get the dynamite. Every one seemed to shun the case, and I had to do the work in bringing it on deck and on to the beach. If there was any danger I did not know it, and it had to be done. I carried the dynamite to the cave, and, having unscrewed the top of the case, took the packages out and placed them in a natural depression in the rock, and fixed the detonators as I thought would be right. I had to do everything myself, as they all kept at what they thought was a safe distance; although, if they had only known it, a mile off was barely safe if anything had happened. I hung a rock, weighing thirty or forty pounds, above the detonators by a good rope; to the middle of this rope I attached a fuse, made of cotton yarn, after having well saturated the rope with kerosene, and the other end of the fuse I led well down the beach. Everything was now ready; the wind was blowing light from south-west and the sea inside the islet was smooth. It was only 10 o'clock in the forenoon when I gave the last touch to the twisted cotton that was to create such destruction. I was not sure if I had done right or not, but I could not think of anything else. The boys were looking "white in the gills," and were gathered round the boat on the beach. When I looked towards the schooner it struck me that she would be probably too far in when the explosion took place, so I told the boys to go on board and get under way with her and steer well off shore, and then come back and take me off. They were glad enough to be off, but wondered at my courage in staying behind, although I had assured them I would not light the fuse until they returned. In a few minutes more the sails were hoisted, the anchor hove up, and the course laid for the north-west, and then the boat returned for me. Four of the sailors brought the boat, none of the hunters had gumption enough to come. I struck a match and lit the fuse, and watched it for a few seconds burning. It burned slow; it would take twenty minutes before it reached the rope, so I had ample time to get on board. I was ashamed to show any haste, but when the boat neared the schooner I admonished the sailors to hurry up and get alongside, though there was still 10 minutes to spare.

The schooner was bowling along at a good rate increasing her distance from the islet; I stood looking at my watch; the 20 minutes had passed and yet no explosion; would it fail? 25 minutes passed,—30 minutes—and then—how can I describe it! The whole rock seemed to be lifted bodily up in the air and then riven into fragments, some of which reached the schooner, although we were more than a mile off. The noise was dull but still penetrating; it must have been heard for miles.

And the seals! Never before had a man seen such a sight! they were sailing through the air like huge birds,—the air was really obscured by them; in hundreds—in thousands! A yellowish cloud hung over the islet for a while, but gradually disappeared, and then everything was apparently as before. I steered back to where I had been anchored; I had expected to find the islet level with the water and the high rocky ledge gone, but the whole islet had vanished, and nothing remained to mark the spot where this large rookery had been. I had with my fifteen pounds of dynamite totally removed an extensive island from the Pacific Ocean.

We were employed for two days in picking up dead and mutilated fur-seals floating on the water, but the big herd was gone. I had deliberately destroyed fifty thousand seals; all my own. My regret was deep,—too deep for words; and for days I was in a savage mood, especially as the hunters blamed me for the loss, and were not backward in saying so. We recovered 973 seals with the skins marketable, and with these we had to be satisfied that summer.

THE REIGN OF TERROR.

It appears that the edict of the 26th ultimo published the other day in the columns of the *N.-C. Daily News*, holding out hope of pardon to the members of the Reform Party, and which ran as follows:—"We, however, desire to show mercy to such, and therefore shall not go deeply into an investigation of those who belong to Kang's faction, giving them time to repent of errors,"—was merely a blind to keep the Reformers quiet. Several secret edicts ordering arrests have since then been issued, continues our contemporary, among them being the case of the unfortunate ex-Minister-designate to Tokyo—Huang Chun-hsien, at the Bureau of Foreign Affairs, on the Bubbling Well Road. Now, according to a Nanchang, capital of Kiangsi, telegraphic dispatch, a secret edict was received by the acting Governor of the province on the 6th instant ordering the summary execution of the famous ex-Censor Wen Tingshih of that city, whose advanced views have always been a thorn in the side of the Empress Dowager, who accuses him of being a member of Kang's Reform Party. There, however, appears, according to the dispatch, to be considerable doubt whether Wên has been unfortunate enough to have been actually captured and executed, as there are also rumours that he received warning from Peking to escape on the same day as Kang Yu wei himself left the capital. The patent fact that Wên had always been a prime favourite of the Emperor for his boldness in advancing his views on reform, prior to incurring loss of rank at the hands of the Empress-Dowager, nearly three years ago, would alone have been sufficient to make Wen a man marked for proscription and summary execution whenever caught. Further, now comes a dispatch from Peking reporting the recent arrest and imprisonment of the elder and younger brothers of the now famous Wang Chao, the junior secretary of the Board of Rites. The latter, it will be remembered, succeeded in escaping to Japan, but, apparently misled by the edict of the 26th ult., Wang's brothers, the elder a junior secretary of the Board of Civil Appointments, and the younger a Captain in one of the Peking garrison regiments, stuck to their posts, being actually more conservative than liberal in their views and therefore thinking that they were safe. Being conservatives they should, however, have remembered also that there is a patriarchal law making members of the same family responsible for the deeds of any of their number. These two, therefore, will probably suffer the fate destined for their more advanced and liberal brothers [illegible] Besides the above news has also come of the secret arrest of several other Board Secretaries and Hanlins. There is a panic in Peking in consequence, and many of the younger officials are either taking or have obtained leave to return home.

It is reported from reliable sources at Peking that on the day of the Empress Dowager's *coup d'etat* (22nd September) no less than fourteen eunuchs who were the Emperor's own personal attendants, and on whose devotion he was in the habit of relying, were ordered to execution by the Empress-Dowager. The reason given why this sanguinary deed has not become widely known is that the executions took place in the courtyard of the Chief Eunuch's Office, inside the palace grounds, where refractory and rebellious eunuchs are always attended to, unknown to the outside world.

A Peking dispatch reports that as soon as it became known in the capital that K'ang Yu-wei had been rescued and conducted in safety by the British authorities to Hongkong, immediate orders were sent by the Empress-Dowager to General Sung Ch'ing at Newchwang to take 8,000 of his best troops and concentrate them at Shanhaikuan; General Tung Fu-hsiang with his Kansu troops numbering 12,000 men to concentrate near Peitaiho, or rather in the vicinity of the newly-opened port of Chinwang; General Lo of Tientsin to take 7,000 troops to Taku and Peitang; and General Mei with 8,000 men to Ch'ik'ou, a port to the south-west of Taku, on the Gulf of Pechili. It is evident by this, says our contemporary in Shanghai, that the government in Peking are preparing for some sort of emergency, and that all these preparations are thought to be directed at a foreign Power.

HANKOW'S DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

Late dispatches from Hankow to the *Universal Gazette* at Shanghai, regarding the great conflagration in the native city on the 1st inst., state that the destruction was even greater than at first estimated. The fire arose through the upsetting of a kerosene lamp in a thatched roof house at 11 p.m. on the 1st instant, and it was not until 1 p.m. on the following day that the fire was got under control. It transpires now that no less than three miles of streets and alleyways were burnt out, leaving homeless 10,931 families. There was a gale of wind blowing at the time, so that the flying sparks started a conflagration in alleys in several opposite quarters at the same time, thus cutting off the people living in intervening houses from escape. In this way over a thousand people are said to have been burnt to death. In one alley alone 217 persons, old and young, failed to escape, while two fire engines in the alley were also burned in the general catastrophe. Amongst the larger hongs gutted were nineteen banks, three of the largest pawnbroking houses in the province of Hupeh, and nine well-known large book stores, the last-named aggregating a capital of not less than Tls. 300,000. It is claimed that this has been the greatest conflagration that has ever befallen a Chinese city since the suppression of the Taiping rebellion, when, of course, whole cities were set on fire and destroyed by the rebels.

The gale of wind which was blowing at the time caused the fire to spread very rapidly, and kept the flames so low that they scarcely rose as high as the tops of the houses, yet traversed a distance of about a mile and a half in length and six hundred yards in width, in about half-an-hour. The scene on the streets on the following morning was almost too horrible to describe. Hundreds of people who had been penned in their homes, surrounded by walls of fire and unable to escape, lay there. In one place there was a pond in which people had jumped to escape the fire and got stuck in the mud and were drowned. H.E. the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, it is said, has given Tls. [illegible] to relieve the suffering people.

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THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER'S FIRST DIRECT EDICT.

The following Edict, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, is the first that has been issued in the *sole* name of the Empress-Dowager after the *coup d'état*. The subject of the Edict cannot be quarrelled with; it is no doubt a matter of anxiety with the Empress-Dowager to avoid complications with foreigners at the present crisis, but the danger lies in the fact that if this Edict in the name of the Empress-Dowager is allowed to pass unchallenged by the foreign representatives, she may issue others and thus completely usurp the government of the Empire, while it will also be paving the way for the substitution of any puppet as Emperor that the Dowager may select:—

I, the Empress-Dowager, Tze-hsi-tuan-yu, etc., etc., hereby issue the following edict:—Ever since this country has been opened to international commerce, natives and foreigners have all been treated impartially, without distinction of nationality. Edict after edict has been issued instructing the local officials everywhere to protect missionaries in their work, and it should have been the duty of the gentry and *literati* of all provinces to aid the government in enforcing peace and harmony and cordially treating missionaries that come among them. We warned them not to be suspicious but to maintain friendly relations always. I find, however, that of late the people of the various provinces have been troubling the Christians, and, moreover, that certain cases involving the people and Christians in the province of Szechuan have, up to the present, not been settled. It is, indeed, cause for indignation that ignorant people should start rumours and so cause riot and conflict to arise, and that the local authorities have been unable to prevent them by prior exhortations and teachings. They cannot therefore escape the charge of incapability and consequent punishment. I hereby issue this special edict to the high provincial authorities of the Empire to tremblingly obey my instructions and diligently protect all places wherever Christian chapels of any nationality may have been built. All missionaries that may be in the interior must be properly and politely treated and if ever any disputes between foreigners and natives arise justice must be done in every instance. The people also must be exhorted to live in harmony with the Christians in their midst. All the more cordiality should be shown to foreigners travelling or exploring in the interior. I would warn all officials now that if, after the promulgation of this my edict, it should appear that any further incapability be proved in dealing with future cases of this sort so that riots and trouble follow, the local officials concerned will be immediately punished with the utmost severity, nor will the high provincial authorities be allowed to escape their responsibility in the matter. Do not say that fair warning has not been given after this!

BISHOP CRANSTON IN PEKING.

The *N.-C. Daily News* has been permitted to publish the following extract from a private letter from Peking dated the 1st of October:—

"A mob attacked Dr. Lowry and Bishop Cranston's family as they were returning from the station yesterday. Dr. Lowry was considerably bruised and had several cuts on his face, in addition to which it was thought one of his ribs was broken. Mrs. Cranston and her eldest daughter were riding in chairs, which were considerably damaged and contained a good deal of mud and broken glass, but fortunately the occupants escaped without personal injury, other than severe nervous shock. The other two daughters and Miss Mabel Lowry were in carts and were very badly shaken, owing to the mules running away. An English lady and gentleman, the latter the accountant of the British Legation, were also attacked and injured. Assaults were also committed on a Japanese gentleman, a French Jesuit priest, and the wife of the Italian Minister, so it is a matter for international consideration. It has been a great shock to Bishop Cranston and his family."

MASONIC INSTALLATION.

The annual installation meeting of the O'Tentosaiha Lodge, No. 1263, E.C., took place on Saturday evening at the Masonic Temple, Yokohama. There was a large attendance of Brethren, many visitors coming down from Tokyo. The ceremony of installation was ably conducted by Wor. Bro. Stanley E. Unite, assisted by Wor. Bro. O. Keil, D.G. Sec., Japan; Wor. Bro. Geo. Hodges, D.G. Treas., Japan; and Wor. Bro. A. Bellamy Brown, D.G.S.D., Japan. Having been duly installed, Wor. Bro. Walter Tucker invested his officers as follows:—

Wor. Bro. A. B. Brown	I.P.M.
Bro. F. W. Thomas	S.W.
Bro. F. C. Herb	J.W.
Wor. Bro. J. W. Hall	Treasurer.
Wor. Bro. Geo. Hodges	Secretary.
Bro. Rev. A. R. Morgan	Chaplain.
Wor. Bro. S. E. Unite	D. of C.
Bro. C. F. Rhine	S.D.
Bro. T. Hedlihy	J.D.
Bro. Th. Rühen	I.G.
Bro. G. A. Adam	Organist.
Bro. C. B. Clausen	Steward.
Bro. C. T. Benney	Steward.
Bro. J. Delbourgo	Tyler.

After the ceremony the Brethren, to the number of about 40, adjourned to the banquetting hall, Wor. Bro. Tucker presided and was supported at the head table by nine Past Masters of various Lodges, including one from South Australia. The toasts of loyal obligation were given from the Chair, after which Rt. Wor. Bro. J. G. Cleveland proposed in felicitous terms the toast of the Rt. Wor. the D.G.M. and Officers of the D.G. Lodge, Japan.

Wor. Bro. Geo. Hodges, District Grand Treasurer, responded. He reminded his hearers that the prosperity of District Grand Lodge was inseparably bound up with the prosperity of the private daughter lodges, and he was happy in thinking that masonry in Japan was never more flourishing than at the present moment.

The toast of the newly-installed Worshipful Master and his officers was given by Wor. Bro. Stanley E. Unite. In the course of a brief speech he referred to the regret felt by the Lodge in the unavoidable departure for England on Wednesday next of Wor. Bro. Tucker. But the Lodge wished him hearty God-speed, a happy termination of the business which called him home, and a safe and pleasant return to Japan. Wor. Bro. Tucker, in thanking the Brethren for the enthusiastic manner in which the toast had been received, said that no one regretted more than himself, his sudden call home; it was imperative, however. During his absence the Lodge would be left in good hands, and this lightened his journey considerably. The Wardens also suitably replied.

The other toasts included, "The Sister Constitutions and Visitors," proposed by the I.P.M., and responded to by Wor. Bro. Thompson, Lodge Pythagoras, Australia; Bro. E. C. Fox, Yokohama; Bro. J. O. Spencer, Tokyo; and Rt. Wor. Bro. J. G. Cleveland, Star in the East, S.C. The Senior Warden gave "The Past Masters," to which Wor. Bro. Booth, the senior past master, responded in terms of fatherly advice to the younger brethren; the Junior Warden proposed "Mothers, Wives, Daughters, and Sisters of Masons," in perhaps the wittiest speech of the evening; Bro. Adam eloquently responded. The "Tyler's Toast" was given from the chair. During the evening songs or recitations were contributed by Wor. Bro. Pallister, Wor. B. Hubert J. Owen, Wor. Bro. Unite, Bro. R. C. K. Johnson, Bro. Launay, Bro. Elliott, and many others, a most enjoyable time being spent. The banquet was provided by Bro. Clausen.

The ex-King of Benin, says a home paper, is smoking a briarwood pipe at Old Calabar, with the consolation of Presbyterianism for his fallen state. He is not without other consolations for the vanished glory of the past. He has only three wives. Formerly he had three hundred.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE DOSHISHA TRUSTEES AND MR. CADY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—My attention has just been called to your kind note in yesterday's *Mail* (Oct. 1st) referring to a point in my letter of the 22nd ult. May I say a word in explanation? Then if it turns out that I have been misled and therefore have misrepresented the matter I shall be only too glad to acknowledge the mistake; for, if there was any one thing I tried the most to do in the prolonged preparation of that article it was just that; namely, not to misrepresent any thing or anybody. I may say in evidence of this, in passing, that I held my article for about two months after the most of it was written that I might see *one* man before I sent it to the *Mail* in order to be sure I did not misrepresent him. I was not willing to trust even correspondence in this case, I wished to talk with him and hear from him face to face. But to the point.

After quoting my paragraph upon the reported remark of Count Okuma and his alleged change of opinion you say:—"Count Okuma did express emphatic disapproval of the Trustees' action when the facts were originally submitted to him, and his view of the reprehensible character of their procedure at the outset has not undergone any modification. But, as His Excellency understands, they have since changed their position, so that it no longer seems to violate the principles upon which the institution was founded, and Count Okuma's opinion of the present state of the Doshisha has, of course, changed correspondingly."

Now have the Trustees "changed their position?" So far as I know or can see they have not. Certainly there has been no change in the original acts of the Trustees—they have not yet restored the parts of the Constitution struck out: nor has there been any change in the actual working of the school nor in the administration of its various departments and functions.

As I understood Mr. Yokoi, Count Okuma changed his opinion, not of the reprehensible character of their procedure, as he at first understood that procedure to be, but he changed his opinion because he came to understand that that procedure did not mean what he at first understood it to mean; and to quote Mr. Yokoi's words, "because I (Mr. Yokoi) expressed to him the entire willingness of the Trustees to follow the Count's advice to deal fairly and kindly with the American Board's inquiries in this whole transaction. The Trustees of course had the same desire. The Count's advice but strengthened that desire, and the promise they made to the Count to follow his advice does not mean in the least that they have "changed their position."

Of course if it be true that the Trustees have changed their position so that their original intention and purpose in making the changes were different from what I presented them to be in my article; in other words, if the Trustees—those that voted for the change in the Constitution—originally intended by those changes to rule the Bible and Christianity out of even one department of the Doshisha, then I have been grossly deceived and should be the first to condemn the act.

But that is precisely where I most emphatically differ from my brethren. I have come to see that that was not the intention, at any time, of the changes made. Removing this last clause of Article 2 satisfied the demands of some men in the Mombusho; and, as its removal in reality left untouched the foundation principles of the school, the Trustees decided to adopt this course as the lesser of two evils. I have come to believe, furthermore, that not only did the Trustees not intend originally to make any department of the Doshisha a non-Christian school, but also that in point of fact no such result has been produced; and therefore, I could be silent no longer while, as I believe, such misrepresentation and consequent injustice was being done in the name of Christ. Pardon me therefore, if I seem to be slow

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in understanding how my presentation in the foregoing particular did not represent the fact correctly.

Bear with me in adding a line or two somewhat personal. You may wonder why I thus acknowledge the writing of "Edmund's" Article, which you are kind enough to say was "interesting"—I could fain hope it was more than that. My sole reason for withholding my name at first was simply that the article might make its first impression quite apart from any consideration, either for or against, due to the authorship of it. In other words, I wished to avoid everything personal. I now quite willingly acknowledge its writing, for the only advantage to be gained, or wished to be gained, has been gained.

Besides I should suppose—as I intended at the time—that almost any one could guess on the appearance of my letter over my own name in the *Japan Times* for Sept. 28th that "Edmund" was,

Your obedient servant, E. M. CADY.
October 17th, 1898.

[We have it direct from Count Okuma that he disapproved of the action originally taken by the Trustees, and that he still disapproves of it. Of course we never intended to impute any misrepresentation to Mr. Cady, whose action in this matter we admire, though we do not share his conviction.—ED. *J.M.*]

MR. CADY AND THE DOSHISHA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Your issue of Oct. 1st, containing a letter from Rev. C. M. Cady pointing out what seem to him to be correct assumptions in a letter of mine which appeared in the *Japan Times*, has just come to hand. In view of the facts which I give below, it seems desirable not to pass the matter over in silence. The facts are these:—

Early in August Mr. Abe contributed to the *Kirisuto Kyō Shimbun* an article criticising the resolutions of the American Board Mission in regard to Pres. Yokoi's proposition and the recent action of the Doshisha Trustees. It impressed upon me the fact that the real question at issue between the Doshisha Trustees and the Mission was not clear to Mr. Abe; and, if not to him, probably not to others also. I accordingly prepared a reply. Fortunately Mr. Cady was spending the summer at Hiyeizan, where I also was, and I had quite a long talk with him as to his understanding of the situation, he having inside information, that an outsider could not be supposed to have. This conversation made me wish that I might meet Mr. Abe himself and talk over the whole question with him, before going into print.

Providentially, business brought Mr. Abe up to the mountain a few days later, and he very kindly consented to an interview which, with a meal, lasted the larger part of five hours. I wish to say that for me it was a very pleasant and profitable interview. In regard to the Doshisha our conversation was very explicit: I read to him in English the reply which I was proposing to send to the *Kirisuto Kyō Shimbun*. He pointed out several points in which he thought I failed to understand his article. He explained to me quite fully both his own theological position and the policy of the Doshisha in regard to theological questions.

It was my first impulse not to publish my reply at all. I, however, made a fresh study of Mr. Abe's article, getting the assistance of two or three Japanese who were then on the mountain. I became assured that whatever might be Mr. Abe's thought as expressed in conversation, his published article gave a very different impression,—that it did him and the Doshisha a real injustice. This impression was enforced by reading the article in the *Japan Times* which appeared a day or two later.

I accordingly wrote a letter to Mr. Abe saying even that both his articles produced this impression upon me, they doubtless did on others. In order to give him therefore a good opportunity to say in public what he had said to me in private it seemed to me wise to proceed with my article, making such modifications in the English versions as would meet the article in the *Times*, and asking him to reply as frankly and as pointedly yet as kindly as possible. In this way it seemed to me both we and the public generally would come to see just where we stand, the real nature of our differences, and if some form of reconciliation could be effected through the removal of misunderstanding, then the public would know the full process. To this proposition of mine, Mr. Abe replied in the affirmative. I accordingly sent my replies to the *Kirisuto Kyo Shimbun* and the *Japan Times*, answering his published letters, not his private conversation, which I expected would form the gist of his replies to me. I have thus far seen nothing from his hand. He is doubtless pressed with business, and history is making so fast these days that public discussion seems hardly worth while.

With regard to the various corrections made by Mr. Cady: 1st, my whole article has reference only to the responsible parties in the Doshisha, the Trustees, they who have committed the Doshisha to its present policy. I have not the slightest doubt that some, perhaps many of them, are earnest Evangelical men. I am not concerned to discuss their individual beliefs. What is important in this connection is their corporate action. 2nd. According to Mr. Abe's articles,—which I had hoped he would correct—their action was due to their rejection of evangelical and adoption of "progressive" theology. The whole of Mr. Abe's contention was that the real question at issue was a theological one. It was because they had these beliefs which were contrary to those of the mission that the difficulty had arisen. I fail to see how Mr. Abe's personal theological views could be assigned as a cause of the theological conflict. "Mr. Abe is not merely stating his own view, but what he understands to be the view of the Doshisha on these matters." If they did not have these theological views then his argument has no force. It is not I that have ascribed these views to the Doshisha but Mr. Abe. And it is for him or them to disclaim them, or at least to show just what they mean. I myself feel, since talking with Mr. Abe, that he has sadly misrepresented both himself and the Doshisha, and I had hoped that by answering my letter their own thought and position would be clarified and made to appear more reasonable. I think there is a better construction to put on their position than they have made public, even though I cannot say that it is a satisfactory one, or one wholly free from moral blameworthiness from my standpoint. Even men who are most honourable and Christian as individuals are not always free from blameworthy corporate action. This seems to be an instance. I shall rejoice if the contrary can be shown. 3rd. In regard to the compulsory teaching of Christianity in the Doshisha,—I am not in a position here in the interior to discuss the matter. It may be I have been misled in the matter. My authority for the statement is the Rev. J. D. Davis, whose connection with the Doshisha has been more continuous and for a long time was more vital than that of any still-living Japanese. I know that when the rule requiring attendance became a dead letter, Dr. Davis pleaded to have the matter placed on a voluntary basis, but without avail. With reference to Mr. Cady's quotation from the English Catalogue of 1885, I would ask whether it includes *all religious exercises*. If it does not, but only applies to some specific Bible Classes, then I do not see that Mr. Cady has proven his point. This catalogue of 1885 was evidently exceptional. The last English Catalogue which was published, namely, 1892 3, makes Bible study compulsory both in the Preparatory and the Collegate Department. However, this point has no great importance, though as a matter of history it would be worth while to have it cleared up. The missionaries do not and never have stickled for the form and letter. The spirit and the reality has been their aim.

I do not think that the American Board even at the present juncture would insist that the Christian education of the Doshisha must be compulsory. If the voluntary system be better under the circumstances, no one would object to it; this is a matter of detail. What the missionaries and the Board would and do insist on is that the Trustees are bound to make suitable provision in one way or another that moral education on the basis of Evangelical Christianity shall be given in all parts of the Doshisha. "Voluntary" may apply to the attendance of the students, but not to the action of the Trustees. This is required by the gifts of the donors and the pledge of the Trustees themselves.

Thanking you for your valuable space, I am Sir, Yours truly, SIDNEY L. GULICK.
Matsuyama, Japan, Oct. 15, 1898.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Marquis Ito and suite left Shanghai for Hankow in the *Kiangyung* on Oct. 10.

A San Francisco telegram, dated the 18th, has reached Kobe to the effect that Mr. Flood has been arrested.

The Count of Turin proceeded on Tuesday to Yokosuka, accompanied by H.I.H. Prince Komatsu. Marquis Saigo, the Minister of the Navy, and Lieut.-Colonel Kato met them.

A train on the Hoshu Railway came in collision with an engine at Nakatsu station at 4.40 a.m. on the 13th, and both overturned. Three men and one woman among the passengers were slightly injured, and another named Ono Etsujiro (20) was killed. The station master and engineers received slight injuries.

Menelik's Envoys have at last taken leave of Paris, to the regret of Parisian shopkeepers, of whom they have been good customers. They have spent more than 100,000 francs, principally in garden utensils, silk, kitchen ranges, and musical instruments. It is not their intention to return to Abyssinia just yet. They have expressed a desire to visit Jerusalem, and the French authorities, who all along have tried to please them, will gratify their wish. The French cruiser *Cassard* was placed at their disposal. After taking them to the Holy Land, it will convey them to Port Said, where they will embark for Djibouti.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., the well-known postage stamp dealers, have found among their stock a large number of forged English postage stamps. The firm recently purchased a large parcel of old English stamps. Many of these had been on telegraph forms about the year 1872. No less than 100 all used on the same date were found in this parcel, and as the fraud was never discovered the Department may have been robbed to the extent of £5 a day for a long period. The fraud could only have been carried out by the connivance of someone in the Stock Exchange Telegraph Office, and by one or more stockbrokers' clerks using the forged stamps in the place of genuine stamps.

The seventh annual meeting of the Yokohama Tonic Sol-fa Juvenile Choral Society was held on Tuesday afternoon in the Vestibule of the Public Hall. Nearly all the members were present. The Hon. Treasurer reported a balance in hand up to date of $163.78 from previous concerts and members' subscriptions, after deducting two sums of $10 and $50 given this year for the relief of sufferers by the fire in Hongo in April last, and by the distress in Iwate prefecture in July last. The resignation of three members was received, and five new members were admitted. It was announced that the ninth concert to be given some time next spring, would be for the benefit of the Society. The President, after congratulating the Society upon the prosperous state of its funds, proposed that the seventh anniversary of its formation should be inaugurated by a donation of $50 for the relief of sufferers by the Hokkaido inundations, which was carried unanimously, and the meeting terminated.

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KOREAN NOTES.

The Independent Club continues to petition for the removal of unpopular and, as it alleges, incompetent Ministers. Weary of receiving unsatisfactory answers from Ministers themselves, the Club began to address the Emperor direct. After three memorials of almost similar import had been sent, His Majesty grew tired of the play and answered very shortly:—"Your memorial carefully noted. After having received Our previous replies, you still refuse to retire. Is that right? (*literally* on what principle do you do so?). Without waiting for the considerations of Your Sovereign, you persist only in importunate demands indulging, as you please, in noisy clamour. We can hardly find words to express Our displeasure at this (impudent) attitude of the people. Therefore, retire!"

The order to retire, so peremptorily given, offended the leaders of the Club, and instead of obeying another address was drawn up. The *Independent* describes this document in delicious terms. It says:—"The answer of the Club to the Emperor was respectful but firm. It begged His Majesty to be patient with his importunate 'children,' promised that the Club would take special pains to keep quiet and concluded by saying that 'if the Ministers are not dismissed one day we will not retire one day, if they stay in the (government) one hundred days we will stay here one hundred days."

But virtue does occasionally come by its own reward. The persistence of the Independent Club broke down the kingly impatience and at 6 p.m. on the 12th the Club were informed that the demands set forth in its memorials were granted. Whereupon the assembly adjourned, leaving the Palace grounds sedately, and the *Independent* came out next day with a small paragraph headed in big black type, Victory!

The *Independent* has very little to say in its issue of the 13th of the horrible treatment accorded the body of Kim Hongnuik, after his execution on the 10th. It writes:—

About 6 p.m. on the 10th inst., Kim Hongnuik the principal author of the coffee conspiracy, Kang Hongsik, to whom was entrusted the execution of the plot, and Kim Jongwhn who put the poison in the coffee, were hanged. Mr. Sin Kuisun, then Minister of Law, had the bodies exposed in the public square, where they were horribly mutilated by an infuriated mob. A passer by who suggested that it was unnecessary to maltreat a corpse was badly handled by the crowd who suspected him to be an accomplice in the plot. We are glad to learn that his injuries did not prove fatal.

The barbarity of Mr. Sin in giving up the bodies to the savage crowd is as shocking as it is illegal. On the 11th inst., His Majesty, by a special decree, dismissed Mr. Sin, the Minister of Law and, Mr. Yi Inwoo, the Vice Minister of Law, in disgrace for having allowed the mob to mutilate the bodies of the criminals.

NOTES FROM CHINA.

A Tientsin dispatch to a Shanghai contemporary states that the 5th instant was the fortieth anniversary of the birthday of Yuan Shih-kai, acting Viceroy of Chihli, in consequence of which all his subordinate officials presented themselves early that morning at the viceregal *yamén* to offer their congratulations. Yuan, however, declined the honours proffered him,—for which he apparently had some private reasons—and the same afternoon gave over his acting seals to Yü Lu, his successor. It is freely reported among the Chinese in Tientsin that it was Yuan Shih-kai who tried to prevent the legation guards of the various Powers from proceeding to Peking.

Chang Pai hsi, Literary Chancellor of Kuangtung, has been found guilty by Imperial Edict of a crime in recommending the promotion of Kang Yu-wei to the Chinese Throne, and has been turned over to the Board of Punishments for the determination of the severest penalties.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* has the following remarks to make regarding the Legation Guards:—The Guards are at present (1) Twenty-five marines and a Maxim for the British Legation. When the eight new students arrive next week the total number of adult males in that Legation will be fifty. (2) The Germans sent up thirty marines; stout and staunch-looking Swabian lads. (3) The Russians had thirty Cossacks (and ponies) and a squad of blue-jackets—forty in all; with the twenty already there they will also be in a position of assured strength. A lot of us went over to see the Cossacks, but oh! what a delusion! Poor horses and badly found, they were the sorriest cavalry ever seen out of China. The officers, however, seemed fine fellows, and in bravery of uniform and equipment quite made up for the troopers.

According to a report from Wuhu a foreign firm memorialised the Taotai, the other day, for permission to import foreign salt into the country owing to the dirty state of the native article. The permission, however, was peremptorily refused.

M. P. Dmitrevsky, the popular Consul-General for Russia, left Shanghai by the *Aatal* for Egypt, and M. N. Laptew has become Acting Consul-General.

Shanghai papers report that Chinese trading and residing in Japan recently presented a petition to the Tsung-li Yamên, through the Chinese Minister at Tokyo, praying for the revision of the Treaty between China and Japan, which has caused great inconvenience to the petitioners owing to the special treatment accorded them in Japan.

The *Universal Gazette* of Shanghai says that Russians have recently been building a large number of foreign-styled houses and military barracks in the city of Hsinchêng (New City), province of Kirin, Northern Manchuria, and have colonised the place with several hundred Russian families. It is further reported that a number of the local inhabitants have been, on the other hand, transferred into Russian territory. These reports must be received with due caution.

The great southern Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, soon after the *coup d'état*, memorialised the Empress-Dowager for permission to retire into private life—so Shanghai journalists say—having been guilty of the "heinous crime" of having recommended some time ago, Liang Chi-chao, the ex-Editor of *Chinese Progress*, to the Emperor's notice, but that the Empress-Dowager ordered him to remain where he was. H.E. Chang will doubtless be "handed to the Board for the determination of a penalty" like Jung Lu, who has asked to be punished for specially recommending to the Throne, some time ago, the cashiered Governor of Hunan, Ch'ên Pao-chên.

A Peking dispatch that appears in the *N.-C. Daily News* states that with the exception of the Peking University, which is still having a precarious existence, all other schools proposed to be established, prior to the *coup d'état*, have been laid on the table, and the organisers have adjourned *sine die*. It is also reported that a large number of petty *yamêns* in the provinces which were to be abolished in obedience to the Emperor's decree in August last are very likely to be restored by the Empress-Dowager, who is doing all she can to restore the old *status quo*.

According to a dispatch received in Shanghai from Peking on Oct. 7th there was no one bold enough to come forward to procure a coffin to bury the body of the brother of Kang Yu-wei after the executions of the 28th ultimo, for fear they would be arrested as fellow conspirators of the dead man. Hence, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, although the families or friends of the other five of the six victims of the Empress-Dowager's vindictive wrath gave them decent burial, the body of the unfortunate Kang Kuang-jên was left to lie neglected on the execution ground until the following day, when the executioners came and dragged it away to cast it in what is called the "myriad peoples' hole" or paupers' burying ground—the greatest dishonour and misfortune that can ever befall a Chinese.

Reports received by Shanghai newspapers from Nanch'ang, the capital of Kiangsi, state that the famous ex-Censor Wên Ting-shih, who, it will be remembered, was dismissed and cashiered three years ago for suggesting the removal of the Empress-Dowager so that she could not interfere with affairs of state, is again under the ban. A secret edict has been received by the Governor of Kiangsi—Wên's native province—for the arrest of the ex-Censor, on the supposition that he also is a member of Kang Yu-wei's Reform Party. It will be remembered that Kang also suggested the same thing as Wên, which doubtless was the main reason of the Empress-Dowager's recent enmity to them both.

It is reported from Peking that after the arrest of Kang and the other officials, two eunuchs in the Inner Palace were found attempting suicide. They were at once seized and handed over to the Judicial Department and bambooed to death.

H.E. Huang Chun-hsien, the late Chinese Minister-designate to the Court of Tokyo, was arrested, it will be remembered, on the 9th inst., while lodging at the Shanghai Taotai's Bureau of Foreign Affairs on the Bubbling Well-road, to be released—also by secret edict—two days later. The cause of his arrest was given out to be the alleged hiding by the Minister of the proscribed Kang Yu-wei. Next day, according to the *N.-C. Daily News*, the late State prisoner found lying on the bedroom table, a huge sheet of red paper containing an invitation "respectfully praying for the pleasure and honour of H.E. Huang's company to a special banquet" in the grand dining-hall of his prison, to be prepared in the evening of that day (Wednesday) by his quondam gaolers, Taotai Tsai and city magistrate Huang! The reason for this "special banquet" was "the friendly desire to *ya-ching*," or in plain English to "subdue the fear" that was supposed to fill H.E.'s breast after the exciting danger of the past few days. The ex-Minister, of course, could not with propriety refuse this hospitality of his solicitous hosts. His Excellency left Shanghai on October 15th for his home in Chiayinhchou, North Kuangtung.

Jung Lu is now the most important man in China. Just before the Empress-Dowager's last move he was made Grand Secretary, Generalissimo of the armies of Chihli and Chief of the Peiyang Administration. Now his Imperial patroness feels "constrained to further appoint him Imperial High Commissioner with supreme command over the Yi Army Corps, under General Sung Ch'ing (at Newchwang and Shanhaikuan); the Kangsu Army Corps, under General Fu-hsiang (just inside the Great Wall); the Wuyi Army corps, under General Nieh Szech'êng, Provincial Commander-in-chief of Chihli at Lutai (south of the Tongshan colliery); the New Army Corps, under the expectant Vice-President of a Board, Yuan Shih-kai (at Hsiaochan, near Tientsin); and the various corps, military and naval, in the Peiyang Administration." Jung Lu now has the whole of the forces around Peking under his thumb, and possesses the power of life and death over the highest general to the lowest soldier in the ranks; by virtue of which, remarks a contemporary, he may execute first and report afterwards.

According to the *Universal Gazette* it was reported in Peking on the 9th instant that Chang Yin-huan, the banished ex-Vice President of the Board of Revenue, was "stopped" at a place called Lianghsiang, about three days' journey from Peking, *en route* for Kashgaria, by a secret order from the Empress-Dowager. A telegram from the *N.-C. Daily News* Peking correspondent, reproduced elsewhere, confirms this.

It is said in Shanghai that something like 60,000 soldiers have been admitted into Peking since the Empress-Dowager regained power. The movement is considered to be anti-foreign.

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TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

EMPEROR OF CHINA ALIVE.

SEEN BY DOCTOR OF FRENCH LEGATION.

DEPRESSED BUT IN FAIRLY GOOD HEALTH.

(From our Correspondent.)

Shanghai, Oct. 19, 4.10 p.m.

The *Shanghai Mercury's* Peking correspondent wires the following information to his journal:—After much pressure had been brought to bear by the Foreign Ministers, who demanded an audience at the Palace, permission was granted to the Doctor of the French Legation to visit the Emperor. He found him enjoying fairly good health, though depressed. The Emperor is evidently under strict surveillance.

Everything is quiet at Peking.

(From the "Japan Times.")

THE ANGLO-FRENCH DISPUTE.

London, Oct. 14.

Accredited reports have reached London that Captain Marchand is in such straits that it is impossible for him to remain long in Fashoda.

London, Oct. 18.

The French papers are displaying a tone implying willingness to quit Fashoda but resenting anything likely to wound French honour.

London, Oct. 19.

Admiral Fournier, who was accompanying M. Lockroy on a naval tour, has been recalled to Toulon. Four iron-clads are to be forthwith equipped there and sent to Brest. It is reported that the measure is due to the Anglo-French situation.

London, Oct. 20.

Despite the half-hearted denials of some of the French newspapers, reports of extraordinary activity come from Toulon. A number of men-of-war are receiving their full complement of provisions and war material, and several transports have already embarked bedding. Furloughs to officers have been revoked, whilst in the docks men are working day and night and steam trials are being hastened.

ANARCHISTS AND THE KAISER.

London, Oct. 17.

A number of Italian anarchists have arrived at Alexandria. Bombs were found in the house of one of them, apparently intended for perpetrating an outrage on Emperor William, when at Cairo. Owing, however, to the abandonment of His Majesty's visit to Egypt, two anarchists have left Cairo for Palestine.

London, Oct. 18.

The German Emperor has arrived in the Dardanelles on board the *Hohenzollern*.

The Emperor and Empress of Germany have arrived at Constantinople, and were received most cordially by the Sultan.

DEATH OF LADY CROMER.

The death is announced of Lady Cromer.

[Lady Cromer was a daughter of Sir Rowland Errington and married Lord Cromer, British Minister Plenipotentiary at Cairo, in 1867.]

PACIFIC SPEECH BY PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

AGGRESSIVENESS DISPARAGED.

London, Oct. 14.

President McKinley, speaking at Omaha, referred to the new and grave problems confronting the nation. "We must avoid" he said, "undue aggression and aim only at securing our own and the general welfare. Ours has never been a military government."

London, Oct. 19.

The American Peace Commissioners refuse to assume any part of the Cuban debt.

The American occupation of Porto Rico has been completed.

ALLEGED MILITARY CONSPIRACY IN FRANCE.

PROMINENT GENERAL IN THE PLOT.

London, Oct. 15.

The French papers announce the discovery of a military conspiracy to overthrow the present rulers. It is said not to have been aimed against the Presidency nor to have been in favour of any pretender, but a plot led by a prominent general and which was to have been executed on Saturday.

London, Oct. 17.

The alleged military plot is enshrouded in mystery. But the massing of 40,000 troops in Paris, under pretext of guarding against the strike, suggests that something is afoot.

Railways in France are working perfectly; and the strike will end in a fiasco, or has been purposely magnified.

BRITISH WAR-OFFICE MOVEMENT.

MAJOR BOWER TO RAISE CHINESE TROOPS.

The British War-Office has applied to the Indian Government for the services of Major Bower, Thibetan explorer, to proceed to China and raise a battalion of Chinese troops.

THE FRENCH IN WEST AFRICA.

CAPTURE OF SAMORY.

The French have captured the chief Samory, together with the whole of his family and all the other chiefs.

MR. CURZON'S SUCCESSOR.

The Hon. St. John F. Brodrick, Parliamentary Secretary to the War Office, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Curzon as Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

While numbers of the Paris builders on strike have resumed work the Railway Union has ordered a strike on all French railways.

THE CRETE QUESTION.

London, Oct. 14.

The Porte proposes to retain a small garrison in Crete as an emblem of its sovereignty.

London, Oct. 15.

The Powers have rejected the Sultan's proposal and have declared that every Turkish soldier must leave Crete within the specified time.

London, Oct. 18.

The Sultan has ordered all Turkish troops to leave Crete.

DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE ON THE SITUATION.

London, Oct. 20.

The Duke of Devonshire, speaking at Glasgow, said he was unable to believe that the Fashoda question would lead to a dispute with France. It was satisfactory to know that British rights would not be frittered away by negotiations.

THE FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES.

Peking, Oct. 14

The Tsung li Yamên sent an inferior officer to the foreign Legations to convey the Government's regret for the damage inflicted on foreign residents by rioters. The Foreign Representatives took umbrage at the despatch of an inferior officer on such an important message, and the Chinese Government then sent Prince Kung.

CHANG CHIH TUNG.

Shanghai, Oct. 14.

Chang Chi-tung, the great Southern Viceroy, has been ordered to relinquish his position and proceed to Peking.

CRITICAL SITUATION.

Peking, Oct. 18.

Interference has not yet been decided on by the Powers. The Manchurian officials belonging to the Conservatives hold aloof from affairs, fearing interference. The Empress-Dowager still hesitates concerning the dethronement of the Emperor.

LI HUNG-CHANG.

The Italian Minister has suggested to the Representatives of the Powers that there is no suitable Minister at the Tsung-li Yamên, and is negociating with them as to advising the Chinese Court to put Li Hung-chang again in the Yamên.

THE NEWCHWANG RAILWAY.

Peking, Oct. 15.

After the long disputes in which Great Britain and Russia have been involved, the Chinese Government has at length agreed to raise a loan of £2,300,000 from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. The contract was signed by both parties on the 12th inst. The money will be used in the construction of the railway between Shanghaikwan and Newchwang. As securities for the loan, the existing railway between Peking and Shanghaikwan, and a coal mine in Kimchoun have been mortgaged.

RUSSO-CHINESE RAILWAY.

Peking, October 16.

It has been found that the Russian and French Syndicates can not supply the funds for the construction of the Russo-Chinese Railway. The Chinese Government is now making proposals to a British Syndicate, but the latter will not consent to invest capital in the present unsettled state of political affairs.

THE EMPEROR.

Shanghai, Oct. 19.

An extra published by a French paper here (*Echo de Chine*) reports that on the 17th (Monday), the French Minister in Peking applied to the Court for the Legation physician to be allowed to see the Emperor, and permission was granted. The physician attended him in the presence of the Empress Dowager.

THE EMPEROR'S CONDITION.

Peking, Oct. 19.

According to the opinion of the doctor attached to the French Legation who attended His Majesty, he is growing worse, and has disease of the lungs. It is not, however, so serious as to occasion immediate anxiety.

THE ITALIAN MINISTER.

The Italian Minister is said to enjoy the best position in the present state of affairs. He has had no intimate relation with the native officials, his appointment being only recent, and a great part of the damage inflicted by the mob was to Italian residents. The Representatives of the Powers have therefore chosen the Minister as the best channel of conveying their protests.

RUSSIA OCCUPIES NEWCHWANG.

Shanghai, Oct. 20.

The *China Gazette* reports that Russia has occupied Newchwang.

A CHINESE DEMAND.

Peking, Oct. 18.

Prince Kung has paid a visit to the Representatives of the Powers and requested them to withdraw the marines from the Capital. He insisted that the Government would arrange for the protection of the foreign residents, and establish a proper garrison in the Capital.

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at Wright's Hotel on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

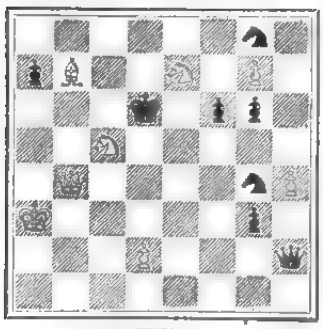
Solution of Problem No. 390.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to K 5	1—K takes R
2—R to B 4	2—K takes R
3—Kt to Q 3 mate	if 2—Kt takes R
3—Kt to B 3 mate	if 2—P to Q 4
3—B takes Kt mate	if 2—Any other
3—R to K 4 mate	
	1—P takes R
2—R to Q 3 ch	2—K to B 4 (must)
3—B to R 7 mate	
	1—P to Q 4
2—B to K 7 !	2—Any
3—Kt to B 6 mate	
	1—Kt to Q 4
2—B to Kt 6 ch	2—K takes R
3—Kt to Q 3 mate	if 2—Kt takes B
3—Kt to B 6 mate	

The only correct solution received is from W.H.S., who remarks:—"This problem has been a stiff one."

Problem No. 393.

By Dr. Th. Schaad, Schaffhausen.



White mates in three moves.

Game No. 442.

A very good game between Albin and Charousek, played at Cologne:—

RUY ROPEZ.

White—Albin.		Black—Charousek.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	29 Kt Q2	Kt Kt4
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	30 Q Kt3	RxP
3 B Kt5	P QR3	31 K Kt2	RxP
4 B R4	Kt B3	32 R Rsq	RxR
5 Q K2	B K2	33 RxRch	K Kt2
6 P B3	P QKt4	34 K Kt3	R B5q
7 B Kt3	P Q3	35 Q R4	Q Q2
8 P Q4	B Q2	36 Kt Q4	R KKtsq
9 P R5	Castles	37 Q B4	Kt B2
10 P Q4	B Kt5(a)	38 Q B7	R Q q
11 P Q5	Kt Ktsq	39 Q Kt6	Q K5ch
12 P R3	B R4	40 K B2	R Q3
13 P Kt4	B Kt3	41 Q B7	Q Q2(d)
14 ■ B2	P B3	42 Q Kt8	P B4
15 PxP	QKtxP	43 K K5q	Q Q q
16 Kt R4	BxP	44 Q R7	Q B3
17 BxB	KtxB	45 Kt K2	P Kt5(e)
18 QxKt	P Q4	46 ■ Q2	Q K4
19 Q Kt2	BxKt	47 K B2	PxP
20 P Kt5(b)	P K5	48 PxP	P Q5
21 B B4(c)	P B3	49 KPxR	Q Q4(f)
22 P K6	Kt K4	50 K B q	Q R7
23 PxPch	K R5q	51 Q Kt7	P K6
24 Castles	■ Kt4	52 Q Kt2	QxP
25 B K3	Kt B6ch	53 Q Kt3(g)	R KB3
26 K Rsq	R B2	54 R B5q	R Kt3
27 R Q5q	BxB	55 Resigns	
28 PxB	P Kt3		

NOTES.

(a) Intending to provoke the advance of the K side pawns, of which he takes clever advantage.

(b) To imprison the B; but Black has an embarrassing reply with 20..... P to K 5 and Kt to K 4.

(c) To prevent Kt to K 4.

(d) Black is two pawns ahead and ought to win; but the process is somewhat difficult. At present Black has to avoid the threatened R to R 7 ch K takes R; Q takes Kt ch, &c. Therefore Black's retreat of Q to Q 2.

(e) The beginning of an ingenious final combination.

(f) The P was sacrificed in order to reach Q 4 with the Q, the point being to get the Q into the enemy's camp and to keep the Kt guarded at the same time, as the sacrifice pointed out in note (d) is still threatened.

(g) Still the same threat (R to R 7 ch), this being the last resource to save the game.

Game No. 443.

One of the games from the earlier rounds of the Vienna tournament:—

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—Steinitz.		Black—Marco.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	25 Kt K2	P K4
2 P QB4	P K3	26 Kt B4	R R3
3 Kt QB3	P QB3	27 Kt Q5	Q Q2
4 Kt B3	Kt B3	28 KtxB	QxKt
5 P K3	QKt Q2	29 P B4	Q R6
6 B Q3	B Q3	30 PxP	R Q q
7 Castles	Castles	31 PxP	R Kt3
8 P K4	PxKP	32 R K8ch	R Kt q
9 K xP	KtxKt	33 RxRch	RxR
10 BxKt	Q B2	34 R K2	P QR4
11 R K q	P QB4	35 Q K3	Q Q3
12 P QKt3	Kt B3	36 Q K7	Q Q5ch
13 PxP	BxP	37 K Kt2	Q Q6
14 B B2	P QKt3	38 Q K4	Q Q3
15 B Kt5	B Kt2	39 Q Q5	QxP
16 BxKt	PxB	40 R KB2	Q B6
17 B K4	K R q	41 QxP	R Q q
18 Q Q2	BxB	42 Q K7	R KKtsq
19 RxB	■ KKtsq	43 Q Q6	Q K6
20 Q B3	B K2	44 Q B6ch	R Kt2
21 Kt Q4	QR Q q	45 R B3	Q K7ch
22 QR K q	R Q4	46 K R3	Q R5
23 QR K3	R KR4	47 R B4	Resigns
24 P Kt3	P QR3		

Game No. 444.

Also played in the Vienna Tournament:—

FOUR KNIGHTS' GAME.

White—Janowsky.		Black—Tarrasch.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	29 PxP	Kt Q2(c)
2 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	30 QxRP	KR B q
3 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	31 Q R6	Kt B4
4 B Kt5	B Kt5	32 Q K2	R Q q
5 Castles	Castles	33 R KBsq	R QR q
6 P Q3	P Q3	34 P KR4	PxP
7 B Kt5	BxKt	35 PxP	Q B2(d)
8 PxB	P KR3	36 P R5	Kt B q
9 B KR4	B Kt5	37 B Kt3	K R q
10 P KR3	BxKt	38 B R4	Kt R2
11 QxB	P Kt4	39 B B5	R Kt sqch
12 B Kt3	Kt R2	40 K R q	QR KB sq
13 QR Ktsq	Q Bsq	41 R(Kt4) Kt q	Q K2
14 KR Qsq	Q Kt2	42 R Kt q	RxRch
15 P Q4	P B3	43 RxR	R KKtsq
16 B K2	Kt K2	44 R Kt6(e)	RxR
17 Q Q3	QR Ktsq	45 PxR	Kt Kt4
18 B Kt5	Q K sq	46 Q R5ch	K B q
19 Q B4	P KR4	47 BxKt	PxB
20 B Kt6(a)	Q B3	48 B K6ch	KtxB
21 Q Q3	P R5	49 PxKt	Q B3
22 B R2	KR Q q	50 Q R7ch	K B q
23 P Q5	Q R5	51 K Kt2	P Kt5
24 P Kt3	Kt Kt3(b)	52 Q B7ch	QxQ
25 R Kt4	Q K q	53 KtPxQ	P Q4
26 KR Ktsq	P Kt3	54 K K3 & White wins (f)	
27 Q R6	Kt(R2) B sq		
28 B Kt4	PxP		

NOTES.

(a) It is characteristic of the opening that the battle is very close for some time. Here, however, White appears to get a shade of advantage. The P is threatened immediately, and the B occupies a commanding position.

(b) If Q takes R P, the Q would be lost in two moves. Now, if P takes P, the Kt comes in with great effect.

(c) Aiming at the fine position at Q ■ 4, and with a view of surrounding the Q presently. White, however, can safely take the P and get clear away.

(d) White threatened P to R 5, and after Kt moves P to R 6 ch, followed by R takes B P, &c.

(e) This is the right course. White has a little advantage and presses it. If Black declines the exchange at once White goes on Q to Kt 2, &c.

(f) The game is excellent all through, and the finish very close and interesting.

Game No. 445.

The *Wiener Schachzeitung* gives the following brilliant game, as played between the Vienna expert S. Pollak and Albert Freiherr von Rothschild of the Vienna Chess Club:—

PONZIANI.

White—Pollak.		Black—Rothschild.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	11 B R4	P Kt4
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	12 PxP	BxKt
3 P B3	Kt B3	13 PxKt	B K16ch!
4 B B4	KtxP	14 K Q2	B B5ch
5 B Q5	KKt B3	15 K B2	Q K5ch
6 BxKt	KtPxB	16 K K3	QR Ktsq ch
7 KtxP	B R3	17 K R3(a)	P Q3ch
8 P Q4	B Q3	18 P QKt4	QxB
9 B K15	Q K2	19 Resigns.	
10 P KB4	P KR3		

NOTES.

(a) True, the text move loses a piece, but it deprived Black from playing the intended brilliant continuation had White selected the 17—K to R 4 move instead. This combination would have brought about the mate as follows:—17—B to Q 3; 18—R to K sq, B to Kt 4 ch; 19—K to R 5, R Kt 3, a truly remarkable position, in which White wins the Queen without being able to prevent a mate.

The Vienna Tournament.

The following gives the complete list of the openings adopted at the Vienna tournament with the number of times each was adopted. The special favour shown to the Ruy Lopez, or Spanish Game, and the Queen's Pawn Game, in various forms, is notable, and the same thing has been observed in other recent contests:—

Alapin's Opening	9
Allgaier Gambit	1
Bishop's Gambit	6
Bishop's Opening	4
Centre Gambit	2
English Knights	3
English (1—P to Q B 4)	3
Evans Gambit	3
Four Knights	12
French Defence	34
Fianchetto	2
Ginoco Piano	10
Hungarian Defence	1
King's Gambit Declined	20
Kieseritzky Gambit	1
P to Q B 3 Defence	1
P to K B 4 Opening	1
Petroff Defence	15
Philidor Defence	8
Ruy Lopez	74
Queen's Pawn (various*)	102
Sicilian Defence	20
Scotch Game	2
Three Knights Game	3
Two Knights Defence	3
Vienna Game	10

* It will be found that whether White opens with Kt to K B 3 or P to Q 4, or whether he proceeds at once with 2, P to Q B 4 or not, all variations of the queen's pawn game come into the same well-known lines after a few moves.

Notes.

M. Pillsbury, says the *Hereford Times*, arrived in New York on Aug. 10th, evidently greatly benefited by the trip across the Atlantic. Nevertheless, he was positive in his statement that a tournament lasting 38 rounds was a little too much to expect a player to last through, although he favoured the two-round tourney plan, providing the entries are limited to 15 or 16. While Pillsbury had nothing but good words for his successful rival, Dr. Tarrasch, he nevertheless was confident that in a set match, wherein both were fresh, he would have no fear concerning the ultimate outcome. No such match, however, was in view at this time, as both he and Tarrasch were content with the laurels gained at Vienna, and were glad to take advantage of the rest afforded them. Neither was Lasker likely at any near date engage in any championship contests. It was the general opinion of the players that Lasker, had he competed, could not have stood the strain, and would not have led at the end.

The vacancies on the Committee of the Hongkong Chess Club, says the *China Mail*, have been filled, and the Committee now consists of Col. The O'Gorman, Messrs. Pollock, Piercy, Souza and Barlow, Mr. Souza being Treasurer. From the first of October the Club will again be open three evenings weekly, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and it is hoped that, as the summer has passed from us, the attendance may again be large. A curious feature in so cosmopolitan a club has been the great falling off of Portuguese players, and the total disappearance of Germans. A student of ethnology would *a priori* expect chess to be a characteristic of Teutons, and yet it is the Germans who have practically vanished from the room. Messrs. Albert and Bruno Lammert, and

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Lieb and a dozen others? It is to be hoped that this winter the long-expected but almost-despaired-of International match may at last eventuate (as our Transpacific cousins say), and English pluck may measure itself against German philosophy and Portuguese brilliancy.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M. Co.	C. of Peking 1	F. Oct. 21
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta 2	M. Oct. 24
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Shangtung 3	M. Oct. 24
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Oct. 24
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern 4	M. Oct 24
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 5	Su. Oct. 30
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	——	W. Nov. 2
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Th. Nov. 3
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Th. Nov. 3

1 Left San Francisco on the 1st inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 17th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 15th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 19th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 21th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	C. of Peking	Su. Oct. 22
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	Sa. Oct. 22
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Oct. 24
America	P. M. Co.	Shangtung	W. Oct. 26
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Caledonien	W. Oct. 26
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Oct. 26
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Oct 28
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Oct. 31
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Nov. 2
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Nov. 4

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 14th October,—Shanghai viâ ports, 8th October, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kintuck, British steamer, 2,882, C. de la Parelle, 15th October,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 13th October, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Andalusia, German steamer, 3,499, Schrotter, 16 h Oct.,—Hamburg via ports, Shanghai, 11th October, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Lynton, British ship, 2,324, G. G. Fraser, 16th October,—New York, 17th May, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 17th Oct.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 15th Oct., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Guthrie, British steamer, 1,494, Hugh Craig, 17th Oct.,—Australia and New Zealand via ports, Hongkong, 7th October, Mails and General.—Browne & Co.

John Sanderson, British steamer, 2,089, Smith, 18th Oct.,—New York via Suez Canal and way ports, Kobe, 16th Oct., General.—Frazar & Co.

Phra Nang, British steamer, 1,021, W. H. Walton, 18th October,—Hongkong, 7th October, Sugar and Molasses.—Butterfield and Swire.

Archer (6), British Cruiser, 1,770, Com. C. E. Kingsmill, 18th Oct.,—Hakodate, 15 h October.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, F. Brown, 19 h Oct.,—Seattle, Wash., 1st Oct., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Caledonien, French steamer, 2,093, Durrande, 19th October,—Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 18th Oct., Mails and General.—M. M. S S. Co.

Bablesburg, German steamer, 1,379, Pfaff, 19th October,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 12th October, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Montgomeryshire, British ship, 1,401, Edwards, 20th October,—Antwerp, 15th June, Coke and Phosphate.—Carl Rhode & Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, J. H. Rinder, 20th Oct.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 19th Oct., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Bingo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,677, G. E. P Cook, 21st October,—Middlesborough via ports, Kobe, 19th October, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Ningchow, British steamer, 1,735, W. H. Crose, 14th October,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,813, J. McKenzie, 15th October,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ghusee, British steamer, 1,827, D. S. Bailey, 15th October,—New York via ports and Suez Canal General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Ulysses, British steamer, 2,281, R. J. Brown, 16th Oct.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kintuck, British steamer, 2,882, C. de la Parelle, 17th October,—Samarbaya, Batavia, Ballast.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,031, S. Tanji, 18th October,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

John McDonald, American ship, 2,172, T. A Stones, 19 h Oct.,—New York via Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Guthrie, British steamer, 1,494, Hugh Craig, 19th Oct.,—Australia and New Zealand via ports, General.—Browne & Co.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, J. B. Lockyer, 19th Oct.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P & O. S.N. Co.

Canton, British steamer, 2,164, D. C. Gregor, 19th Oct.,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 19th October,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 19th October,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Andalusia, German steamer, 3,499, Schrotter, 20th October,—London, Hamburg and Antwerp via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Major-General Iseji, Mrs. T. Iseji, Miss M. Iseji, Col. Nakamura, Mr. I. Kitano, Mrs. Langdon and son, Miss A. Ebell, Miss Riley, Mr. J. L. Saure, Mr. C. R. Joy, Mr. O. Maschke, Mr. Carl Fritzschke, Mr. Hugh Gnon, Mr. P. B. Clarke, Mr. A. Braize, and Mr. E. W. Noel, in cabin; Mrs. T. Nakamura, Miss C. Nakamura, Mr. Kenji Nakamura, Mr. Keizo Nakamura, Mr. Kensuke Nakamura, Mrs. K. Kawasumi, Miss T. Kawasumi, Mr. S. Utani, Mrs. Y. Utani, and Mr. F. B. Collins, in second class; 36 in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Riojun Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. E. Flint Kilby, Mr. D. H. Blake, Mr. E. H. Morse, Mr. Read, Mr. R. Hunter, Mr. Ellis, Mr. S. K. Douglas, Mr. H. K. A. Oosterdonk, and Mr. Kay Smith, in cabin; Mr. J. Yamamoto, Mr. K. Kamizashi, Mr. M. Nishisaka, Mr. H. Clayton, and S. H. Sneaton in second class; 9 Japanese, in steerage. For Seattle:—Capt. C. P. Elliot, in cabin; 44 Japanese, and 8 Chinese, in steerage. For Victoria:—53 Japanese, in steerage.

Per French steamer *Caledonien*, from Marseilles via ports:—Prof. Kakichi Mitsukuri, Mr. Fribourg, Mr. Rowlings, Mr. Masashi Soya, Mr. and Mrs. Steinmann and child, Mr. Tera Tao, Mr. Holmes, Mgr. Cousin, Mr. Harden Brickford, Mr. Heath, Mr. T. Rebeiro, Mr. Cargreth, Mr. Furavanti, Capt. Wrenicus, Rev. Annitow and family, Mrs. Djimowsky and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Gobernett and 2 children, Mr. Wuillemint, Mrs. S. Reich, Mrs. Mumm, child and amah, Mr. Lehmann, Mr. and Mrs. S. Kontor and child, Mr. G. H. Allcock, Mgr. J. Chavton, Mrs. E. T. Fingdley, Mr. Lias, Mr. Yoneda, Mr. L'Abbe Nagata, and Mr. W. Wilemen, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kinshiu Maru*, from Seattle, Wash.:—Lieut. Hirao, Mr. F. L. Hadra, and Mr. K. Kafuku, in cabin; 13 Japanese, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kanagawa Maru*, for London via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Eustace and 5 children, Capt. Tod, Mr. H. Pollak, Mr. W. J. Gorham, Mr. K. Sato, Mr. E. A. Courtney, Consul and Mrs. F. J. H. Droeze, child and amah, Mrs. J. J. B. Heemskerk, 2 children and Governess, Mrs. Bass, Mr. P. E. Jenks, Mr. D. B. Paige, Mr. J. E. Bizzey, and Capt. Kawahara's family, in cabin; 12 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Alex. M. Brown, Mr. Humphrey Campbell, Mr. W. Wing Iye, Miss A. M. Butler, Miss H. Noyes, Mr. J. C. F. Johnson, Mrs. Church, Dr. John McElwee, Mr. Fred. Banbury, Mr. Bernard Cuole, and Mr. J. R. Riley, in cabin; 2 Europeans, 1 Indian, and 7 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Canton*, for London via ports:—Mr. A. Klinke, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Mayne, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Riojun Maru*, for Seattle, Wash. via Victoria, B.C.:—Mr. O. Kai, Mr. W. Tucker, Mrs. Snowdon, Mr. Cho Yu, and Capt. F. P. Elliott, in cabin; 121 Japanese, and 11 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Consul Lu Hein Sang, Mr. H. J. Newman, Com. G. Mori (I.J.N.), Lieut.-Com. M. Yoshida (I.J.N.), Mr. R. Deuta, Mr. R. Oda, Mr. W. M. Treglown, Lieut.-General K. Tamura (I.J.A.), Colonel and Mrs. H. Ichinohe and daughter, Mr. L. H. Lambert, Mr. R. Uchiyama, Mr. K. Isobe, Mr. K. Tanda, Mr. K. Yamamoto, Mr. C. Nakamura, Mrs. Katsu, Mrs. Kan, Mr. Lu, Mr. Chung, and Mr. Laurence Koudse, in cabin; 35 Japanese, 9 Chinese, and 1 European, in steerage.

EXPECTED.

Per German steamer *Sachsen* by *Hohenzollern*, from Hongkong:—Miss J. Blake, Mr. W. O. Hall, Miss S. Hall, Miss K. Wilkinson, Mr. S. Eichelberg, Miss Gregg, Miss Ritson, Mr. J. P. Warren, Rev. C. T. Warren, Mrs. C. T. Warren and child, Miss E. W. Wilson, Mrs. Chapman and child, Miss Nott, and Miss Stevenson, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The activity in yarns and shirtings has proved only temporary, and very little has been done the last week or two. In fancy cottons and woollens the market is firmer, but little or no new business has been passing. Prices are nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38¼ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38¼ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 41 inches	1.60 to 2 30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italian and Sateen Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.28 to 0.43
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 32 inches	0.15½ to 0 22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.15 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb., per ℔	0 55 to 0 67½
	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 32-3 inches	0.60 to 1.00
TurkeyReds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	42.00 to 42.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	42.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	76.00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.00 —
Chinese	18.00 —

METALS.

The market is firm and prices have a tendency to advance. Some big contracts have been entered into for American wire mails.

	per picul.
Round and square ½ inch. and upward	4.00 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.65
Sheet Iron	5.00 to 5.20
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.25 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	6.05 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.00 to 6.20
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (1 to 1½ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

Prices have considerably advanced in face of a strong demand. The market closed steady.

American	$2.15 to 2.19
Russian	1.92½ to 1.95
Langkat	2.10 to 2.12½

SUGAR.

Prices for Manila and China browns are 20 to 25 *sen* clearer, and there is also a rise of 35 to 50 *sen* in Formosas. In refined sugars there has been but little business at unchanged prices.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$5.45 to 5.50
Brown Manila	5.70 to 6.40
Brown Daitong	4.40 to 4.50
Brown Canton	4.30 to 5.75
White Java and Penang	6.80 to 7.00
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Owing to improved demand from Europe, and prices are, on the whole, maintained; recently

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American buyers have begun to make enquiries, and a fair amount of business has been done at 5 to 10 *yen* per picul decline in Filatures.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	$951 to 960
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	860 to 870
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	850
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	890 to 900
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	860
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	835
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	815
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	790 to 800
Kakedas—Extra	875
Kakedas—No. 1 / Kakedas—No. 11 / Kakedas—No. 2 / Kamedas—No. 21	845 / 810

WASTE SILK.

The market is very quiet, and prices have a weakening tendency, though no definite alteration can be recorded.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 127½
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Oshu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	110 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	55 to 70
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to [illegible]
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

Quite a large business has been going on lately, teas from 21 to 24 per picul being chiefly in demand. Prices have ruled steady, and supplies continue to come forward freely. There is still a large stock of remarkably good quality for this time of the year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$33 & upwards
Choice	31 to 32
Finest	29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Rates all unchanged and no alteration in quotations from abroad reported to-day.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0 5/8 to 3/4
— — Bills on demand	2/0 3/8 to 1/2
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 3/8
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 1/16 to 3/8
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 1/8 to 7/16
On Paris—Bank sight	2.56½
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	260½ to 1
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅜ to ½
On Germany—Bank sight	1.07
— Private 4 months' sight	2.11
On Hongkong—Bank sight	5% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	6% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	75½
— Private 10 days' sight	76½
On India—Bank sight	152½
— Private 30 days' sight	155
On Silver (London) on 5th inst.	27 11/16

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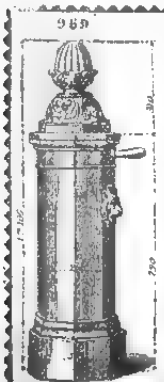

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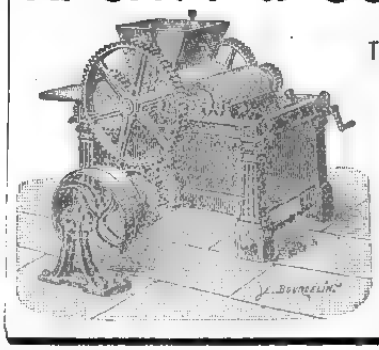

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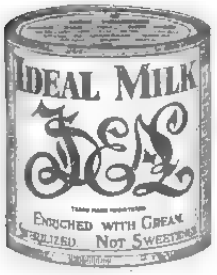

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, OCT. 29TH, 1898.

MARRIAGE.

GAUNTLETT YAMADA. — At St. Andrew's Church, Tokyo, October 26th, by Ven Archdeacon Shaw, assisted by Rev. A. F. King, GEORGE EDWARD LUCKMANN, son of Rev. Canon Gauntlett, M.A., of Leamington, England, and TSUNE, eldest daughter of the late Kenzo Yamada, Esq., of Minowamura, Mikawa, Japan.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

EMPEROR WILHELM has left Constantinople for the Holy Land.

A TELEGRAM from Shanghai states that Marquis Ito will return from China about the 15th proximo.

THE 13th session of Diet will be convened on the 7th proximo, and on the 9th the opening ceremony will take place.

FRENCH internal politics are greatly disturbed and there has been much anti-Jewish rioting in Paris during the week.

IT is thought in some places that Counts Okuma and Itagaki will not be able to work together much longer.

THE *Kinshiu Maru*, of the N.Y.K., ran down the *Miyagawa Maru*, of the O.S.K., between Tomo and Tadotsu, in the Inland Sea on Tuesday night. Over sixty lives were lost. A Japanese pilot was in charge of the *Kinshiu Maru*, which is commanded by Capt. F. J. Brown.

THE China station is at the head in the prize-firing of the British navy. H.M.S. *Iphigenia* made 77 per cent. of hits.

A CHINESE military attaché and suite of 21 will be present at the grand manœuvres at Osaka. They arrived at Tokyo on the 21st inst.

KANG YU-WEI, the Chinese reformer, is now staying, with a few friends and followers, in Tokyo. He came up to Japan in the *Kawachi Maru*.

AN amendment of the Law of Election of Representatives is to be introduced in the coming session of the Diet. The Bill provides for an increase of over 200 members.

AMONG the war telegrams that have been circulated during the week in Yokohama is an alleged cablegram that General Zurlinden has declared himself military dictator of France.

FRANCE and England have been almost on the verge of war this week over the Fashoda incident, but that disaster was averted through the resignation of the French Ministry.

THE claims on the Government for damage by the late floods in Yamanashi prefecture amounted to *yen* 1,392,380. The authorities have, however, reduced this to *yen* 410,000.

A DOCTOR and his laboratory assistant, who were engaged in the culture of the plague bacillus in Vienna, have died from the plague. Two nurses were also attacked by the disease.

CHINESE SOLDIERS on the 23rd inst. attacked some English railway engineers in Peking and severely injured two. The house of the English engineer at the Peking railway station was looted.

THE Emperor of China is still alive, but is strictly confined to the Eho Palace. It turns out that the usurping Empress Dowager was only a concubine of the late Emperor, not a wife.

IT is reported that His Majesty will, on the 11th prox., leave for Osaka for the manœuvres. The Ministers of the Army and the Imperial Household, and the military attachés will accompany him.

IT is reported from Peking that Sir Claude McDonald, the British Minister, intends to inform the Chinese Government that Great Britain is unable to recognize the Regency of the Empress Dowager.

ON the 3rd November, the Imperial Birthday, Count Okuma, the Premier, will give a dinner at the Imperial Hotel. The Departmental Ministers, the foreign diplomatic officials, and others will be invited.

THE members of the Seiyu Club have decided to approve of an increase in land taxation; and the raising of a foreign loan by the Government. They will urge the Government to adopt a strong policy in Chinese affairs.

IT is reported from Peking that the Chinese Government, which recently decided to suspend the issue of newspapers and to punish journalists, has withdrawn the notification on the subject of the representative of a foreign power.

AT a special R. A. A. held on Monday evening, a resolution was carried empowering the committee to proceed with the enlargement of the Gymnasium. The money for the work will be raised by debentures at 5 per cent., and we understand that the scheme will give Kobe its much needed public hall, the present floor space of the Gymnasium being about doubled.

THE tension between the Liberal and Progressists in Japanese politics is growing more strained every day. The Minister of Education, Mr. Ozaki, has resigned, and Mr. Inukai, Progressist, has been appointed in his stead.

IT is reported that Mr. Kato Fumiaki, barrister, was killed by the rioters at Makokai, Tainan, Formosa, during a tour on which he started on the 7th ultimo. The dead body of his servant has been found, but the remains of Mr. Kato have not been recovered.

STRANGE stories are afloat regarding the reasons for Mr. Ozaki's resignation, the Throne itself even being mentioned as a factor in the case. Mr. Ozaki, it will be remembered, in a recent speech, made a favourable allusion to the republican form of Government.

THE mobilization of the army in France and the calling out of the Fleet-reserves was met in England by the calling out and putting into readiness of the British fleets in home waters, and messages to all Admirals abroad to be in readiness for instant mobilization.

THE autumn meeting of the Nippon Race Club passed off very successfully. Tuesday was a wet day; Wednesday, gloriously fine; Thursday, partly fine. One accident happened on the last day, a pony stumbling and throwing its jockey, who was rather badly stunned.

A FORMOSAN despatch reports that early on the morning of the 20th about 400 rioters appeared in a place in the South of Kagi Prefecture, and there raided the country till they were followed and defeated by the troops. In the engagement, one infantry soldier was killed and several policemen wounded.

SOME native workmen attached to the Japan Brewery, Yokohama, were boiling down engine oil in a pan on Monday when the oil took fire. Some earth and stones were thrown over it to extinguish the flames, and this caused an explosion. Several men were severely injured, and had to be attended to at the hospital. The police extinguished the fire.

A SYDNEY telegram dated Sept. 21st says.—Mr. Meagher, who was recently elected member for the Tweed in the Legislative Assembly, publicly horsewhipped Mr. John Norton, the editor of *Truth*, in Pitt-street to day. Mr. Norton drew a revolver, followed Mr. Meagher, and fired at him, but the shot missed. Mr. Norton was arrested and subsequently released on bail.

AS regards imports the last week has been a quiet one, the activity apparent a week or two ago having given way to something like the old stagnation, and few transactions have been carried through. Turning to exports, a fair amount of business continues to be done in tea, chiefly of the lower grades, and raw silk has been fairly active. The waste silk market is

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THE IMPERIAL STAGE IN PEKING.

The drama—a tragic drama—continues in Peking. We are now told that the nomination of a Prince Imperial is contemplated, in consideration of the sickly condition of the Emperor, and that a Decree in that sense is on the eve of being promulgated. The solemn gravity with which whole handfuls of dust are thrown in the face of the world by the actors in the Chinese capital and by their Imperial *Prima*, really ceases to be comical and becomes exasperating. The Empress-Dowager and her advisers evidently imagine themselves to be still living in the days when for the purposes of Chinese administration there was nothing worthy of any thought outside China. They hang out the same antiquated sign-boards of conventional fables for the perfunctory inspection of their own people, and imagine that the civilized intelligence of the West will bow down before such bare-faced deceptions. Who is the projected Prince Imperial? Some lad, of course, of years sufficiently tender to secure a new lease of power for the insatiably ambitious old lady who has already written for herself such a grim record; some lad who can be trained by due processes of debilitating self-indulgence to remain within convenient limits of self-assertion. It has been very easy, no doubt, to reduce the Emperor to a sickly condition. Close confinement for a month, with the addition of constant and harrowing anxiety—anxiety for his country and for his own personal safety—has been nearly as efficiacious as a dose of opium. Truly it is much to be wished that the Powers of the West should withdraw their Representatives from Peking, and thus cease to supply a civilized audience tacitly consenting to the tragedy played there. Thus far the result of foreign attempts to exorcise the demon of Chinese conservatism, is that the devil who was driven out has taken to himself seven greater imps, and the state of the house is worse than it ever was. Certainly the perennial nature of hope was never illustrated more vividly than it has been by the Chinese story. For the past thirty year, people have been picking up straws here, there, and everywhere in the desert of China's stagnation, and have been using them to show how the wind of progress was just about to burst forth. Not once have their predictions been verified by facts, yet now when the Empress Dowager and her lieutenant Jung Lu have arisen and exterminated every factor making for progress, the sanguine folks bid each other be of good cheer, for really the Empress Dowager is not at heart opposed to progress. They seem to us to be excellently constituted for playing the part of spectators at the farce. Still there is one hope, namely, that these doings will at last rouse the Chinese nation, as distinguished from the Manchus, and that we may witness the dynastic convulsion which many publicists have long declared to be the essential preliminary to China's renovation. Perhaps there has fallen upon Peking the dementia which is the heaven-sent precursor to perdition. It sounds almost inhuman to talk of such events as desirable, but, after all, what is humane if it be not to wish for the welfare of the bulk of humanity?

The recent massing of large numbers of troops in and about Peking, and the appointment of Jung Lu to their command, as well as to the command of four other *corps d'armée* in northern China, seem to have been rightly interpreted by those who predicted a second important political coup. The *Fiji Shimpo's* Peking correspondent telegraphs that the Emperor is to be dethroned on the 23rd instant, and that a son of Prince Ching, aged 14, will be raised to the throne, the Emperor-Dowager acting as Regent. Prince Ching is to move upon the Palace, at the head of a body of troops, and will depose Kwang Hsu, on the ground that His Majesty's bodily infirmities incapacitate him for the discharge of imperial functions. The statement may be a pure canard. But it may also be true, for though the improbability of the public's obtaining intelligence of such an intention would militate against its credibility under ordinary circumstances, we have to remember that many Chinese in Peking are now deeply interested in exposing the purposes of the Manchu usurpers and murderers. Will the tragedy be allowed to follow its course uninterruptedly? We are not generally disposed to take extreme views of international questions, but it seems to us one of the most pitiable thing conceivable that the leaders of Chinese reform should be assassinated in cold blood and the Emperor torn from his throne, simply because they and he obeyed the instincts of enlightened patriotism, while the civilized Powers stand by with folded arms taking no steps to save the victims of their own advice and example. As for the Empress Dowager, one marvels to think that she should have the consummate assurance to come before the world and the Chinese people for the third time in precisely the same rôle. She made herself Regent after the death of Hien Fêng by beheading or strangling the men whom His Majesty had appointed to that post; she made herself Regent after the death of Tung Chih—death under most suspicious circumstances—by setting aside the rightful heir to the throne and nominating a baby; and she is about to make herself Regent again by deposing Kwang Hsü and appointing a boy in his stead. She is a wonderful woman, and not the least wonderful trait of her character is the splendid confidence with which she flaunts her mediæval methods in the faces of modern States.

There is little to say about the telegram we publish this morning from our Shanghai correspondent. That the Central Government in Peking should not be able to preserve order more efficiently than the Provincial Governments can preserve it, is a discovery for which we must all have been prepared. But what differentiates the Peking outrages from anti-foreign demonstrations in remote parts of China, is that the Central Government itself has been undoubtedly the means of provoking the Peking outrages, whereas the Provincial Governments could never be charged with anything worse than perfunctoriness in suppressing the demonstrations. The soldiers in the capital would not raise their hands against the foreigner unless they well understood that their rulers had adopted a reactionary policy, and that Occidental civilization was tabooed by the Government. Why should these things occur more than a month after the date of the Emperor's partial dethronement, the suppression of all progressive tendencies, the murder of some reformers and the driving of others into exile? Why indeed, unless the Government's persistence in its anti-reform campaign has gradually aroused a sympathetic sentiment in the hearts of the soldiers and the citizens. If the Empress-Dowager and Jung Lu were really friendly to progress, as some sanguine people say they are, we should never have had to record these disgraceful happenings. It is possible, of course, that the presence of foreign marines and soldiers in Peking may have exasperated the garrison, and that the outrages now reported have no profounder origin than that. But whatever the explanation be, China's condition is becoming highly perilous. One comforting reflection may be added, namely, that all her progress hitherto has been the outcome of her anti-progressive struggles, inasmuch as the latter have furnished pretexts for concessions each of which has led her one step nearer the light.

COLLISION IN THE INLAND SEA.

TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE.

Intelligence was received on Wednesday in Tokyo, and was confirmed by a telegram from our Kobe correspondent, to the effect that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Kinshiu Maru* came into collision with the Osaka Shosen Kaisha's steamer *Miyagawa Maru*, at 6.00 p.m. on the 25th instant off the coast of Tadotsu in the Inland Sea. The *Kinshiu Maru* did not sustain much damage, but the *Miyagawa Maru* was sunk, and unfortunately the catastrophe appears to have been attended by heavy loss of life, for at the time of the despatch of the news, sixty-six passengers were missing, and the *Kinshiu Maru* was engaged searching for them. All the other passengers, eighty-eight in number, as well as the captain and crew of the Osaka steamer, had been saved by the *Kinshiu*. The report was brought to Kobe by the inward-bound mail steamer *Satsuma Maru*, which had spoken the *Kinshiu Maru*. On receipt of the intelligence, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha at once despatched their steamer *Higo Maru* from Kobe to the scene of the disaster, having on board the Kobe Assistant-Manager, to render all possible assistance. The *Kinshiu Maru*, Captain F. J. Brown, is a steamer of 3,600 tons gross. She runs on the Seattle line, and passed through Yokohama a few days ago. The *Miyagawa Maru* is a vessel of 415 tons gross. She was built at the Hayashi yard in 1894, and her officers and engineers were Japanese. A vessel of her size carrying 154 passengers must have been greatly crowded.

On enquiry at the Yokohama Office of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha it appeared that little information beyond that detailed above had been received concerning the disaster. The head office in Tokyo, however, had had a telegram stating that 120 of the passengers and crew of the *Miyagawa Maru* had been rescued, that this was unconfirmed. It appears that the *Miyagawa*, which was engaged in the coasting trade, was crossing from Tomo, in Bingo Prefecture, on the north side of the Inland Sea, to Tadotsu, while the *Kinshiu* was pursuing a nearly direct westerly course. The consequence was that the *Miyagawa* was crossing the *Kinshiu's* bows at the time of the disaster, and received a terrible blow direct on her port side, so violently damaging her that she filled and sank almost immediately.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS.

The long expected Administrative reforms have now been published in the *Official Gazette*. Briefly speaking, eleven bureaux are abolished and four are created. Those abolished are as follow:—

The *Official Gazette* Bureau in the Finance Department.
The Bureau of Hokkaido Affairs in the Home Department.
The Bureau of Formosan Affairs in the Home Department.
The Bureau of General Affairs in the Home Department.
The Temporary Quarantine Bureau in the Home Department.
The Bureau of Inspection in the Finance Department.
The Bureau of Industrial Education in the Department of Education.
The Public Libraries Bureau in the Department of Education.
The Commercial Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.
The Industrial Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.
The Bureau of Inspection in the Department of Communications.

The newly established bureaux are:—

The Bureau of Monopolies in the Finance Department.
The Bureau of Communications in the Department of Communications.
The Bureau of Commerce and Industry in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.
The Bureau of Statistics in the Cabinet.

Heads of bureaux are all to be henceforth of *chokunin* rank, and, instead of the *chokunin* counsellors now existing, each Department is to have one *Sanyo-kwan*, who is apparently intended to perform the functions of a parliamentary under-secretary.

With regard to the economical results of these changes, it appears that the present number of officials, 25,788, will be reduced to 21,266, a difference of 4,522. The corresponding reduction of salaries is 742,507 *yen*, to which must be added some 360,000 *yen* on account of diminished office expenses, so that the total economy represents 1,100,000 *yen* in round numbers. It may interest our readers to know the manner in which the appropriations for the various Departments will be influenced:—

	Yen.	
Cabinet	5.072	reduction
Printing Bureau	3.789	"
Decorations Bureau...	3.864	"
Legislative Bureau	5.729	"
Foreign Department	6,882	"
Home Department	92,414	"
Finance Department	259 943	"
Justice Department	1,018	"
Education Department	45 733	"
Agriculture & Commerce Dept.	196,799	"
Board of Audit	19,392	"
Metropolitan Police Bureau ...	10,160	"
Hokkaido Administration ...	68.208	"
House of Peers	2,044	"
House of Representatives ...	2.044	"
Privy Council	350	"
Administrative Court	350	"
Department of Communications	46,661	increase

It is not probable that the above measure will satisfy the extreme advocates of reform, and certainly it will be severely criticized by the Cabinet's enemies. The only voice as yet raised with reference to it has been that of the *Tokyo Asahi*, which declares that the Government owed a heavy debt of reform to the nation but can not be said to have fully discharged it by the programme now published: offices that ought to have been abolished are retained, and offices that might well have been preserved have been done away with. However, there will probably be a feeling of universal satisfaction that this interminable question has been disposed of. Factitious prominence was given to it by political agitators in the days when their prime object was to persuade the nation that the system adopted by the so-called "clan statesmen" admitted of wholesale improvement. Doubtless they would gladly have forgotten the vehemence of their accusations when it became necessary to justify them by action. But in truth there was not much room for reform. We do not deny that it is a considerable feat to reduce the establishment of officials by 18 per cent. and the administrative expenses by over a million *yen* annually. But it is not a feat at all proportionate to the fuss that has been made about it ever since the Diet came into existence, and inasmuch as the people who cried out so vehemently for reform have now demonstrated that nothing commensurate with the notions their clamour suggested is possible, we may be permitted to hope that the last has been heard of that terribly wearisome topic, *giyosei seiri*.

COUNT OKUMA'S INSTRUCTIONS.

The programme of administrative reform published in the *Official Gazette* on the 22nd instant, was accompanied by a somewhat lengthy memorandum from the Prime Minister, containing instructions for the guidance of the various Departments of State in carrying out the reforms. Count Okuma insists, first of all, on the necessity of setting due limits to administrative expansion. National progress of course involves an increase of State business, but that fact should not be made a pretext for overstepping the legitimate bounds of expansion and unduly multiplying the number of officials. In 1885, the *Dajokwan* was abolished and the Cabinet (*Naikaku*) organized. That was followed by further reforms in 1890 and 1891, and by still greater changes in 1893, all of which had the effect of reducing the dimensions of the administrative machine. But after the war, a tendency to expansion again asserted itself. Statistics show that the number of officials in 1893, after the various reforms here alluded to had been carried out, was 25 per cent. less than the number at the end of 1896, and that the salaries aggregated 40 per cent. more at the latter period than at the former. These figures relate to *hannin* officials only. Doubtless something of the difference may be attributed to the natural growth of State affairs, but something also was due to extravagance. Retrenchment has, therefore, been considered necessary. Passing then to the question of officials themselves, Count Okuma insists on a full recognition of the dignity of office, and on the importance of making its tenure permanent. A competent official must have many high qualities, some educated, some innate, and must also have experience. Such a man, so long as old age does not interfere with the discharge of his functions, ought to be independent of Cabinet changes. The responsibility devolving on officials is also discussed in the Memorandum. Count Okuma states very plainly that although the responsibility of high officials is clearly defined, many of them have fallen into a habit of relying almost exclusively on their juniors, and carelessly affixing their seals to documents presented by the latter. The danger of such an abuse is strongly insisted on. Then follow some remarks about emoluments. In 1886, the rules relating to official salaries were amended, so as to provide that long service and exceptional competence might be rewarded by gradual increases of pay, and even by special allowances. But that system was confined to *hannin* (lower) officials. It did not extend to the *sōnin* (upper) class, and the consequence was that the only way of recognising the latter's merits was to promote them to a higher post, thus removing them from the sphere of which they possessed valuable experience and where their services were specially useful. One feature of the reforms now effected is that the emoluments of *sōnin* officials can henceforth be increased as a reward of merit without disturbing them in their posts. With regard to the salaries of junior officials, it is considered unavoidable that they should be increased. Through all the administrative re-organizations, in 1871, in 1877, in 1885 and in 1891, the pay of *hannin* officials remained unaltered. The time has come when that must be remedied, for it is unjust to expect that in spite of greatly enhanced cost of living and large appreciation of the scale of emoluments in every other profession, officials alone should be held to the same figure. On the other hand, it is believed that the number of junior officials may be considerably diminished, for in some cases they are so numerous as to impede rather than to expedite the discharge of business. Another reform which experience indicates to be necessary is the abolition of various special posts which have gradually been created to meet special needs. It is not denied that some of these had their origin in a legitimate expansion of business, but they have gradually absorbed the functions of more important and responsible offices, and thus come to owe their continued existence to the discharge of duties not properly devolving on them. Count Okuma, in this part of the Memorandum, refers to the fact that the prestige of a Government depends on the reputation and morality of its officers, and hints that there is room for considerable improvement in that respect. He also implies that the growth of Departmental expenditures has been due, in some degree, to the creation of offices merely for the sake of the men who were to be appointed to them, and to the hasty, or even unscrupulous, starting of enterprises for which no real justification existed. The latter abuse was very rife at the beginning of the *Meiji* era; afterwards it almost disappeared, but it had a partial revival during the *post-bellum* period of inflation. Much stress in laid on the expediency of abolishing the multiplicity of documents now required in the discharge of official business. Count Okuma considers that documents should be regarded as a last resource when word of mouth has proved insufficient, whereas they are now placed in the forefront of all transactions. He thinks, further, that the local Governments are far too prone to seek instructions from the Central Government, and that a habit of interference has been created fatal to the exercise of due local autonomy. There is a clause finally dismissing the idea that any change can be made in the sense of abolishing the present Regulations for Official Appointments or curtailing their scope. The interests of the State demand that there should be no laxity in nominating officials, and that a strict system of testing their attainments and capacities should be observed.

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We have here reduced to small compass a document which fills more than three pages of the *Official Gazette*, but its gist will be sufficiently clear to our readers from this epitome.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM AND THE TOKYO PRESS.

The tone of the opposition journals with regard to the recently promulgated programme of official reform is just what we predicted. The *Chiuo* says that one little mouse has been the issue of the mountain's travail, and asks whether these reductions of four thousand officials and these economies aggregating a million *yen* are the radical reforms spoken of so grandiloquently and disputed about so vehemently. The *Yorodzu Choho* also dismisses the scheme as altogether paltry, and thinks that the nation will laugh at such a flimsy edifice after such a tremendous fuss over the preparation of the foundations. Even the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, a pro-Government organ, is not satisfied. It approves what has been accomplished, and is especially pleased that Count Okuma has resolutely trampled on the idea of rescinding, or radically altering, the Regulations for Official Appointments; but it is keenly disappointed that the Army, the Navy, and the Local Administrations have been left absolutely untouched, for it thinks that the abuses of clan government survive more abundantly in those branches of the Government than anywhere else.

Years ago, when administrative reform became a party shibboleth, we were not alone in pointing out that, some day or other, the clamourers would find themselves embarrassed by their own outcry. They called the "Clan statesmen" such ugly names for failing to accomplish wholesale reorganizations and retrenchments, that they saddled themselves with an obligation impossible to be discharged when their season of responsibility should come. That is precisely what has happened. It is quite evident that the reforms now announced do not justify, do not even excuse, the violent attacks that used to be made upon the Government for not carrying them out. We have it on Count Okuma's authority that the number of officials in 1893 was 25 per cent. less than the number at the end of 1896, and that the salaries aggregated 40 per cent. more at the latter period than at the former. Well, what has now been achieved? The number of officials has been reduced by 18 per cent., and the aggregate salaries by about 5 per cent. In other words, it has not been found possible even to get back to the state of affairs that existed five years ago, when, according to the showing of the party politicians, there was so much room for retrenchment and reform that Cabinet Ministers should be regarded as public malefactors for not applying themselves to the task. This is the first of a pretty long series of discoveries which the party politicians are likely to make when they come to better the work of the "Clan Statesmen."

A man named Kimura has been arrested at Kobe in whose possession has been found a good deal of the jewelry stolen some weeks ago from the Nagasaki branch of the Tenshodo. The stolen property was valued at *yen* 2,800, and the arrested man acknowledges the theft.

THE PROPOSED TAX ON SILK STUFFS.

The two journals which devote themselves chiefly to discussing economical topics,—the *Keizai Zasshi* and the *Shogyo Shimpo*—both take some pains to demonstrate the impossibility of making any addition to the revenue from the source said to be contemplated by the Cabinet, namely, a tax on silk stuffs. This tax is reported to have been resorted to in lieu of the projected increase of the tax on urban building lands, and the imposition of a tax on patent medicines. The arguments advanced by the two economical journals may be summed up in a few words. It will be remembered that the plan devised by official financiers was to affix a stamp to each piece of fabric into the manufacture of which silk enters. The contention of our contemporaries is that such a method could not be carried into practice for two reasons: first, because the price of such fabrics per *tan* is absolutely fixed beyond the possibility of alteration; and secondly, because sales by measurement are often made instead of sales by the piece. We mention these arguments because they emanate from such trustworthy sources, but our readers will probably find as much difficulty as we do in appreciating their force. That the price of piece goods could not be altered so as to make the consumer pay the tax, and that the price per *tan* being known, the price per foot could not be changed proportionately, are propositions not easy to realise.

In connexion with the question of a tax on patent medicines, an interesting Japanese custom has been described. It appears that Toyama is the great centre of the patent-medicine industry. Thence a number of vendors start in the spring of every year to carry the medicine from house to house. The system is one of absolute credit. The vendor leaves a bottle of medicine, or a packet as the case may be, but receives no payment until his next visit in the following spring, when he collects the cost of the medicine actually used, and leaves a fresh supply. Such a method seems liable to involve heavy losses, but the total allowance is estimated at 10 per cent. only. Statistics appear to indicate that the industry was almost killed by the tax formerly imposed on it. Thus, in 1882 the number of vendors sent out from Toyama was 9,700, and the value of the medicines carried by them was 6¾ million *yen*. In that year a tax was imposed, and immediately, in 1883, the number of vendors fell to 6,000 and their aggregate stocks to 850,000 *yen*. Thenceforth the diminution was steady. In 1884, the vendors totalled 5,500, and the stock, 650,000 *yen*. In 1885, the corresponding numbers were 5,000 and 500,000 *yen*. In fact, the industry appeared to be moribund, when, in 1886, the law was altered so that the dealers were enabled to recover the value of stamps affixed to unsold medicines. A revival then took place, and it is calculated that each vendor now handles 900 *yen* worth of medicine annually. But his actual sales amount to only 300 *yen*, out of which 60 *yen* represents the first cost of the drugs, 30 *yen* the stamps, 30 *yen* the cost of paper and making up, 30 *yen* the losses incurred, 75 *yen* the travelling expenses of the vendors, 50 *yen* their wages, and 20 *sen* the peddlar's tax. Thus the total expenses are 275.20, leaving only 24.80 *yen* by way of profit, and as the total capital invested in medicines representing 900 *yen* is 360 *yen*, the profit stands at about 6¾ per cent. Certainly such a business does not seem to offer much margin for taxation.

MR. OZAKI'S SUCCESSORS AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Four names are mentioned in connexion with the portfolio of Education, now vacant owing to Mr. Ozaki's resignation. They are those of Messrs. Inukai Ki and Shimada Saburo, of the Progressist Party, and Messrs. Ebara Soroku and Kataoka Kenkichi, of the Liberals. Among the four, Mr. Shimada is said to be the most likely candidate. This affair will certainly not help to smoothe the relations between the Liberals and the Progressists. It will be remembered that at the last meeting of the *Kwanto* section of the Liberals, under the leadership of Mr. Hoshi Toru, two resolutions were adopted, one unfavourable to Mr. Ozaki's continued tenure of Cabinet office; the other declaring Mr. Ohigashi's obligation to resign. The most prominent Progressists in the capital assembled yesterday (25th) and, on a motion made by Mr. Hatoyama, decided that steps should be taken to ascertain whether such resolutions had really been adopted by the *Kwanto* politicians, and that, if confirmation of the statement were obtained, the *Kwanto* section should be required to sever its connexion with the Constitutional Party. It would, of course, be very much in the interests of the Party that such a secession should be effected, for it would mean the removal of the chief elements of dissension without seriously weakening the strength of the Party.

THE JUDICIARY.

The critics of Mr. Sone, the late Minister of Justice, and of Mr. Yokota, who cöoperated with him in weeding out the Judiciary, condemned with special emphasis a change made by him in the fixed establishment of Judges. It was not a change of numbers, but only an alteration from a particular to a general enumeration. The Law of the Organization of the Courts prescribed a definite number of Judges, Public Procurators, and so forth for each branch of the Judiciary. Mr. Sone lumped them all together, and fixed the total complement only. The scheme of administrative reform published on the 22nd instant restores the old distribution, which now stands thus:—

Court of Cassation—	
Chief Justices	3
Judges	25
Public Procurators	7
Appeal Courts—	
Chief Judges	15
Judges	85
Public Procurators	19
Local Courts—	
Chief Judges	70
Judges	315
Public Procurators	95
District Courts—	
Judges	674
Public Procurators	295
Totals—	
Chief Judges	88
Judges	1,099
Public Procurators	416

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RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Mr. Ozaki Yukio has resigned the portfolio of Education and his resignation has been accepted. There are various rumours with reference to this event. Some allege that, on the 22nd instant, the Emperor sent Prince Iwakura to the Prime Minister to convey to His Excellency an intimation that Mr. Ozaki's continuance in office did not seem desirable. Their version adds that Count Okuma, proceeding to the Palace on the 24th, submitted reasons in consideration of which His Majesty agreed that Mr. Ozaki should be allowed to resign instead of being removed. Another version is that the initiative was taken by the Cabinet in view of the fact that public opinion refused to be satisfied about the import of the now celebrated lecture delivered by Mr. Ozaki on the 21st of August. We are disposed to think that the former account is correct in so far, at least, as the Sovereign's independent suggestion is concerned, though it is difficult to believe that the words used by Mr. Ozaki in his lecture can have been held to constitute a genuine disqualification for Cabinet office. A great deal has been written and said about the unhappy phrase, but that it signified anything more than a protest against the growth of plutocracy in Japan we have never been able to imagine. Mr. Ozaki is unquestionably a man of the highest capacity, and his fine broad views indicate him as specially suited for the direction of educational affairs. Nothing can be more regrettable than the exclusion of such a man from the public service, and we fear that this event means nothing short of exclusion, for an official who has been so ill fated as to become a direct object of Imperial displeasure can scarcely look to recover his position in a country where the Throne commands absolute and unquestioning reverence. Of course the incident has much profounder significance from the point of view that it is the first recorded case of such a proceeding on the part of the Emperor since the Restoration. It places a powerful weapon in the hands of Count Okuma's enemies. They will be able to point to it in proof of their assertion that the Count does not enjoy the confidence of his Sovereign. Indeed, Count Okuma's impulse to resign must have been very strong at first, supposing the current version of the affairs to be even approximately correct. But the dictates of duty doubtless restrained him. In Japan the resignation of a Prime Minister is not necessarily followed by an appeal to the constituencies, and Count Okuma's resignation in the present instance would not be altogether equivalent to carrying a question between the Sovereign and himself to the bar of public opinion. But it would certainly be open to the construction of a protest against the Emperor's action, and that has to be avoided before everything. The case bears a certain resemblance to Lord Palmerston's resignation of the portfolio of Foreign Affairs in 1851, when he refrained from all attempt to defend himself, or to appeal to the opinion of the House of Commons, against the charges involved in Lord John Russell's publication of the Queen's memorandam. Similar reticence and submission are the wisest and most becoming course for the Prime Minister of Japan at present. It may turn out, and we trust it will, that the Sovereign's [illegible] the affair has been altogether misrepresented. Our comments are based simply upon the popular version.

None of our readers will be surprised to hear that Mr. Ozaki's resignation has caused a profound sensation, and that the comments on it stand far as the poles apart. The Government's enemies employ every device of rhetoric and ingenuity to magnify the affair and to prove that it constitutes a valid reason, if not for the resignation of the Cabinet *en bloc*, at all events for the resignation of Count Okuma, who specially recommended Mr. Ozaki. We can not discover any interesting feature in these arguments. They are common-place and palpably partial. Our readers shall not be wearied by their reproduction. The other side—represented by the *Mainichi*, the *Jiji*, the *Yomiuri* and the *Hochi*—while not advancing any very positive assertions as to the circumstances under which the resignation occurred, convey the impression that the initiative was taken by Mr. Ozaki himself. Their version is that the affair of the "republican lecture" had been worked up by political agitators until it assumed quite extravagant dimensions, and that finally the Peers, having been induced to take hold of it, resolved that it should be made the basis of an Address to the Throne impeaching the Cabinet. Unwilling to be the means of causing such a disturbance, yet seeing no way of averting it if he remained in office, Mr. Ozaki resolved to resign. We should like to accept that version, for though it does little credit to the intelligence or magnanimity of the Peers, it disposes of other and far more serious reflections. But there is a rider in which these same journals seem to place credence; namely, that some one—there is no suggestion of identification—invited the Emperor's attention to the fact of Mr. Yokota's removal because of a hasty epithet in a semi-private letter, and to the fact of Mr. Ozaki's undisturbed tenure of office in spite of an injudicious statement in a public lecture, the epithet affecting a Cabinet Minister and the statement being directed against the Throne; that the Emperor summoned Counts Okuma and Itagaki to offer an explanation of the lecture; that his Majesty was satisfied with the explanation, but that Mr. Ozaki, under the circumstances, felt it incumbent on him to resign. That story is entirely consistent with the ethics of Japanese politics. The only difficulty about it is that the Emperor, under such conditions, would probably hesitate about accepting the resignation.

Mr. Ozaki has many enemies. In that respect he may be said to have fully qualified as a distinguished man. His speeches in the house of Representatives were always marked by uncompromising thoroughness, and he never once allowed himself to be diverted for an instant from his course of unswerving hostility to the "clan statesmen." It is not surprising that, in his own hour of triumph, he should have felt the recoil of the broadsides he fired at his foes unceasingly during seven years. We venture to offer a suggestion. It is that, when the Diet meets, he should take an early opportunity of explaining the reasons of his resignation. That is one of the best among British parliamentary customs. It affords to a Minister the only really serviceable opportunity he can find of taking parliament and the nation into his confidence, and [illegible] of the often untrue and always unjust construction put upon his acts by the newspaper organs of his opponents.

DISRUPTION.

It appears as though the much-to-be-desired result had been at last attained—the separation of the Liberals and the Progressists. Mr. Ozaki Yukio's portfolio, acted as the bomb-shell of disruption. The Liberals wished to have Mr. Hoshi Toru nominated as Mr. Ozaki's successor; the Progressists put forward Mr. Inukai Ki. On Wednesday a Cabinet meeting was held to discuss the question. In the absence of the Minister of Education, the Liberal and the Progressist portfoilo-holders are equal in number, three each. Count Okuma insisted that Mr. Inukai should be appointed: Count Itagaki proposed Mr. Hoshi. Various versions are given of the discussion that ensued. It is very broadly hinted, among other things, that Count Itagaki had been the means of bringing about Mr. Ozaki's resignation by representations which he made to the Emperor without the Prime Minister's knowledge, and that Count Okuma's refusal to accept the Liberal leader's candidate was due to just indignation at the adoption of such a course by his colleague. We do not think that much importance should be attached to rumours of that kind. The plain fact that each side obstinately supported its own candidate is sufficient. Count Okuma probably felt that the situation had become intolerable, and that unless the interests of the State were to be perpetually sacrificed to party squabbles, an exit of some kind must be found. He probably thought also that if the Liberals broke up the alliance on the strength of a question so paltry as the balance of power, they would be more or less discredited in the eyes of the public. As for the Liberals, they too had a case. When an agitation was recently set on foot with the object of obtaining the portfolio of Foreign Affairs for Mr. Hoshi, Count Okuma is reported to have said that, whatever he might do if there was a vacancy in the Cabinet, he could not entertain such a proposal when no vacancy existed. "Here, then, is the vacancy," cried the Liberals. "Let us see you fill it with one of our candidates." Neither party would yield. Under ordinary circumstances the dilemma would have been resolved by the casting votes of the Ministers of War and of the Navy. But Marquis Saigo, instead of voting with either the Liberals or the Progressists, proposed an independent candidate, Viscount Aoki, and Viscount Katsura stood aloof altogether. Count Okuma thereupon announced his intention of exercising his rights as Premier, and recommending Mr. Inukai to the Emperor. He did so yesterday morning, and the Emperor at once endorsed the recommendation. Half an hour later, the Count is said to have proceeded to the Palace for the purpose of explaining to His Majesty that the Cabinet Ministers were not unanimous in recommending Mr. Inugai. But he found that he was too late, the Emperor's consent to Mr. Inukai's appointment having been obtained with exceptional celerity. It is taken for granted that the union between the Liberals and the Progressists can not survive this

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A COUNTERPOISE.

If there are sections of the *Kensei-to* labouring to revolve it into its primary elements under the guise of furthering its interests, there are other sections bent upon maintaining its cohesion, and the latter, judging from the personnel of their leaders, should be able to achieve their aim. They consist chiefly of the men who formed the committee of organization. It has occurred to them, evidently, that since they took the principal part in calling the Party into existence, their reputation is more or less concerned in averting the collapse which seems to be becoming imminent. Accordingly, they held a meeting on the 19th instant and unanimously agreed that their united efforts should be directed to neutralizing the influences now making for disintegration; that any one shooting an arrow at the flag of the Kensei-to should be regarded as a common foe, and that all questions calculated to produce a rupture should be excluded, if possible, from the purview of the Party's general meeting next month. There was some talk of issuing the Party's mandate for the dissolution of the multiform and multinomial coteries and caves recently organized within the Party, but it was finally decided that such an extreme measure might be avoided. Our readers will appreciate the strength of this counterpoise to disruption when we add that it consists of such men as Their Excellencies Messrs. Hayashi, Ozaki, Oishi and Matsuda, Baron Kusumoto, Dr. Hatoyama, Messrs. Kataoka, Hiraoka, Kuribara, Sugita, and so forth. In short it is now apparent that Mr. Hoshi and the Kwanto Club are not likely to find among the Liberals so much sympathy as has hitherto been predicted.

The steps by which the politicians of the *Kwanto-ha* are descending from the fine platform they occupied a few days back, seem so precipitous that we begin to apprehend a catastrophe before the bottom is reached. A week ago, they were standing on a lofty eminence, with a banner of broad issues waving over their heads and a brave array of principles to serve as a final line of division between the Liberals and the Conservatives. It was a welcome spectacle, for there can be no wholesome life in Japanese politics until separation of the *Kensei-to's* incongruous elements puts an end to the fermentation which now destroys all their capacity for good. But when we looked for a great result, the *Kwanto* men took a downward leap and ranged themselves on a vastly lower platform, aiming at nothing more than the winning of a portfolio. Baulked in that design by the Premier's resolute reply that no vacancy existed in the Cabinet, they made another rapid descent, and are now engaged in the petty business of trying to create vacancies by raking together the ashes of Mr. Ozaki's republican speech, and reopening the Ohigashi-Yokota question. Put into a nut-shell, that appears to be the interpretation of the resolutions adopted by them at their last meeting; a resolution that Mr. Ozaki's republican views were fraught with peril to the cause of sound education, and a resolution that Mr. Ohigashi should not endeavour to take shelter from his responsibilities behind a single rude epithet employed by Mr. Yokota. We have had a great admiration for Mr. Hoshi Toru ever since he sat as President of the House of Representatives. He showed himself in that position a man of strength, of courage, and of resource. It is disappointing to find him now associated with a political movement which invites such humiliating constructions. He declares that he is not seeking office; that he was offered and declined a portfolio when he returned from America; that he is not concerned with such petty issues as the balance of power between the two sections of the *Kensei-to*, and that he advocates taking a stand on the broad platform of finance and the Land Tax. We entirely believe his statements, and regret that they should seem inconsistent with the doings of his followers.

THE JAIL QUESTION AND THE BUDDHISTS.

The Buddhists have a "young men's association." It differs from its Christian prototype in having members who are not laymen but expectant priests. The Association distinguished itself recently by its very violent utterances with regard to the affair of the Sugamo Prison. It issued a species of manifesto which read like a threat to the Authorities that, unless they changed front without loss of time, they should find themselves face to face with an ugly agitation. Stripped of all embroidery, the question at issue between the Buddhists and the Home Department officials is that, whereas the latter regard jail pastors simply as teachers of morality and not at all as religious propagandists, the Buddhists claim that since religion must be the basis of all moral teaching, the pastors are inevitably religionists. If the Home Department's view be correct, it is obviously a matter of indifference whether the pastors be of the Buddhist or of the Christian creed. If the Buddhists' contention be sound, it is equally plain that to supply Buddhist and Christian pastors in equal numbers to a jail where 1870 Buddhists are incarcerated and only 30 Christians, is an abuse of the rule of proportion. That was the problem which a deputation from the Association undertook to discuss with the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs a few days ago. We do not know whether the report of the interview published by a Tokyo contemporary is correct, but if it is, then the Vice-Minister struck his colours most unequivocally. He set out by asserting the position that moral instruction, and moral instruction only, was in question, and he ended by admitting that religion necessarily entered the problem, and that the Government's desire was to preserve a just proportion between the representatives of the various religions and the number of their co-religionists in the jails. Of course that is the strictly equitable plan. Has the Government really contemplated any other? It appears to us that Count Itagaki has merely insisted on the existence of a moral obligation towards the Christian prisoners as well as towards the Buddhists. The priests claim that there are only 10 Christians among the Sugamo convicts, not 30, as the other side says. Well, even 10 prisoners should not be left without moral instruction and religious ministration. That the Buddhists themselves must admit. They merely spoil their case when they attempt to build an argument on the hypothesis that Buddhism is the State religion of Japan, and that the Authorities have no right to employ professors of any other creed as jail pastors. Japan has no State religion. In our humble opinion it is a mistake to withhold the franchise from Buddhist priests or to close the doors of the legislature to them. They ought not to be subjected to any official veto whatever on account of their religion, neither should they be entitled to any official protection.

In what relation does the State stand to Buddhism in Japan? One often hears that question asked, and the answer is usually vague. In truth it is a very slender relation. Each of the sects enacts its own rules, and is entirely free to do so, provided that its proceedings are within the limits of law and order. It also elects its own chief prelate. Here, however, the Government comes in. The prelate, after election by the members of the sect, receives official sanction (*ninka*). Hence, if anything in the management of the sect's affairs or in the conduct of the prelate be judged improper, the Government can cancel its sanction—withdraw the prelaties *exequatur*, so to speak. Now Buddhist priests are forbidden by law to interfere in politics. The veto is repeated in the regulations of the sects, and its violation is punishable by expulsion from the priesthood, one of the severest penalties, if not the very severest, that can be imposed on a Buddhist Minister. It has been related more than once in these columns that Mr. Ishikawa—who holds the important office of *Shitsuji*, or Vicar-General of the Higashi-Hongwan Temple—recently compiled a document condemning in strong terms the tendency of modern politics in Japan, and sent the document to various prominent men, among them the Prime Minister. Did such a proceeding amount to interference in politics? Most people would have no hesitation in answering in the affirmative. The Minister of Home Affairs answered in the affirmative, and called upon the Chief Prelate of the Hongwan-ji, Count Otani, to adopt disciplinary measures with the Vicar-General. Count Otani, after mature reflection, has now pronounced judgment—a judgment which reads very much as though it had been framed in a law court. His Eminence declares that the Vicar-General's brochure belongs to the category of private letters, since it was not published openly but only sent to a few friends, and that neither its compilation nor its despatch can be regarded as an interference in politics. It remains now to be seen whether the Minister of Home Affairs will acquiesce in that singular decision.

FINANCIAL.

Count Okuma has informed the members of the House of Peers that the Government proposes to obtain the increased revenue necessitated by the Estimates from five sources, namely, *saké*, tobacco, sugar, incomes, and registration. His Excellency explains that the incomings will not quite balance the outgoings in the 32nd fiscal year—1899-1900—and that a small appropriation will have to be made from the Indemnity to restore equilibrium in that year. In the 33rd year, however, the finances would stand on a sound basis. It will be observed that the Premier omits the projected increase of the tax on urban building lands, yet says nothing about imposing a tax on silk fabrics. Evidently the reports circulated lately on this subject were not accurate.

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HIGH COUNCIL ON EDUCATION.

The *Fiji Shimpo* says that we have committed an error in denying that any members of the High Council on Education supported the idea of allowing foreigners to engage in public education in Japan. We are not conscious of having made any such denial. Our words were:—"What surprises us is that nobody was found to stand up before the Council and express views similar to those now advanced by the *Fiji Shimpo*." That is a statement very different from alleging that the recognition of foreign educational enterprise found no supporters in the Council. Had the *Fiji* examined our columns with greater care before accusing us of error, it would have found the numerical results of the Council's division duly recorded, namely, 26 to 13 against allowing foreigners to carry on primary schools; 24 to 15 against the same proposal for middle schools, and 22 to 17 against their recognition in the field of general education. With these numbers before them it was impossible that our readers could be betrayed into the error of supposing that the affirmative side of the question had found no supporters. But we expressed our astonishment, and we now repeat the expression, that among a number of eminent Japanese publicists, not one was found to rise in his place and make himself the mouthpiece of a broadly liberal policy such as the *Fiji Shimpo* habitually advocates and has advocated in noble language on the present occasion. We are well aware that Mr. Izawa spoke in the affirmative, but the published reports of his speech indicate that his line of argument was based on the power possessed by Governors of Prefectures and Cities to nominate teachers in elementary schools, so that, in practice, a school founded by foreigners would still be under local control. Was that a genuinely liberal contention? We are well aware that Mr. Ebara also spoke in the affirmative, but the view attributed to him was that foreigners engage in Japanese education chiefly for the purpose of religious propagandism; that they are gradually stepping out of the field; that consequently no serious apprehensions of their interference after the introduction of Mixed Residence need be entertained, and that strict surveillance alone is necessary. Was that a genuinely liberal contention? We are well aware that Mr. Shimada Saburo also spoke in the affirmative, but his position was that a veto can not be efficiently imposed in practice, since foreigners borrow the names of Japanese to carry on schools, and that, consequently, the better plan would be to abstain from issuing a futile interdict and to institute a strict system of supervision. Was that a genuinely liberal contention? Professor Toyama and the other members of the so-called "University Clique" appear to have refrained from any definite expression of opinion as to the rights and wrongs of the question, their contention being that the subject ought not to have been submitted for discussion by the Council, and that the best plan would have been to return the Bill undebated to the Department of Education. In short, we can not discover that so much as one person advocated a really liberal and broad-minded policy. That is what astonishes us. The *Fiji Shimpo* has entirely misinterpreted our language.

A good deal of interest evidently attaches to the question whether or no the recommendations of the Council could be officially enforced without violating the Revised Treaties. In other words, it is asked whether education must not be classed as one of the "professions" in which foreigners will be entitled to engage after the operation of the new Treaties. There seems to be a misconception at the root of this query; a misconception relating to the scope of the Council's recommendations. In Japan, the schools classed as Middle and Primary receive State recognition and are largely supported out of the local taxes. Evidently to declare that schools established by foreigners shall be entitled to State recognition and public assistance provided that their educational courses and general control are in accordance with fixed regulations, is altogether different from merely permitting foreigners to engage in educational work. The Japanese, it seems to us, have an indisputable right to choose whether aliens shall be allowed to take part in the educational system provided by the State and supported by the State, though they may not have the right to veto private educational enterprise by foreigners. That distinction must be clearly drawn. "You may establish schools if you please, but do not expect them to be recognised by the State or to receive pecuniary aid from the public funds"—that, as we understand, is the position taken by the Council, and of course it can not be called a violation of the Treaties. But if we go a step farther and consider the reasons underlying the Council's recommendation, it appears that, in order to give effect to the view of the majority, foreign educational enterprise ought to be altogether interdicted in Japan, for the contention is that a scholastic career directed by aliens has the effect of impairing the scholars' patriotism, and if that be true in the case of public schools, it must be equally true of private schools. Hence a complete veto is the only logical course. But such a veto would certainly be opposed to the spirit of the Treaties, in our opinion.

It is not worth while to pursue the argument, for we learn from the *Fiji Shimpo* that the vote cast by the Council was not representative. It appears that a five hours' discussion had taken place about the method of putting the various questions to the vote, and the members had become either weary or confused when the President, Mr. Kato Hiroyuki, called for a show of hands from those that held the affirmative view about the first proposition. Thirteen rose, and the President, without inviting any contrary vote, concluded that all who had not risen were on the negative side, whereas among them were several who considered that the question ought not be debated by the Council at all, others who did not understand the nature of the vote, and some who did not wish to vote one way or the other without fuller reflection. Under the circumstances, the vote can not be regarded as a genuine expression of the Council's opinion, and is very unlikely to influence the Government.

HIGH AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL COUNCIL.

An evidence of modern Japan's growing deference for the opinions of the many, is furnished by the "high councils" organized during recent years to advise the Ministry on various questions. The work of the Railway Council has long been conspicuous, and the Educational Council recently distinguished itself in a manner which does it little credit. Last Thursday another of these bodies, the High Council on Commerce and Agriculture, held its first meeting at the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. It was addressed by Count Okuma, the Prime Minister, and by Mr. Oishi, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. The gist of the Premier's speech may be given in a few words. In former times, His Excellency said, people bowed down solely to rank and reputation, but that habit of mind has undergone a radical change. The value of the farmer, the manufacturer, and the merchants has come to be fully recognised, and corresponding respect is paid to them. Yet Japanese society is still far removed from the ideal condition. The rewards and honours of commercial enterprise are still so little appreciated, that although the Government, in the sequel of the war with China, stipulated for the opening of several ports in the neighbouring empire, no one has been found to take practical advantage of the concession by engaging in business in the new markets. It is evident that the Government has still a large duty to perform in encouraging and stimulating private enterprise.

Mr. Oishi, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, spoke after the Premier, and delivered himself of some statements which, if they are correctly reported by the newspapers, must be described as singular. His Excellency said that the world had now pronounced in favour of protection as against free trade. In the cases of the United States and of Germany the policy of protection had produced excellent results, whereas in England's case the policy of free trade had been a failure, and she was now turning again to protection. The object of assembling the Council, he went on to say, was to obtain expressions of opinion from men of ability and experience on several important problems of agriculture and commerce, and he pledged himself to do everything in his power to secure practical effect for any views formulated by the majority of the members.

All the leading vernacular newspapers concur approximately in their versions of Mr. Oishi's remarks, though some do not attribute to him the assertion that free trade has failed in England, and that she is turning back to protection. He seems to us to labour under a most singular misapprehension. Our own firm conviction is that every passing year demonstrates the error of protection and thins the ranks of its adherents. We sincerely hope that Japan, at this eleventh hour, is not going to fall into line with the supporters of one of the most illogical and demoralizing systems that ever disgraced human intelligence.

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MR. BROCKLEBANK'S PICTURES.

Several of Mr. Brocklebank's water-colours and a few oils were exhibited in the rooms of the Tokyo Geographical Society on the 18th and 19th instant. Many people took advantage of the artist's invitation to visit the room, and were well repaid for the trouble. Mr. Brocklebank delights in glimpses of scenery. He does not usually aim at broad effects, but seems to obey the canon—which, we may observe *en passant*, has been endorsed by the majority of Japanese painters in all eras—that a picture should never contain more than falls within the scope of one glance of the eye. His drawing is faithful, his colouring clean, and he succeeds notably with sea and river pieces. As to values, we should not be disposed to congratulate him unqualifiedly: he does not always get the Japanese atmosphere with absolute accuracy. But that is a huge difficulty. It was only necessary to examine some of his English landscapes exhibited on the same occasion to understand what an immense interval separates the atmosphere of the Far-Western Islands from that of the Far-Eastern. The palette of colours for each country must be totally different, and we presume that very long and close observation is necessary to educate an instinctive faculty of choosing the right pigments. Very often, however, Mr. Brocklebank makes us feel that we are actually breathing the air of Japan or of China, as the case may be. Two of his pictures may be specially mentioned as illustrating this point. One is a view of barges in a Tokyo canal; the other, the river scape, approaching Shanghai. Here, indeed, one has the sense of being in the Model Settlement and the Japanese capital respectively, and one has also some admirably rendered horizon effects. Both pictures are fine successes, but the approach to Shanghai would be quite a gem were it not for one insignificant flaw which persists in forcing itself into the field of vision—a crooked factory chimney in the extreme right-hand corner. We have not proposed to ourselves the task, pleasant as it might be, of discussing the various pictures in detail, so to our thanks for the happiness of seeing some admirable drawings we shall add merely one word of regret, namely, that the Japanese type of humanity has not yet figured on Mr. Brocklebank's canvas: his men, women, and children do not belong to this country.

TWO EXHIBITIONS OF PICTURES.

There are two exhibitions of pictures going on in Uyeno Park at present. One, a display of drawings in pure Japanese style, is in the rooms of the Fine Arts Society; the other, a group of paintings in Western fashion, is in a shed that remains from the Hakuran-kai of 1891. We can scarcely find a good word to say for either show, unless we applaud the courage and perseverance of the artists who, year after year, devote time and labour to the production of work which can not possibly satisfy their own aspirations or repay their efforts. There are just two fine pictures in the whole of the Japanese gallery. What percentage of merit to miserable failure that makes we do not know, but probably it is about one half of one per cent. The two fine pictures are a group of wind-tossed peonies by Futaba Kampu, a really admirable piece of brush work and tender colouring; and a view of Yeizen-ji, in Goshiu, by the great artist Nomura Bunkyo, with the glow and verdure of early spring on the maples and the mountains. If the artist had added a stronger back-ground of sky or given a softer contour to his distant hills in the second picture, it would have been a gem of landscape painting. It has been acquired for the Palace, where it deserves to hang. Think what a weary wilderness of daubs four hundred drawings make with a tiny oasis of only two refreshing pictures! Was such rubbish painted in the times which have bequeathed to us the master pieces of Masanobu, of Soami, of Motonobu, of Sesshu, of Tanyu, and of their fellow-immortals? If so, what has become of it? And what becomes of these acres of so-called pictures exhibited every year under the auspices of the *Bijutsu Kyôkai?* No one buys them. They are carted away at the end of the show and can not be used either for wall-paper, for patch-work quilts, or for petticoat-linings. Their fate is a mystery. The same may be said of the pain tings and drawings in foreign style that hang forlorn in the barn-like structure of the old Hakuran-kai, utilized every season for their display. Some of the crayons are decidedly clever. But crayons can scarcely be classed among pictures, and as for the waters and oils, there is not in the whole gallery a solitary painting that one could endure to have for companion on the wall of one's sitting room. Two or three excellently painted costumes confirm a statement often made in these columns, that the artist of Occidentalized Japan can depict still life to perfection. If these garments were suspended from pegs or hanging on a clothes-horse, they would be highly artistic achievements. But unfortunately they are on human figures, and the heads that emerge from them destroy the illusion completely. One has infinite pity for the painters of the new school in Japan. They are so unsparing of effort, so steadfast of purpose, and so hopelessly lacking in opportunity. No studio of a great master offers itself for their tuition; no gallery of inspiration is open to them. They must struggle on without means, without encouragement, and in the constant company of chill penury: What will be the end? Judged by this year's display, they are almost *in extremis*. The seeds of sculpture that Ragusa and Capelletti sowed have germinated with some vigour, but the plants—should we not rather call them weeds?—that Fontenesi and Ferretti sought to set up in Japanese soil, have declined to take root. What a pity it is that Italy did not send masters instead of masqueraders to introduce Western art to the Japanese twenty-six years ago!

THE SLAVERY CASE IN MEXICO.

Wide publicity has been given to a statement which originally appeared in the columns of a Tokyo journal, to the effect that thirty Japanese youths recently fell victims to the wiles of a sharper and were sold into slavery in Mexico. We are in receipt of information from an entirely trustworthy source that, circumstantial as the account was, it may be dismissed as a pure invention, nothing of the kind having happened.

THE JAPAN FINE ART INSTITUTION.

Allusion has been made more than once in these columns to the difficulties which led, some time ago, to a serious difference of opinion between the teachers at the School of Art and the Japanese Authorities, the final result being that a large section of the teachers, including many of the ablest men, severed their connection with the School, and led by Mr. Okakura, organized an independent institution under the name of the *Bijutsu-in*. This association is now holding its first exhibition in Hatsune-cho, Yanaka, Tokyo; an address probably perplexing to some of our readers and therefore demanding explanation that the place in question is a short distance beyond Uyeno Park and in the immediate vicinity of the well-known Dango-zaka, where the chrysanthemum shows are held every autumn. The objects on exhibition consist almost entirely of pictures, and are apparently not limited to works by members of the new association, for the name *Bijutsu-in* is not employed. On the huge lanterns and streamers wisely set up to guide the feet of visitors, the inscription is *Nippon Kaigwa Kyôkai*, or Japanese Competitive Pictorial Society. The display can not be taken, therefore, as representing solely the movement headed by Mr. Hashimoto Gaho towards a union of the pictorical arts of Japan and the West. The progress made by that movement may indeed be judged from the pictures shown, but one can see, at the same time, the groove in which Japanese art proper is at present moving, for some painters of established reputation and some of not-yet-fulfilled promise contribute drawings which have evidently remained beyond the reach of the new influence. As to these, and as to the exhibition in general, we may say at once that there is much to attract and much to commend, and that the comparison between the gallery of the *Kaigwa Kyôkai* and the gallery of our old and somewhat decrepit friend, the *Bijutsu Kyôkai*, which also is now visible at its accustomed place in Uyeno Park, is immensely in favour of the former. The broad difference between the works exhibited in the two galleries is that, whereas the exhibitors in the Uyeno hall show no originality whatever, but simply cling with almost sad conservatism to the stereotyped traditions of the past, the exhibitors at Yanaka evidently try to strike out new ideas and to be themselves writers of the poetry of art instead of tame reciters of the verses of others. It is not suggested that the Yanaka gallery is free from works disfigured by the marks of spiritless imitation. Many such are on view. They are the inevitable "pot-boilers" that every struggling artist finds himself compelled to paint, though we doubt whether they fulfil even that humble purpose in Japan. But there are also many pictures which indicate that the pictorial art of the country has plenty of vitality, and is still capable of striking a new chord instead of merely sounding a feeble echo. We observe with curiosity and much interest that Mr. Hashimoto himself no longer appeals to the verdict of the public through the medium of drawings in which the technique of western art is grafted on the fashions of Japanese. He contributes three drawings only. Two of them are among the gems of the exhibition, but they might have been painted by any of the great masters of the Shijo

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School, working before the era when foreign influences first began to be felt in the realm of Japanese fine art. One is a drawing of bamboo in a golden field. It is a beautiful picture, not merely full of force, but also executed with infinite delicacy and quite delightful as a scheme of colour, while indescribable tenderness is added by a breath of sun-rise mist that steals across one side of the bamboo clump, softening the contours of the leaves and giving prominence to the blush of the young stems. The other picture is a river scape, a view of an old ferry. The foreground is a study of undulating shore and bamboo groves, with a ferry boat in which a sleeping heron stands; the back-ground, a range of hills fading into misty distance. As a combination of delicate detail with grand suggestion of space and softness of atmospheric effect, this drawing is a veritable master-piece. The artist has not wholly escaped his unhappy mannerism of emphasizing outlines which have no existence in nature, but it is scarcely noticeable, certainly not obtrusive. By way of pendant to his beautiful bamboo, Mr. Hashimoto has painted an almost blossomless plum-stem stretching horizontally across a field of gold It is a bold conception, but the sombreness and weight of the black mass are over powering. Next to Mr. Hashimoto's best efforts we have no hesitation in placing a picture of a very different kind by Mr. Shimomura Kwazan. It is called the "Cremation of Buddha." People that have studied Japanese religious paintings are weary to death of the Nehan-zo, the Nirvana of the Buddh, with its unvarying compositions and stereotypted representations of mourning. We have never seen a *Nehan-so* that could be called really impressive. The majestic solemnity of the scene is invariably spoiled by the introduction of grotesque elements, animals indulging in paroxysms of grief as clumsy as they are ridiculous. But this creation of Buddha is a grandly romantic picture. In the background a huge golden sarcophagus rests, encircled by fumes of smoke and tongues of lambent flame under a glory that strikes rays of gold across the whole firmament; in the foreground stand groups of Rishi and divinities, joining hands of prayer or turning faces of profound grief towards the place of cremation. The figures are noble in pose, and the artist, by a courageous use of sombre pigments, has succeeded in imparting to the faces an aspect of unearthliness that is almost terribly impressive. It is impossible to deny that this is a great picture, rising to heights of forceful ideality and dramatic conception such as Japanese artists seldom scale. Hanging beside this great work of Kwanzan's is a magnificent study of prairie plants and grasses by Hishida Shunso, showing the utmost delicacy of execution and withal very strong. A solitary bird perched on a spray of reed in the foreground, relieves the monotony of the scene without disturbring its lonelinesss, and through the clouds on the horizon a broad breath of sunlight glints across the moor and bathes the grasses in the middle distance.

Were we attempting to classify the pictures in the order of merit, we should speak here of a "Fire-scene in Yedo," by Mr. Ogata Gekko. All students are familiar with Gekko's style. He stands unrivalled in the present day as a limner of figures in motion, and in the picture now on view at Yanaka, the crowded, confused aspect of a city street in the immediate vicinity of a conflagration is finely rendered. But the flames that sweep across the whole of the upper part of the canvas are scarcely worthy of a stage-scene painter. It is doubtful whether flames can be represented successfully in a picture. There is some subtle element of motion and evanescence that can not be fixed by the brush. Certainly Gekko has not discovered the art of representing them. He should have limited himself as far as possible to suggestion, leaving the main part of the story to be told by the busy, anxious mob of firemen and fugitives whom he depicts with such consummate skill.

Nomura Bunkyo contributes a pretty picture of a plum-and-pine grove among spring mists. His work is always good, but we should not class this specimen as among his most successful productions. It is by no means equal to the view of Yeizenji which he exhibits in the salon of the *Bijutsu Kyokai* in Uyeno Park. We may here allude to a point not directly connected with art, but of some importance to artists. Nomura Bunkyo's picture in the Uyeno gallery in marked 40 *yen*; his inferior, though certainly more elaborate, work in the Yanaka gallery is marked 60 *yen*. Not far off in the latter salon hangs a drawing by Suzuki Kason, showing all the nerveless fluffiness and effeminate softness by means of which that artist has made a niche for himself in the estimation of a few foreign dilettanti. Kason's picture, "Among the Palms," is marked 75 *yen*. We do not know who is responsible for these figures, or for the correspondingly high prices put upon nearly all the paintings of merit that hang in the Yanaka gallery. But it is absurd to suggest that Kason's "Among the Palms" is worth 75 *yen*, or even a fourth of the money, when Nomura Bunkyo's "Spring" is already twice too dear at 60 *yen* Japanese painters and their advisers are making a great mistake when they attempt to enhance the value of their works in public estimation by asking undue prices for them. Whether their pictures are worth the money as art efforts we do not affirm or deny, but we have no hesitation in saying that the foreign public does not yet think them worth it, and that the great object now should be, not to find a purse-proud buyer here and there, but to enlarge the range of admirers and thus foster a market. Our impression is that this evil habit of asking exorbitant prices was inaugurated by the Japanese Committee of the Chicago Exhibition, and that it had some connection with the pernicious custom of making prospective "grants in aid" to painters and other art experts. Mr. Okakura would be well advised if he introduced a healthier atmosphere into the school which he has founded under such promising circumstances. This leads us to comment on the survival of another false departure made under the auspices of the Chicago Committee, namely, the employment of vast areas of canvas. The error is conspicuously illustrated by Mr. Yokoyama Taikwan's picture, "The Poet Kutsugen." Here, on a sheet of silk measuring 12ft. by 6ft., we have a semi-spectral colossus, rolling frenzied eyes and stalking over a moor that seems too small for him, under a sky that appears too low, beside an entanglement of trees which his gigantic presence dwarfs to the dimensions of vegetables. The whole impression is one of dreary void and unsightly immensity. The painter seems to have hoped to produce by the mere size of his canvas effects which belong to the highest range of art. What is to be done with such a picture? Does Mr. Yokoyama believe that there are niches for these vast drearinesses in the dwellings of Europeans or Americans? Another example of the same kind is Mr. Terasaki Kogyo's picture of Sotoba setting out for Sekiheki, where he composed and wrote upon a wall his celebrated stanza of poetry. Here we have great ability in the painting of the scholar and his companions, but the immense expanse of moorland merging into a formless horizon under a vast canopy of monochromatic, dust-coloured sky, is oppressively suggestive either of unfinished work or of barreness of idea. Nothing could be more opposed to the fundamental principle of Japanese pictorial art than the use of these huge canvases. The Japanese painter has always set before himself the purpose of depicting only the small group of objects that fall within the range of a single *coup d'œil*. That is his conception of the logic of pictorial art. When he is set down to paint on canvas of huge area, he must either abandon his guiding principle and produce a panorama, or adhere to his principle and obtain a result in which the dimensions of the motive and the measurements of the picture are grotesquely disproportionate. The celebrated Japanese masters knew how to produce grand effects of space and atmosphere within the limits of a small picture. Mr. Hashimoto Yaho knows how to do it. Young artists would be better advised if they studied that achievement instead of setting pigmy conceptions to wander in great wildernesses of canvas. Mr. Kajita Hanko, for example, did not think that yards of silk were needed to paint his "Farewell," yet his little boat bearing away the loved one, has already passed into the dim distance and is steering towards an illimitable void. This is a picture full of poetic feeling. The woman who has torn off her girdle to wave goodbye from the pine-crowned rock, the sail gliding out of sight in the wide monotony of sea, and the subordination of every detail to the ruling idea of loneliness and grief, make a scene of the saddest suggestiveness. But the foreground at the base of the rock and the middle-distance into which the barque is sinking are in the same plane.

There are many other pictures to which we should like to refer in detail if space sufficed, though our references would not be invariably appreciative, but we pass them very briefly in review. Two screens representing "Spring Rain" and "Autumn Mists," by Takeuchi Seiho, certainly do represent rain and mist most admirably. One feels the rain falling and smells the mist rolling up from the valley. But the detail of rocks and tree-trunks is badly painted: such objects do not exist. The "Night-wind of Spring," by Kikuchi Hobun, has much poetic feeling and boldness of style, but falls just short of success. The "Last Days of Komachi," by Matsumoto Fuko, is treated differently from the immunerable renderings of the same subject by Japanese artists and shows much delicacy of brush work, but the artist has thought it necessary to expose the bosom of the decrepit old woman, and the anatomy is shocking. Mr. Yamada Keichiu has painted the "Spirit of Autumn." It is a strange composition. Among flowers and shrubs exquisitely painted moves a clumsy fe-

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male figure, with a fat, uncomely face and robes apparently cut out of paper. If only this most gross "Spirit" could be taken out of the picture, we should have a delightful floral study. The "Parting of Sobu with Riryo," by Saigo Kogetsu, is immense in size, but otherwise quite insignificant. There is a very interesting drawing by Murata Tanryo, showing a scene from the attack made by Akechi Mitsuhide upon the temple where Ota Nobunaga was lodging. Mori Ranmaru, Nobunaga's favourite squire, is seen engaging a man in armour, the weapons being a spear and a glaive. If the faces of the combatants were more boldly modelled and showed something of the fierce resolve that such a supreme moment must inspire, and if the dimensions of the picture were not out of proportion to the central incident, Mr. Murata's work would deserve high praise. "In the Old Temple Ground," by Uyehara Konen, is a very pretty picture indeed, the point of view well chosen and the general feeling tender and faithful. Near it are two drawings, "Among the Dunes" and "Evening Calm," by Watanabe Kogai, which are examples of a decidedly clever attempt to adapt the Occidental style of landscape-painting to Japanese methods. Kubota Beisen, who enjoys a high reputation among modern artists, disappoints us sadly with "Flower-seller," and the "Winter Forest," by Hishida Shunso, has over-taxed the painter's capacities. After these failures it is refreshing to come upon such a delightful picture as Yamamoto Shoun's "Autumn in the Country," with its pines peeping through the mist, its touches of tender colour, and its admirably sketched figures in the foreground. One of the few successful attempts to follow the semi-foreign lead of Mr. Hashimoto Yaho is Mr. Katsuse Tanko's "Mist on the River." The artist has almost avoided the card-board rocks and hastily outlined hills of his master's early work. As a specimen of delicate workmanship we may instance Kobayashi Koko's "Moonlight Reverie," and Kobayashi Gyoko's "Gold Pheasants," nor must we forget to refer to a sweet little picture by Toda Sogetsu—a farm-girl wending her way homeward through a moon-lit valley—; to a Chinese landscape by Fujita Taigan; to two landscapes, "Dawn," and "Summer Afternoon," by Hirafuku Hiyakujo; to "Sunrise on the Sea," a charming scheme of colour, by Murata Tanryo; to "Peeping" by Uyemura Shoyen; and finally, but for different reasons, to "Autumn among the Mountains," where one may see, in exaggerated form, all the faults of the hybrid school. At the end of the chapter the impression that we have to record after visiting this exhibition is most hopeful. From the moment that Japanese artists, while preserving the best features of their old methods, honestly seek to emerge from mannerisms which, though great attractions in the hands of their originators, become painful parodies in those of their imitators, and instead of confining themselves to the range of classical subjects which have been treated over and over again by the masters of other centuries, boldly enter the realm of original conception and independent representation—from that moment we look with new hope to the future of Japanese art.

BARON IWASAKI AND HIS SUCCESSOR.

Baron Iwasaki's resignation of the presidency of the Bank of Japan was gazetted on the 21st instant, and Mr. Yamamoto Tatsuo, one of the Bank's Directors, has been appointed to succeed him. The Emperor recognises Baron Iwasaki's services by conferring on him the Third Class Order of the Rising Sun. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* approves unreservedly of Mr. Yamamoto's nomination on the ground that the President of the Bank of Japan ought not to be a person of marked political influence or a great capitalist. Our contemporary admits that Baron Iwasaki's administration of the Bank's affairs was of the most upright and impartial character, but concludes that a man of his prominence in political and financial circles could not discharge the functions of such a post without exciting suspicion. If that objection has any validity it is fundamental, and should have been discovered at the time when Baron Iwasaki was appointed. But not a word of protest was then heard on any side. The vernacular press found expressions of approval only. We do not ourselves deny the force of the objection in the abstract, but we are bound to say that the kind of assaults to which Baron Iwasaki has been subjected of late, have produced the worst possible impression on foreign observers. The motive has been perfectly plain throughout—politics. Every one acquainted with Baron Iwasaki knows beyond a shadow of doubt that such an act as to employ the machinery of the Bank in his own private interests would be quite impossible to him. When, therefore, an ex-official of the Bank, whose judgment had been warped by chagrin at the loss of his post, furnished to political agitators material for libelling Baron Iwasaki, impartial people recognised one of those intrigues which reflect discredit on any Society that tolerates them. Of course such paltry slanders had nothing to do with Baron Iwasaki's resignation. He declined to remain in charge of the Bank's affairs when he found that his views did not coincide with those of the present Minister of Finance. But it is a pity that the libels and the resignation should have had even the semblance of coincidence. However, the intelligent section of the public knows that Baron Iwasaki directed the Bank's affairs with marked success throughout one of the most difficult periods of national finance, and that his methods produced upon banking business in general an effect which, we may hope, will be permanently wholesome.

JAPANESE IN KOREA.

The number of Japanese in Korea increases steadily. According to returns compiled for the Foreign Office in Tokyo, the figures at the end of September stood thus :—

	Males.	Females.	Total Persons.	Houses.
Sōul	1,084	799	1,883	478
Inchhōn.....	2,485	1,794	4,279	949
Fusan	3,191	2,855	6,046	1,089
Wōnsan.....	963	640	1,603	345
Mokpho.....	649	304	953	240
	8,372	6,392	14,764	3,101

There is here an increase of 84 persons and 57 houses as compared with the figures for August.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

The spirit of unrest seems to be abroad in Korea also. The "Empire Association" is reported to be making itself very troublesome. It is an association organized in opposition to the Independence Club, and its nominal programme is to support the Emperor. But its members appear to have been overtaken by a sudden vertigo, under the influence of which they have mistaken their proper character and begun to agitate for a national assembly. To their petition in that sense the Government replied that the people were not ripe for such a change, whereupon the Imperialists besieged the house of the Prime Minister, complaining that, whereas the representations of the Independence Club received favourable consideration, theirs were rejected. The Minister resigned, and all the rest of the Cabinet followed his example to mark their disapproval of his weakness. A company of soldiers running away in order to proclaim their contempt for their sergeant-major's cowardice is a novelty. But the whole of Korea's modern history is farcical.

Subsequent telegrams throw some light on the curious intelligence received three days ago from Korea, to the effect that the Empire Club had memorialized the throne in favour of a national assembly. It now appears that the Empire Club was prompted by the Emperor to take that course, the idea being to steal the thunder of the Independence Club. With regard to the result of the memorial, the first news spoke of the whole Cabinet's having resigned in the immediate sequel of the Prime Minister's resignation. But the changes actually made are the retirement of the Prime Minister, Pak Chŏng-yang, who is succeeded by Yun Yong-sŏn; the retirement of the Minister of the Household, Yun Yong-ku, who is succeeded by Ming Pyŏng-hyŏk; and the retirement of the Minister of War, Min Yŏng-hwa, who is suceeeded by I Chong-kŏn.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE M. SIENKIEWICZ.

A service of High Mass was performed in the Catholic Cathedral at Tsukiji on Friday last for the repose of the soul of the late M. Sienkiewicz, whore presented France during many years at the Court of Japan. His Grace Monseigneur Osouf and their Reverences the Abbé Ligneul and the Abbe Evrard officiated, and the Bishops of Osaka and Nagasaki assisted. The Cathedral was filled to overflowing, and conspicuous among the congregation were the Prime Minister, Count Okuma, the Minister of the Navy, Marquis Saigo, Field Marshal Marquis Oyama, and many other Japanese of note.

RAILWAYS IN CHINA.

The railways in which America appears to be interesting herself are a main line from Hankow to Canton, and a branch from Nam-cheung in Kiangsi to the province of Fukien. It is also reported that, in the case of the road from Shanghai *vid* Suchow, and Tsung-yeung, to Wan-chow, the financing has been undertaken by the *Ewo Yeung-hang*, which means, we presume, Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Company; and that the line from Canton to Kowloon is to be financed by the "Hongkong Railway Bank."

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THE FASHODA INCIDENT.

IT appears from the telegrams that the peril of war between England and France has ceased to be imminent. The messages received on Thursday evening are too vague to afford a basis for any definite theory as to the exact course that events have taken, but we are probably justified in inferring from the resignation of the French Cabinet and the consequent appreciation of English Consols that the Chamber and the nation evinced disapproval of the Ministry's policy. Of course the peaceful settlement of a trouble which had reached such a dangerous stage must be counted a matter of the sincerest congratulation. Had recourse to the sword been necessary, Englishmen would have regarded the issue with assurance, for, although they know well the fighting qualities of the French, victory could scarcely have failed to rest with the stronger side, and England is incomparably the stronger at sea, where alone conclusions would have had to be tried. But even though the disparity were greater and the certainty of success more assured, the calamity of war between two such Powers can not be under-estimated, and we sincerely trust that the crisis is now past. France's dilemma had become extremely painful. She was called upon to retreat from a position before discussing her title to hold it. To comply with a demand of that nature is a cruel wrench for a great and proud nation. Let us try to imagine what England would do if required to make such a retrogressive movement with the point of an enemy's sword at her throat. We doubt whether she could endure to make it. On the other hand, there is no room for doubt, not the smallest room, that Major MARCHAND had not a shadow of right to occupy Fashoda, unless a right to seize a place be constituted by the mere fact of finding it unguarded. Every impartial reader of the records must acknowledge that Fashoda belongs, and has long belonged, to Egypt. In 1864, the town was fortified and garrisoned by an Egyptian regiment. From 1873 to 1882 it was governed by YUSSUF Pasha. On the latter's defeat by the rebellious Mahdists in June, 1882, RASHID Pasha was sent to Fashoda with re-inforcements from Khartoum, but in 1884 the Arab rising had assumed such dimensions that the withdrawal of the garrison became expedient as a temporary measure. If, under such circumstances, an outsider was entitled to step into Fashoda, then he was equally entitled to step into Omdurman, or into Khartoum itself. The territories of a country do not become the lawful prey of any chance adventurer because the usual measures for their protection have been momentarily relaxed under stress of special difficulties. After the victory of Omdurman, the duty of re-occupying Fashoda became just as imperative and just as natural for the Sirdar as the duty of re-occupying Khartoum. The casual presence of a French officer at the former place had no more concern for its rightful owner, Egypt, than the presence of a wandering entomologist or a private collector of slave-trade statistics would have had. Therefore HER MAJESTY'S Government, acting on behalf of the Khedive of Egypt, could not possibly enter into any diplomatic discussion of Major MARCHAND'S right to hoist the French flag at Fashoda. As for the question of MARCHAND'S being there at all, the broad explanation is that he and M. LIOTARD have been endeavouring, since 1896, to extend the French "sphere" northward from the Congo to the Nile. Two years ago, they established a post (Tambura) on the Sueh river, which is a sub-affluent of the to White Nile. There MARCHAND put together two small steamers, and organized a reconnaisaance up the Sueh, his objective point being Abyssinia. He reached Fort Hassinger in October of last year. Fort Hassinger is the extreme northerly point of the French sphere. It is 50 miles due south of Wau. Now Wau, though never actually occupied by the Egyptians, used to be regarded by them as within their range of territory, for it can be reached by steamer from Khartoum during the floods, and GESSI Pasha contemplated establishing a station there in 1880. At all times of the year flat-bottomed boats can ascend the river to Meshra-er-rek, a distance of 130 miles above Wau, and from thence to Fashoda on the White Nile is a ten or twelve days' journey by water. It would appear that MARCHAND made his way, in the first place, to Wau; that he thence pushed on to Meshra-er-rek, and that he finally extended his reconnaissance to Fashoda, where, encountering no opposition, he quietly raised the French flag and waited to see what would come of it. The solitary argument that can be advanced in support of his procedure is that Fashoda had been without an Egyptian garrison for 14 years. But of course such a contention is quite valueless. There is no internationally recognised statute of limitations in such cases, and moreover when MARCHAND started on his journey up the Sueh at the end of last year, he knew that an Egyptian army was moving up the Nile to restore the KHEDIVE'S authority throughout the whole of the Soudan, and he knew that Fashoda would be an objective point of that army no less than Khartoum. Looking at these facts dispassionately, the French have probably concluded that to engage in a war with England in support of MARCHAND'S nomadic eccentricities would not be an act which the nation could reconcile with its conscience or with its sense of logic. We wish most sincerely that England's great neighbour had not been stretched upon a moral rack before reaching this conclusion, for, though the incident may close peacefully, it can not be said to close satisfactorily if it leaves France's pride severely wounded. One phase of the matter deserves notice. It seems to have been taken for granted, regarded as perfectly natural in short, that Great Britain should constitute herself the armed champion of Egypt's rights on the upper waters of the Nile. Diplomatic fictions seldom survive the impact of actual events. After this there will not be much choice of terms in describing England's position in Egypt.

JAPAN'S POLICY TOWARDS CHINA.

All the leading journals of Tokyo publish what professes to be a statement of the Government's policy towards China. It is not necessarily identical with England's policy, we read. The main object is to render every possible assistance to the Emperor, and also to espouse the cause of the southern Chinese, who seem to be honestly anxious for reform. On the other hand, the northern Chinese have shown that they believe in Japan's disinterestedness. They show much friendliness to all Japanese visiting China, and they have sent twenty Manchu officers to be present at the autumn manœuvres. Further, Prince Chung and the other Ministers of the *Tsung-li Yamén* evince a disposition to have recourse to Japan's good offices in their dealings with Western Powers, and have accepted all the representations made by her in connexion with the recent political crisis. If would be unjust, therefore, and impolitic to needlessly offend the northern Chinese. Japan and England have identical interests in China, but are not allies in all respects.

RUSSIA'S PEACE PROPOSALS.

A telegram published by the *Jiji Shimpo* says that, Russia, having now received favourable answers from all the Powers to which she addressed invitations to a peace conference, her Ministers are now engaged drawing up the proposals to be submitted to the Conference. The proposals are to take the form of declarations of principle, and will therefore have little binding force. It appears that the place of meeting will not be St. Petersburg, but some other suitable city which is not yet determined.

KANG YU-WEI.

Kang Yu-wei arrived in Tokyo at ten o'clock on Tuesday night, and proceeded to a house which had been rented by his friends for his accommodation. He was accompanied by Leung Kei-chin, one of his most prominent disciples, and by Wong Chiu, concerning whom we have no information. It is stated that Kang does not contemplate any lengthy stay in Japan, but will proceed to America, and thence to England, as soon as a convenient opportunity presents.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The excitement which we had to record in our last Summary, with reference to an apparently imminent split in the ranks of the Constitutional Party, has subsided, in great part at any rate. It was found, in the first place, that the Kwanto section, under the leadership of Mr. Hoshi Toru, instead of frankly aiming, as had been originally supposed, at bringing about a rupture between the Liberals and the Progressists on the broad lines of finance and railway ownership, came down to a petty demand for stronger representation of the Liberals in the Cabinet. Mr. Hoshi, indeed, has since explained that he himself attached no importance to the question of a balance of official power between the two parties, and that, for his own part, he would not accept a portfolio under any circumstances at present. But the press and the public made up their minds that the commotion had no deeper origin than the familiar place-hunting fever. Two effects, however, were produced by it. One, the formation of a strong union of leading Progressists and Liberals for the avowed purpose of preventing any disintegration of the Party; the other, some very outspoken journalistic exhortations against the folly of a rupture before the object had been fully accomplished for which the Liberals and Progressists were originally amalgamated. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* was conspicuous for utterances of the latter character. On the other hand, the mouse-birth outcome of the mountainous movement did not fail to provoke the ridicule of some journals, and as for the newspapers opposed to the Cabinet, they preached new sermons on their old theme, namely, the unsightly nature of these squabbles for the spoils between the two sections of the Party, and the hopelessness of looking for an efficient domestic administration or a strong foreign policy from men thus divided against themselves. The *Kokumin Shimbun* was quite indefatigable as an exponent of the former phase of affairs. It declared that there was no longer such a thing as a *Kensei-to*: there was merely a camp within which the Liberals and Progressists stood separately arrayed, waiting until one or the other should march out. The sooner this disgraceful situation is resolved the better, says the *Kokumin*, for the impression gradually fixing itself on the mind of the nation is that the party politicians care only for the sweets of office, and take no serious thought for the interests of the nation. The *Mainichi Shimbun* lays bare the root of the trouble. Its view is that the men now engaged in politics are not qualified for the work, inasmuch as their embarrassed circumstances compel them to make a business of office-hunting. Not until a person has acquired independent means ought he to take a leading part in politics, or think of accepting high office. Unfortunately, well-to-do folk in Japan do not engage in politics, and the field is left to needy individuals who can not live unless they compel the State to support them in some way or other.

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The only credit accruing from this crisis has fallen to Count Okuma. His reply to the demand of the Kwanto Liberals was that, even if a vacancy occurred in the Cabinet, he could not make any promise with reference to the manner of filling it, since the appointment of Ministers of State rests entirely with the Emperor. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, which seldom has a good word to say for Count Okuma, applauds the propriety of that answer, and condemns its friend, Count Itagaki, for having countenanced such a demand.

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We need scarcely say that Chinese affairs were largely discussed by the press during the week. One of the most singular views expressed was put forward by the *Fiji Shimpo*. It alleged that China's present condition is analogous to that of Japan in feudal times, the power of the central government being insignificant, whereas the localities are virtually autonomous. It is, therefore, almost useless for a foreign representative to prefer demands in Peking. Even though they receive the approval of the authorities in the capital, there is no competence to make them effective throughout the empire. The best plan would be to accredit to each of the local governments officials of a partly consular and partly diplomatic character, so that all questions might be settled at the place where they occurred. Passing on to the general problem of Japan's wisest attitude in the presence of the perils that threaten China, we find that the Tokyo journals are almost unanimous in advocating a policy of resolute interference for the preservation of the neighbouring empire's integrity and independence. Few seem to doubt that elements of strength exist in China and that they only need development. The *Hochi Shimbun* may be classed among the doubters. It believes that China's fate is sealed, and that the factors making for her dismemberment began to be active fifty years ago, though two decades passed before Japan took any notice of them. Therefore the *Hochi Shimbun* advocates interference in Japan's interests, and wants to know what uses are to be served by her fleet of two hundred thousand tons and her army of five hundred thousand men if they are not employed at this juncture. The *Kokumin* complains of the vacillating policy pursued by the Cabinet, and says that when the facts are carefully examined, nothing appears to have been done except to submit a tentative kind of protest in Peking and to exult over the fact that it apparently produced some effect. Courteous and gentle advice is useless in China. It is like blowing away a fly from a rice cup. Japan must step forward boldly, join hands with the Powers that have identical interests in Eastern Asia, and lead China resolutely into the path of progress. Needless to say that the *Kokumin* finds in all this an opportunity for attacking the Government. Having set forth what ought to be done, it asks how there can be any hope that a Cabinet like the present Ministry will do it.

* * *

One journal stands conspicuously apart from all its contemporaries. It is the newly born *Jimmin*, successor to the *Tokyo Shimbun*, generally regarded as an organ of Mr. Hoshi Toru and the Kwanto Liberals. The *Jimmin's* regret is, not that the dismemberment of China threatens to take place soon, but that it has been so long postponed. For it is inevitable. The only thing to save her is regeneration, and what hope can there be that a young Emperor and a solitary enthusiast, the only two really earnest reformers in the country, can bring about the regeneration of a huge nation petrified in bigotry and conservatism? No, dismemberment must come. It will not be averted by the apprehensions it inspires. China offers to the world every conceivable spectacle of semi-barbarism. The sooner she is civilized the better, and her civilization can be effected only by her partition. It is, therefore, in the interests of the world's economy and of humanity that she should be dismembered with all speed. Eastward the star of civilization takes its way.

* * *

Precisely the opposite of the above is an article published on the same day by the *Mainichi Shimbun*. It is headed "More and more hope of China's reform." Russia, says the writer, is tired and wants rest. She will not lay hands upon China. And if Russia abstains, England also will stand aloof. As for the other Powers, their action depends on the attitude of England and Russia. Therefore we may conclude that China will have a breathing space to set her house in order. Now the Empress-Dowager is a consummately clever woman and by no means an enemy of reform. She appreciates its necessity. Further, Jung Lu, the most influential subject in the empire, is far from being a bigoted conservative. The part these two have taken in checking the movement of progress was forced upon them by the injudicious precipitancy of the leading progressists. Finally, the great Viceroy Chang and most of the prominent men in the south are advocates of reform. The outlook is full of hope and Japan's proper policy is plain. She must devote herself to encouraging and assisting the reformers.

* * *

There has been no confirmation of the rumour that the Cabinet finds it necessary to abandon the project of increasing the tax on urban land, nor has any newspaper been able to indicate with assurance the alternative source of revenue said to have been decided on. Little is now heard on the subject, but the *Fiji Shimpo* continues to urge its favourite argument that no occasion exists to look beyond the *saké* tax, and that if the Government boldly exploits that source of income, the financial problem can be solved at once.

* * *

A statement that the Government has prepared for submission to the Diet next session a draft of an amended press law, is generally welcomed. It would be more correct to speak of the abolition of the present Press Law, for the idea is that it will cease to have independent existence, and that such of its provisions as seem necessary to preserve will be incorporated with the Law of Publication. The clause prescribing the payment of security money by newspapers will be rescinded, and so also will all provisions for penalties upon editors and publishers, with the one exception of offences against the dignity of the Imperial Family. Various improvements will also be effected in the Publication Regulations themselves in view of Japan's entry into the International Copyright Union.

* * *

The *Nippon* thinks that the three great stages of representative institutions are the era of the nobility, the era of the Lower House and the era of newspapers. Japan has reached the second stage. The eyes of the whole nation are fixed upon

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the House of Representatives: it is the repository of political power. England is *in* the third stage. There the newspapers are everything. They mould and lead public opinion.

* * *

The attack upon Mr. Ozaki Yukio for his "republican speech" has by no means ceased. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* keeps it up persistently. Its latest line of argument is that Mr. Ozaki evidently regards republicanism as the ideal form of Government, and that education based on such a conception is directly opposed to the Emperor's Edict on the subject. Politicians like Messrs. Ozaki and Takata Sanaye seem to think that English precedents may be applied to Japan. That is a flagrant mistake. In England the constitution is an agreement between the Sovereign and the people. In Japan, it is a free gift from the Emperor to his subjects. The present officials of the Mombusho make education a party question, and thus show their ignorance of the basis of Japan's polity. So writes the *Nichi Nichi*.

* * *

The *Chiuo Shimbun* makes a violent and, seemingly, unjustifiable attack upon Count Okuma in connexion with the speech recently delivered by him to the Oriental Society. It appears—so, at least, the *Chiuo* says—that Count Okuma told the reporters he should like to have an opportunity of examining his speech if they intended to publish a verbatim report of it. That is an utterly reprehensible proceeding in the *Chiuo*'s opinion. If the Count has not the courage of his opinions, he ought to refrain from uttering them. To say one thing to the meeting and then to have a different thing published as representing his statement, is a miserably irresponsible performance. The *Chiuo* does not appear to conceive that if it were possible to trust the stenographers implicitly in such a matter, revision would be unnecessary. But in this very instance the wisdom of Count Okuma's precaution was demonstrated by facts, for in its issue of the following morning, the *Nippon* attributed words to Count Okuma which he could not possibly have used.

DISUNITED ADVOCATES OF UNION.

We have already mentioned the fact that at a meeting of the founders' committee of the Constitutional Party, held at Hoshigaoka on the 25th instant, resolutions were adopted pointing to the expulsion of any members whose proceedings tended to disturb the cohesion of the Party. Speaking broadly, there are two influences now at work. One, headed by Mr. Hoshi Toru, operates in a manner distinctly calculated, though not avowedly intended, to bring about a rupture between the Progressists and the Liberals; the other, headed by Dr. Hatoyama, is directed to the maintenance of the union, and to the weeding out, if need be, of all elements of discord. But even Dr. Hatoyama's section—which, we may observe, is incomparably more powerful than Mr. Hoshi's—can not succeed in offering by its own proceedings an example of the concord which it desires to promote in the Party at large. One of the points which the meeting on the 25th instant had to consider, was the appointment of a managing committee. The Progressists proposed that the number of committee-men should be five, and that they should be elected in the proportion of two each from the Liberals and Progressists and one from the Independents affiliated with the Party. To that proposition the Liberals strongly objected. They seemed to think that the so-called "independent" member would certainly side with his Progressist colleagues on all occasions, so that the Progressist element of the committee would be practically supreme. The question led to warm discussion, and the meeting had to break up without deciding it. What the Liberals contended was there should be six members of committee, two for each section of the Party, and they based their contention on the fact that although they themselves and the Progressists command an equal number of votes—90 each—in the Lower House, their Independent allies have 60 votes, and ought therefore to have two representatives on the Committee. A committee of six being an impossible number for practical purposes, the Liberals seem to have the worse case in this instance. But why should the Progressists object to have two representatives of the Independents on the Committee instead of one? Surely that is not a point worth discussing for two or three hours; still less is it a point worthy to be elevated into a grave difference. We are not surprised that a journal like the *Jimmin*, which, in its new character, seems to support the cause of the *Kwanto* section and Mr. Hoshi only, should publish a violent article declaring the union to be in imminent danger, and contributing materially to enhance its peril. The meeting at which that altercation occurred about such a paltry matter did not include any of the *Kwanto* politicians. Yet it could not, even in a business so trifling, provide an illustration of the harmony which it had come together to promote. We must say that, speaking from an outsider's point of view, the Liberal and Progressist coalition seems about as impossible an arrangement as could be conceived. The Constitutional Party wants sifting badly. It will never settle down to work until it gets rid of its heterogeneous elements.

PROFESSOR BELL.

Mr. A. G. Bell had the honour of an audience at the Palace on the 22nd instant. He was presented by the United States Representative. We believe that it is the intention of the International Association of Journalists in Japan to entertain Mr. Bell to dinner on Sunday, the 6th proximo. We also understand that the decoration of the Third-class of the Order of the Rising Sun will be conferred upon Prof. Bell.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Yokohama Literary Society enjoyed a most pleasant evening on Friday, the chief item of the programme being an extremely interesting lecture on "Japanese Literature" by Professor Clay MacCauley. Professor MacCauley is, of course, a man with a profound knowledge of the subject, but, unlike many men of deep erudition, he has at the same time a knack of dealing with his theme in a manner suitable to hearers less well informed. His lecture before the Literary Society was admirably conceived and lucidly expressed, and both the lecturer's comments and the numerous illustrations with which he interspersed them were followed with deep interest. Prof. MacCauley traced the progress of Japanese letters from archaic times to the classic age between 900 and 1300 A.D., in which the language found its choicest and noblest form of expression. This was a time of general peace, and of high cultivation, which, however, tended to and finally developed into debilitating luxury, effeminacy, and vice. The great prose work of this age was the "Genji Monogatari," the work—and a very remarkable work—of a woman, Murasaki Shikibu. The "Makura Zōshi" was also a product of the feminine intellect, that of Sei Shonogon. Of both these Professor MacCauley gave lengthy extracts, as well as from the "Manyoshu," the "Kokinshu," the "Hojoki" (literally "Ten feet square hut," the melancholy reflections of an anchorite), the Tsurezuregusa ("Weeds of Idleness,") a Buddhist hymn, and a specimen of art criticism, as trenchant as the most slashing denunciations ever penned by Ruskin. The golden age of Japanese literature was rudely broken by a period of general war from the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries, and learning was relegated to the ecclesiastical classes. What there was of literature was afterwards written in Chinese. As to the *Meiji* period little could be said. Since the opening of Japan to modern civilisation its men of letters had followed too closely western ideas and ways to entitle their works to any great consideration as distinctive literary efforts. Speaking generally, it could not be said that Japanese literature had much interest to the West. It did not rank among the greatest works of human intellect. The isolation of the country through many ages and the absence of a great creative faculty necessarily made its limitations great. But still, as a memorial of a high state of culture attained under very singular circumstances among a people cut off from communion with the rest of world it had many points of interest to the sociologist, the phsychologist, and the historian. The Japanese had of late years absorbed with astonishing rapidity the civilisation of Europe and America; and what influence that might have on the literature of the future, in what heights it might rise, time alone would show.

At the conclusion of the lecture there was the usual interval for refreshments, and the following musical programme was carried out:—Piano Solo, "Valse," Mowskowski, Mr. Mason; Song, "One spring day," Nevin, Mrs. Mollison; Cello Solo, "Andante Varié," from the quintette in A Major by Mozart, Mr. Crane; Song, "Sweet-hearts and Wives," Mr. Hayward. All the selections were well rendered, and Mrs. Mollison's contribution, it is needless to say, gave especial pleasure.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The following telegram from Calcutta, dated October 4th, appears in the *Times of Ceylon*:—Mr. Powell, a European guard on the East Indian Railway, died at Tundia, on the 14th ult. and was buried in the usual way. Owing to certain movements of the deceased's wife, suspicions as to the actual cause of death were aroused; and enquiries disclosed that the deceased was very badly treated during his illness, and that his wife was alleged to be in criminal intrigue with a native cook. The evidence justified further enquiries, resulting in the body being exhumed, when a chemical analysis of the viscera revealed the existence of large quantities of arsenic. Warrants were immediately issued and the alleged murderess and her accomplice were arrested on their way to Calcutta. The trial comes on in Agra on the 12th instant. Sensational developments are expected. Mrs. Powell is the mother of several children.

The Batavia correspondent of the *Singapore Free Press* writes:—The Dutch recently passed a law the effect of which will be to greatly alter the status of Japanese residing in Dutch Colonies. All Asiatics up to now are subject to quite a different set of laws from those governing Europeans, the criminal and civil codes for the two races being purposely based upon their differing moral and intellectual

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advancement. The new law excepts the Japanese from their inclusion as Asiatics and accords to them all the rank and privileges of Europeans. This will perhaps have an indirect effect upon the non-Dutch Europeans residing in Java who are compelled to serve in the Schutterij, because a clause in the Japanese-Dutch treaty stipulates that none of the Mikado's subjects shall be called upon for military service in the Dutch Colonies. This lets the Japanese out of the Schutterij. If the other Powers have a free and clear most-favoured nation clause in their treaties with Holland their nationals can claim what Japanese get and so get out of a very unpopular service.

The *Nippon Maru*, the first vessel of the Toyo Kisen Kabushiki Kaisha to arrive out East, is fitted with all the latest requirements and improvements. On August 23rd she was taken for her official trial on the measured mile at sea, when she made an average speed of 16¼ knots, and everything worked in a very satisfactory manner. She was built by Sir James Laing, of Sunderland, and is of 5,873 ton gross; length, 441 feet; depth moulded 22 feet 6 inches, breadth, 50 feet 6 inches. The engines by Messrs, George Clark (Limited), are in duplicate, with cylinders 28½ inches, 46 inches, and 75 inches, with a stroke of 48 inches, and are driven by four double-ended, and one single-ended, boilers, which give a total heating surface of 20,000 square feet. The *Nippon Maru* has been built under the direct supervision of Messrs. Flanery, Baggallay and Johnson, of London and Liverpool, with whom is associated Captain Tomioka, the owners' representative. The vessel is built to Lloyd's highest class, and has all the latest improvements, the passenger accommodation being fitted up in a most luxurious manner and arranged to carry 120 first-class and 44 second-class passengers, with servants, and 1,300 emigrants.

In view of the present strained relations between France and Great Britain the following, from a leading Paris journal, may be interesting:—"We must endeavour to promote friendly feelings with England, though we are allied at the same time with Russia. What could our fleet do if opposed to Great Britain's? Our coast-line is also not well defended. Brest lies at the mercy of any enterprising admiral. Algeria could not repel an invader. Our colonies are without garrisons, without fortifications, without guns. Madagascar and Tonkin are absolutely unprepared against a European aggressor. We must not long for war!" Georges Clémenceau, who knows England better than most Parisian journalists, says:—"England ought to be sacred in the eyes of the democracy of France, for she alone is the last refuge of liberty, and if this reason is not good enough, England ought to be sacred to French workmen, for she is our great customer. Our dear Russia buys from twenty-five to thirty million francs worth of our products each year. England, far more than 1,300 million francs. Our agricultural and industrial exportation simply exists by the English market. On it we live. A conflict between England and France would not only be a catastrophe for civilisation; it would be the ruin of France."

AFFAIRS IN MANILA.

On the 4th inst., the *Singapore Free Press* printed the following telegram from Manila, with the accompanying footnote:—

Manila, 3rd October, 1838.

The expeditionary forces of General Aguinaldo have captured the provinces of Albay and Camarines, the last remaining Spanish territory on the Island of Luzon.

An expedition has also gone to the Visayas with orders to disembark at——and capture——

[As a matter of policy these places are not to be mentioned publicly just now.—Ed., *S.F.P.*]

Ten days later the *China Mail* said:—It is stated that another rebel faction is organizing its forces to fight for the independence of the Philippine Islands. This party has its headquarters to the northern part of the island of Luzon, and is captained by a very determined chief. Every effort is being made to secure arms for the conflict, and one or two agents are said to be in Hongkong for that purpose. These northern rebels disclaim all connection with Aguinaldo, who seems now to be inclined to support any policy pursued by the Americans, provided the administration does not relapse into the hands of the Spanish Government.

On the following day the same journal announced that it had received a notification from Don José de Navarro, the Spanish Consul at Hongkong, to the effect that the chief of the rebels, Perfecto Poblador, with thirty-eight of his lieutenants and about 4,000 men in the Visayas, submitted on the 9th inst., without any conditions, to the Spanish Government, and have acknowledged the authority of the Governor-General of the Southern Philippines. His Excellency replied through the Spanish officers Paoli and Concepcion granting complete forgiveness, and advising the natives to return to their townships and resume their usual occupations. He announces, at the same time, that he will create a Council for the discussion of reforms in Visayas, the Council to be composed of influential representatives, who will be instructed to give effect to the promises of the Spanish authorities.

This new move, says the *China Mail*, may have an important bearing on the political future of the Philippines. Together with the formation of a strong rebel faction in the north of Luzon, it proves what we have frequently pointed out—that there is no real co-operation among the natives of the Philippines for Filipino Self-Government. Aguinaldo and his men merely represent a faction, and that chiefly the faction represented by the natives of Central Luzon. It is daily becoming more apparent that the islands cannot be left with safety to a native administration. There must be a controlling Power, and, the right to govern having passed out of Spanish hands by conquest, the European Powers, whatever the decision of the Paris Conference, may yet have to step in and decide the future of these numerous and fertile islands. Spain has misgoverned them so long with such poor results, regarded from the standpoint of modern civilisation, that it is no wonder the native people are determined to have a change. If the priestly influence were suppressed, it is believed by some that Spanish rule might be resumed safely. But the Spanish officials in the Spanish Colonies have so impudently enriched themselves at the expense of the people and their own government that we doubt whether the experiment of handing back the Islands to Spain could be made successfully. Spanish officialism, like Chinese officialism, must be taught that the progress of the world cannot be delayed to suit their petty ways, but that territory is merely held in trust for the benefit of humanity in general, for the development of trade and not for individual aggrandisement. Should the Paris Conference (of whose sittings Reuter has told us nothing) resolve upon a resumption of Spanish dominion in the Philippines, the trade of the Islands will receive a "set back" and the foreigners with capital who have developed the comparatively meagre trade of the present day will leave the Islands unless a substantial International guarantee is given that Spanish misrule will be ended and the previous hampering restrictions to the flow of commerce removed. The coming of the Americans has enabled the natives of Luzon to obtain a supply of arms that will help Aguinaldo and the other factionary leaders to conduct a stubborn resistance to the resumption of Spanish dominion. In this way, the Americans have incurred a responsibility which they cannot, and probably will not, shirk. In the circumstances, it is not astonishing that the foreign residents of the Philippines take a more and more serious view of the political situation, and anxiously await the decision of the Paris Conference.

CORRESPONDENCE.

RIGHT OF FOREIGNERS TO ESTABLISH SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—When commenting on the illiberality of the recent resolutions of the High Educational Council, if you had at the same time expressed an opinion as to their legality, it would have pleased many of your readers. Is the right to establish schools not secured to foreigners by treaty? That it is not denied may be inferred from the fact that the Council discussed the question whether it should be granted. What power has a Government Department to make laws restricting foreigners from engaging in occupations from which they are not excluded by treaty? Perhaps you will kindly give us a few words of explanation.

Yours very truly, F. P. D.

[This letter seems to have been written before the writer saw all the remarks made by the *Mail* on the subject to which he refers.—Ed. *J. M.*]

THE HOKKAIDO FLOODS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—At the annual meeting of the T.S.F. Juvenile Choral Society, held on October 19th, a sum of $50 was voted by the members for the relief of the sufferers by the late Hokkaido floods. Half of this amount is to be sent to the Rev. J. Batchelor, of Sapporo, for the special relief of the Ainus; the other $25 to the General Subscription fund, which I herewith forward to you, as you announced in a previous issue that you would be pleased to receive subscriptions for that object until October 31st.

I am, yours faithfully,

ANNA J. DIACK,
Acting Hon. Treasurer.

THE DOSHISHA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Although the "Doshisha question" may be said to have passed the stage of newspaper discussion it seems necessary to crave the patient favour of yourself and readers with what I hope may prove my last word in your columns upon this question by way of reply to the grave charges made against myself and colleagues by Mr. Cady of the Doshisha in his "Edmond" letter. Without questioning Mr. Cady's claim to have taken "special pains not to misrepresent anything or anybody" I do not hesitate to say that his letter is full of statements which are inaccurate and misleading.

One of these statements, the positive asseveration as to Count Okuma's position, has already been most efficiently dealt with by the Editor of the *Japan Mail*. But it is only one of many.

Mr. Cady says, "It appears strange that not one of them appears to have felt it a plain Christian duty to go to the Trustees" in regard to the decision. Mr. Cady might have tested the accuracy of that statement without "waiting two months" or even one month; a ten minutes' walk would have saved him from making such an unfounded charge of unchristian conduct.

Again, he accuses us of unchristian conduct in reporting that "one of the oldest of the Trustees (Mr. Miyagawa), who was not present when this decision was made, had resigned." Mr. Cady admits that he did write (and send) a letter of resignation. He announced his resignation to his Osaka colleagues on the ground of disapproval of the course of the Trustees, and for months had nothing to do with the management of the institution. What was unchristian in our reporting a fact so announced? But Mr. Cady says Mr. Miyagawa now "approves of the same action in its main purpose." Since Mr. Cady's letter was written I have heard this gentleman say that while he would not have opposed verbal changes in the Foundation Principles of the school he was opposed to the excision of whole articles. It is true that since most of the "Doshisha correspondence" was written Mr. Miyagawa has decided to resume

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his relations with the school for the purpose of strengthening the position of Christianity there; but the statement that he "approves of the same action" waits for proof—to say the least.

Equally grave charges are made because we reported that Mr. Yokoi had said that "he had taken the Christian sign down." Mr. Cady, *near* the close of his letter, says in so many words, "he did not say it." But in the early part of his letter where he is dealing with facts in detail he is less confident. It is a "misquoted statement, even if he ever made it, which is *doubtful*. If made at all it was merely used as an illustration." Now this statement appeared in a part of an interview with a newspaper reporter in the *Japan Mail* and several other local papers. And it is in exact accord with the facts of the case. From its founding the Christian religion had been a component part of the instruction of the Doshisha; the prominent feature of all its public exercises. Thus in the Catalogue of 1893—the last published—the *Bible* is put down as a part of the regular course of study in the two years Preparatory course and in the first and second years of the College course; in the third college year it is, "Bible.—Outlines of Church History;" in the fourth year it is "Bible.—Lectures on Apologetics." Now what is the condition of the Doshisha to-day? Of its 341 students 338 are in departments where, in accordance with pledges given to the Mombusho, the Christian Religion is not and cannot be taught as a part of the regular course of study. The topics above mentioned are perforce excluded. Is not that a taking down of the Christian sign?

Again, take the graduating exercises. For years they were a means of making a strong Christian impression upon the public. In the presence of governors and other high officials Christian prayer was made, Christian hymns sung, and the addresses of students, professors, and President were impassioned pleas for Christ as the hope of Japan. Hardly anything else did so much for the reputation of the school as these addresses. Unchristian officials have been so impressed by them that they forgot to note the passing time and so failed to meet other engagements. How was it at the graduation exercises in March and in July last? No hymn, prayer, Bible reading, benediction, or Christian exhortation from beginning to end. According to written pledges made to the Government, pledges accepted by Mr. Yokoi as binding, no such Christian exercise is now or ever can be possible. Is not this a taking down of the Christian sign? The demoralizing effect of such pledges and restrictions was well seen at the opening of the first term under the new régime in April last. In the absence of the President there was doubt among the teachers whether religious exercises were allowable or not in the morning meeting of the school. Now they were omitted and again they were observed. Finally, as I have been informed by one connected with the schools, the report came that the President had seen a Secretary of the Educational Department and he had told them it was all right; they might read the Bible and pray in the morning meetings.

Mr. Cady strongly affirms the desire of the present management of the Doshisha to have Christian teaching given to the students, and seems to think that if that were established as a fact it ought to put an end to controversy. Is he quite fair with his readers in this? Do the President and the Principle of the Middle School believe in supernatural Christianity? or in the divine authority of the Bible, or in a Revelation at all? Has Mr. Yokoi recalled his published declaration that he was "utterly opposed to basing religion or theology on the personality of God and the immortality of the soul?" When he speaks of Christ does he still mean "not so much the historic Jesus as the general progress of human thought?" Is it not true that the Christian students—the Doshisha Church—by a formal vote last spring declined to receive the regular preacher furnished them by the Doshisha, thus saying by vote what one still a student said in words, that "it was absurd to expect to make devout Christians by means of such preaching?"

But even if Mr. Cady's contention on this point were established it would not touch the main question. Under the constitution the (1) permanent and (2) pervasive influence of Christianity was a necessity. Under the broken constitution this was no longer so. Here, next to the violation of their oaths, was the chief ground of objection. The present management and their successors might be zealously Christian; it would still be possible in the third, or tenth, or hundredth generation—for those who were not, to turn the school from its purpose. Its thorough and enduring Christian character was no longer guaranteed.

If the question were a matter of "the desirable" or "the convenient" or "the advisable" much might be said in favour of the Trustees' course. The school was in financial straits; the President was new to his office and duties; government recognition promised much. But our contention and the contention of the Japanese Christians who in many ways have pronounced the Trustees' Action "unlawful and immoral," "a breach of faith, an offence against morals," is that no advantages present or prospective could justify the Trustees in breaking the constitution which by its own provisions they had sworn to support.

And it can never be justified to a fair-minded public that the Religion which bought the ground, erected the buildings, and endowed the school should be the one thing which cannot be recognized in the regular instruction and public exercises of the school. It is possible by a legal quibble to say that Mr. Harris's great gift has not been malappropriated; but it is not possible to say that it is being used in accordance with his purpose or desire; or to deny that this perversion was the great sorrow of his closing days.

Thanking you once more for the use of your valuable columns I am, truly Yours.

M. L. GORDON.

A BUDDHIST CRITICISM OF CHRISTIANITY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail"

Sir,—A young priest who comes to me often for Bible study recently gave me a little pamphlet entitled, *Yasu Kyo Koku Gai Ron*,—"A Discussion of Country-damaging Christianity," which represents the opinion of many people of this country as to the nature of Christianity.

Thinking that a brief translation might be interesting, especially to those who are not so familiar with the opinions of the mass of the people of the interior, I have taken the liberty of giving the author's ideas to the English-speaking race.

The author, Taniguchi Tokusaburo, until the present time unknown to fame, begins by declaring that he is neither a Buddhist nor Shinto priest, and is not acquainted with the virtues of any religion; he simply knows the damaging character of Christianity and must discuss it from a desire to save his honourable country. "Christianity has spread like fire in a meadow, and there is no place where chapels are not seen. As a first sign of the damage of Christianity, whether Protestant, Catholic, or Greek, disturbances are caused and the inherent national character is injured." "Following the course of history," he proposes "to discuss the gain and loss of Christianity and frighten the wandering dream of the blind believers of the foreign faith" and incidentally "wake up the government." "Christianity differs from all other religions in that it contains two fearful principles, namely: The fearful art of the vile virtue of cruelty and tyranny, and usurpation of alien countries.—(This last is given as a Chinese quotation). For this reason it is most likely to appeal to arms, kill off innocent natives, and take forcible possession of territory and property. To show one or two instances of cruelty and oppression, between the 9th and 11th century 3,500,000 people were killed in the war of the crusades, and 50,000,000 in the disturbances caused by Luther's Reformation; 100,000 people were killed by the Catholics in France, and in the expulsion of the Jews from Spain 40,000 persons were slain, excluding the Catholics. By this the cruelty of Christianity is established and we must term it worse than tigers or wolves. The true purpose of religion is to assist the good and put down evil, but, Christianity being like that, if it is not a harmful thing what is?" "The harm done foreign countries by Christianity can never be atoned for by the amount of good accomplished." Here the author quotes an English historian called *Chitoreru*, as saying that the islands composing Japan were discovered by the Portuguese in the middle of the 16th century. The Spanish also began to trade with Japan about the same time, but the Portuguese, not being satisfied with trade, determined to take the country by introducing Christianity, and numbers of priests were brought over. This roused dissensions among the people, and about the same time it was discovered that the Spanish were plotting to seize the government and set aside the Imperial authority, but the Emperor sent down an order to stop this religion and expel the Portugese and Spanish, and carried this order into effect by force of arms, etc. "Viewed in the light of Japanese history," the writer continues, "this means that the Tokugawa found that the Christians were plotting to take the country and hence prohibited their faith, and owing to the disturbances which followed, lifted up the power of the "under-heaven" soldiers and carried the order into effect.

"Then look at India. Wasted by wars from 1751 to 1760, finally taken possession of by England, and now the natives are groaning under the tyranny of the British Government. The devices employed were the spreading of Christianity, forcing down Buddhism, the native religion, tearing up the national feeling, and ruling the people's minds. This condition is maintained by the power of the army.

"A recent event must be mentioned also. In 1884, in a paper brought by the German steamer, *Montera*, from the Gilbert Islands was a report of the work of missionaries. There had been a massacre on an island called *Tapichuchi*, perpetrated by believers converted by an American missionary. Those killed in one night numbered 314, men, woman and children, all of whom were believers of the native religion. The northern part of the island had been converted to Christianity, but as the southern part would not yield but trusted in their own faith, the Christians came to hate the southern people, and in the darkness of night suddenly came upon them and killed them off as religious enemies. The missionaries rule these islands and no foreigner can land without their permission.

"Take into consideration the above facts, and my charge of forcibly taking the country and stealing territory is sustained. Foreigners themselves say this.

"Now missionaries come over to Japan, spend their strength, time, and great sums of money in spreading their religion, running through the land from east to west, not resting day or night, but for what purpose? They follow the ancient saying:—"If you desire to get, first give." Having in mind the great reward to come afterwards, they do not care for small results now. Their intention is none other than to accomplish their desire to take the country and seize territory. Spain's relation to ancient Japan, England's in India, and the relation of the missionary to the island massacres represent their purpose. Hence, should half of our honourable countrymen be converted to Christianity, in spite of all that could be done they would come to love foreigners, and in case of war all who have entered this faith would assist the foreigners, secretly at least. India is a recent example. Is it not a fearful religion?

"Foreign governments, looking carefully to future events, such as preparation for war, use missionaries as a method to seize countries, as I have said before. To give a recent occurrence, why did the Russian Government give several hundred thousand roubles to Nicolai and send him to this country? Undoubtedly to act as a

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spy and conspirator. Also even though all the missionaries now in this country may not be spies, yet they are the buffoon agents of their Government, and the Japanese who become their slaves and go about to spread this religion must be called the vile underlings of said buffoons. They must be termed beasts who lead thieves about secretly—thieves of the stripe of Ishikawa Gozaemon—(I believe that this noted gentleman's name has been written wrong, however). With this proof, this settlement of the question, certain it is that Christianity will cause poison and tyranny to flow in the future. Ah! Those who have any spirit of love of country, without delaying a day, must make some plan to strike, censure, cast out, and utterly destroy it (or them). To-day our country has no greater damage than this; no duty demands quicker attention. This is the reason why I have made use of history, ancient and modern, to conduct the profit-and-harm discussion."

The passage which calls for "it" or "them" to "be utterly destroyed" may be made to apply to either the missionaries, the native Christians, or Christianity, or all. I have given the writer the benefit of the doubt and let Christianity stand as the object.

The author is a semi-Soshi whose wife provides for the family by making scarfs for the priests. I have not been able to find out whether any priest is connected with the issuing of the book or not. The composition is bad, even worse than the translation. The author claims the permission of the Educational Department to sell the work, and I have a copy with the Department's stamp on it. Numbers have been sold on the streets here. As will be seen, the subject matter smacks very much of the anti-Christian literature issued in China a few years, or until a few years, ago, and the quotation of Chinese, together with the constant use of Chinese expressions, or expressions in Chinese form, goes far to suggest that the original did not emanate from the brain of the author. Recently Buddhistic opposition has been much more fierce than usual, but whether this is an effect or a cause of the pamphlet, I am not able to say.

U. G. MURPHY,

636, Yaba-cho, Nagoya, Japan,
October 20th, 1898.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

We have received through Dr. Stuart Eldridge two bulky volumes just issued by the Government Printing Office, Washington, and entitled, "Report of the Commissioner of Education for the years 1895-6-7." They deal with education in Great Britain and Ireland, describe the systems in vogue in France and the various countries of Europe, besides dealing exhaustively with scholastic matters in the United States, and contain scores of the most interesting essays on education and educational systems throughout the world.

Messrs. Kelly and Walsh send us three more volumes of Heineman's Colonial Library. The one first opened contained a collection of the Rev. S. Baring Gould's recent Christmas stories, written in that cleric's pleasant style, the title-story being "Margery of Quether." Pett Ridge's now well-known tale "Secretary to Bayne, M.P."—the second book—does not exhibit at his best that versatile portrayer of life as lived in London streets. Here and there the story breaks away from the mediocre, but on the whole the novel is disappointing. "Twixt Sand and Sun," a tale of South African life, the third book, deserves longer notice.

Mr. Fisher Unwin sends us another volume of his Colonial Library, which will receive attention at any early date.

It has been suggested in Rangoon that Scotsmen attending the Caledonia Ball at Rangoon this year shall either wear Highland dress, or, as much as possible, wear a "distinctive" evening dress, consisting of tartan trews, commerbund and short white mess jacket.

AUTUMN MEETING OF THE NIPPON RACE CLUB.

FIRST DAY.—TUESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER.

PATRONS:—H.I.H. Komatsu-no-Miya, H.I.H. Fushimi-no-Miya, H.I.H. Takeshiro-no-Miya.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE:—Sir Ernest Satow, K.C.M.G., President; Dr. Wheeler, Vice-President; W. B Walker, Esq., A. Dumelin, Esq., Jas. Dodds, Esq., R. D. Robison, Esq., F. Strahler, Esq., W. W. Till, Esq., Baron d'Anethan., E. Knaff, Esq., Count Ortini, G. Philip, Esq., T. Thomas, Esq., S. Isaacs, Esq., W. F. Mitchell, Esq.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:—W. W. Till, Esq., Chairman; T. Rinoiye, Esq., V. Blad, Esq., E. Knaff, Esq., S. Isaacs, Esq., T. Thomas, Esq., J. C. Nicholson, Esq.

CLERK OF THE COURSE:—E. Knaff, Esq.

SECRETARY:—Mr. J. E. Beale.

The conditions as regards weather on the opening day of the Nippon Race Club's autumn meeting could not be called cheering even by a person of the most Tapleian humour. The morning opened dreary, cold, and forbidding, and though towards eleven o'clock the clouds showed some signs of breaking the promise was not fulfilled and the day was altogether a most disagreeable one. Rain descended almost continuously after mid-day—not at first the honest, drenching downpour that the Japanese climate knows so well how to indulge in on occasion, but a mean, dispiriting kind of Scotch mist, which succeeded in making things unpleasant outside the shelter of the grand stand. Matters got worse rather than better as the day wore on, and the last two or three races were run in a smart downpour. In these circumstances it was not surprising that the races were not even so well attended as first days generally are. Those, however, who came were in happy mood, and were determined not to let the weather interfere with their pleasure There was a fair proportion of ladies, but very few Japanese visitors of distinction put in an appearance, the majority waiting till to-day. The *pari mutuel* was this year under the management of Messrs. Eyton and Pratt, instead of, as of old, being conducted by Mr. John W. Hall. As regards sport it was better than the nature of the day at first promised. The fields on the whole were very fair, and generally the finishes were close things. Details:—

1.—The MONGOLIAN PLATE for Subscription China Ponies; non-winners in Japan at date of entry; First Prize yen 250, Second Prize yen 50; weight as per scale. Three-quarters of a Mile. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. Worthington's Suwanee, 144lb. .....(Yasu) 1
Mr. Taisuke's Hiryo (late Sold Again), 150lb.....(Rikizo) 2
Mr. Avis' Gander, 144lb.....(Goto) 3
Mr. States' Wisconsin (late Gaelic), 144lb. (Sugiura) ■
Mr. Nemo's Chamberlin, 147lb. .....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Sphinx's Mirliton, 150lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. News' Eclore, 150lb. .....(Mr. Kingdon) 0
Mr. Russia's Cozack, 147lb. .....(Horikoshi) ■
Mr. Guignol's Cascadeur, 150lb. (Mr. Longin) ■
Mr. Nishimura's Azuma, 159lb. ...(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Derby's Confidence (late Defender), 150lb .....(Takahashi) 0

A little trouble was experienced in getting a good start, but eventually the field got off well together, Hiryo taking a slight lead, closely attended by Suwanee and Gander, the others tailing off. So they ran till the Shakespeare, when Suwanee and Gander got on terms, and the rest of the field drew closer together. A blanket would have covered the first five for the latter part of the distance, and as they came into the straight they were racing almost abreast. Just at the post, however, Suwanee managed to pull it off, and won by a neck. Hiryo was a short head in front of Gander, and the rest were close up. Time, 1.40¾ secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5.—Suwanee 2, Chamberlin 4, Eclore 12, Hiryo, 2, Cozack 2, Wisconsin 28, Gander 9, Azuma 8, Confidence 5; Total, 72=$360—Suwanee, $162.

2.—The DEBUTANTS' STAKES for Subscription Country-breds of Autumn, 1898; value yen 200, weight 128lb. Three Furlongs. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. Avis' Chaffinch, 128lb., carried 2lb. over (Goto) 1
Mr. Tatsuta's Sekirew, 128lb.....(Yasu) 2
Mr. Worthington's Kitchener, 128lb. (Hayashi) 3
Mr. Nemo's Gladiateur, 128lb., carried 2lb. over.....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Sphinx's Mazette, 128lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. News' Eclat, 128lb., carried 2lb. over (Sugiura) 0
Mr. Yodo's Fuji, 128lb. .....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Starlight's Attachement, 128lb. .....(Katsu) 0

A bad start was effected, Chaffinch going away with a lead of about a length, which was maintained till entering the straight. Sekirew and Kitchener were racing second with very little between them, and of the others Cascadeur was closest up. On entering the straight Sekirew made a bid for first place, and reduced Chaffinch's lead by half a length. Goto, however, responded and managed to land his mount in half a length ahead. A length between second and third. Cascadeur was fourth. Time, 44¾ secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Kitchener 20, Mazette 1, Sekirew 18, Fuji 23, Gladiateur 12, Eclat 13, Chaffinch 17, Attachement 5; total, 99=$495—Chaffinch, $63¾.

3.—The CRITERION STAKES, for All China Ponies; First Prize yen 200, Second Prize yen 50, weight as per scale. One Mile. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. R. Field's Kindar, 144lb. .....(Rikizo) 1
Mr. Nemo's Magyar, 153lb.....(Ichi) 2
Mr. Nemo's Mr Darcy, 150lb.....(Makazuma) 3
Mr. Worthington's Orion, 147lb. .....(Yasu) 0
Mr. Russia's Dvorak, 144lb. .....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Guignol's Kirigomi, 147lb. ...(Mr. Longin) 0
Mr. States' Oregon, 150lb.....(Mr. Pakenham) ■
Mr. Tytherleigh's Kestrel, 147lb...(Mr. Easton) 0

Kindar had the best of the start, and at once jumped away from the rest. Going into the dip he had a lead of a couple of lengths, Orion being next, with Mr. Darcy and Magyar close up. So they ran till past the Shakespeare, Kindar being never troubled. Between that point and the trees Magyar and Mr. Darcy challenged Orion, and passed him just before coming into the straight. Neither of them, however could reach Kindar, who finished an easy winner by three lengths. Something under a length between second and third. Time, 2min, 12⅘sec.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Orion 18, Mr. Darcy 4, Magyar 37, Kindar 23, Dvorak 18, Kirigomi 5, Oregon 40, Kestrel 6; total, 152=$760—Kindar, $29 50.

4.—The ALL-AGED STAKES, for Country breds; value yen 200, weight as per scale, maidens at date of entry 5lb. allowance. Three quarters of a Mile. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. Yodo's Saikio, 130lb. .....(Hakodate) 1
Mr. States' Idaho, 140lb. .....(Sugiura) 2
Mr. Guignol's Chiyoda, 130lb. .....(Goto) 0

From the start Saikio and Idaho settled down together, leaving Chiyoda several lengths to the rear. The first two kept almost abreast till entering the home straight, when Saikio took a lead of about a length. Sugiura made an effort to get on terms again just before the finish, but his mount was dead beat and could not respond, and Saikio won by a length and a half. Bad third. Time, 1min. 28⅕sec.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Chiyoda 16, Saikio 45, Idaho 61; total, 122=$610—Saikio, $9.

5.—The CELESTIAL STAKES, for Subscription China Ponies, non-winners in Japan at date of entry; First Prize yen 200, Second Prize yen 50, Third Prize yen 25, weight as per scale. Mile and a half. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. H. Bent's MacMorse, 150lb.....(Rikizo) 1
Mr. Worthington's Unknown, 144lb. ...(Yasu) 2
Mr. States' Wisconsin, 144lb. .....(Sugiura) 3
Mr. Derby's Confidence, 150lb. ...(Takahashi) 3
Mr. Nemo's Chamberlin, 147lb.....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Campredon's Chrysanthème, 147lb. (Kubota) 0

From the start the field went away in a cluster, MacMorse having a slight lead. They did not commence to thin out till nearly the end of the first circuit, when MacMorse began to draw further ahead, Wisconsin, the Unknown, and Chrysanthème being in close company. On passing the post MacMorse had a lead of about a length and a half, Wisconsin was racing second, the Unknown third, and Chrysanthème fourth, the others being some lengths behind. On going into the country a second time, MacMorse increased his lead, and had the race well in hand. Wisconsin and the Unknown had a keen struggle for second place, and were going almost level till near the home straight, when the Unknown went ahead, and Confidence, who had been behind, came on

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terms with Wisconsin. MacMorse was never troubled, and came in an easy winner by several lengths. There was a dead heat for third place, Confidence managing to get level with Wisconsin just on the post. Time, 3min. 35sec.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Unknown 30, Chrysanthème 8, MacMorse 53, Chambertin 19, Wisconsin 28, Confidence 24; total, 162=$810—MacMorse, $13 56.

6.—The JAPAN STAKES for Country-breds, maidens at date of entry; value yen 200, weight as per scale. Three-quarters of a mile. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. R. Field's Tomboy, 145lb.....(Rikizo) 1
Mr. Sphinx's Monarque, 145lb .....(Takahashi) 2
Mr. Russia's Shinryu, 145lb .....(Horikoshi) 3
Mr. Worthington's Dargai, 135lb.....(Yasu) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Omokage, 128lb. carried 2lb. over (Sugiura) 0
Mr. Avis' Gamecock, 128lb. carried 2lb. over. (Goto) 0

After several false starts Dargai went away with a lead of a length or two, with Monarque second, Tomboy third, and the rest tailing off. So they ran as far as the Shakespeare, when Tomboy made a big effort, and passed Monarque and Dargai in quick succession. Half a furlong later Monarque drew ahead of Dargai, who was also shortly after passed by Shinryu. On entering the home stretch Tomboy had increased his lead to four or five lengths, and at the post he had about that distance to spare. About a length separated second and third. Time, 1.25⅘ secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Dargai 16, Omokage 26, Monarque 5, Shinryu 47, Tomboy 77, Gamecock 13; total, 184=$920—Tomboy, $10.50.

7.—The SHANGHAI PLATE for all China Ponies; First Prize yen 200, Second Prize yen 50. Third Prize yen 25, weight as per scale. Mile and a Half. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. Russia's Diablotin, 147lb. .....(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. Nemo's Mr. Darcy, 150lb.....(Nakajima) 2
Mr. Hyogo's Miyajima, 153lb.(Mr. Pakenham) 3
Mr. Nemo's Magyar, 153lb. .....(Ichi) 0
Mr. News' Eclaircie, 150lb. .....(Mr. Kingdon) 0

Miyajima settled down to the lead and on passing the post the first time was ahead by about a length, with Diablotin a neck in front of Mr. Darcy. These positions were maintained till near the Shakespeare, when Diablotin challenged Miyajima and passed him, taking a lead of a length or two. From this to the bend Mr. Darcy took up the running for second place, and Miyajima was left several lengths to the rear. At the entrance to the home stretch Mr. Darcy had got on terms with Diablotin, and a splendid neck to-neck race ensued to the finish, Diablotin managing to get in first by a head. Bad third. Time, 2.34⅘ secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Magyar 45, Mr. Darcy, 20, Eclair 23, Diablotin 40, Miajima 68; total, 196=$980—Diablotin, $22.

8.—The NIPPON PLATE for Country-breds; First Prize yen 200, Second Prize yen 50, weight as per scale; maidens at date of entry; 5lb. allowance. Mile and a Half. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. Worthington's Tambour Major, 135lb. (Hayashi) 1
Mr. Nishimura's Hayakaze, 140lb. (Mr. Kingdon) 2
Mr. Tatsuta's Tatsuta, 142lb..... (Rikizo) 3
Mr. Yodo's Matsushima, 135lb. ...(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Nemo's Sasha, 145lb .....(Ichi) 0

There was so thick a haze over the course that it was impossible to distinguish clearly the positions from the start, but as the field passed the post the first time Matsushima was leading, with Tambour Major only half a length behind, these two being several lengths in front of the others. During the second round Matsushima lost his position altogether, and Tambour Major went away with a long lead, finishing an easy winner by three lengths. There was a good run up the straight for second, Hayakaze passing the post a neck ahead of Tatsuta. The others did not finish. Time, 3.03⅗ secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Tambour Major 43, Sasha 28, Tatsuta 73, Hayakaze 28, Matsushima 30; total, 202=$1010—Tambour Major, $21.

9.—The MANDARIN PLATE for Subscription China Ponies of Spring and Autumn, 1898; value yen 200, weight as per scale; winners in Japan at date of entry, and winner of Race No. 1, 5lb. extra. Three quarters of a Mile. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. Avis' Gander, 144lb.....(Goto) 1
Mr. Tatsuta's Hiryo, 150lb. .....(Rikizo) 2
Mr. Nishimura's Azuma, 150lb. ...(Hakodate) 3
Mr. Sphinx's Mirliton, 150lb. .....(Takahashi) 0
Mr. Campredon's Fleur-de-lis, 147lb...(Kubota) 0
Mr. News' Eclaire, 150lb. .....(Mr. Kingdon) 0
Mr. R. Field's Free Trade, 147lb.....(Yasu) 0
Mr. Russia's Cozack, 147lb. .....(Horikoshi) 0

Azuma went away with the lead, which he retained till near the Shakespeare, when Hiryo took up the running. Gander then began to force the pace, and between the trees and the straight passed both Azuma and Hiryo, and came in rather more than a length ahead; half a length between second and third. The rest were nowhere. Time, 1min. 45⅘sec.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Mirliton 5, Fleur-de-Lis 6, Eclaire 9, Free Trade 7, Hiryo 48, Gander 32, Azuma 20; total, 129=$635—Gander, $17 50.

SECOND DAY.—WEDNESDAY 26TH OCTOBER.

The second day of the Race Meeting was held under much pleasanter conditions than the first. The weather was almost perfect; the sky was nearly cloudless, and the warmth of the sun's rays was tempered by a light breeze. In these circumstances there was naturally a much larger attendance than on the opening day. Ladies were present in large numbers, and there were many representatives of official circles to be seen on the grand stand and in the paddocks. Count Okuma was prevented from attending by the illness of Countess Okuma, but several other Japanese gentlemen of distinction were present, including Baron Sannomiya, Governor Asada, and Admiral Mori. Representing foreign official society were Baron Rosen, the Russian Minister, and Baroness Rosen; Count Ossini, the Italian Minister; Baron d'Anethan, the Belgian Minister, and Baroness d'Anethan; Mr. Paget, of the British Legation; Mr. Herod, of the American Legation; Mr. Van der Polder, Dutch *Chargé d'Affaires*, and Mrs. Van der Polder; Vicomte de Bondy and Vicomte de Labry, of the French Legation; Admiral de la Bedollière; M. de la Barreira, the Spanish Minister; Mr. Lisboa, and Mr. Pereira of the Brazilian Legation; Mr. R. G. E. Forster, British Acting Consul-General at Yokohama, and Mrs. Forster; Mr. Ratard, French Consul General at Yokohama; Mr. de Flesch, Austrian Consul; Prince Lobanoff, Russian Vice-Consul, and Princess Lobanoff; Mr. Plaza, Mexican Consul; and Marquis Nembrini de Gonzaga.

The sport was much better than on the opening day, and several of the finishes were close and exciting. The pleasure of visitors was enhanced by the performances of the Band of the *Bayard*, which played by kind permission of Admiral de la Bedollière.

Following are details of the racing:—

1.—The NANKIN STAKES, for Subscription China Ponies of Spring and Autumn, 1898; First Prize yen 200, Second Prize yen 50; weight as per scale; winners in Japan at date of entry, and winner of race No. 9 First Day, 5lb. extra. Mile and a Furlong. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. H. Bent's MacMorse, 150lb.....(Rikizo) 1
Mr. Worthington's Unknown, 144lb.....(Yasu) 2
Mr. Derby's Confidence, 150lb., carried 2lbs. over .....(Takahashi) 3
Mr. Campredon's Chrysanthème, 147lb. (Kubota) 0
Mr. News' Eclaircie, 155lb.....(Mr. Kingdon) 0
Mr. States's Wisconsin, 144lb. .....(Sugiura) 0
Mr. Avis' Gander, 144lb. .....(Goto) 0

Gander led at the start, and passed the post half a length ahead of MacMorse, with Wisconsin a length behind, and Chrysanthème fourth. On going up the slope MacMorse took up the running, and had a lead of a length by the Shakespeare, Gander racing second, with Wisconsin close up. Gander and Wisconsin were passed just after the Trees by the Unknown and Confidence, but neither of the latter could reach MacMorse, who came an easy winner by four lengths; a bad third. Time, 2min. 43secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Unknown 20, Chrysanthème 2, Eclaircie 8, Wisconsin 20, Gander 11, MacMorse 67, Confidence 2; total, 130=$650—MacMorse, $8 50.

2.—The MAIDENS' PLATE for Country-breds, maidens at date of entry; value yen 200; weight as per scale. Mile and a Furlong. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. R. Field's Tomboy, 145lb.....(Rikizo) 1
Mr. Sphinx's Mezurashi, 130lb. ...(Miyagawa) 2
Mr. Avis' Gamecock, 128lb, carried 2lb. over (Goto) 0

Gamecock took the lead, with Tomboy second, and Mezurashi a length or two behind. They ran thus till mounting the rise, when Tomboy got on terms, and passed Gamecock by the trees, and made a bid for the lead. But Kitchener was Shakespeare, and Mezurashi also passed Gamecock near the trees. Rounding the bend Mezurashi made a big effort to get on terms with Tomboy, and reduced the distance to two or three lengths on entering the straight. From there Tomboy went ahead with a long lead, and came in five lengths ahead. Time, 2min. 21$\frac{1}{10}$sec.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Tomboy 45, Mezurashi 9, Gamecock 7; total 61=$305.—Tomboy $6.

3.—The AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN CUP, presented; Entrance fees to go to second horse; for Country-breds; weight as per scale, winners at the meeting 5lb. extra for each race won; maidens at date of entry, 5lb. allowance. One Mile. Entrance fee, yen 5.

Mr. Tatsuta's Tatsuta, 142lb. .....(Rikizo) 1
Mr. States' Idaho, 140lb. .....(Sugiura) 2
Mr. Worthington's Tambour Major, 135lb. (Sasu) 3
Mr. Nemo's Sasha, 145lb .....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Guignol's Chiyoda, 130lb.....(Sato) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Hayakaze, 140lb. (Mr. Kingdon) 0
Mr. Yodo's Saikio, 130lb .....(Hakodate) 0

Idaho had the best of the start, and passed the post a length ahead of Tambour Major, with Saikio close behind, and Tatsuta fourth, the rest tailing off. Between the rise and the Shakespeare Tatsuta began to work his way through the field, and in the bend near the trees was racing second, having passed Tambour Major. Before reaching the straight he had come on terms with Idaho, and entered the straight with a fair lead, which he more than maintained on the journey home, winning by a couple of lengths; two lengths between second and third. Saikio was fourth and Hayakaze fifth. Time 1min. 54secs.

At the conclusion of the race Dr. Wheeler, amid hearty cheers, handed Mr. Tatsuta, the owner of the winning horse, the extremely handsome silver Cup presented by Mr. de Flesch, the Austrian Consul.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Tatsuta 33, Chiyoda 1, Idaho 60, Hayakaze 14, Saikio 106, Matsushima (did not start) 10; total 286=$1,430—Tatsuta $39.

4.—The RUSSIAN PLATE, presented, and a Cup to the rider of the winning pony, second pony to receive two thirds, and third pony one-third of the entrance fees; for all China Ponies; to be ridden by gentlemen riders; weight as per scale, with 7lb. added; riders who have never won a race in China or Japan, 5lb. allowance; maidens in Japan at the start, 5lb. allowance. Three-quarters of a Mile. Entrance fee, yen 5.

Mr. R. Field's Kindar, 151lb. .....(Mr. Mattu) 1
Mr. States' Oregon, 157lb. ...(Mr. Pakenham) 2
Mr. Worthington's Orion, 154lb. (Mr. Nicholson) 3
Mr. Nemo's Magyar, 160lb carried 7lbs. over (Mr. Andrew) 0
Mr. Sphinx's Mirliton, 157lb.....(Mr. Elliot) 0
Mr. News' Eclaireur, 157lb.....(Mr. Kingdon) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Azuma, 157lb. (Mr. Nishimura) 0
Mr. Tytherleigh's Kestrel, 154lb. (Mr. Easton) 0

A field of eight got off with a fairly good start, Kindar showing the way, with Oregon next, and several others in a cluster close up, Kindar led for the first half mile, when Oregon went ahead for a time, but was forced again in to second place on entering the home stretch, Kindar once more assuming the lead. Orion who had been in the ruck, came through the rest of the field and was going third down the straight. In the last 100 yards Oregon again challenged Kindar, and a close race ensued to the post, Kindar getting home half a length ahead. A length between second and third. Time, 1min. 39⅘sec.

The plate, a very handsome trophy, was presented to the successful owner by Baroness Rosen, wife of the Russian Minister.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Orion 49, Magyar 31, Eclaireur 32, Kindar 103, Oregon 48, Azuma 9, Kestrel 6; total 281=$1,405.—Kindar $12.

5.—The KANAGAWA STAKES, for Subscription Country-breds of Autumn, 1898; for Governor Asada's cup; weight 128lb. Three-quarters of a Mile. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. Worthington's Kitchener, 128lb. (Hayashi) 1
Mr. Tatsuta's Sekirew, 128lb. .....(Yasu) 2
Mr. Yodo's Fuji, 128lb. .....(Hakodate) 3
Mr. Sphinx's Mazette, 128lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. News' Eclat, 128lb. .....(Sugiura) 0

Fuji got away from the start, and led till the Shakespeare, with Sekirew second, and Kitchener third. From there to the trees Kitchener put on the pace, and passed both Sekirew and Fuji. Sekirew got in front of Fuji just before entering the straight and made a bid for the lead, but Kitchener was never troubled, and came in two lengths

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to the good. Fuji was a bad third, and Eclat fourth. Time 1min. 32⅘secs.

The handsome porcelain vases, made by Makutsu, and presented by Governor Asada, were handed to Mr. Worthington, by the Governor's wife.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Kitchener 131, Mazette 18, Sekirew 47, Fuji 67, Eclat 27; total, 290=$1,450—Kitchener, $9.50.

6.—The EMPEROR'S PRIZE, for Subscription China Ponies, non-winners in Japan at date of entry; weight as per scale; winners of one race 5lb. extra, of two races excluded. One Mile. Entrance fee, yen 10

Mr. States' Wisconsin, 144lb.....(Sugiura) 1
Mr. Worthington's Suwanee, 144lb.....(Yasu) 2
Mr. Tatsuta's Hiryo, 150lb.....(Rikizo) 3
Mr. Worthington's Unknown, 144lb.(Hayashi) ■
Mr. Nemo's Chamberlin, 140lb....(Nakagumi) ■
Mr. Campredon's Fleur-de-lis, 147lb.
(Mr. Campredon) ■
Mr. Campredon's Bouton d'or, 144lb.(Kubota) 0
Mr. New's Eclore, 150lb. .....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. R. Field's Free Trade, 147lb....(Chokichi) 0
Mr. Russia's Cozack, 147lb. .....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Guignol's Cascadeur, 150lb..(Mr. Lougin) 0
Mr. Avis' Gander, 144lb.....(Goto) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Azuma, 150lb. ...(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Derby's Confidence, 150lb.....(Takahashi) 0

A big field of fourteen turned out. After several false starts they got away altogether, Suwanee taking a slight lead. They did not thin out till past the Shakespeare, and the home straight had been reached before any idea could be formed as to the result. Suwanee was then leading, but a quarter of the way down, Wisconsin shot ahead. Suwanee made a big effort to make up the lost ground, and a neck to neck race ensued up to the post, Wisconsin landing in with half a neck ahead. The third, fourth, and fifth were almost a dead heat. Time, 2min. 18⅞secs.

Baron Sannomiya presented the Emperor's prize, a pair of valuable bronze vases exquisitely inlaid with gold and silver.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Unknown 66, Suwanee 29, Chamberlin 6, Fleur-de-lis 2, Bouton d'or 5, Eclore 4, Free Trade 2, Hiryo 100, Cozack 12, Cascadeur 4, Wisconsin 21, Gander 61, Azuma 7, Confidence 7; total, 326=$1630—Wisconsin, $69.50.

7.—The CHAMPAGNE STAKES, for Country-breds, maidens at date of entry; value yen 200; weight as per scale; winners of one race, 5lb. extra, of two races excluded. One Mile. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. Russia's Shinryu, 145lb .....(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. Sphinx's Monarque, 145lb. ....(Takahashi) 2
Mr. Tatsuta's Omokage, 128lb. .....(Sugiura) 3
Mr. Worthington's Dargai, 135lb.....(Yasu) 0
Mr. Guignol's Zigoto, 128 b. .....(Hakodate) ■
Mr. Avis' Gamecock, 128lb. .....(Goto) ■

Much difficulty was experienced in starting, but at last the field went off well together, Dargai taking the lead. Going up the slope Omokage, who was going second, gained ground, and closely attended Dargai as far as the Shakespeare, Shinryu lying a dozen lengths behind in third place, while the rest of the field tailed off, Monarque being last but one. Between this and the trees Dargai fell behind, and was passed by both Shinryu and Omokage. Monarque, who had been so far in the rear, put on the pace wonderfully, and worked his way through the field till he became on terms with Omokage and passed him close to the straight. Shinryu had still a long lead and Monarque was unable to make up the distance, the winners finishing with a couple of lengths to spare; a good third. Time 2min. 2⅘sec.

The prize, a couple of beautiful vases given by Count Okuma, were handed to the winner by the Governor of Kanagawa.

PARI MUTUEL, $5.—Dargai 57, Monarque 79, Omokage, 53, Shinryu 129 Zigoto 17, Gamecock 19, total 354=$1770—Shinryu, $12.

8.—The MANCHURIAN STAKES, for all China Ponies; First Prize yen 200, Second Prize yen 50; weight as per scale; winners of one race at the meeting, 5lbs. extra, of two races excluded. Mile and a Furlong. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. Russia's Doorak, 144lb. .....(Sugiura) 1
Mr. Russia's Diablotin, 147lb .....(Horikoshi) 2
Mr. Nemo's Mr. Darcy, 150lb.....(Ichi) 3
Mr. Worthington's Orion, 147lb. .....(Yasu) 0
Mr. News' Eclaircie, 150lb.....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. Guignol's Kirigomi, 147lb. ....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. States' Oregon, 150lb.....(Mr. Pakenham) ■
Mr. Hyogo's Miyajima, 153lb .....(Takahashi) 0

From a capital start Orion went away, closely attended by Diablotin, with Doorak third, and the rest tailing off. So they ran to just before the Shakespeare, when Doorak came away and displaced Diablotin ingloriously after [illegible] The latter dropped out of the running a moment later, and Mr. Darcy, who had been behind, came up and passed Diablotin just before the home stretch. When this was entered Doorak was still ahead, and Mr. Darcy second, but Diablotin by a fine effort rushed into second position, and finished only half a length behind the winner and just in front of Mr. Darcy. Time 2min. 28⅘sec.

PARI MUTUEL $5—Orion 13, M. Darcy 96, Eclaircie 7, Doorak 20, Diablotin 55, Kirigomi, 10, Oregon 59, Miyajima 38; total, 299=$1495 Doorak $67.

9.—The SHIMOSA PLATE, for Subscription Country breds of Autumn, 1898; First Prize yen 200, Second Prize yen 50, Third Prize yen 25; weight 128lb.; winners 4lb. extra, of two races excluded. Half-a-Mile. Entrance fee, yen 10.

Mr. Tatsuta's Sekirew, 128lb. carried 5lbs. over
(Yasu) 1
Mr. Worthington's Kitchener, 128 b. (Hayashi) 2
Mr. Yodo's Fuji, 128lb. .....(Hakodate) 3
Mr. Nemo's Gladiateur, 128lb.....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Sphinx's Mazette, 128lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. Avis' Chaffinch, 128lb. .....(Goto) 0
Mr. Starlight's Attachment, 128lb. .....(Katsu) 0
Mr. News' Eclat, 128lb. .....(Sugiura) 0

In the failing light it was difficult to distinguish the colours at the start, but on coming into the straight Sekirew had a lead of two or three lengths, which he more than maintained, winning very easily. There was a good race for second place, Kitchener finishing a neck ahead of Fuji.

PARI MUTUEL,—Kitchener 131, Gladiateur 33, Mazette 6, Sekirew 70, Chaffinch 59, Fuji 426, Attachment 7, Eclat, 16. 3482=$1749;—Sekirew $22.

THIRD DAY.—THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER.

The closing day was not favoured with quite such fine weather as prevailed on Wednesday. The morning opened fine, but in the afternoon the sky became overcast, and the weather was threatening and chilly during the last few races. Naturally the attendance was not so large as on the second day, but the stand was fairly well filled and a good many ladies put in an appearance. The sport on the whole was good, and several of the finishes were close. In the Youngsters' Handicap an accident occurred, Attachment falling, and throwing his jockey, who injured his shoulder rather seriously, the horse also hurting itself so badly as to probably necessitate its being destroyed. Following are details of the racing:—

1.—The CESAREWITCH STAKES (Handicap), First Prize yen 300, Second Prize yen 100, Third Prize yen 50; a forced entry at yen 20 of all China Ponies entered at the meeting; non-starters half forfeit. One Mile.

Mr. Nemo's Magyar, 145lb.....(Ichi) 1
Mr. States' Oregon, 145lb.....(Mr. Pakenham) 2
Mr. Hyogo's Miyajima, 145lb.....(Takahashi) 3
Mr. Worthington's Orion, 144lb. .....(Yasu) 0
Mr. Worthington's Suwanee, 147lb....(Hayashi) 0
Mr. Campredon's Bouton d'or, 130lb. (Kubota) ■
Mr. News' Eclaireur, 141lb.....(Mr. Kingdon) 0
Mr. News' Eclaircie, 142lb. .....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. Russia's Doorak, 151lb. .....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Guignol's Kirigomi, 138lb.....(Rikizo) 0
Mr. Avis' Gander, 145lb.....(Goto) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Azuma, 138lb.....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Tytherleigh's Kestrel, 133lb...(Mr. Easton) 0
Mr. Derby's Confidence, 138lb. ...(Miyagawa) 0

Mr. Worthington and Mr. News declared best to win.

From a capital start Orion went away, and took the lead going up the rise, attended by Kirigomi, Oregon, and Magyar. Magyar passed into third place by the Shakespeare, and, going rapidly through the field, was racing first by the time the trees were reached, Orion dropping behind, and Miyajima falling into second and third places. On entering the straight Oregon made a strong bid, and a good race ensued to the post, Magyar coming in a neck ahead, Miyajima was close up. Time 1 min. 14⅘secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Orion 10, Suwanee 3, Magyar 30, Bouton d'or 1, Eclaireur 7, Eclaircie 1, Doorak 12, Kirigomi 21, Oregon 28, Gander 2, Azuma 1, Miyajima 7, Kestrel 7, Confidence 2, the field 2; total, 134=$670—Magyar, $20.

2.—The PRIX DES HARAS (Handicap), First Prize yen 300, Second Prize yen 100, Third Prize yen 50; for all Country-breds; a forced entry at yen 20 of all Country-breds entered at the meeting except Subscription Ponies of Autumn, 1898; non-starters half forfeit. One Mile.

Mr. States' Idaho, 143lb. .....(Sugiura) 1
Mr. Nishimura's Hayakaze, 137lb.
(Mr. Kingdon) 2
Mr. Nemo's Sasha, 133lb.....(Ichi) 3
Mr. Worthington's Dargai, 125lb. ...(Hayashi) 0
Mr. Sphinx's Monarque, 144lb. carried 7lbs over
(Takahashi) ■
Mr. Russia's Shinryu, 140lb .....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Yodo's Matsushima, 130lb.....(Hakodate) 0

Idaho settled down to the lead, followed by Matsushima, Sasha, and Dargai, the others tailing off. The positions were not changed as far as the houses, but in the run to the Shakespeare Sasha got into second place and Hayakaze worked his way through the rest to fourth. In the run to the home stretch Hayakaze got a further advantage and was going third on entering the straight. At this point Idaho had the race thoroughly in hand, but an exciting contest took place for second, Hayakaze challenging Sasha, and passing him a few yards before the post. Two lengths separated first and second, and one length second and third. Time, 1min. 5.5⅘secs.

PARI MUTUEL. $5—Dargai 5, Sasha 6, Shinryu 15, Idaho 71, Hayakaze 20, Matsushima 34; total, 157=$785—Idaho $9.50.

3.—The YOUNGSTERS' HANDICAP, for Subscription Country-breds of Autumn, 1898; First Prize yen 250, Second Prize yen 50, Third Prize yen 25; a forced entry at yen 20 for all Ponies entered at the meeting; Non-starters half forfeit. Five Furlongs.

Mr. Tatsuta's Sekirew, 140lb.....(Yasu) 1
Mr. Worthington's Kitchener, 137lb.(Hayashi) 2
Mr. Sphinx's Mazette, 125lb.....(Miyagawa) 3
Mr. Avis' Chaffinch, 131lb.....(Goto) 0
Mr. Starlight's Attachment, 121lb.....(Katsu) 0
Mr. News' Eclat, 140lb. .....(Sugiura) 0

Kitchener led from the start, with Mazette second, and Chaffinch third. When they had got to the trees Sekirew had come through the field, and the first four were racing in close company up to the bend. Sekirew then shot ahead with Chaffinch close up. They ran thus for the greater part of the distance, when Kitchener and Mazette both passed Chaffinch. They were, however, unable to approach Sekirew, who won by nearly a length. A length between second and third. Time, 1min. 17⅗secs.

Attachment threw his jockey early in the race, injuring his shoulder and the horse itself was so badly hurt that it was feared it would have to be shot.

PARI MUTUEL $5.—Worthington 101, Mazette 10, Sekirew 99, Chaffinch, 28, Attachment 4, Eclat 13; total 255=$1275;—Sekirew $11 50.

4.—The CHINA CHAMPION, value yen 500, a Champion Race for all China Ponies; a forced entry for winners at the meeting, of one race yen 10, of two races yen 20, and of more than two races, yen 40; optional to beaten ponies at an Entrance fee of yen 25; weight as per scale. Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Russia's Diablotin, 147lb. .....(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. Nemo's Mr Darcy, 150lb.....(Ichi) 2
Mr. H. Bent's MacMorse, 150lb. .....(Goto) 3
Mr. Worthington's Suwanee, 144lb.....(Yasu) 0
Mr. R. Field's Kindar, 144lb. .....(Rikizo) 0
Mr. State's Wisconsin, 144lb.....(Sugiura) 0
Mr. Russia's Doorak, 144lb.....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. Nemo's Magyar, 153lb.....(Nakazuma) 0
Mr. States' Oregon, 150 b. ...(Mr. Pakenham) 0
Mr. News' Eclaireur, 150 b.....(Mr. Kingdon) 0

From the lead Kindar went ahead, attended by MacMorse, Magyar, and Diablotin, the last named racing fourth. In this order they passed the post. Kindar showed the way as far as the Shakespeare, taking a lead of two lengths; at this point Magyar fell behind, and Mr. Darcy took third place. From the trees to the bend into the home straight Diablotin rapidly worked his way through the field and was leading slightly from MacMorse when the home stretch was entered. MacMorse once more forced him into second place, and was leading till close up to the post, when Diablotin and Mr. Darcy both rushed ahead and got on terms. An exciting race then ensued, Diablotin landing a short head in front of Mr. Darcy; half a length between second and third. Time 2m. 53⅘secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Suwanee 9, Kindar 116, MacMorse 75, Diablotin 71, Wisconsin 16, Doorak 7, Magyar 7, Mr. Darcy 27, Oregon 14, Eclaireur 4 total 346=$1730;—Diablotin $21.50.

5.—The COUNTRY-BRED CHAMPION, value yen 500, a Champion Race for all Country-breds; a forced entry of winners at the Meeting, except Subscription Ponies of Autumn, 1898, of one race yen 10, of two races yen 20, and of more than two races yen 40; optional to beaten Horses at an Entrance fee of yen 25; weight as per scale. Mile and a Quarter.

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Mr. Tatsuta's Tatsuta, 142lb. .....(Rikizo) 1
Mr. R. Field's Tomboy, 145lb. .....(Goto) 2
Mr. Worthington's Tambour Major, 135lb. (Hayashi) 3
Mr. Yodo's Saikio, 130lb. .....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. State's Idaho, 140lb. .....(Sugiura) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Hayakaze, 140lb...(Kingdon) 0
Mr. Sphinx's Monarque, 145lb. ...(Takahashi) 0

Idaho passed the post first, followed closely by Tambour Major, Saikio, and Tatsuta, with Monarque last. Idaho kept the lead till the houses, when Tomboy worked his way through the field into first place. This he retained as far as the Shakespeare, when Tatsuta came to the front and went away with a long lead, which he maintained to the finish, winning by three lengths; the same distance between second and third. Time, 2 min. 22¾ secs.

PARI MUTUEL.—Saikio 48, Tomboy, 64, Tambour Major 54, Tatsuta 137, Idaho 71, Hayakaze 31 Monarque, 12; total 417=$2085—Tatsuta $13 50.

6.—The CHINA SUBSCRIPTION CONSOLATION, First Prize yen 150, Second Prize yen 50; a Consolation Race for Subscription China Ponies, non-winners in Japan at the date of entry, that have started and not won a race at the meeting; weight as per scale. One Mile. Entrance fee, yen 5.

Mr. Derby's Confidence, 150lb. ...(Mr. Motta) 1
Mr. News' Eclore, 150lb. .....(Mayeda) 2
Mr. Guignol's Cascadeur, 150lb...(Mr. Longin) 3
Mr. Worthington's Unknown, 144lb.....(Yasu) 0
Mr. Nemo's Chamberlain, 147lb...(Nakazuma) 0
Mr. Sphinx's Mirliton, 150lb. .....(Takahashi) 0
Mr. Campredon's Chrysanthème, 147lb. (Kubota) 0
Mr. R. Field's Free Trade, 147lb. .....(Saku) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Hiryo, 150lb.....(Rikizo) ■
Mr. Russia's Cozack, 147lb. .....(Horikoshi) ■
Mr, Nishimura's Azuma, 150lb. ...(Hakodate) 0

Crysanthème jumped away at the start but lost the lead before going into the dip, being passed by both Mirliton and Chamberlin. At the trees Confidence, Eclore, and Cascadeur came away from the rest of the field, and on entering the straight the first named was leading by a length or two. He easily kept the advantage, and won by three lengths; two lengths between second and third. Time, 2 min. 19⅘ secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Unknown $49, Chambertin 3, Mirliton 5, Chrysanthème 2, Eclore 4, Free Trade 0, Hiryo 93, Cozack 10, Cascadeur 2, Azuma, 1, Confidence 7; total, 177=$885—Confidence, $13 50.

7.—The YOUNGSTERS' CONSOLATION, First Prize yen 150, Second Prize yen 50; for Subscription Country-breds of Autumn, 1898, that have started and not won a race at the meeting; wight 128lb. Half-a-mile. Entrance fee, yen 5.

Mr. Sphinx's Mazette, 128lb. .....(Miyagawa) 1
Mr. Yodo's Fuji, 128lb. .....(Hakodate) 2
Mr. Nemo's Gladiateur, 130lb. carried 2lbs. over (Ichi) 3
Mr. News' Eclat, 128lb .....(Sugiura) 0

Fuji went away from the start, attended by Mazette, with Gladiateur third. At the trees Mazette challenged Fuji, and made a strong bid for first place. Entering the straight they were almost abreast, and so they ran three-quarters of the way down, when Mazette came away, and won by half a length. Bad third. Time, 59½ secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Gladiateur 63, Mazette 89, Eclat 42, Fuji 124; total 318=$1590—Mazette $16.

8.—The CHINA SOLACE, First Prize yen 150, Second Prize yen 150; a Consolation race for all China Ponies that have started and not won a race at the meeting; weight as per scale. Three-quarters of a Mile. Entrance fee, yen 5.

Mr. Worthington's Orion, 147lb. .....(Yasu) 1
Mr. Hyogo's Miyajima, 153lb.....(Mr. Motta) 2
Mr. Campredon's Fleur-de-lis, 147lb. (Mr. Kingdon) 3
Mr. Nemo's Mr. Darcy, 150lb.....(Nakazumi) 0
Mr. Campredon's Boutou d'or, 144lb. (Kubota) 0
Mr. News' Eclaircie, 150lb.....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. Guignol's Kirigomi, 147lb.....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Tytherleigh's Kestrel, 147lb....(Mr. Easton) 0

Orion went away with the lead, followed by Fleur-de-lis and Miyajima, the rest tailing off. At the bend Miyajima headed Fleur-de-lis, and got on terms with Orion, whom he passed half way down the straight. There was from there to the finish scarcely anything between them, but at the last Orion rushed ahead, beating Miyajima on the post by a short head. Three lengths divided second and third. Time, 1m. 39⅘ secs.

There was some dispute about the race, as the vessels numbers were hoisted first Orion and Miyajima; then Miyajima and Orion, and finally Orion and Miyajima again, leaving speculators in a pleasing state of uncertainty for fully three minutes.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Orion $61, Mr. Darcy 35, Fleur-de-lis 21, Boutou d'or 4, Eclaircie 6, Kirigomi 18, Miyajima 81, Kestrel 8, The Field 1; total, 235=$1175—Orion $17

9.—The COUNTRY-BRED CONSOLATION, First Prize yen 150, Second Prize yen 50; a Consolation Race for all Country-breds that have started and not won a race at the meeting; maidens at date of entry 5lb. allowance; weight as per scale. Three-quarters of a Mile. Entrance fee, yen 5.

Mr. Yodo's Matsushima, 135lb..... (Hakodate) 1
Mr. Nemo's Sasha, 145lb..... (Ichi) 2
Mr. Tatsuta's Omokage, 123lb, Carried 6lb.....(Sugiura) 3
Mr. Worthington's Dargai, 130lb.....(Yasu) 0
Mr. Sphinx's Mezurashi, 125lb.....(Miyagawa) ■

The last race was a very simple affair. Matsushima led from the first, and won as he liked. The contest for second place lay between Sasha, Omokage, and Dargai, Omokage passing Dargai just before the finish. Time 1 min. 27⅘ secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Dargai 27, Sasha 101, Mezurashi 18, Omokage 30, Matsushima 107; total, 283=$1416—Matsushima, $11.50.

THE BANK OF CHINA AND JAPAN, LIMITED.

The following have been sent to us for publication:—

The Half-Yearly Accounts from Branches to 30th June have been adjusted, and the Directors have to report as follows to the Shareholders:—

The final instalment due to old Depositors was provided on 14th May last, and paid to the Committee's credit in The Bank of England, and the Committee obtained their discharge from their duties on 27th July, as explained in circular from them, copy of which is sent herewith.

The evidence in the suit in New York Courts against an American shareholder in the old Bank has now been taken, and it is hoped that a decision will be obtained this year. The test suits in the Shanghai Mixed Court against Chinese shareholders came on for hearing on 22nd August, and judgment in these may also be looked for before many months have elapsed.

The working of the new Bank is giving much the same results as in previous years, and it is expected that at 31st December the Accounts will again show a reduction in amount of Deficiency Account.

We beg to inform you that Mr. Justice Wright, by his judgment, dated 27th July, 1898, has discharged us of our offices and duties as Committee of Creditors appointed pursuant to the Agreement dated 21st February, 1895, made between the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited, and Charles H. Campbell, of the one part, and the Bank of China and Japan, Limited, of the other part, and by the said judgment our duties and powers were declared to have ceased and determined, and we also intimate that in accordance with that judgment we have transferred the balance at our credit with the Bank of England, amounting to £750 16s., to the joint names of Frederick Clark Bishop and the Bank of China and Japan, Limited, to be applied by them in satisfaction of the claims of the deposit receipt holders remaining unsatisfied. These claims are outstanding solely in consequence of delay on the creditors' part in sending forward documents.

It is very satisfactory to us to be able to announce that practically the whole creditors of the old Bank have been paid with interest well within the time in which we expected to complete our work. In taking leave of our duties, we think it right to say that we received every facility for their discharge from the Directors and officials of the new Bank, and that our intercourse with them was most harmonious. We hope the Bank will have a prosperous career. We are, Yours faithfully, J. L. Boyd, John Cowan, Evan C. Nepean, Alfred Shepherd.

London, 19th September, 1898.

The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., have concluded their contract with Admiral Dewey, U.S.N., for raising some of the Spanish vessels sunk in Manila Bay.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

OUTRAGES ON ENGLISHMEN IN PEKING.

CHINESE SOLDIERS LEAD THE RIOT.

WHEREABOUTS OF EIGHT ENGINEERS UNKNOWN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Shanghai, Oct. 26, 11.48 a.m.

On the 23rd inst. Chinese soldiers attacked the English railway engineers at the Peking terminus, injuring two and killing a Chinese coolie.

Work on the Lu-Han (Peking to Hankow) railway survey has been suspended and the engineers working thereon have been ordered to come into Peking for safety.

The house of Mr. E. G. Dunstan, Locomotive Engineer at Peking Station, has been looted.

The whereabouts of eight foreign engineers attached to the Paoting-fu section are unknown.

KANG YU-WEI IN JAPAN.

ARRIVES AT KOBE BY "KAWACHI MARU."

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Kobe, Oct. 25, 10.27 a.m.

Kang Yu-wei arrived in Kobe late last night by the *Kawachi Maru*. He was met outside the harbour by several Japanese officials and brought ashore at once.

"KINSHIU MARU" IN COLLISION.

LOSS OF 60 LIVES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Kobe, Oct. 26, 4.05 p.m.

A collision occurred near Tadotsu last evening between the N.Y.K. steamer *Kinshiu Maru* (Capt. F. J. Brown) and the coasting steamer *Miyagawa Maru*. The latter sank almost immediately and 50 or 60 lives are reported lost.

The *Kinshiu* is now anchored off Tadotsu with her bows damaged.

[The *Kinshiu Maru* is experiencing a run of bad luck. While on her recent voyage to Tacoma she ran ashore during a fog in Puget Sound; and on the return voyage to Japan she experienced heavy weather and sustained some damage to her upper works.]

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE "REDPOLE."

Hakodate, Oct. 24.

H.M. gun-boat *Redpole* arrived here this evening.

FIRE IN HAKODATE.

Hakodate, Oct. 27.

This evening at 8 o'clock a fire broke out in Hakodate, and destroyed the building in which it originated. The flames were put down before they could gain a hold on the neighbouring houses.

(FROM THE "JAPAN TIMES.")

THE FASHODA DIFFICULTY.

"ENGLAND WILL NOT SHRINK."

London, Oct. 21.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach, speaking at North Shields, said the Government was animated by a friendly spirit towards the French nation. He hoped and believed that the Fashoda question was capable of friendly solution, but England had put her foot down, it would be a great

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calamity if, after eighty years, peace should again be disturbed and they should be launched upon a great war, but the Government would not shrink from anything, knowing they were supported by a united people.

London, Oct. 22.

The *Times'* Paris correspondent says that M. Muravieff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has urged the French Government that the Fashoda dispute can not exceed the limits of diplomatic controversy, and has advised particular circumspection in the present circumstances.

TURKS EVACUATE CRETE.

London, Oct. 21.

Turkish transports are embarking the Cretan troops,

EMPEROR WILLIAM AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

SPLENDID FESTIVITIES.

London, Oct. 22.

Banquets, fêtes and fireworks are the order of the day in Constantinople in honour of the Emperor William. Russia and France are watching the Emperor's tour with great suspicion. Russia fears the outcome of the growing friendliness between Turkey and Germany will affect the balance of power. France especially resents interference with her protection over the Eastern Christians.

DEPARTURE OF THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

Shanghai, Oct. 24.

Emperor Wilhelm has left Constantinople for the Holy Land.

DEATH OF A DOCTOR AND HIS ASSISTANT FROM THE PLAGUE.

A doctor and his laboratory assistant who were engaged in the culture of the plague bacillus in Vienna have died from the plague. Two nurses were also attacked by the disease.

LORD ROSEBERY AT PERTH.

Speaking at Perth, Lord Rosebery said that if he were in the Ministry at present no man should rob him one jot of the honour of the great work culminating at Omdurman. If the nations wish to remain friendly they must remember his utterances warning them to desist from any action likely to menace peace.

THE CABINET SUMMONED.

The Cabinet has been summoned and will probably meet on Wednesday next.

FRENCH YELLOW BOOK.

London, Oct. 25.

In the French yellow book on Fashoda recently published, M. Delcasse maintains that France has no less rights in Fashoda than Great Britain in Khartoum. The occupation of the Soudan cannot proceed without the express sanction of the Sultan, who alone is competent to declare that French rights are not equal to the British.

Sir E. J. Monson informed M. Declasse that France, being aware that Germany and Italy recognized the Nile as being in the British sphere, was advancing to a conflict with Great Britain. M. Declasse replied that to ask France to accept the demand for evacuation prior to discussion is equivalent to an ultimatum which it would be impossible to accept.

FRENCH, AMERICAN, & ENGLISH PAPERS ON THE SITUATION.

The French papers approve of the book, and maintain the French right to an outlet on the Nile. An agreement is only possible if Great Britain does not insist on an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Capt. Marchand.

The British press rejects the French proposals.

The situation actually amounts to a deadlock.

The American papers cordially support Great Britain.

MOBILIZATION AT TOULON.

OUTLOOK OMINOUS.

Four batteries of the line, 1,500 Marine Infantry, and 600 Artillerymen have been sent to Toulon, at which centre there is an important movement of mobilization.

ENGLAND PREPARES FOR MOBILIZATION.

London, Oct. 26.

The Cabinet has been summoned to meet on Thursday. Eighteen of the newest torpedo destroyers have been ordered out and commissioned. The *Daily News* says that warnings to prepare for the possibility of mobilization have been sent to all British naval headquarters.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

DEFEAT OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

ANTI-JEWISH RIOTS IN PARIS.

London, Oct. 27.

As a result of a debate on the Dreyfus affair, the French Chamber unanimously affirmed the supremacy of the civil over the military power, but rejected the vote of confidence in the Government by 286 against 254 votes. The Cabinet has resigned, and the Chamber was adjourned until the 4th November. There is considerable anti-Jewish rioting in Paris.

(From "L'Avenir du Tonkin.")

THE STRIKES IN PARIS.

Paris, October 7.

Several conflicts have taken place between the police and the strikers, who parade the town seeking to prevent all labour. Many arrests have been made. Four thousand horse and foot soldiers assist the police in keeping order.

Paris, October 10.

The strike continues, but without any disturbances. The military pickets have been considerably augmented by troops from the provinces.

(From the "China Mail.")

JAPANESE YEN PROHIBITED.

Singapore, Oct. 17.

The Bill prohibiting the importation of Japanese *yen* into the Straits Settlements has been passed into law by the Straits Legislature.

[Commenting on the necessity for the law, the *Straits Times* says that "if after the ordinance takes effect any person imports (or attempts to import) the discredited coin, he shall become liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding $500 for *yen* nominally worth any sum from $25 to $100, and to a fine of that amount and or a term of imprisonment, not exceeding six months, for any sum amounting to or upwards of $180. The *yen* imported are to be forfeited except in the case of licence being taken out for importation for transshipment. An offender can be arrested without warrant, and informers may be granted a share in the find. The Attorney General thinks that large importations are likely unless prohibited; his Bill will very comprehensively prohibit the speculation if it becomes law."]

From the "Shanghai Mercury."

TROUBLE IN SOUTH CHINA.

Hongkong, Oct. 20.

The Magistrate of Sunon has applied for 500 troops to suppress a rising of bad characters in that district.

It is believed in Hongkong that the Sunon populace are arming to resist British extension that is now being proceeded with. It has become known that subscriptions are being collected by agitators which are doubtless being used for the purchase of arms, which are being smuggled largely, as may be seen by the amount of seizures already made.

[Sunon is a large town in Taishan Bay.—Ed. *S.M.*]

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

BRITISH WARNING AGAINST DETHRONEMENT.

Peking, Oct. 24

Sir Claude MacDonald, British Minister to Peking, has warned the Chinese Government that if the Emperor is dethroned public indignation will be roused and the Powers may perhaps interfere.

EMPEROR'S ILLNESS.

The illness of His Majesty is serious, and it is reported that this is sufficient to do away with any necessity for dethroning him.

THE SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE.

The successor elect to the Throne has been summoned to the palace.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

Peking, 21st Oct. 6.20 p.m.

Under pretext of the Emperor's illness, a Prince Imperial is apparently about to be set up. A Decree in that sense will probably be issued to-morrow.

The statement that Li Hung-chang would be restored to office is probably true.

America is said to have applied for the privilege of building a railway from Shanghai to Canton, with a branch to Fukien. Should the statement be verified by facts, the Japanese Government will probably lodge a protest.

RAILWAY SCHEMES.

The Ewo Company (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) have contracted to supply funds for the construction of a railway between Shanghai and Donchu via Sochu, Kochu, and Shoyo. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation is to supply funds for the railway between Canton and Kowloon.

AMERICAN DEMANDS.

An American demand has been made for the privilege of constructing the railway between Hankow and Canton, and the branch lines between Nanchong, Kosei Prefecture, and Fukuken.

THE DETHRONEMENT OF THE EMPEROR.

Peking, Oct. 24.

Rumours of the dethronement of the Emperor are still current, but the political situation is quieter. The Representatives of the Powers are awaiting the progress of events, and have no intention of interfering at present. The withdrawal of the foreign guards from the capital is expected.

A JOINT PROTECTORATE.

There is some suggestion among the Representatives of the Powers that China should be placed under the joint protection of a concert of the Powers. It is not expected, however, that the scheme will ever see fruition.

FRENCH MARINES

This evening 34 French marines arrived here.

THE JAPANESE MINISTER.

Peking, Oct. 26.

Mr. Yano, Minister to Peking, proceeded to the Tsung-li Yamên and asked for an audience of His Majesty the Emperor and the Empress to offer the Imperial message. The Chinese Government is embarrassed by this request, which Mr. Yano is determined to press.

JAPANESE WARSHIPS.

The *Akagi* arrived yesterday at Taku. The *Suma* will stay there some time longer.

NEW CHINESE WARSHIPS.

Three new Chinese warships are to be put through their trials to-morrow off Taku.

(From the "Chiuo Shimbun.")

CHINA APPEALS TO GREAT BRITAIN.

Peking, O t. 25.

As the first step in Administrative reforms, the Chinese Government has applied to the British Government authorities for help in reorganizing the Military system. The negotiations between the two Powers have been concluded favourably to China.

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

Solution of Problem No. 391.

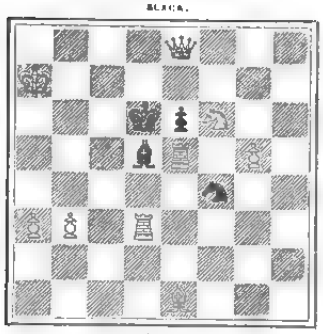
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Kt to Q 7	1—K to Q 4
2—Q to K B 3 ch	2—K to K 3
3—Kt to B 8 mate	
	2—K to B 5 or P to K 5
3—Q to Q Kt 3 mate	
	1—K to B 5
2—Q to B sq ch	2—K to K 5 or Kt 5
3—Kt takes ♙ P mate	
	1—P to R 4
2—Kt takes B P ch	2—K to B 5
3—Q to B sq mate	
	1—B to Q 5, or Kt any
2—Kt takes B Pch	2—K to B 5
3—Q to Kt 4 mate	

Correct solutions received from W H S, S S., Marco, and Vuita.

Sleak (Hakodate) is to be credited with correct solution of problem No 390.

Problem No. 394.
By A. Arnell,
(A Prize-Winner.)

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in two moves.

Game No. 446.

The following pretty little game was played in the recently concluded championship tourney of the New Orleans Club. It was awarded the prize as the most brilliant game of the contest:—

ANDERSSEN'S OPENING

White—M'Connell, Jun.		Black—Hn. C. F. Buck.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P QR3(a)	P Q4	14 Q Kt4	QKt B3
2 P Q4	B B4	15 B Kt5	P KR4(e)
3 P K3	P K3	16 QxRP	QxQP
4 B Q3	Q Kt4	17 QR Q sq(f)	QxQKtP
5 Kt KB3(b)	Q B3(c)	18 R Q3	P KRt3
6 BxB	QxB	19 Q K2	Q K4(g)
7 Q K2	P QK3	20 Q Q2	P Q4
8 Kt B3	B Q3	21 B R6	R K sq
9 P K4(d)	PxP	22 R K sq	Q QB2
10 KtxP	Kt K2	23 Q KKt5(h)	K R2(i)
11 Castles	Castles	24 Q B6	KxB
12 KtxP	PxKt	25 Kt B5ch(j)	And Black resigns
13 Kt R4	Q B3		

NOTES.

(a) This irregular opening, when continued duly with P to Q B 4 and Q Kt to B 3, is supposed to yield White a Sicilian Defence, with the abnormal advantage of being a move ahead. But that theory is predicated on the hypothesis that Black will answer with 1—P to K 4, which he does not do in the present case.

(b) We cannot help thinking that this sacrifice of the K Kt P, thus tendered, is not wholly sound. At the same time, it must be observed that it has the merit of much boldness, and a fairly compensating attack.

(c) Why not here 5—Q takes Kt P; 6—R to B Kt sq, Q to R 6; 7—R to Kt 3, Q to R 4; 8—R to Kt 5, Q to R 6; 9—B takes B, P takes B, followed shortly by P to Q B 4, whereafter Black seems to have preserved his advantage in force, and to have at least an equal position besides.

(d) A well-timed advance, as the sequel shows.

(e) This appears to be the only step to save the loss of the piece. If 15—Q takes Q P; 16—Q takes Q, Kt takes Q; 17—B takes Kt, &c.

(f) Again "harping on my daughter"—the possible attack; but it is sound positional play, too, especially as followed up.

(g) This is pretty clearly an inferior location for the Q, but it is difficult, we believe, to find any move wholly satisfactory.

(h) Menacing, of course, 24—Q to K B 6!

(i) Black has obviously little or no sound choice; escape is now impossible.

(j) A pretty wind up; White has sacrificed two pieces to attain this end, and deservedly captures the brilliancy prize.—*The Times Democrat.*

Game No. 447.

Played in the Vienna Tournament:—

RUY LOPEZ.

White—Showalter.		Black—Tarrasch.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK
1 P K4	P K4	15 QxP	B Kt4
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	16 P KR4	BxB
3 B Kt5	Kt B3	17 RxB	Q Kt sq
4 Castles	KtxP	18 P QKt3	Q Kt5(c)
5 P Q4	B K2	19 Kt K2	Cstls. QR
6 Q K2	Kt Q3	20 Kt K3	K Kt2
7 BxKt	KtPxB	21 P QB3	Q K2(d)
8 PxP	Kt Kt2	22 P KK3	Kt B4
9 QKt B3	Kt B4	23 Q B5	P B3
10 Kt Q3(a)	B R3	24 K Kt4	PxP
11 Q Kt4	BxR	25 QxP	RxPch(d)
12 QxKtP	R KBsq	26 K Kt sq	Q×Q
13 RxB	Kt K3	27 KtxQ	KxKt
14 Kt B5(b)	P Q4	28 Resigns	

NOTES.

(a) Moves 1—9 on both sides are very familiar. Here we are, however introduced to a variation not so well known.

(b) This would be excellent if Black would snap at White's Q and be mated. A good and sound continuation is by 14—Kt takes Kt, B P takes Kt; 15—Q takes R P, followed by B to R 6 later.

(c) The last two moves of Black appear to destroy White's game completely. He is now put on the defensive in a very awkward way.

(d) Threatening R to R sq, &c.

(e) Very pretty. If either Kt or K takes R the Q is lost.

Game No. 448.

A game which competed for the brilliancy prize in the Vienna Tournament.

RUY LOPEZ.

White—Janowski.		Black—Trenchard.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	20 P Kt4	R B sq
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	21 R R5	Q B3
3 B Kt5	P B4	22 Q K6ch	K Kt2
4 P Q3	PxP	23 P Kt5	PxP
5 PxP	P Q3	24 QR R-sq	K Q sq
6 Kt B3	Kt B3	25 R R8	Q R-sq
7 B Kt5	B K2(a)	26 KtxQP	PxKt
8 QB B4	Kt QR4	27 QxPch	K B-sq
9 Q K2	B Kt5	28 Q B5	K Ktsq
10 Cstls. QR	Q B sq	29 RxKP	BxKt
11 P KR3	KtxB(b)	30 QxBch	K Kt2
12 PxB	Kt Kt3	31 QxPch	K Kt-sq
13 BxKt	BxB(c)	32 Q K5ch	K R2
14 P Kt5(d)	B K2	33 Q Q4ch	K Kt-sq
15 P Kt6	P KR3	34 QxP	KtxP
16 Q Kt5ch	Q Q2	35 Q B7	R R2
17 Q Kt3	B B3	36 RxR	QxR
18 P R4	P QR4	37 Q B7ch	K R-sq
13 Kt QKt5	Kt B sq	38 R Q7	Resigns(e)

NOTES.

(a) B to K 3 would have secured the diagonal occupied immediately by White.

(b) B takes Kt; 12—P takes B would have lost a P eventually.

(c) P takes B would have been better.

(d) White has now a marked advantage, and from here onwards Black could not save the game.

(e) There being a forced mate in about five moves.—*Field.*

Notes.

Steinitz, when the mail left, was making a short stay in London. The veteran declares that both at Vienna and at Cologne he lost a good many games through sheer physical exhaustion and inability to concentrate his attention in consequence thereof.

The eighth tourney of the Swiss Chess Association took place at Basle on the 4th and 5th of June, 52 players from all parts of Switzerland taking part. The first prize was won for the third time by Herr Bachmann.

The *Cape Times* publishes an account of a chess match at Cape Town, between Europeans and Colonials, with 52 players on each side. Each had to play two games with every other, and the Europeans won by 57½ to 37½.

It is now among the probabilities that the French champion will visit the United States. He challenged Showalter to play a match for $750 a side, which challenge was accepted. Janowski, however, wanted his expenses guaranteed, and the Hon. Max Judd, late United States Consul-General in Vienna, has promised to pay these expenses. Janowski is one of the brilliant players of the world.

Next year a most interesting contest is to be arranged in Vienna, limited to Messrs. Lasker, Tarrasch, Pillsbury, Janowski and Charousek, on the same lines as the match in 1896 between Lasker, Tchigorin, Pillsbury and Steinitz at St. Petersburg, each competitor playing several games with each of his antagonists. If the number be six apiece as at St. Petersburg the total will be sixty specimens of master play, but it seems impossible to attach absolute importance to the result if Tchigorin be not a participant.

Herr Lasker.—We regret to hear that Herr Lasker is very seriously ill.—*Glasgow Weekly Herald* of August 13, 1898.

It is worthy of note, says the *British Chess Magazine*, that the most uniformly successful master of modern times, Paul Morphy, seldom played anything but an attacking game. If we omit blindfold and simultaneous performances, there are recorded 182 of his level games, in 93 of which he had the first move. Of these 93 no fewer than 24 were Evans Gambits, and 16 King's Gambits; there are only 5 specimens of the Ruy Lopez had not a single Q P Opening. In fact in level games Morphy invariably began with 1P—Q4. The Philidor was played against him 10 times, twice with success; the Sicilian 8 times and the French 4 times, without his losing a single game. Having the Black men (89 games) he showed no preference for any particular defence, unless we except the counter attacking forms of the Philidor; variety seems to have been his object, and he very rarely attempted to avoid a gambit or other sharp attack. He always accepted the Evans (12 games), losing but once; twice he declined the King's Gambit (out of 16 games), and of the French and Sicilian Defences only single specimens are to be found.

American Chess-Code Vagaries.

The New York *Commercial Advertiser* publishes the following:—

"In reply to a correspondent who says:—'Seeing in the New York *Sun* a notice to a correspondent stating that a player need not transform a Pawn advanced to the eighth square into another piece, but may allow the Pawn to remain a Pawn, I would ask, How does it then move as a Pawn?' I would say that there is no such rule of Chess in existence. It was discussed some years ago from a humorous standpoint, but was never seriously entertained by Chess players. Another equally astounding bit of information appeared in the same paper a few weeks ago, to the effect that 'according to the American Chess-Code a player may Castle on a side from which before the commencement of the game the player's Rook had been removed.' This relic of Chess freakdom was promulgated by the problemist, Denis Julian, as a joke, but he never explained how the rule of Castling which makes the Rook hop over the King was to be complied with, when the odds of the Rook is given—all the rights and powers of that piece pertain to such odds. It would be just as sensible to give the odds of a Pawn, but by some hocuspocus interpretation of the law to reserve its Queening privilege."

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 1	Su. Oct. 30
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Oceanien 2	W. Nov. 5
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China 3	Th. Nov. 3
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Th. Nov. 3
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	Tu. Nov. 8
America	P. M. Co.	China 4	Tu. Nov. 8
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. N.v. 21
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Nov. 23

1 Left San Francisco on the 22th inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 25th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 26th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 20th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	C. of Peking	F. Oct. 28
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Oct 28
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. Oct. 31
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rose ta	W. Nov. 2
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Satsuma Maru	W. Nov. 2
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Nov. 4
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. Nov. 5
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Oceanien	W. Nov. 9
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Nov. 21

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 21st October,—Shanghai via ports, 15th Oct., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Braemar, British steamer, Edward Porter, 2,316, 21st October,—Portland, Oregon, 2nd October, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Kaiserin Augusta, (30), German Cruiser, 6,331, Captain Koeller, 22nd October.—Kiao-chou.

Columbia, British steamer, 1,689, A. Gow, 23rd October,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 5th October, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Kotik, Russian steamer, 299, ———, 23rd Oct.,—Saghalien via Hakodate, Fish and Skins.—Walsh Hall & Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 24th October,—Vancouver, ■ C., 10th October, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Candia, British steamer, 4,195, W. H. Houghton, 24th October,—London via ports, Kobe, 23rd October, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Nerite, British steamer, 3,155, Wm. Daniel, 25th October,—Batoum via ports, Kobe, 23rd Oct., Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Shantung, British steamer, 1,835, Frampton, 25th October,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 23rd October, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Hohensollern, German steamer, 1,900, E. Woltersdorff, 25th October,—Hongkong, 19th October, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 25th October,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe 24th October, Mails and General.—P. & O S.N. Co.

Sarpedon, British steamer, 3,022, Grier, 26th Oct.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 25th October, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, J. T. Smith, 27th October—San Francisco via Honolulu, 6th October, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

King Edward, British ship, 1,657, Fletcher, 27th October,—Middlesborough, 4th June, General. —Sale & Co.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, F. R. Evans, 27th Oct.,—Middlesborough and London via ports, Kobe, 26th Oct., General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Bangalore, British ship, 1,699, Albert N. Blanchard, 27th October,—New York, 11th May, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Prinsesse Wilhelm (22), German Cruiser, 4,400, Capt. Thiele, 27th October,—Manila.

Stolberg, German steamer, 1,629, Formes, 28th October,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 21st October, General.—C. Illies & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Phra Nang, British steamer, 1,021, W. H. Walton, 21st October,—Moji, Ballast.—Butterfield and Swire.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, F. Brown, 22nd October,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, Edward Porter, 23rd Oct.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, J. H. Rinder, 23rd Oct.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Columbia, British steamer, 1,689, A. Gow, 24th October,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 24th October,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Babelsburg, German steamer, 1,379, Pfaff, 24th October,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Cormoran (8), German gunboat, 1,640, Captain Brussatis, 25th October,—Kobe.

Caledonien, French steamer, 2,093, Durrande, 26th October,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

John Sanderson, British steamer, 2,089, Smith, 26th Oct.,—New York via ports, General.—Samuel, Samuel & Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 26th October,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shantung, British steamer, 1,835, Frampton, 26th October,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Kaiserin Augusta (30), German Cruiser, 6,331, Captain Koeller, 27th October.—Kiao-chou.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Belgic,* from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. G. Buckle, Capt. S. F. Clark, Mr. A. J. Hart, Mr. A. C. Bryer, Mr. J. L. Van Laer, Mr. D. H. Cameron, Miss A. Bilbrough, Mr. A. S. Ellam, Mrs. A. S. Ellam, Mrs. S. D. Hepburn, Mrs. F. G. Stone, child and amah, Mr. J. W. Thompson, Mr. A. E. Blake, Mr. Roberts, Mr. M. Bieber, Mr. J. L. A. Maher, Mr. F. W. Gotch, Miss M. L. Shea, Mr. J. B. Coulson, Mr. H. Pollock, Mr. Abraham, Mr. J. L. Loose, Mr. J. L. Loose, Mr. Moller, Mr. Pocklington, Mr. P. Bigelow, Mrs. Watson, Mr. S. Isaacs, and Dr. ■ Bedloe, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mr. C. J. Hutchins, and Mrs. C. J. Hutchins and daughter, in cabin. For Francisco:—Mr. M. J. Egan, Mrs. A. N. Wood and infant, Mr. ■. Halstead, Mrs. L. R. Kinghorn, Capt. W. Wilhelmson, Mr. W. B. Chapel, Mr. L. ■ Rickman and two children Mr. L. S. Sung, Mr. T. C. Yen, Miss L. R. Jenkins, Master H. Jenkins, and Mr. J. A. Patten, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India,* from Vancouver, B.C.:—Sir W. Anstruther, Miss Averill, Mise Edith H. Armstrong, Rev. J. B. Ayers, Mrs. J. B. Ayers and child, Miss Allworth, Mr. E. T. Bethel, Miss Balch, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Bash, Miss Clementine Bash, Miss Eva Bash, Miss Mary Bash, Miss Butner, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Brockman and child, Mr. Boley, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. D. Blyth, Miss A. Blyth, Miss A. M. Blyth, Mr. G Bowack, Mr. F. S. Bone, Mr. F. T. Bennett, Mr. J. Vaudrey Braddon, Mrs. Barret, Mr. W. Braune, Mr. Coulter, Mr. C. Charnley, Mr. and Mrs. Cape, Rev. A. Connell, Mr. A. G. H. Carlill, Mr. and Mrs. I. Dachlin, Mr. A. R. Dunlop, Mr. and Mrs. Dickson and child Mr. Frazier, Rev. J. M. and Mrs. Foster and two children, Mr. C. H. Gibbs, Mr. E. A. Goulding, Miss E Goulding, Miss A. M. Goulding, Mr. C. Graue, Dr. Moore Graham, Capt. and Mrs. McKenzie Grieve and 2 Misses Grieve, Mr. John Harp, Rev. Marshall Hartley, Mr. E. J. Hartley, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hutchison, Mr. Charles Hutchison, Mr. and Mrs. Hurd, Mr. D. K. Inglis, Miss Jansen, Mr. Kurata, Miss Kirby, Mr. and Mrs. John Lindsley, Miss Lindsley, Mrs. Edmund Lewis, Miss E. P. Lewis, Miss C. G. Lewis, Col. Montgomery, Rev. D. Nelson, Mr. T. Nagasawa, Mr. R. Neville, Miss J. Oakman, Rev. C. A. and Mrs. Owen, Miss J. Peterson, Mr. P. W. Robertson, Mr. C. B. Robertson, Mr. Colin Smith, Mr. C. J. Sroome, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins, Mr. R. S. Stephen, Rev. M. Takagi, Mr. Tetsuka, Mr. L. S. Tieman, Miss Ada D. Thompson, Mr. G. Veyre, Mr. T. Vickers, Dr. and Mrs. Wiegand, Mr. Wilkinson, Mrs. C. Wedmeyer and two children, Rev. R. H. Wells, Mrs. and Master Wells, Mr. Waldeck, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Walter, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Walker, Miss Walker, Mr. Y. Yasukawa, Miss M. Dothard, Mrs. Lacy R. Johnson, and Mr. R. N. Hudley, in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Peking,* from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. Carl Commerell, Mr. B. Tomotsuri, Mr. Andrew Olsson, U.S.N., Mr. K. Imonyes, Capt. Geo. F. F. Wilde, U.S.N., Mr. Chas. Pellerin, and Mr. E. A. Schaeffer, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. Samuel Spitzel, Mr. H. Spitzel, Mr. H. Reichert, Mr. F. Kochler, Rev. B. H. Marsh, Rev. R. E. McLean, wife and child, Mr. Geo. Whitehouse and wife, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. C. M. Reynolds, Mr. S. Steel, Mrs. Lizzie H. Bean, Mrs. A. Forrest, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Kean, Mr. Wong Fo Foy and wife, Capt. W. Gordon, Mr. J. W. Brown, and Mr. J. T. Cruikshanks, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India,* for Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. and Miss Clark, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Longuet, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Owen, Mr. R. Frater, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mossop, Surg.-Capt. Pryme, Mrs. Pryme, Madame O'Gorman, Miss Peerdon, Mr. A. G. Ward, Mr. F. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. J. Acheson, child and amah, Mr. H. R. Parkes, Capt. F. D. Goddard, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Wright, Mr. O. Maschke, Mr. and Mrs. Wheeley, Mr. Yum Hing and native servant, Mr. Le Qua, Mr. John Zimmermann, Mr. R. M. Stirling, Mr. W. Heitmann, Miss M. Voigt, Miss A. Meier, Mrs. M. C. Brooks and native servant, H.E. Lord Yu and Lady Yu and native servant, Misses Yu and native servant, Capt. Armani, Mr. L. C. Putnam, Mr. J. C. Hartland, Mr. H. Faber, Captain P. B. Pattison, Mr. John Yu and native servant, Mr. Chas. Yu and Wong Sung and native servant, Mr. E. W. Noel, Mr. and Mrs. Yates and child, Lieut. G. E. Painter, Mrs. H. R. Kirch and child, Baron de Guzberg, Mr. A. Werth, Mr. J. G. T. Buckle, Mr. F. H. Olmsted, Mr. L. Bobsien, Mr. Jas. R. Morse, Mr. A. J. Lines, Mr. J. Thebaud and native servant, Mr. B. Roth, and Miss T. Focke, in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Chong and two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Yu and infant, in second class; 9 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Belgic,* for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. K. Aramaki, Mr. A. C. Bryer, Mr. W. B. Chapman, Mr. L. C. Chong, Mr. A. Dumelin, Mr. D. W. Deshler, Mr. E. B. S. Edwards, Mr. J. Egan, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Eppinger and child, Mr. Earl Fritsche, Mr. E. W. Harden, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hutchins and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hamilton, Mr. F. Halstead, Captain W. A. Harper, Miss L. B. Jenkins, Master Jenkins, Mr. N. Koidzumi, His Excellency, J. Komura, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of H.M. the Emperor of Japan to the United States, and valet, Mrs. L. R. Kinghorn, Mr. E. Kattman, Mrs. L. L. Laughlin and son, Mr. T. Murata, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Nishimura, Mr. J. C. Pascoe, Mr. Jas. A. Patton, Mr. and Mrs. C. Le B. Rickman, and two children, Miss Riley, Mr. Otto Schinne, Mr. L. S. Sung, Mr. H. B. Taylor, Mr. T. Tozawa, two children, and maid, Mrs. A. N. Wood, and infant, Miss Walsh, Captain W. Wilhelmson, Mr. T. C. Yen, and Mr. Kei Chong Ye, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Caledonien,* for Marseilles via ports:—Vicomte du Dresnay, Viscomtesse du Dresnay, child and amah, Mrs. C. P. Ress and child, Mrs. A. F. Price, Mrs. V. Hodgie, Messrs. Alexieff, Y. C. Matsudaira, Villeminot, Hardy, A. E. Rawlings, W. Molidrich, J. Peyre, Rev. Cadilhac, Rev. Vigroux, Rev. P. Monge, Messrs. Comeliv Cowath, Akel Sabbeh, G. Fukuchi, T. Kimura, Prof. MacCauley, Dr. A. G. Smith, Mr. S. Reich, Mrs. R. Swain, Miss J. Yebisawa, Messrs. A. Laidrich, J. S. Van Laer, Osborne, P. Patterson, and Wong Mong in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The markets have not yet resumed the activity they showed a few weeks ago. Prices are nominally the same, but little business has been done.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8⅛ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—7lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 41 inches,	1.60 to 2 30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches,	2 00 to 3 75
	per yard.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.14 to 0 25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.28 to 0.43
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 32 inches	0.15¢ to 0 24½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per lb	0 55 to 0 67½
	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches,	0.60 to 1.00
TurkeyReds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2.80
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16, 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	44.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	76.00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.00 —
Chinese	18.00 —

METALS.

A fair business has been doing at last week's prices.

	per picul.
Round and square ⅝ inch. and upward	4.00 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.15 to 4.65
Sheet Iron	5.00 to 5.20
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.25 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	6.05 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.00 to 6.20
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (⅜ to 1⅛ inch)	5.00 to 5.05

KEROSENE.

A fair business has been done at last week's rates.

American	$2.15 to 2 19
Russian	1.92 to 1.95
Langkat	2.10 to 2.12½

SUGAR.

The demand continues steady, and prices have been well maintained.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$5.45 to 5.50
Brown Manila	5.70 to 6.40
Brown Daitong	4.40 to 4.50
Brown Canton	4.30 to 5.75
White Java and Penang	6.80 to 7.00
White Refined	7.70 to 9.80

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EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A fair amount of business has been done at about the rates prevailing last week. The stock in Yokohama totals 27,052 boxes.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/13 den	$950 to 960
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	860 to 870
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	850
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	890 to 900
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	860
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	835
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	815
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/28 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 24/30 deniers	790 to 800
Kakedas—Extra	875
Kakedas—No. 1	845
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	810
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

There have been practically no transactions during the past week, and quotations must be taken as quite nominal. There is a large stock in hand.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 127½
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Oshu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	110 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	55 to 70
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	95 to 100
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 95
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

Fairly large purchases continue to be made, the demand being chiefly for the lower grades. There is a stock of considerably over 635,000 lbs. still in the market.

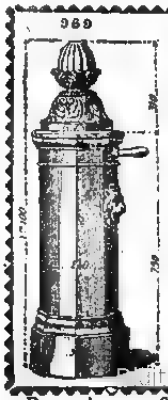
QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$33 & upwards
Choice	$31 to 32
Finest	29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Silver again ⅛ lower, and rates on China firmer whilst Bank paper has declined ⅛ all round for sterling.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0½
— — Bills on demand	2/0⅝
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅝
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0½ to ⅝
— — 6 months' sight	2/0½ to ⅝
On Paris—Bank sight	2.57
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	260½ to 1
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅜ to ½
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07½
— Private 4 months' sight	2.11
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3¾ to 4% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4¾ to 5% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	74½ to 75
— Private 10 days' sight	75½ to 76
On India—Bank sight	152½
— Private 30 days' sight	155
Bar Silver (London) on 5th inst.	28



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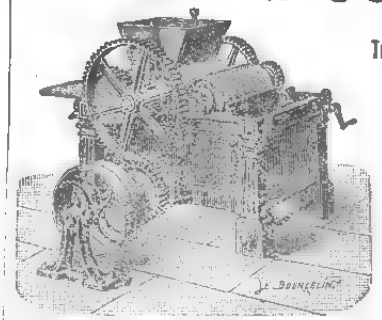

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Yokohama, Saturday, October 29th, 1898.

The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 19.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, NOVEMBER 5TH, 1898. 明治三十一年十一月五日 日曜郵便物認可 VOL. XXX.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, NOV. 5TH, 1898.

BIRTH.

On the 31st of October, at 39, Nichome Fujimicho, Kudan, Tokyo, the wife of E. J. BLOCKHUYS, of a SON. Sydney (N.S.W.) papers please copy.

MARRIAGE.

At Christ Church, Yokohama, November 1st, 1898, BEATRIX STUART, elder daughter of Stuart Eldridge, M.D., of Yokohama, Japan, to FREDERIC MAY, eldest son of Chevalier Henry Tegner, of Copenhagen, Denmark.

DEATH.

At his residence, No. 266, Bluff, on 29th Oct., WILLIAM BARRIE, aged 49. Chief Superintendent Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Yokohama.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE new Ministry has resolved to proceed with the revision of the Dreyfus case.

THE closing cricket-match of the season takes place in Yokohama this afternoon.

THE Diet is convened to meet on Monday, and a position of considerable difficulty has to be faced.

HONGKONG wishes to have a crew from Yokohama rowing in its regatta during Christmas week. Yokohama would like to accept the invitation, but it is doubtful if it can be managed.

THE old Constitutional party has been dissolved and a new one at once evolved from among the original Liberals.

FOR the first time for many years the 3rd of November—the Emperor's Birthday—turned out a pouring wet day.

THE Foreign Minister's Ball at the Imperial Hotel on the 3rd inst. was a huge affair, being most numerously attended.

MAJOR MARCHAND has quitted Fashoda and awaits orders at Cairo. France is said to have repudiated his taking of Fashoda.

MR. A. B. BROWN read a review of "The Dreamers of the Ghetto" at last night's meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society.

THE Hantan Railway Company on the 27th ult. held a general meeting. A dividend is to be declared at 4 per cent. per annum.

SIR Herbert Kitchener has arrived in London. He escaped with difficulty from the frantic enthusiasm of a colossal crowd.

SEVERAL foreigners have been assaulted in Peking and vicinity during the week: there has also been some rioting in Shameen, Canton.

MESSRS. FURUKAWA, MINAKAWA, and others have decided to establish a Jinrikisha Manufacturing Company with a capital of *yen* 250,000.

TWO Formosans who recently rose against the Government were sentenced to death, and on the 13th ultimo received the penalty in Taipeh Prison.

THE *Jitsugyo Shimpo*, in Hiroshima Prefecture, was suspended on the 28th ult., for having published an item prejudicial to public decency.

THE barque *Duchess Anne*, from Hongkong has arrived at San Francisco with plague on board. The Captain and a sailor died on the voyage.

THE Emperor William after a triumphal entry into Jerusalem, has felt compelled to cut his tour in Palestine short, owing to the threatening political aspect of Europe.

GENERAL Chang-tze Tung has decided to send to Japan ten military officials to witness the grand manœuvres. It is expected that they will leave Shanghai on the 5th inst.

ON the 27th ult., the Kimpen Railway Company held a general meeting and decided to raise debentures to the amount of *yen* 800,000, bearing interest at the rate of 10 per cent.

THE four prisoners in Kosuge Jail who injured a jailor named Sugi were on the 29th ult. sentenced at the Tokyo District Court to two years' further imprisonment with hard labour.

ENGLAND is steadily preparing for warlike emergencies. The fleet has been warned at all stations, at home and abroad, and there is talk of mobilizing the militia and volunteers.

THE political crisis continues and the Cabinet have resigned. The Emperor has summoned Marquis Yamagata and Marquis Ito, as well as some other of the older statesmen, to consult on the best course to pursue.

THE Japanese Squadron now at Yokohama with Admiral Ito on board the flagship *Fuji* on the 3rd, but owing to the incessant downpour of rain hardly any of the foreign community put in an appearance.

A TELEGRAM from Sapporo states that on the 26th ult., 76 officials and 32 employés were discharged from the Hokkaido Government Office, under the new administrative regulations.

SOME 200 prominent *soshi* have organized an association under the name of *Tenchu-Kumi* (Society for the Punishment of Heaven.) They have decided to sacrifice their lives in the interests of national affairs.

THE American commissioners at the Paris Peace Conference have demanded the absolute cession of the Philippines. The Commission has agreed on the Cuban question, the Spanish Commissioners having yielded on the subject of the Cuban Debt.

As the result of the Administrative Reforms, the Raw-silk Inspection office in Kobe may possibly be abolished. On the 26th ultimo the silk traders held a conference at the Chamber of Commerce and decided to ask the Government not to do away with the office.

POLITICS are still in a disturbed condition in China. The Emperor is said to be still alive, but kept in rigorous confinement. Meanwhile the Government has had to withdraw its Manchurian levies from the capital in deference to the wishes of the Foreign representatives.

KAMEYO (22), widow of Kosaka, a policeman belonging to the Hokuto Police Station, Taichu Prefecture, Formosa, who was killed in a fight with rebels on the 13th ultimo, has committed suicide by cutting her throat with a short sword, after murdering her only son, aged 5 years.

MR. WILLIAM BARRIE, for many years Superintendent Engineer of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, died on Saturday morning. His remains were interred in Yokohama Cemetery on Sunday amid tokens of universal regret and sympathy.

ON the 25th ultimo, Marquis Tokudaiji, Viscount Tanaka, Minister of the Imperial Household, Princes Konoye, Iwakura, Kujo, the high officials and ladies of the Palace, 192 in all, presented a lacquered Cabinet to Count Hijikata, ex-Minister of the Imperial Household, in recognition of the manner in which he has filled the post for over 10 years. The cabinet cost about *yen* 3 000.

IN imports the past week has been, on the whole, a dull one. There has been practically no demand for yarns and textiles, Italian cloths being the only goods for which any enquiry at all exists. In metals there has been a fair all round demand, but prices are mentioned generally under home cost. There has been some business in iron plates and sheets. Kerosine commands a brisk trade at a further advance in prices, and a steady trade has been done in sugar. As regards exports there has been little doing in raw silk. The demand is now almost exclusively from America, and only a moderate business has been done at declining prices. The market closes weak. Holders are anxious to sell. The waste silk market is quiet and lifeless. In tea little is doing. Only teas from 22 to 23 *yen* per picul are in demand. There are about 7,500 piculs, chiefly of the lower grades, in stock. The total settlements of tea amount to 200,309 piculs, compared with 237,900 piculs at the corresponding date of last year.

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THE POLITICAL CRISIS.

RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY.

Saturday, October 29.

There are some details to be added to what we have already written on the subject of Japanese politics. That Count Itagaki made a kind of appeal to the Emperor seems to be certain. The Liberal leader, proceeding on the assumption that the duty of organizing the Cabinet had been entrusted to him equally with Count Okuma, submitted to the Emperor a detailed account of everything that had taken place; laid down the principle that since the two parties had a corresponding share in maintaining the Ministry, the balance of power ought to be duly preserved between them; claimed that the Liberals had hitherto conceded point after point to the Progressists, and finally declared that further concessions could not be made by his followers without sacrificing their self-respect and impairing their reputation. These representations, as we know, did not induce the Emperor to change his purpose. His Majesty had already given his sanction to the appointment of Mr. Inugai Ki in succession to Mr. Ozaki Yukio, and of course there could be no deviation from that arrangement. But it would seem that the Sovereign suggested to Count Okuma the expediency of seeking to placate the Liberal leader and his followers. Count Okuma, however, assured His Majesty that no way of achieving that object presented itself consistently with the interests of the public service. The energies of the Government were exhausted, His Excellency said, in the effort to reconcile conflicting claims which had nothing to do with the discharge of State business, and, although the effort might be successfully repeated on the present occasion, it would only prove the precursor of fresh friction. The Emperor did not press the point, but after the ceremony of commissioning Mr. Inugai had been completed, His Majesty sent for Marquis Saigo and Viscount Katsura, Ministers of the Navy and of War, and directed them to convey to Count Itagaki a message in the sense that the latter's resignation would be subversive of the basis on which the present Ministry had been founded, and that, even though the breach between the Liberals and the Progressists could not be bridged, Count Itagaki's continued tenure of office seemed desirable. It will be understood by our readers, of course, that the details of Count Okuma's conversation with the Sovereign and of His Majesty's communication to the Liberal leader are not set down here with any claim to absolute accuracy. Enough seems to have leaked out, however, to justify the summary we have given. It remains to be seen what effect His Majesty's message will exercise upon the situation. That Count Itagaki's resignation will not be presented immediately, in the face of the Sovereign's gracious suggestion, may be taken for granted. But we doubt whether it would have been presented immediately in any case. The general meeting of the Constitutional Party, which takes place on the 1st proximo, would probably have been awaited, for, although the Liberal leaders assembled in Tokyo may be resolved to sever their connexion with the Progressists, it is naturally a matter of great importance for them to be sure that they carry the bulk of their Party with them. The discussion of the two parties in the Diet, it is difficult at the meeting on the 1st proximo will be an event in Japan's history. Its issue may be regarded as a foregone conclusion, but each side will nevertheless have an object to compass. The Progressists will seek to convict the Liberals of thrusting petty issues into the domain of great administrative problems, and of sacrificing the *entente* between the parties on the altar of personal ambitions. The Liberals will endeavour to prove that they have been intolerably differentiated against, and will claim, above all, that for the sake of the *entente* they suffered their fundamental political principles to lie in abeyance—namely, the placing of the finances on a sound basis and the introduction of foreign capital by means of the state purchase of private railways—which principles it will be their prime object to force upon the attention of the meeting, so that their flag of secession may carry some legend worthy of the occasion. The disruption of the Constitutional Party will follow; or, rather, its dissolution into its original elements. Among all the vernacular newspapers which have hitherto discussed the subject, Liberal organs, Progressist organs, independent organs, National Unionist organs, and Opposition organs, there is not one which suggests the possibility of healing the breach now created. Separation being within measurable distance, then, the very interesting question presents itself, how will the political future be shaped? In making any forecast of that nature, we have to take prominent note of Count Okuma's attitude. Without passing to balance the qualities displayed in his treatment of the Liberals since the amalgamation, we are constrained to express entire approval of his procedure at the present juncture. He has put down his foot firmly when to keep it raised any longer in mid air would have been to reduce party Government to a fiasco. We may truly represent him as having defined two courses only for the Liberals' choice, separation or submission. There was no *via media*; no suggestion of compromise. To do the Liberals justice, they seem to have put strong curb upon themselves. Finding that their objection to Mr. Inugai had no chance of recognition, they intimated that if the portfolio of Education were given to their candidate, Mr. Hoshi, they would offer no opposition to Dr. Hatoyama's appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs. That was rejected. Then they proposed that a non-party candidate for the Educational portfolio should be nominated by the Ministers of War and of the Navy. That, too, was rejected. In short, Count Okuma had made up his mind that the Cabinet must have one head only, and, if the Liberals would not recognise his authority, they must pass out of the camp or drive him out. It was a challenge to a struggle for supremacy, and we applaud it because for some time back our often-expressed belief has been that futile attempts to hold the two parties together were paralysing the Cabinet's capacity for usefulness. The combat, then, is to take place. The general meeting of the Constitutional Party on the first will open the campaign by marshalling the combatants in their respective camps. Then, when the Diet assembles, there will be an open trial of strength, probably centred on a vote of want of confidence introduced by the Liberals. As to the relative strength to make any exact estimate. Each has now about 90 members openly wearing its uniform. If there be any difference, it is in favour of the Progressists. Let us suppose that the Progressists command 98 votes in the Lower House and the Liberals 90. The latter, on setting up a separate flag, will at once obtain the allegiance of 25 National Unionists, so that the Liberal main body will total 115 against 98 on the Progressist side. It is calculated that there are 60 so-called "Independent" members now affiliated to the Constitutional Party, and the bulk of them are understood to be in sympathy with the Progressists. If we apportion these in the ratio of 40 to 20, the result is that the present Constitutional Party, its followers, and the National Unionists, will be divided into two camps, Count Okuma's camp containing 138 inmates, and Count Itagaki's 135. There remain 27 members of uncertain complexion in the Lower House. It seems likely that a majority of them will be found in opposition to Count Okuma, since they have not hitherto identified themselves in any way with the Constitutional Party. Hence, the final result is that a purely Progressist Cabinet is not likely to have a majority in the Lower House; or, at any rate, will have a majority too slender to be trustworthy. On the other hand, it would be opposed by a very strong majority in the Peers. We are disposed to predict, then, that if the *Kensei-to* breaks up, the Cabinet will not be able to carry its measures through the Diet, and will have to appeal to the country. That means another general election in February, and the postponement of financial adjustment for another year. There is nothing at all disturbing in these happenings. The Japanese can not expect to walk dry-shod where all other nations have had to wade through a sea of trouble and turmoil. The only source of uneasiness and regret is that Japan's domestic difficulties should culminate at a time of Oriental crisis.

Monday, October 31.

The political situation has developed a phase which is not without comical aspects. Of course it has long been plain that the Liberals and the Progressists were held together chiefly by the reluctance of each to leave the Constitutional citadel in the occupation of the other. The *Kensei-to* (Constitutional Party) owed its origin to the union of the Progressists and the Liberals, and naturally neither Progressists nor Liberals were willing to secede from the Party, abandoning the advantages of its organization, its name, and its prestige to the other side. Hence it was supposed that, although administrative cöoperation between the Liberal and the Progressist Ministers became virtually impossible in the sequel of the Ozaki affair, Count Itagaki, Mr. Hayashi, and Mr. Matsuda would refrain from resigning until after the general meeting of the Constitutional Party on the 1st instant. At the meeting they could have proposed the dissolution of the Party and their chances of carrying the proposal would not have been hopeless, while success would have invested them with the title of Party's real founders, and given them the place of prëeminence in the political field. Such a result was worth struggling for, and they could have found in the Emperor's message a good pretext for postponing

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their resignations. For His Majesty sent Marquis Saigo and Viscount Katsura to Count Itagaki as bearers of a suggestion that a reconciliation should be effected. By that time, however, Count Itagaki and his friends had evidently resolved upon a very resolute course. The message from the Throne, conveyed to the Minister of Home Affairs on the evening of the 27th, was answered by him on the morning of the 28th, in the sense that not the smallest prospect of a reconciliation could be discerned. Viscount Katsura carried that answer to the Palace on the afternoon of the same day, and on the 29th, the three Liberal Ministers, Count Itagaki, Mr. Hayashi (Communications) and Mr. Matsuda (Finance), together with all the high-class officicals of Liberal complexion who had received their posts from the present Cabinet, handed in their resignations. In the meanwhile, however, they and their friends had taken the step to which we have alluded as somewhat comical. We shall explain it in detail, because it has led to a situation which promises to have very curious and interesting developments.

The general meeting of the Constitutional Party has, for some time, been fixed to take place on the 1st of November. But it was considered expedient that a conference meeting should be held as a preliminary, and with that object the representatives of the Party were invited to come to Tokyo by the evening of the 28th of October, at latest. At the eleventh hour, however, Mr. Ozaki's resignation and the resulting complications disturbed the arrangements, and the date of the conference meeting became uncertain. But on the morning of October 28th, the Liberal members of the General Business Committee, Messrs. Ebara and Kataoka, acting on a resolve adopted the previous day by their Liberal friends, proceeded to the head office of the Party, and, after some difficulty, obtained the attendance of Baron Kusumoto, one of the Progressist members of the Committee. The other Progressist member, Mr. Inugai, could not attend, having been summoned to the Palace. Messrs. Ebara and Kataoka then invited Baron Kusumoto to cöoperate in summoning the conference meeting for the 29th, as originally planned. Their view was that recent incidents made the meeting more than ever necessary, and that no time should be lost in convening it. Baron Kusumoto demurred, but, after some discussion which need not be repeated here, he finally consented, and the notices were sent out in the name of the Committee. We are here giving the Liberals' version, the only version that has appeared. That evening, Baron Kusumoto and Mr. Inugai sent to Messrs. Ebara and Kataoka an intimation that the Progressists objected to the summoning of the conference meeting on the following day. The Liberals, however, resolved to adhere to the course already entered upon, and at 10.30 a.m. on the 29th, the conference meeting took place in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association at Kanda. Mr. Ebara, having been voted to the chair, made a detailed statement of the events which had preceded the meeting, and invited those present—they numbered about 300—to say whether the decision of an assembly held under such circumstances would be legally binding upon the wholly Party. The answer was in the affirmative, *nem con*. Then the meeting voted to assume a "general" character, and on the motion on Mr. Soyano, seconded by Mr. Hoshi, it was unanimously resolved that the Constitutional Party be dissolved. Thereafter a proposition was submitted that, as a strong political association was a necessity of the time, a new "Constitutional Party" should be formed at once. This was adopted amid tumultuous applause, whereupon a declaration of principles as well as a draft of rules were read and approved, a General Business Committee, consisting of Messrs. Ebara, Kataoka, and Hoshi, were elected, four managers were nominated, and with thunderous cheers for the Emperor and the Constitutional Party, the meeting broke up at 11.30 a.m.

The result of this remarkable move is that there are two Richmonds in the field. The Liberals of course assert that there is only one, namely, the one just called into being by themselves. But the Progressists claim that the *Kensei-to* can not be dissolved without the consent or knowledge of a moiety of its members, and that it consequently exists as substantially as ever. How is the matter to be settled? It looks at present as though the police would have to settle the question. For the law requires that every newly organized political party shall be registered, and that notice shall be given of the dissolution of any registered party. These measures have been taken by the Liberal leaders. They have duly notified the police of the dissolution of the old Constitutional Party and of the organization of a new one, whereas the Progressist leaders, on their side, have entered a protest, denying the dissolution. The decision of the police will have to be made known on the 1st instant, for the Progressists intend to hold the general meeting of the Party on that day, as orginally fixed, and, of course, if the Party has ceased to have any officially recognised existence, its public assembly will be contrary to law. Meanwhile the Liberals retain possession of the Party's head office. That is a strong point in their favour. An attempt was made to dislodge them on the evening of the 29th. A large party of *Soshi*, about a hundred strong according to rumour, assembled at the Fukuzumi-ro in Shiba Park, under the leadership of the notorious Yendo Hidekage, Oi Kentaro, and Yagihara Ranshi. Their ranks are said to have included bath-house servants and journeymen shoemakers. Carrying weapons of various kinds, they marched to the head-quarters of the Party. What ensued is uncertain. Various versions are circulated. It is at all events known that no fracas occurred. The would-be assailants found, not the Liberals, but the police in possession, and were persuaded to disperse. Afterwards a party of Liberal *Soshi* arrived upon the scene, bent upon re-capturing the citadel which they expected to find occupied by their enemies, but they, too, owing to the adroit management of the police, had a bootless errant. There is a report that the Progressist *Soshi* subsequently surrounded Mr. Hoshi's house, and that they vowed to wreak summary vengeance on Messrs. Tatsuno and Kagami, but as yet they have not harmed anyone. It is rumoured, indeed, that Mr. Shimada Saburo was attacked by a man carrying a short sword on the night of the 28th, but, if he received any injury, it was of the most trifling nature.

Count Itagaki's memorial to the Throne when submitting his resignation has been published. It is a lengthy document, but a few words will suffice to convey its gist to our readers. The Liberal leader commences with a kind of apology for the crisis. He claims that when he received the Emperor's mandate to form a Cabinet, he did not find time to pre-concert with his colleague (Count Okuma) a full scheme of administrative procedure, and that, although making many sacrifices of his own views, he found it impossible, as the months went by, to cöoperate harmoniously with the Premier. He then proceeds to specific charges; namely, that Count Okuma rejected his (Count Itagaki's) representations in the matter of Mr. Ozaki's improper speech, and arbitrarily recommended Mr. Ozaki's successor without the approval of the Cabinet. Hence to attempt to continue the union could only have the effect of embarrassing the conduct of State affairs, and so the memorialist, having duly complied with the conventional etiquette of laying the blame upon his own incompetence, asks to be relieved of office.

The Emperor has spared no pains to adjust this difficulty. Not only did His Majesty send Marquis Saigo and Vicount Katsura to dissuade Count Itagaki from resigning, but, upon receipt of the latter's resignation, Prince Iwakura was despatched from the Palace to induce him to re-consider his resolve, and to remain in office himself, even though the other Liberal Ministers resigned. The Emperor evidently has great faith in his old servants. Even after this second intervention had failed, Prince Iwakura is said to have proceeded, in his private capacity, to the Count's residence, and urged him to reflect more maturely. But of course the situation has become intolerable to both sides, and we can not but regret that His Majesty is not advised of the fruitlessness of any attempt to readjust it.

It is alleged, with how much truth we can not say, that Count Itagaki, in his replies to the Sovereign's gracious messages, insisted somewhat strongly on Count Okuma's obligation to resign simultaneously with himself, inasmuch as their cöoperation had been the basis of the Cabinet's formation and their separation should be the signal for its dissolution. We think it highly improbable that Count Itagaki held such language to the Sovereign, though his followers, and very likely he himself, entertain that view.

Meanwhile Count Okuma has met the situation with his usual courage. We are almost disposed to say that, he forced it, for the details of the story show that had he been willing to concede a little, the union might have been preserved. But the union had become an embarrassment, not an assistance, to the public service, and its termination was the best step that could be taken. At all events, on the 29th ultimo, Count Okuma is said to have proceeded to the Palace, and signified his readiness to carry on the Government without the assistance of the Liberals. The following is the Cabinet believed to have been suggested by the Premier:—

Home Affairs .....Mr. Inugai Ki.
Foreign Affairs.....Dr. Hatoyama Kazuo.
Justice .....Baron Kusumoto.
Communications .....Mr. Ohigashi Gitetsu.
Education .....Mr. Shimada Saburo.
Agriculture and Commerce .....Mr. Oishi Masami.
Finance .....Mr. Komuchi Tomotsune.

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There is some doubt about Mr. Shimada Saburo, his appointment to a foreign mission being also spoken of. The Emperor has not yet signified his approval of these names, and the *Kokumin Shimbun*—which seems to have now espoused the Liberal cause—says that unless the Imperial sanction is given speedily, the whole of the remaining Ministers will resign *en bloc*. It is also stated in well-informed circles that Count Okuma entertains the design of giving a portfolio to a member of the House of Peers—Viscount Tani, perhaps—so as to placate the Opposition in that branch of the Legislature.

Subsequently to the *coup* effected by the Liberals in appropriating the Party's name and monopolising its offices, the Progressists had their innings and made some sensational strokes. Meeting in Sawaicho, they duly resolved themselves into a conference assembly, and decided that the general meeting of the Constitutional Party should be held on the 1st proximo, as originally arranged. They then filled the vacancies in the organization made by the secession of the Liberals, and, having declared the latter's acts illegal, they passed a resolution for the expulsion of all members subscribing to the steps adopted by the Liberals. The situation therefore is that the Progressists expel the Liberals from a party which the latter have already dissolved, and that the meeting of the old *Kensei-to* on the 1st of November will not be attended by any members of the new *Kensei-to*.

Considerable interest attaches to the political programme of the new Constitutional Party formed by the Liberals. It is this :—

1.—To guard the Throne and maintain the Constitution.

2.—To give genuine effect to the system of party cabinets and make ministerial responsibility perfectly clear.

3.—To diminish the interference of the Central Government in provincial affairs and establish local autonomy.

4.—To foster the national strength and develop commerce.

5.—To place the finances on a sound basis and establish equilibrium between the income and expenditure of the State.

6.—To open a road for the inflow of capital from abroad, and to promote productive enterprises.

7.—To complete the military and naval armaments in due conformity with the national resources.

8.—To take immediate steps for developing the machinery of communication.

9. To extend education and to encourage the study of practical science.

It is plain that the fifth and sixth articles refer to an increase of the Land Tax and the purchase of private railways by the State.

As to the strength of parties in the Lower House, the Progressists claim that they certainly command 157 votes, and may find themselves still more strongly supported. The *Nichi Nichi* puts the numbers as they stood before the rupture thus :—

Progressists	108
Liberals	98
Independents affiliated with the Constitutional Party	57
National Unionists	20
Unattached	17

According to this estimate, the nucleus of the pro-Cabinet party numbers 108, and the nucleus of the Opposition, 118 (98 Liberals and 20 National Unionists). But there are no safe grounds for calculating the proportion in which the remaining 74 members will divide. That either side possesses a working majority seems doubtful.

As an example of the rumours now circulated in the interests of political parties, we may refer to the contents of an "extra" published by the *Jiumin* on the 29th ultimo. The story told is that Count Okuma proceeded to the Palace on the morning of the 28th, and informed His Majesty that the Liberals contemplated resorting to violence and intimidation at the general meeting of the Constitutional Party on the 1st proximo; that they had the control of the city police, and that the Progressists, on their side, desired to employ gendarmes and soldiers for the purpose of maintaining order. It would seem that there are some Japanese who can credit such canards. As a matter of fact, the Chief of Police, who is a Liberal, has resigned with all his official collegues, and the Liberals have no control of any kind over the police.

Tuesday, November 1.

It has been explained that Count Okuma, on the 29th ultimo, submitted for the Emperor's approval three names to fill the vacancies caused by the resignations of the Liberal holders of portfolios, and that unless His Majesty's consent were received by the 31st, the Premier and all the remaining members of the Cabinet would resign. The latter result was not anticipated by the public at large, but it has nevertheless occurred. The sequence of events appears to have been that Count Itagaki was to have proceeded to the Palace yesterday morning. His intention of resigning had not undergone any change, but in view of the repeated messages received from the Sovereign, a further explanation seemed necessary. However, as Marquis Saigo, who was to have accompanied the Count to the Court, did not arrive, the Liberal leader did not go to the Palace. At 10 a.m. the Prime Minister waited on the Emperor, to obtain His Majesty's consent to the resignations of the Liberal Ministers and the appointment of their successors. What passed is not yet known, but Count Okuma immediately afterwards submitted his resignation, and his example was followed by Messrs. Oishi, Ohigashi, and Inugai. It is understood that His Majesty has neither accepted the resignations of the Liberal Minister nor approved the names of the Progressists submitted as their successors. Of course we are not in a position to offer any confident explanation of the situation, but we infer that His Majesty desires to take wider counsel before adopting any final course. There can not be any idea of renewing the coalition between the Liberals and the Progressists. The breach between them at present is wider than it has been at any previous epoch of their history. Unless appearances are singularly deceptive, it is a breach that will never be healed, nor can any of Japan's well-wishers hope for its healing. If she is to have party government at all, there must be two strong parties in the field, each acting as a check on the other, and each ready at any moment to take the other's place. The separation of the Liberals and the Progressists is a step towards that end. The Emperor doubtless appreciates all those points. But it is possible that His Majesty is considerably distressed by the disturbing element which political parties have introduced into the administration of State affairs. Ever since party politicians began to make their influence felt, the instability of the Cabinet has been a constantly increasing quantity, and now, after taking the control out of the hands of statesmen whose achievements entitled them to the highest confidence, and placing it in the hands of men some of whom were quite untried, the Emperor finds greater instability than ever, and unparalleled confusion. If His Majesty hesitates what course to adopt, we can not be surprised. To foreign onlookers, however, the situation does not suggest any disquieting or extraordinary features. It would be altogether extravagant to expect that Japan's new constitutional garments should fit her perfectly from the first. They are too large for her. She has to grow into them, and of course the process is destined to be more or less awkward. There never was the smallest fraction of sincere patriotism or genuine political sentiment in the outcry against the "Clan Statesmen." The "Clan Statesmen" are the giants of modern Japan. Human giants, it is true, with human failings, but essentially great men begotten of the great crises with which they had to deal; men for whom history, written when its pages have ceased to be stained with the venom of jealousy and self-seeking, will have only the highest applause. Political parties whose coöperation was inspired chiefly by the destructive hope of pulling down the "Clan Statesmen," were not the nation's real friends, however they may have wished to befriend it. Some other motive was needed to qualify them for public respect and for the task of administering the government. We dare not say that they are yet healed of their dementia about the "Clan Statesmen," but it is something to know that their old shibboleth is utterly discredited, and that they are henceforth more likely to join hands with the Clan Statesmen than to join forces for a campaign against them. Japan is at length passing out of the epoch of persons and entering the era of principles. It is all in the day's work. She has now two parties who hate each other thoroughly, and who will soon discover the necessity of offering to the public some reasons for their hatred; intelligible reasons, since their recent doings have deprived them of the privilege of being taken any longer on trust. Their squabbles have been unsightly, and justly denounced as petty. But it appears to us quite irrelevant to talk about the dimensions of the subjects of dispute. The important fact is that the two parties were antipathetic, and their antipathy was due, in our opinion, to the false basis of their union.

The two parties held meetings on the 30th ultimo, the Progressists assembling at Dr. Hatoyama's official residence, the Liberals at the head-quarters of the Constitutional Party. We do not think that our readers care to have any detailed account of what passed. They will be interested, however, in Count Okuma's speech. "If this collision had occurred," he said, "in connexion with some important affair of state, it might not be regrettable. But the proximate cause has been a mere bagatelle; a matter of sentiment. Nothing could be more unfortunate or incomprehensible than that two political parties, having common principles and a common object, should be unable to work together at a time

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when so many and such urgent problems of domestic and foreign policy present themselves for solution. However, we can not undo the past. But as for our Party, we have the great bulk of the nation on our side. It will be our task henceforth to devote all our strength to carrying out the undertakings demanded by the country's interests, and completing the great work of the Restoration. We must stand forth with a manly and united front, not reposing undue confidence in our strength or despising the feebleness of our foe, but marching with circumspection and unswerving resolution to the attainment of our goal."

At the meeting of the Liberals—which seems to have been largely attended, the number reported being 500 against 300 at the Progressists' meeting—the most interesting incident was an announcement by Mr. Kagami, one of the Managers, that several hundreds of persons had applied to have their names enrolled in the Party's books, among them being Professor Oda Junichiro, Professor Otegawa—whose attacks upon Baron Iwasaki in the *Taiyo* we recently mentioned—, Mr. Takenokoshi (editor of the *Sekai-no-Nippon*), Mr. Wakamiya Seion—who was to have edited the newspaper said to be projected by Viscount Aoki—, Dr. Matsumoto Kumpei, editor of the *Dai-Nippon*, &c. Another speaker was Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi. He complained in severe terms of the use of *soshi* by the Progressists, and said that, whereas the latter had accused the Liberals of an intention to resort to force, they were themselves setting the example. He exhorted all members of the Liberal Party to behave with the utmost orderliness and circumspection.

Wednesday, November 2.

The Emperor seems to have resolved that the manner of exit from the political crisis shall not be determined until the elder statesmen have had an opportunity of offering their counsel. They have been summoned to the capital, and on Marquis Yamagata's arrival from Kyoto, which was expected last night, a conference is to be held at the Palace. It is believed, however, that no final measure will be adopted until Marquis Ito returns, and as His Excellency's departure from Shanghai is fixed for the 5th instant, he can scarcely reach Tokyo before the 14th. Meanwhile the business of the administration has to be carried on. If the system talked of some time ago had been adopted, namely, the appointment of two Vice-Ministers in each Department, one permanent, the other Parliamentary, a delay of a week in organizing the Cabinet might not greatly signify. But at present the Vice-Ministers—without a single exception, so far as we know—are party men, and neither they nor the Ministers are willing to accept any responsibility during the period of interregnum, so that the conduct of the administration is virtually at a stand-still. It is thought that the Emperor, who of course appreciates that phase of the situation, will ask Marquis Saigo to discharge the functions of Prime Minister as a temporary arrangement, and will keep the other members of the Cabinet at their posts—Count Okuma presiding at the Foreign Office—until a new Ministry can be organized. That exit from the difficulty might be nominally workable, but whether it would be tolerable for the Ministers themselves is another question. The rupture between the two parties is already sufficiently complete, and fresh fuel is added daily to the fire by public meetings and newspaper discussions. Under such circumstances, nothing seems to us more impracticable than to prolong the life of the coalition Cabinet even for a fortnight. The meeting of the Diet on the 7th instant accentuates the dilemma. Ministers who are on the eve of going out of office can not possibly submit to the Houses projects of law which the Ministers about to come into power, whoever they may be, have not assisted to frame and could not be expected to father. Even the Budget of the present Cabinet would probably be repudiated by its successor.

On the other hand, the Houses can not be left to occupy themselves entirely with private legislation. From every point of view, therefore, it would seem that some step must be taken without delay.

Count Itagaki's somewhat deferred audience took place on the 31st ultimo at 2 p.m., and is said to have lasted on hour and a half, the Emperor having been desirous of learning in full detail the views entertained by the Liberal leader. It seems to be inferred, with apparent justice, that the Emperor has shown special favour to the Liberals on the present occasion. Marquis Saigo, first, and then Prince Iwakura were sent by His Majesty to dissuade Count Itagaki from resigning, and yet another visit was made to him for the same purpose by Prince Iwakura, acting nominally in a private capacity but doubtless with the Sovereign's cognisance. There is nothing surprising in all this. The Liberals played the part of staunch allies to the Ito Cabinet throughout the Diet's session of 1896, and when, in consequence of his unwillingness to serve with Count Okuma, Count Itagaki tendered his resignation in 1897, Marquis Ito also resigned, and the Ito Ministry came to an end. From that time Count Itagaki and the party led by him became identified as Marquis Ito's natural supporters, and there can be no doubt that the Emperor so regards them. Indeed, on Marquis Ito's return to power at the commencement of the present year, every one was fully prepared for what actually took place, namely, renewed *entente* between the Liberals and the section of the elder statesmen led by Marquis Ito. If a rupture took place after the general elections last spring because the Marquis did not see his way to obtaining portfolios for one or two of the Liberal leaders, and if the Liberals subsequently combined with the Progressists to oppose the Government, the general public was fully persuaded that such a state of affairs could not be permanent. Speaking from our own knowledge we are able to say that even when the Ministry and the Diet were in the throes of their first conflict in 1891, Count Matsukata, then Prime Minister, had full faith in the Liberals' integrity of purpose and in their ultimate conversion to calmer counsels. In short, rightly or wrongly, it is universally believed, alike in the Palace and by the people, that the Liberals will ultimately receive into their ranks a majority of the elder statesmen, and there is consequently no difficulty in understanding the Emperor's disposition towards them.

The Progressists, on the other hand, have suffered in public estimation by their action on the present occasion. That they were right in forcing a final rupture with the Liberals, no impartial observer can doubt. To practical statesmen who have the interests of their country at heart and are charged with the responsibility of managing the affairs of the State, it must have been quite intolerable to find themselves reduced to a condition of official impotence by perpetual squabbles over party questions. But people say—and on points of this kind the instinct of the Japanese is unerring—that the Progressists alone would never have been entrusted with the duty of organizing a Cabinet last June. They received the Imperial mandate, and were recommended by Marquis Ito for its reception, because of their coalition with the Liberals. Hence from the moment of their rupture with the Liberals and the consequent resignation of the latter's ministerial representatives, the Progressists ought to have understood that the basis of their tenurd of power was gone, and should, therefore, have tendered their resignation. Their hesitation to take the latter step any their attempt to obtain a fresh mandate from the Sovereign, are regarded be many people as questionable proceedings, not reconcilable with the strict code of political ethics. It would be easy to construct a plausible defence of the Progressists' conduct, and, for our own part, we think that this blot upon their escutcheon will soon cease to be visible. But a great deal is made of it for the moment, and it is supplemented by the fact that the Liberals unquestionably stole a march on their rivals in their successful appropriation of the Constitutional Party's name and its offices. It is an old principle that parties refusing to play lose the match. No open disruption of the Constitutional Party had taken place when it held its conference meeting on the 29th ultimo. The Progressists could not invalidate the proceedings merely by absenting themselves from the meeting, especially when it had been summoned with their cognisance and consent. If they wanted to prevent the passage of any inconvenient resolutions, they should have assembled their forces so as to control the voting It must be confessed that the history of the Liberal Party does not abound with triumphs gained over the Progressists by tactful management or rapid seizure of occasions. We think, indeed, that the present is the very first example of the kind. Probably that fact leads to the incident a certain measure of fictitious importance. Still, it is not a small thing that nine out of every ten Japanese, were they consulted on the subject, would accord the victory to the Liberals. We find, therefore, that all the hypothetical Cabinets predicted by the press include the Liberals and exclude the Progressists. It is only a question of whether the Liberals will be the captains of the Ministry or only its subalterns. Here are the three "slates" which command most credence :—

No. 1.

Premier	Marquis Saigo
Home Affairs	Count Itagaki
Foreign Affairs	Mr. Hoshi
Finance	Count Matsukata
Navy	Marquis Saigo
Army	Viscount Katsura
Justice	Mr. Kiyoura
Agriculture and Commerce	Mr. Matsuda
Communications	Mr. Sone
Education	Mr. Sassa

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No. 2.

Premier	Marquis Yamagata
Home Affairs	Mr. Sone
Foreign Affairs	Baron Nishi
Finance	Count Matsukata
Navy	Marquis Saigo
Army	Viscount Katsura
Justice	Mr. Hoshi
Agriculture and Commerce	Count Itagaki
Communications	Mr. Sone
Education	Mr. Sassa

No. 3.

Premier	Count Itagaki
Home Affairs	Mr. Kioma
Foreign Affairs	Baron Ito
Finance	Viscount Watanabe
Navy	Marquis Saigo
Army	Viscount Katsura
Justice	Mr. Hoshi
Agriculture and Commerce	Mr. Sone
Communications	Baron Suyematsu
Education	Mr. Sassa

The National Unionists have decided to abandon their separate organization and enrol themselves frankly in the ranks of the Liberals. They are to hold a general meeting on the 6th instant for that purpose. The strength of the Liberal Party will thus be raised to 117 against the Progressists' 108. But the latter claim that with their affiliated members and sympathisers they command 157 votes in the Lower House, and we ourselves have received information from the most trustworthy source that the Liberals can not certainly count on more than 143. It will be seen, therefore, that the two estimates tally. The Progressists' majority, however, can scarcely be called a working majority, especially in the face of a large hostile plurality in the Upper House, where an Address to the Throne impeaching the Cabinet would certainly be passed were the Progressists in power.

Friday, November 4.

Nothing seems to have been yet determined about the new Cabinet. The general opinion is that the Emperor intends to await Marquis Ito's return, or to entrust to Marquis Yamagata the task of forming a Ministry in combination with the Liberals. We find difficulty in crediting either alternative. As to Marquis Yamagata, the probability of his accepting such a task is extremely remote. He must be well aware that only failure could be the outcome, and, besides, there are independent reasons for doubting his willingness to become Premier at the present juncture. On the other hand, with whatever expedition Marquis Ito moves, he can not be in Tokyo before the 11th, and the Diet opens on the 7th. Of course it is possible to postpone the Diet, but there is the additional difficulty that the Emperor himself has to set out for the autumn manœuvres on the 13th instant, so that, unless some final step be taken before the latter date, the present Cabinet would have to remain in office until after the 20th, when His Majesty returns from the south. That is a proceeding scarcely to be contemplated. On the whole, therefore, we fail to see that any arrangement is practicable except to place the matter in the hands of Count Okuma and the Progressists. They are willing to undertake the task; there can be no doubt about their ability, and they have a majority in the House of Representatives. As to the hostility of the Upper House, it would be practically disarmed if the Sovereign gave his mandate to the Progressist leader within three or four days of the Diet's opening. The Peers' threatened Address of impeachment must then be abandoned, for they could not, with any pretence of reason, base their appeal to the Throne on events antecedent to His Majesty's nomination of the Cabinet. After all, the choice at present lies between one of two courses: either to enforce the strict reading of the Constitution and hold the Cabinet entirely irresponsible to the Diet; or to let the evolution of party Government proceed undisturbed. It is conceivable that the former plan might become inevitable, but to resort to it now would certainly be premature. The latter alternative alone remains, therefore, and the plain method of adopting it is to leave the Progressists in power. If they can carry their Budget and their various projects of law through the Diet, then they are entitled to hold office. If they can not, then an appeal to the country would ensue, and its result could scarcely fail to give a working majority to one party or the other. We do not perceive the smallest reason to doubt that if Marquis Ito were now in Tokyo, he would advise the Emperor in the sense here indicated.

HOW THE HEAT WAS FELT IN ENGLAND.

The intense heat in England this year has caused some interesting comparisons. The total number of days on which the temperature reached and exceeded 90 degrees during a period of 57 years in England is only 49. July, the hottest month, contributing 28. With regard to the month of September there is only one instance, previous to this year, of a temperature of 90deg. having been exceeded. In Sept., 1868, the thermometer rose to 92deg. This compares with the recorded heat of one occasion last September when the thermometer reached the same point, and it nearly reached it on another day, the reading being 91deg., or only one degree less. On reference to the temperatures for the months of September, it is proved that out of 57 months on only 20 of them did the temperature reach, or exceed, 80 degrees. The years were 1846, 1848, 1854, 1857, 1858, 1861, 1865, 1868, 1869, 1871, 1872, 1875, 1880, 1884, 1886, 1889, 1891, 1893, 1895, 1898. In seven cases this temperature was only reached on one day, in two cases it occurred on five days, in 1895 it occurred on seven days, and in 1865 on nine days. This year it occurred on six days, the readings being 84, 84, 80, 86, 92, 91. Consequently last September, in addition to being the hottest on record, bids fair to hold the record for duration of heat. It is not generally known that London is the hottest place in the United Kingdom. In addition to the climatic influence, Londoners are deprived of the mitigating effects of the cooling breezes which prevail in the open country and on the coast; buildings cut off the air, pavements and houses reflect back the solar rays with an undiminished energy. From details furnished relative to the great heat, it seems that two of the busiest ambulance stations in London were those at St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Clement's Church, Strand. At the latter station as many as six cases of heat-stroke were treated daily, and the total number of cases at both stations was nearly a hundred.

The mental effect of the hot weather can be judged from the following paragraphs in the *Globe*:—

"It was 91 in my office yesterday." "Only 91? Why its been 98 in mine all this year."

Already there is talk of personally conducted Cook's tours to Khartoum next year. A kitchener always accelerates a cook's business.

The way to get yourself thoroughly disliked by your friends in the City in these days is to slap them on the back, and say in hearty tones, "Another nice, bright, sunny day, old chap!"

CHARGE AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER.

The *Kwanto* club has certainly distinguished itself for activity. Under the leadership of Mr. Hoshi Toru, it has proved a veritable mine of explosives, and its destructive efforts are evidently destined to extend beyond the shattering of the Constitutional Partly. In a previous issue we reported the resolutions adopted by the Club at a recent meeting—a resolution denouncing the Minister of Education for his "republican speech," and a resolution declaring that Mr. Ohigashi's tenure of the Portfolio of Justice after his defeat in the Yokota affair, was unbecoming. The Club has now held another meeting and framed another indictment. This time the attack is directed against Count Okuma, and copies of the club's resolutions have been widely circulated, a committee being also appointed to enlist the sympathies of the Privy Councillors and other men of influence within and without the Government. Here are the resolutions in brief:—(1) That in spite of the representations of his colleagues in the Cabinet, Count Okuma took no notice of the "republican speech" of Mr. Ozaki Yukio, so that the matter finally became a source of solicitude to the Sovereign himself. (2) That, without awaiting the result of the Cabinet's consultation, Count Okuma decided to recommend a successor to Mr. Ozaki, thereby showing his unfitness to discharge the functions of Prime Minister. (3) That in a speech delivered by him at the meeting of the Oriental Society on the 19th of October, Count Okuma used the following words:—"The vicissitudes and mutations that have hitherto taken place in China have been merely changes of the head of the State; in other words, changes of dynasty. They have no specially noteworthy features. From the Chinese point of view, the national polity ever since the time of Shun and Giau has been a species of popular Government, and I therefore regard popular Government as the proper outcome of revolution (*sunawachi minshiu-teki kakumei wa watakushi no seiri to mitomu*)"—language unbecoming in the mouth of a Japanese subject, above all when that subject is the Home Minister of State and also the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

It will be seen that the object of the *Kwanto* Club is to attribute to Count Okuma an open expression of republican sentiment analogous to that read by Mr. Ozaki's enemies between the lines of his speech before the Educational Society. Could this charge be established, a short step would lead to the inference that Count Okuma's refusal to censure Mr. Ozaki's words was due to his own sympathy with the principle they embodied. It becomes, therefore, a question of some interest to determine whether Count Okuma really did employ such language; really did declare himself of the opinion that popular Government is the proper outcome of revolution. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* enables us to answer. The *Nichi Nichi* is not favourable to Count Okuma; on the contrary, it occupies the leading place among his assailants. But it believes in justice before everything, and it therefore points out that, though the stenographic report published by the *Jiji Shimpo* certainly does contain the words attributed by the *Kwanto* Club to Count Okuma, the stenographic report of

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the *Nichi Nichi* itself gives a different version. What it represents the Count as having said is this:—"The vicissitudes and mutations that have hitherto taken place in China have been merely changes of the head of the State; in other words, changes of dynasty. They have presented no specially noteworthy features. Thus, since the time of Shun and Giau the political tendency has been to regard a species of popular government as the proper outcome of revolution, and in a country where that view obtains, a change of the head of the State counts for nothing (*Giyo Shun irai no shugi ga isshu no minshuteki kakumei wo seiri to mitomerareta isshu no kunigara ni oite shukenja ga kawaru wa nandemo nai*). Come when it may, it counts for nothing. Let the Government be only humane, everyone submits to it." The Kwanto Club doubtless took the *Jiji's* version in good faith, not merely because of the high standing of that journal, but also because of its plainly evinced tendency to support the Okuma Cabinet. It is easy to see how a slight stenographic error might have materially changed the import of the speech, but, at the same time, we should have thought that the utter incredibility of the Prime Minister's publicly pronouncing himself in favour of popular government compassed by revolution, should have made the *Kwanto* Club pause before preferring such an accusation. The thing is not serious: it is essentially frivolous.

VARIOUS VIEWS.

The wit of man can not control the ends towards which his natural disposition drives him. Count Okuma is undoubtedly clever and resourceful, but he lacks sincerity. That is the true cause of the rupture between the Progressists and the Liberals. Critics talk of the pettiness of disputing about the balance of power, but the Coalition Cabinet was originally based on the principle of the balance of power. Unless the foundation was preserved, the superstructure must fall. Count Itagaki has played his part loyally. He has exhausted every resource of conciliation. Count Okuma may deceive his followers, but he can not deceive the nation. The confidence of the nation will be accorded to the Liberals. In full view of 45 millions of their fellow-subjects, they will stand forth and tread a plain straightforward path.—(*Jimmin.*)

Is Count Itagaki a statesman? The public doubts it; we doubt it. Ebara and Kataoka are men of conciliatory ways, but they have not sufficient knowledge of the world to enlarge their leader's narrow views. Itagaki is a man of unquestionable probity. Astuteness, however, he lacks. He and his party are in imminent danger of becoming tools of the Clan Statesmen.—(*Hochi Shimbun.*)

Ah, party-men! After a brief four months of union you stand once more arrayed against each other. It has been a long dream, and no results greet the awakening. Who, in the face of such incidents, can fail to be a pessimist? But there is happily one bright spot in the gloom—the Red Cross Society. Its noble aims and its signal successes show that something worthy to work for still exists. But as for these Liberals and Progressists, with their endless bickerings and petty squabbles, we give them up as utterly hopeless.—(*Yomiuri Shimbun.*)

The times are out of joint. Questions of the balance of power and the organization or dissolution of parties throw politicians into a fever of excitement, but the affairs of their country scarcely receive passing notice from them. They are not qualified for party government. We have often said so. There are no real parties in the country. We have long been aware of the fact. But we did not expect that the parties themselves would make open confession of their incapacity by their acts, nor can we pretend to be pleased because our judgment has been verified. Can not the Liberals turn their backs upon these paltry disputes and wranglings? Can they not obey the positive policy in which they profess to believe? Can they not stand forth stoutly as advocates of currency adjustment, the replenishing of the country's floating capital, and other genuinely useful issues?—(*Kokumin Shimbun.*)

The Liberals have made a great mistake. Count Itagaki must have known perfectly well that he could not work with Count Okuma. He can not have forgotten what happened the year before last when Marquis Ito would have brought Counts Okuma and Matsukata into the Cabinet. He can not have forgotten how he (Itagaki) declared his willingness to serve with the latter, but his hopelessness of working with the former. Why did he attempt to form a coalition four months ago? And why is he now indignant? If one sets out on a journey with a foot-pad for companion, one must be prepared to find one's money missing before the gaol is reached. The balance of power was a thing to be settled at the beginning, not a thing to be brought forward at the end. Count Itagaki allowed his own positive policy to be buried under political ambitions. He, his followers, and his colleagues seem to have lost all sense of propriety. It was their plain duty to resign *en masse* when Mr. Ozaki resigned. Instead of resigning, they began to dispute about his successor. But happily the Liberals have recovered their senses. They have had a bitter experience, and it is to be hoped that they will profit by it.—(*Chuo Shimbun.*)

This rupture which has now taken place between the parties is a step of political progress. The Cabinet has hitherto been merely a clan stem with some party branches grafted on it. Had it continued to grow on the same lines, it would ultimately have reproduced all the clan abuses in party guise. But at last genuine party government has been secured. Nothing remains except to faithfully follow the route now opened.—(*Jiji Shimpo.*)

THE POLICE AND THE PARTIES.

The men entrusted with the duty of organizing the general meeting of the old Constitutional Party on the 1st instant showed extraordinary capacity for management. They brought everything within such a perfect and precise scheme of arrangement, that from the time when the chairman called the meeting to order until the time when its cheers for the Emperor before dispersing made the streets ring, an interval of only two minutes is said to have elapsed. Even granting that rumour has done herself double justice in this instance, we may fairly conclude that not more than eight or ten minutes were needed to vote a political platform, elect a general business committee, and pass a motion entrusting all other details to the Party's representatives. A remarkable feat that, and if our readers ask the reason of such lightning expedition, the answer is, fear of police interruption. The incident will go down in history, not merely because a great political party, including among its leaders the Premier and other Cabinet Ministers, was compelled to resort to such hole-and-corner haste, but because of the singular anomaly of the whole proceeding. The police, three days previously, had accepted and duly recorded a notification of the dissolution of the Party. To do them justice, they seem to have acted thus far in strict accord with propriety. Their view is that it is no part of their duty to decide between the claims of rival parties: they have simply to recognise and act upon any notices given to them in accordance with the form prescribed by regulation. Such a notice was that conveyed to them by the accredited representative of the Constitutional Party on the 29th ultimo. From that time only one Constitutional Party existed in their field of legal vision, the new Constitutional Party organized by the Liberals. But now comes the anomaly. On the 31st of October, the old Constitutional Party—the legally defunct Party—gave notice, as required by law, of its intention to hold a general meeting the following day. The police did not say a word. They accepted the notice without protest, though the old Constitutional Party had been erased from the register, and therefore had its right to hold meetings. Did not the police, by accepting the notice without protest, constructively recognise the Party's right to meet, and did they not forfeit their own right to interfere subsequently? It would seem that each question must be answered in the affirmative. Yet the answers furnished by facts are negative in both cases. For the police did actually interfere by ordering the meeting to disperse, and the managers of the Party, instead of construing the tacit acceptance of the notice as an admission of its legality, reduced the proceedings of the meeting to such small compass that everything was over before the police put in an appearance. On the one side there was interference irreconcilable with previous acquiescence; on the other, hurried brevity inconsistent with confidence in the legality of the proceedings. And now, finally, we have bitter complaints of the partisanship of the police, and confident inferences that the Chief of Police ought not to be a party politician. Of course he ought not to be a party politician. No man in the Empire, not even the judges on the bench, ought to be freer from every taint of political bias. But surely that is not a new discovery. It was made long ago in Japan, and the amusing point is that, whereas the party organs used to cry out against the abuse of appointing a Satsuma man to the post inasmuch as he acted in the interests of "Clan Statesmen," they entered no protest against the appointment of a Liberal partisan to the same post when the parties came into power. Perhaps this duel between the two *Kenseito* may be the means of removing an important official position from the catalogue of the "spoils." Perhaps, also, the present Ministerial interregnum may exercise a similarly wholesome influence upon the post of Vice-Minister. At the present

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moment, not one Department of State, except the Departments of War and of the Navy, has either a Minister or a Vice-Minister in the full discharge of his duties. It is not an agreeable spectacle for the party politicians. Looking around them at the present moment, they must see that were it not for the much-abused "clan officials," the administrative machine would be absolutely motionless.

As to the police, there is one word to be said. They are charged with having acted in the interests of the Liberal Party and in defiance of justice. But it seems to us that they scarcely deserve the accusation. The *Yomiuri Shimbun*, for example, their chief assailant, is particularly censorious because they did not reject the notice given on the 31st ultimo if they intended to interfere with the meeting on the 1st instant. Yes, but had they refused to accept the notice, the meeting could not have been held at all. The solid fact is that the meeting was actually held, and that it got through its business successfully. Its organisers attribute the success to their own adroit management. But surely they do not pretend to think that the police could not have effectually prevented the meeting had they been so minded? In our opinion, the police, placed in a very difficult position, showed discretion for which they are to be congratulated.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

The telegrams sent eastward by Reuter are very warlike just at present. They suggest that England either intends to take some strong measure on her own account or that she regards war as inevitable. But we are disposed to think that Reuter's agents are exaggerating. If the British Government had really resorted to such a significant step as the mobilization of the Militia and the Volunteers, it is scarcely credible that news of the fact would not have been received officially in Tokyo, and that private telegrams would not have reached the leading British firms in Yokohama. But nothing seems to have come to either quarter, not does it appear that consols or the rate of discount has been affected. On the whole the most probable explanation would seem to be that uncertainty is felt in England about France's mood. The former French Cabinet may have been willing, and the French nation may be still willing, to settle the African question peacefully, but until France's domestic affairs enter a quieter phase, there can be no assurance that a foreign war will not become a welcome alternative to her at any moment. England doubtless thinks it wise to be prepared for contingencies, and her preparations are probably misconstrued and magnified.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

The Birthday honours in Japan seem to be confined to a step in military rank for the Prince Imperial. His Imperial Highness is promoted to be a Major in the Army and a Commander in the Navy. The Prince is now in Kyoto. We learn that although his health is good he has been losing weight recently, and the Emperor has expressed some anxiety on the subject.

A JOURNALISITC INCIDENT.

The *Sekai-no-Nippon* is a periodical issued weekly and edited by Mr. Takenokoshi, a writer of great force and skill. On the 31st ultimo, a notification appeared in the *Official Gazette* to the effect that, legal proceedings having been instituted against the Magazine under the 32rd Article of the Press Law, its issue of the 29th ultimo had been seized by the authorities pending a judicial verdict, and all journals throughout the empire were forbidden to reproduce the incriminated matter. The 32nd Article of the Press Law says:—"Should a newspaper or periodical publish an article calculated to impair the dignity of the Throne, or to disturb the polity of the empire, or to subvert the administrative authority, the publisher, printer, and editor of the said newspaper or periodical shall be each and severally liable to minor imprisonment for a term of not less than 2 months and not more than two years, together with a fine of from 50 *yen* to 300 *yen*, and the plant used in the publication of the incriminated matter may be confiscated." It is under the first of these counts that the *Sekai-no-Nippon* had laid itself open to prosecution. It published an essay entitled "A Cabinet of Chamberlains," the theme being Mr. Ozaki Yukio's loss of his portfolio. The writer's line of argument—set forth with all the graces of style and strength of language that Mr. Takenokoshi commands—was that when the Sovereign announced an objection to Mr. Ozaki's continued tenure of office, the Prime Minister should have remonstrated, and if his remonstrance proved unavailing, should have resigned together with the whole Cabinet. This contention is not based on any hypothesis of Mr. Ozaki's blamelessness. The writer does not discuss that point at all. He confines himself to the relation between the Throne and the Ministry, and his view of that relation is that the Sovereign is constitutionally debarred from taking any initiative in such matters, but must always await the advice of his Ministers. In short, according to Mr. Takenokoshi's view, the Emperor governs by and through his Cabinet, and is not constitutionally competent to undertake the direct administration of State affairs. Hence, when his Majesty stepped out of the constitutional groove, and, without previously consulting the Prime Minister, intimated the desirability of removing a certain portfolio-holder, he signified want of confidence in the Cabinet, which ought, consequently, to have protested resolutely and resigned finally in the event of its protest being disregarded, whereas what the Ministry really did was merely to engage in a dispute as to Mr. Ozaki's successor. We dare say that, up to this point, the writer's opinions might have been ventilated without provoking legal prosecution. But the essay is not without sensational embroidery. The writer does not confine himself to a calm discussion of the constitutional question. He uses the latter as a peg to make a strong attack upon the Okuma Cabinet, whom he calls a party of subservient chamberlains; he says very plainly that even China, with its oppressive polity, is better than Japan, since machinery exists in the former country for protesting against the Throne's action, and he alleges that similar trespasses on the Sovereign's part were not altogether wanting when the Ito and Yamagata Cabinets were in power, but that those Ministers knew their duty and did it. It is impossible not to admire the courage of an essayist who ventures to propound such views openly in Japan, but one feels that if Mr. Takenokoshi could have ruled his political bias out of the essay, his position would have been more dignified and effective, for in his efforts to heap discredit on the head of Count Okuma and his colleagues, he has laid himself open to a charge of constructive disrespect to the Throne.

The *Nippon* seems likely to find itself in trouble for a similar reason. It published a complicated and rather clumsy article based on the celebrated story of the Chinese prince who, though he had designs of dragons painted on every part of his house and every utensil of his table, yet fled incontinently when a real dragon presented itself to him. The *Nippon* propounded various theories as to the reason of the dragon's making its appearance, and concluded finally that the great reptile was the victim of a deception practised on it by the snakes and centipedes which constantly surround it. This article was signed by Professor Miyake Setsurei, whose writings we have commented on more than once. It appeared in the *Nippon's* issue of the 28th ultimo., and Mr. Miyake was summoned by the police and examined on the 2nd instant. Probably the public will hear more of the matter.

A PESTILENTIAL PUBLICATION.

If a Buddhist magazine published in the United States of America, were to insert in its pages a revolting caricature of Jesus Christ, representing him as a demon-like monster, we can not be in any doubt as to the fate that would soon overtake it. That is what the *Shepherd's Voice* has done in effect. A magazine avowedly for the promotion of Christianity, it presents to its readers a revolting caricature of Buddha, thus offering a gross insult to a faith reverentially professed by hundreds of millions of intelligent men and women, a faith held by the great bulk of the nation whose hospitality the editors of the *Shepherd's Voice* enjoy, and to whom they are sent as apostles of charity and love. Any Japanese believer in Buddhism who sees the picture published in the last number of the Tsukiji magazine, can not fail to be intensely pained and exasperated, or to inquire what sort of morality it is that sanctions the offering of such sacrilegeous insults to the creed of several nations.

A NEW DOCK.

The Tate-no-ura graving dock at Uraga has been completed. This dock was planned in 1894, and commenced in October, 1895, the projectors being the Ishikawa-jima Ship-building Company. It is the second largest dock in the country, its dimensions being 435 feet in length, 57 feet in width, and 35 feet in depth, and the cost of construction was a million *yen*. The Mitsubishi dock at Nagasaki is larger, but the Yokohama dock is 16 feet less in length. There are now 71 ship-building yards and 17 docks in Japan, independently of official concerns.

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IS BUDDHISM THE STATE RELIGION OF JAPAN.

It appears to be held by the Buddhists that because their governing prelates receive official recognition after election, Buddhism must be regarded as the religion of the State in Japan. That contention certainly would not have any validity in Europe. For example, when the Irish Church was disestablished, one feature of the new system applied to it was that a synodal, or governing body, should be elected from the clergy and laity of the Church, and should be duly incorporated with Governmental recognition. Precisely similar, so far as we can see, is the arrangement by which the Japanese Government recognises the elected heads of the various sects of Buddhism. Assuredly a principle which was applied in connexion with the severance of all connexion between the Irish Church and the State, can not be cited in Japan as proving a connexion between the Buddhist religion and the State.

Apparently the Buddhists have won the day. The Rev. Mr. Tomeoka Kosuke, whose appointment as moral instructor at the Sugamo Prison caused so much excitement, has resigned the post, acting on the suggestion of the Chief of Police who, in turn, was instructed by the Department of Home Affairs. The Governor of the Prison, Mr. Arima, on whom rested the responsibility of Mr. Tomeoka's appointment, will be transferred, it is said, to the Ichigaya Jail, a position of somewhat less importance than his present office. The last result is, however, conjectural. It is inferred from the fact that Mr. Arima is understood to have protested strongly against the decision of the Chief of Police. The comment which outsiders will be disposed to make on this incident is that if the Authorities did not intend to stand by their guns, they would have done better to abstain from provoking a combat. As to the original subject of dispute, it is impossible not to endorse one count of the Buddhist contention, namely, that at a jail where 1,800 Buddhists and only 10 Christians are confined, one Buddhist Minister and one Christian do not constitute a fair proportion. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that equal facilities of access to the convicts and equal opportunities of conveying religious instruction should be afforded to representatives of both faiths. The trouble seems to have its basis in official interference. The duty of supplying ministers and of supporting them should devolve entirely on the parishes from which they come. They ought not to receive Government appointments or to have any official status whatever.

The religious movement in Japan is assuming quite remarkable dimensions. We have spoken already of the Young Men's Buddhist Association, and the strong, if not actually threatening, manifesto issued by them in connexion with the Sugamo affair. Another phase of the agitation has now to be recorded, namely, the organization of a society calling itself the *Bukkyo-to Domei*, or Buddhists' Club. The promoters of this affair, numbering about 500, assembled in the Riukotei at Yanagi-bashi on the 29th ultimo, and took the steps necessary for forming themselves into a Club, the membership of which is to have very wide scope, for it includes not only Buddhists of all sects but also every one "whose heart has felt the influence of Buddhism." Priests alone are excepted, the object being to have a purely secular association. The general platform of the club is an interesting combination of transcendental and mundane motives. Its planks are, to bring into evidence the true complexion of Buddhism, and by its improving influence, to knit together the national strength; to promote genuine prosperity; to elevate the country, and to lead society to the light of civilization. In order to achieve these large aims, the following detailed steps are prescribed:—

1. To encourage the priests of the various sects, to promote their learning, and to correct their evil habits.

2. To induce the Government to publicly recognise Buddhism.

3. To urge the Government to proclaim clearly and speedily the policy it intends to pursue towards religion.

4. To persuade the Government to take the publicly recognised faith under its protection, subjecting it, at the same time, to strict supervision.

5. To make careful scrutiny into social conditions, and to promote works having benevolent and society-improving aims.

6. To work for the spread of Buddhism, and to thrust aside every one, whether official or layman, attempting to place obstacles in the path.

7. To cooperate earnestly not merely with all sects of Buddhists but even with persons of other creeds who sincerely sympathise with our purpose for the improvement of society.

The Club then proceeded to discuss the Sugamo affair and to pass various resolutions with regard to it. Thus, the action of the prison authorities in suddenly removing two Buddhist Ministers and replacing them by a Christian was denounced as partial, and the provision of Buddhist and Christian instructors in equal numbers where the numbers of Buddhist and Christians receiving instruction differed immensely, was condemned as a violation of freedom of conscience. It was farther resolved that the incident amounted to an arbitrary exercise of official authority in favour of Christianity and to the detriment of Buddhism; that if the Authorities persisted in such a course, steps must be taken to hold them responsible; that advantage should be taken of this question to induce the Government to draw a clear line of demarcation between religion and politics, by way of preparation for the operation of the Revised Treaties, and that the Club should join forces with the Young Men's Buddhist Association to work resolutely on behalf of these purposes. Finally, a visiting committee (*hōmon-iin*) of 50 was elected, and signatures were appended to a monster petition.

Some years ago we expressed the opinion that one of the chief benefits thus far conferred by Christian propagandism in Japan had been to galvanise Buddhism into life—a paradoxical statement, some will say, but after Christianity Buddhism is a beautiful and noble creed, nor will any be disposed to deny that its active prevalence among a nation is incomparably preferable to the absence of all religious belief. The excitement caused by this Sugamo incident is a striking evidence of the vitality that has been imparted to Buddhism in recent years. Could these thronged meetings, this organization of associations, and this signing of petitions or sending out of circulars have taken place two decades ago? Our readers will be disposed to ask, are there, then, symptoms of a strong anti-Christian crusade in Japan? We should be inclined to answer in the negative. It is noteworthy that the press has not been persuaded to take up the Sugamo question in the manner desired by the Buddhists. On the contrary, the newspapers of Tokyo have either treated it with indifference or condemned the narrow-mindedness of the agitators. Only one article showing a strong anti-Christian bias has appeared. It was in the columns of the *Tokyo Asahi*, and it deserves brief reference. The writer sets out by asserting the principle that the wisest plan for officialdom is to let religion alone. He believes in the truth of the proverb *sawaranu kami ni tatari nashi* (let the gods alone and they won't curse you). But the practice he recommends differs widely from that theory. He wants to have definite and final settlement of the position occupied by Christianity *vis-à-vis* the law. Did a clear understanding on that point exist, the Sugamo incident could never have occurred. The Constitution provides freedom of religious belief, but says that it should be enjoyed within limits not prejudicial to peace and order and not antagonistic to the duties of Japanese as subjects. Now what are these limits? It does not follow that what constitutes peace and order in Europe constitutes peace and order in Japan, or that the duties of a subject in an Occidental country correspond with the duties of a subject in Japan. Thus, in the Christian West, the theory prevails that all men are equal, and that the powers of the sovereign are derived from the people. But in Japan a fundamentally different principle has prevailed since the beginnings of the nation—the principle that the Emperor rules by heavenly right and that whatever privileges the people enjoy are conferred by him. If the Japanese were more highly educated, they might discriminate between the moral teachings of Christianity and its political tendencies. But until they develop that capacity, it would seem unwise to welcome a creed which, by controverting the very foundations of the national polity, creates a false impression of the position of the subject and is prejudicial to law, peace, and order as the terms are understood in Japan. Some critics may condemn this view as narrow-minded. So be it. Real narrow-mindedness, in the writer's view, is to shrink from saying what one thinks. "When education has become more general in Japan; when the national feeling has taken firmer root in the people's hearts, and when the danger of being injuriously influenced by alien doctrines has ceased to be real, then freedom of religious belief need not be limited."

We quote that curious specimen of timid conservatism because it presumably represents the view of a section of the people, the folks who regard their countrymen's patriotism and loyalty as a kind of thistle-down sentiment, liable to be blown away by every breeze from abroad. The champions of Buddhism who are now beginning to show so much activity need not be suspected of such fine fear. Yet they are conservatives, and it is from a political point of view that their movement derives as much interest as from a religious. The true origin of the commotion is not the Sugamo affair, we venture to think, but an impulse emanating from the men who prompted the circular of the Hongwan-ji Vicar-general. Mr. Ishikawa, in that document, preached the doctrine that the de-

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velopment of party government and of popular aspirations is sapping the foundations upon which the throne of Japan rests, and that every truly loyal subject should rebel against the tendency. That is the motto engraved on the conservative flag to-day—a banner of insignificant dimensions which itschief bearer, Viscount Torio, is now endeavouring, with a considerable measure of success, to place in the hands of Buddhist believers. The Sugamo business has been an occasion, not an origin. It is altogether an interesting development.

MARQUIS ITO.

It is alleged that Marquis Ito has been summoned by telegraph to return to Japan. Some say that the Emperor has summoned him. Some say that Count Okuma sent the message. Some assert that it emanated from the Liberals. The interesting feature of these rumours is that they represent all parties as equally disposed to look to Marquis Ito in time of storm and stress. There has been a great deal of talk during the past three years about the "Clan Statesmen." One would suppose from the writings of some journals that "Clan Statesmen" had inflicted lasting injury on their country. They are used as a kind of bogy to still the clamour of party politicians, who are assured that duty to their country requires them to set their teeth and swallow all personal grievances or antipathies until they have driven the last remnants of the "Clan Statesmen" out of the Administration. How extravagant and insincere that talk is, becomes apparent when we see that a Cabinet can not be formed without the aid of the "Clan Statesmen," and that the first instinct of every one in the hour of perplexity is to call out for these same "Clan Statesmen." The truth is that the "Clan Statesmen" were Japan's greatest publicists in the 19th century; a brilliant band of constructive politicians and daring innovators whose like there seems little hope of seeing again. Count Okuma is one of the "Clan Statesmen"; a very great figure among them. Count Itagaki is another. There is no possibility of burking these facts. Countries have their eras of illustrious men. The *Meiji* era has been such a time for Japan.

FINANCIAL.

The statement recently made by Count Okuma to members of the House of Peers was to the effect that the sum which has to be provided next year by drawing upon new sources of revenue, is 37 million *yen*. The scheme of finance adopted is this:—

	Yen.
Additional income from *Saké* Tax by raising the rate from 7 *yen* to 13½ *yen*	18,000,000
Additional income from the Tobacco Monopoly by increasing the charge from 83 per cent. to 300 per cent.	5,890,000
Sugar Tax	1,570,000
Income Tax	1,480,000
Registration Tax	1,680,000
Tax on the Bank of Japan	1,300,000
	29,920,000

A deficiency of about 7 millions is thus shown. It is not a permanent deficiency, but is due to the fact that the increased or new taxes will not yield their full amount at once. By the fiscal year 1900-1, the incomings will fully balance the outgoings. In the meanwhile, a draft will be made upon the Indemnity.

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Red Cross Society of Japan held its annual meeting at the usual place in Uyeno Park on the forenoon of the 28th ultimo. It is calculated that some fifty thousand pesons were present. Whatever the exact number, they managed to fill all the southern section of the Park, and to impart an extraordinarily animated appearance to the Uyeno end of the city. His Imperial Highness Prince Komatsu presided, and the Empress attended in person to open the meeting. Her Majesty's address was very brief, and simple. It merely announced the opening of the ninth meeting, expressed gratification that such marked success had been attained, and concluded with hope that the development of the Society would be even more rapid in the future. Prince Komatsu, in reply, tendered the respectful thanks of the Society for Her Majesty's gracious patronage; noted that the membership and subscriptions had doubled in the space of two years, and that the Society had to congratulate itself on signal prosperity, which happy results were attributable mainly to the assistance and encouragement lent by the Imperial family. These formalities presented no special interest, but the proceedings in the afternoon were of a highly practical character. A sham fight, including an artillery duel and cavalry charges, was held at Oji in the presence of Her Majesty, Lieut.-General Hasegawa explaining the various manœuvres. After the combat the services of the ambulance and medical corps of the Society were put into operation, and a most efficient display took place, evidencing the thorough efficiency of the organization in all its branches. A report and statement of accounts circulated after the meeting showed that the Society now numbers 455,630 members (as against 141,892 in 1896), and that its income in 1897 aggregated 2,310,772 *yen*, the expenditure being 933,715 *yen*. The staff comprises 118 surgeons, 359 nurses (male and female), and 648 assistants. Two steamers of over 3,000 tons gross each have been ordered in England to serve as transports, and are now nearly completed. They have been named the *Haku-ai* (universal love) and the *Kōsai* (general aid).

THE TOKYO WATER-WORKS.

The water was turned into the Tokyo mains for the first time on the 27th. There was quite a ceremony to celebrate the incident. Mr. Koizuka, the Governor of the city, Mr. Matsuda, the Mayor, and a great many other notables attended. A hydrant in Kojimachi was first tested, and the party, congratulating the engineers and each other on the success of the experiment, proceeded to Yodo-bashi to inspect the machinery of the Water Works, and to test its working powers. Everything having been found entirely satisfactory the Governor and the Mayor formally expressed their approval and tendered their thanks. But their complacency was soon disturbed, for it appeared that, during the testing of the hydrant, an iron pipe had burst at Okido in Yotsuya, and the whole street had been deluged with water.

THE BIRTHDAY BALL IN TOKYO.

The usual Birthday Ball was given by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Countess Okuma in the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, on the 3rd instant. On no previous occasion has the attendance been so large. The number of invitations issued was seventeen hundred, representing about twenty-five hundred persons, and, despite inclement weather, some two thousand were present. A supper-room of very large dimensions had been erected at the back of the principal dining salon, but the hotel, spacious as it is, could not accommodate such a number of guests, and some very inconvenient crushing took place, especially during the interval before the arrival of the Imperial Princes and Princesses and the opening of the ball room. Supper was served at eleven o'clock, and dancing continued until past one.

ON BOARD THE "FUJI."

The miserable weather took all spirit out of the celebration in Yokohama. Seldom has so completely wretched a day happened on the Emperor's Birthday, which has generally been favoured with excellent climatic conditions. The day opened wet, continued wet, and ended wet; a cold north-easterly wind was blowing, and altogether it was a day to induce suicidal tendencies in a Mark Tapley, and to drive to drink the jolliest sandboy who ever made a corner in jollity. The flags displayed in the streets of Japanese town and the Settlement hung dispiritedly from the standards, and few were in the streets who could be under shelter.

The bad weather was especially unfortunate as preparations had been made on board the *Fuji*, the flagship of the Standing Squadron now in Yokohama Harbour, to observe the day in grand fashion. Invitations to spend the day on board were issued to the members of the Consular body and prominent ladies and gentlemen in Yokohama; and Admiral Baron Shibayama and the officers of the Fleet had provided everything to give a welcome worthy of the occasion to the foreign guests, but, frightened by the drenching rain, hardly any of them appeared, and not a single official visitor was present. The Europeans who came on board, indeed, were limited to the members of the press and a party of officers from the German warship *Kaiser Wilhelm*. A most warm reception, however, was accorded to these, and no single effort was spared to make their experience a most enjoyable one. A visit to to the great battleship was in itself sufficient pleasure to an amateur in naval matters. The Japanese have not only magnificent fighting machines, but they keep them in capital trim. Everything on the *Fuji*, from the decks and guns to the smallest screw and bolt, is beautifully clean and in first-rate order, the men are smart and serviceable looking, and the officers as gallant, well-informed, and pleasant gentleman as one could wish to meet. There was plenty to see apart from the permanent fittings of the ship. A part of the lower deck was turned into a mock garden, in which paper chrysanthemums, cherry blossoms, and other flowers bloomed with more than nature's naturalness. All sorts of quaint things, the work of different departments of the ship's company, were exhibited, one of the most clever being a long-billed and truculent-looking crane—a fearsome object at half a dozen yards distance, which turned out on closer inspection to be made of a few sticks and rolls of cloth with a few wrenches and spanners to represent the feet. During the morning some boat races took place between crews of the different ships of the squadron, at the conclusion of which an elegant cold tiffin was partaken. The Admiral in a brief speech welcomed the foreign guests, and proposed the health of the Emperor, which was drunk with acclamation, the whole ship ringing

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with the frantic "Banzai's" with which loyalty for His Majesty was testified. The National Anthem of Japan was played by the splendid band of the flagship. Cheers for the British and German Navies, the guests, the Admiral and Officers were also given, the German commander returning thanks in English on behalf of his service. The whole function was a most pleasant one, despite the discomfort of leaden skies and sloppy decks, and had the day been a fine one it would have been an unqualified success. The officers were disappointed at so few Europeans paying a visit, and will welcome their appearance on some other day while the Squadron remains in the Harbour.

The results of the races were as follows:—

No. 1.—1, *Yashima*; 2, *Hashidate*; *Akitsushima* 0; *Naniwa* 0.

No. 2.—1, *Itsukushima*; 2, *Yashima*; *Matsushima* 0; *Naniwa* 0.

No. 3.—1, *Fuji*; 2, *Chinyen*; *Matsushima* 0; *Itsukushima* 0.

No. 4.—1, *Fuji*; 2 *Chinyen*; *Hashidate* 0: *Itsukushima* 0.

No. 5.—1, *Chinyen*; 2, *Matsushima*; *Yashima* 0; *Naniwa* 0.

No. 6.—1, *Chinyen*; 2, *Hashidate*; *Itsukushima* 0; *Akitsushima* 0.

No. 7.—1, *Akitsushima*; 2, *Fuji*; *Yashima* 0; *Naniwa* 0.

Champion.—1, *Yashima*; 2, *Fuji*; *Chinyen* 0; *Akitsushima* 0.

The Champion banner, a very handsome trophy in silk, was afterwards presented to the winning crew.

SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

Since the resignation of the Minister of State for Education and the consequent rupture between the Progressists and the Liberals, vernacular newspapers have naturally occupied themselves almost entirely in discussing the political situation in all its phases. Briefly speaking, the case presented to the public by the Liberal organ (*Jimmin*) is that the present Cabinet was based originally on the principle of a balance of power between the two main sections of the Constitutional Party—the Liberals and the Progressists. In obedience to that principle, the Liberals spared no effort to maintain harmony. They made concession after concession, conscious that the Ministry was confronted by large problems, and that its efficiency ought not to be impaired by squabbles among its supporters. But a limit was finally reached beyond which their patience could not be taxed without a complete sacrifice of all their rights and titles. At that limit they asserted themselves, and, finding only persistent want of consideration on the other side, they saw that further cöoperation had become impossible. As to the responsibility for the rupture, it rests, they assert, with Count Okuma. When a vacancy occurred in the Cabinet owing to the resignation of Mr. Ozaki Yukio, the Minister President did not consult Count Itagaki or any of the Liberal members with regard to Mr. Ozaki's successor, but decided the question independently, thereby deliberately and intentionally breaking up the unity of the Cabinet. The Emperor's mandate for the organization of a Cabinet was conveyed to the two Counts equally. Nevertheless Count Itagaki ceded the post of Minister President to Count Okuma, and Count Okuma should have shown his appreciation of the concession by treating his colleague with due consideration. He failed to do so, however, and a severance of relations became inevitable. The blame is with him, and the *Jimmin* calls upon the Constitutional Party to mark its disapproval of such conduct by a vote of censure. It goes so far as to suggest that Count Okuma should be expelled from the Party. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, with its usual cleverness, takes a more striking view of the case; more striking because the *Jimmin's* argument evidently errs in the main contention, namely, that Count Okuma ignored his Liberal colleagues. The question of Mr. Ozaki's successor was duly submitted for discussion by the whole Cabinet. The Progressist Ministers, led by Count Okuma, put forward Mr. Inugai; the Liberals, led by Count Itagaki, put forward Mr. Hoshi. There does not appear to be any just ground for alleging that either side stole a march upon the other. The *Nichi Nichi* does not advance any assertion of that nature. Its argument is that the basis of the Cabinet's existence has disappeared. It was founded on the fact of a union between the two parties; a union that ensured to any Cabinet supported by them a majority in the House of Representatives. On the strength of that forecast Marquis Ito advised the Sovereign to entrust the task of forming a Cabinet to the coalition, and on the strength of that forecast the Emperor accepted the advice. But the union is ended and can not be restored. Deprived of the support of the Liberals, a Progressist cabinet will no longer possess a working majority in the Lower House, and, on the other hand, will be confronted by a large hostile majority in the House of Peers. Thus the conditions on which the Emperor's mandate was based have ceased to exist, and nothing remains except the resignation of the Cabinet *en bloc*. The *Nichi Nichi* further accuses Count Okuma of causing unjustifiable trouble and anxiety to the Emperor in connexion with these matters—"soiling the Imperial robes with the dust of the political arena," as our contemporary puts it. The present Prime Minister has always been understood to denounce in the strongest terms the idea of making the Sovereign a tribunal of appeal in the disputes of political parties, yet, as soon as the disputes concern himself, he does not hesitate to adopt the course condemned by him. Such is the *Nichi Nichi's* case. The closing argument is calculated to appeal forcibly to the Japanese public, but impartial onlookers will doubtless remember that, so far as general knowledge goes, the first appeal to the Emperor—a protest against the appointment of Mr. Inugai—was made by the Liberal leader. In point of fact the situation has been quite exceptional. Under ordinary circumstances the Imperial mandate for the formation of a Cabinet is given to one statesman only, and on him alone devolves the duty thenceforth of conveying to the Sovereign all representations with reference to the Cabinet. But in this instance the mandate was addressed equally to the two Counts, and each is not without warrant for considering himself entitled to be a medium of communicating direct to the Throne everything connected with the result of the mandate. Turning from the organs that represent or support the Liberals to the journals in sympathy with the Progressists, we find that, on the whole, they adopt a moderate tone and show no disposition to discriminate. The *Yomiuri* may be taken as representative. It calls upon the Liberal Ministers to resign in a manly manner, and, while regretting that the rupture should have occurred before the united strength of the two parties could be utilized to sweep away all the vestiges of Clan rule, it thinks that the incident may, perhaps, have its uses in promoting political progress. The Liberals will doubtless adopt an offensive programme. They will introduce a motion of want of confidence next session, and, if they carry it, the Government will appeal to the country, and upon the verdict of the constituencies will depend the complexion of the next Ministry. Thus the principle of party cabinets will finally receive genuine recognition in practice. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, while regretting that an affair so insignificant in itself should have been the proximate cause of the rupture, is nevertheless disposed to welcome the fact. It denies, however, that the Ozaki incident is the real reason. A much more potent factor has been at work, namely, the impossibility of any unity of action under a "two-headed cabinet." The anomaly had to come to an end, and it does not greatly matter how or whence the *coup de grace* was given.

* * *

As to the independent journals—if, indeed, the term be applicable to any of the Tokyo newspapers—their tone is one of contempt that the attention of the men administering the State's affairs should be engrossed by these petty issues. The *Jiji Shimpo* asks whether such things as the country and the national interests have any existence in the field of present politicians' vision, and repeats its often uttered regret that at a time when great problems have to be solved and great contingencies faced, the strength of the Ministry should be frittered away on personal bagatelles. The *Kokumin* finds that Japanese politicians have ceased to think of fighting for principles, and are content to occupy themselves entirely with personalities. The Liberals might construct their separate platform out of planks that would have unmistakable solidity in the eyes of the public—for example, adjustment of the finances and the State purchase of private railways. But they have chosen to occupy a position which is neither dignified nor worthy of the occasion.

* * *

We may mention here an article in the *Nippon* which deals specially with the Ozaki incident. That Mr. Ozaki used slightly injudicious language in his celebrated speech, the *Nippon* does not deny. But it rightly says that the importance of such an utterance depends entirely on its intention. If in the course of a public address a man chance to construct a sentence so defectively that it lends itself to an inconvenient interpretation, the whole point is, did he mean it to convey that interpretation? If he denies that he had any such intention, what can be pettier or more unjust than to make a fuss about his words? Above all, with what pretence of consistency or propriety can the leaders of the Liberal Party stand forth as Mr. Ozaki's accusers? There are some conservatives in the country who insist upon the principle of absolute monarchy and declare that even the organization of a Diet violates the imperial polity of Japan. From such men a protest against Mr. Ozaki's words might come with some semblance of sincerity. But the Liberals, ever since they first entered the political field, have held the doctrine of a "convenanted constitution" (*kokuyaku-kempo*)—that is to say, a constitution based on the hypothesis

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that the people have rights, as distinguished from an "imperial constitution" (*kintei-kempo*), granted solely by the volition of the Sovereign. Surely such a contention, identical, as it is, with the dogmas preached by Jean Jacques Rousseau and the French reform school of his time, trespasses much further upon the imperial prerogatives than did the casual phrase used by Mr. Ozaki Yukio? It was not by the Liberals, therefore, that any accusation against Mr. Ozaki should have been formulated.

* * *

The trouble between the Buddhists and the Minister of State for Home Affairs grows more and more difficult of adjustment. Neither side seems disposed to make any concession. It is declared by the *Fiji Shimpo* to be a laughable bagatelle; a fracas befitting children rather than grown-up folks. The *Fiji*, which treats all religious questions in a light-hearted manner, thinks that the particular form of creed professed by a jail chaplain is of no consequence whatever, the only matter of moment being the quality of his moral teaching. But it thinks, also, that Count Itagaki's manner of dealing with the question showed a lack of tact. He should not have summoned the chief prelate of the Hongwan-ji to Tokyo. A dignitary of such importance deserved greater deference. The Minister's wisest course would have been to take no notice of the Vicar-general's attack. By accepting the challenge he imparted factitious importance to it. The basis of the whole trouble, however, is that church and state are not thoroughly separated. It is eminently wrong that a secular title like that of Count should be borne by a Buddhist prelate. If he accepts civil rank, he must expect to be subjected to civil interference. The proper course for the Government would be to cancel his patent of nobility, and stand wholly aloof from religious affairs.

* * *

There have been many articles published with reference to Chinese affairs, but, on the whole, they contain little that has not already appeared in the columns of the same journals and been reproduced here. Reference may be made, however, to the writings, of two papers, the *Fiji Shimpo* and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. It is the former's opinion that China's condition resembles that of the Tokugawa Government in the days immediately preceding its fall. There were no lack of reformers in the Tokugawa times, nor was the Regent himself deficient in ability or enlightenment, but somehow whatever step was taken in the direction of progress seemed to bring the Regency so much nearer to collapse. Events in China appear to march along similar lines. A dynastic catastrophe is apparently inevitable, and may probably be regarded as the necessary precursor of radical reforms. The calamity really to be dreaded is that before this process of evolution can be carried to completion, opportunities may be furnished for foreign interference leading to the disruption of the empire. Hence the broad road of policy to be followed is to enlist several Powers as promoters of Chinese progress, the fundamental principle being that she must be kept upon her feet until, by adopting and assimilating Occidental civilization, she acquires strength to stand alone. Any outside Power attempting to interrupt the consummation of that programme should be thrust aside by the joint strength of the allies. Evidently the safety of a particular sovereign need not enter into the calculation. Any government that gives fair promise of working in the best interests of the nation, should be recognised. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* ideas on the same suject convey a very different impression. It treats as entirely delusive the commonly advanced arguments that Japan's interest in China is based on ethical, ethnological, and geographical considerations. The true foundation of Japan's interest is that she would be incomparably the greatest sufferer by the destruction of China's independence, and the true foundation of the weight her voice carries is that, among all the Powers having relations with the Middle Kingdom, she alone is in a position to place a great army in the field of action. As to the policy that ought to be pursued, the *Nichi Nichi* advocates a course which virtually amounts to guardianship by the Powers principally interested. Open ports should be established between every two foreign settlements; the Government in Peking should be forbidden to make any foreign loan or hypothecate any part of the country's territory without previously informing all the Powers; a standing-council should be organized, consisting of the Representatives of the Treaty States, for the purpose of discussing all important questions; radical reform should be insisted on; the business of putting the finances in order should be undertaken; men should be provided to organize the army and navy, and so on through a list of recommendations which, if adopted, would amount to putting China in swaddling clothes and having her nursed by all the Western Powers.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM BARRIE.

Death has again been busy in our small community. In the passing away of Mr. William Barrie at an early hour on Saturday, Oct. 29 many residents in all parts of Japan lose a staunch friend, a sympathetic companion, a noble gentleman: for truly has he worn the white flower of a blameless life. Mr. William Barrie came to Japan many years ago and was present on board one of the transports when the last sad tragedy in the Satsuma rebellion was being enacted under the trees of Hiro-yama, twenty-one years ago. He saw the head of the dead hero reverently conveyed to the shore, and sorrowed with many another whole-hearted foreigner at the untimely end of Saigo Takamori. For many years Mr. Barrie has been Chief Superintending Engineer of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and for his many and unwearied services to that Company he was decorated by the Emperor. Last year he went home to England for a well-earned holiday, though, as matters turned out, most of the time was spent in the Company's business in England, Scotland, and the Continent. His malady—a liver trouble—benefitted by the change, and it was hoped that permanent restoration was in sight. But soon after returning to Japan, early this summer, the disease manifested itself again, and the indomitable spirit had at last to knock under to the excruciating agonies of the illness. Still hope was entertained to the last. All that physicians such as Drs. Baelz and Wheeler and others could do was done, but the patient gradually sank.

In social life Mr. Barrie was esteemed as highly as in his professional career. He was a Past Master of the Yokohama Lodge, E.C., Past Master of the Orient Mark Lodge of Japan, E.C., Past Z. of the Yokohama Chapter, H.R.A.; Past District Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Japan, and for many years Vice-President of the D.G.L. Board of General Purposes. Mr. Barrie was only 49 years of age, and to his wife and sorrowing daughters the utmost sympathy will, we are sure, be extended in their terrible bereavement.

The funeral of the late Mr. Barrie took place on Sunday afternoon at the Yokohama Cemetery, amid general marks of sympathy and esteem. Most of the well known residents of Yokohama and many visitors from Tokyo attended, and local Masonry, which has lost so staunch an adherent in Mr. Barrie, was strongly represented. The pall-bearers were Mr. J. H. Curtis, Mr. John Macdonald, Capt. Forbes, Mr. Tsuda, Mr. McCormick, and Capt. Haswell, and Messrs. McMillan and E. J. Moss immediately followed the coffin. Behind came the representatives of the Masonic Lodges, the personal friends of the deceased, employes of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and prominent business men. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, who added a short address in which he spoke of the deceased gentlemen as one who filled to perfection the part of a father, a husband, and a man of affairs. He had suffered many afflictions besides this last illness which had ended fatally, but he had borne them with Christian resolution and fortitude. In his relations with the great navigation company which he served he was respected by all and loved by those who knew him best. He did his best in every department of life—for his family, for his employers, and for those under him. He was, as they knew, a member of a great fraternal Society, a prominent and greatly beloved member, but his connection with it never interfered with his faith as a Christian, and he was in every sense a truly religious man.

An enormous number of wreaths were sent, including the following:—

Baron Y. Iwasaki, Baron H. Iwasaki, Mr. J. T. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Sale, Mr. Beatty, Mrs. Patton, Mr. Hay, Mr. Charlesworth, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wilson, Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. Schalizchen, Mr. Haskell, Mr. Weaver, the Officers and members of the "Rising Sun" Lodge, 140 E.C., Kobe, Mr. Allen, Mrs. Cain and Mrs. Kinderdine, Mr. and Mrs. J. Johnstone and family, Mr. and Mrs. Borthwick, Mr. Hayashi, Mr. J. S. Shizawa, and Mr. Ikagawa, Members of Yokohama Lodge, 1092, clerks from the Store Department of the N.Y.K., Engineers and Clerks from the Yokohama Superintendent's Department of the N.Y.K., Mr. T. Unosawa, the "Orient" Mark Lodge of Japan, Mr. and Mrs. MacMillan, Capt. Forbes, Mr. W. T. Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Blundell, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cain, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Bunting, Mr. and Mrs. Manley, Mr. Moss and family, Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. W. Smith, Mr. M. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Unite, Captain Cottier, Mr. and Mrs. W. Graham, Mr. R. Shoteji and Mr. Y. Matsuyama, Mr. I. Iwanaga, and Mr. K. Kagami, Mr. Tsuda and Mr. T. Okochi, Mr. S. Yoshitaki and Mr. J. Ogawa, Mr. T. Sunoko and Mr. Y. Nagai, Captain and Mrs. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Holyoake Box and Mrs. Box, Senior, Yokohama Chapter H.R.A., 1092 E.C., clerks of the Yokohama Branch of the N.Y.K., Mr. J. Iwato, Mr. J. Wada, and Mr. Shinagawa, Mr. McCormick, Mrs. Truscott, Mr. Kondo (President of the N.Y.K.), Mr. M. Kato, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. MacArthur, Capt. Haswell, Capt. and Mrs. Martin, Mr. Hori and Mr. Harada, Mr. Hiyooka and Mr. Miajatomi, Mrs. L. Dewette, Mr. Ah Sung, Mr. Keine, Officers and members of the "Star of the East" Lodge, Mr. and Mrs. Hands, Mr. and Mrs. Going, Mr. and Mrs. Pass, Mrs. W. G. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Young, Mr. Davieson, "O'Tentosama," Lodge of Masons, Dr. and Mrs. Wheeler, Officers and members of the Tokyo Lodge of Freemasons, Mr. and Mrs. Hutchison, Mr. and Mrs. G. Brindley, Mr. and Mrs. C. B.

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Clausen, Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Stone, Mr. and Mrs. W. Crane and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tresize, Mr. and Mrs. Strome, Mr. and Mrs. Macnab, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent, Captain and Mrs. Efford, Capt. Eckstrand and family, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs, Mr. von Hemert, Mr. R. Kawada, Mr. S. Kurusu, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gillett, Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Mr. Candy, Mr. Paxton, Mr. Keil, Mr. Mackindry, Mr. and Mrs. Rose, Captain and Mrs. W. Thompson, Mr. R. S. Thompson and Mr. H. A. Thompson, Mr. Paxton, Mr. George Middleton, Mr. and Mrs. Annal, Mr. H. W. Lee, Mr. and Mrs George Booth, Capt. Carse and family, Mr. and Mrs. Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. Ellerton, Mr. J. W. Hull, Mr. H. E. Hayward, Mr. W. Morton, and Mr. H. J. Ginu, Mr. and Mrs. Abbey, and Mr. Hellendaal.

MARRIAGE OF MISS ELDRIDGE.

A pretty wedding took place at Christ Church, Yokohama, on Tuesday, the contracting parties being Mr. F. M. Tegner, and Miss Beatrix Stuart Eldridge, eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Eldridge. There was a crowded congregation of friends and well-wishers at the church, which had been prettily decorated by lady friends of the bride. Miss Eldridge, who was given away by her father, was attired in a handsome dress of white moiré antique silk, trimmed with old Venetian point lace. She wore a wreath of orange blossoms, and carried a beautiful bouquet of the same bloom. The bridesmaids were Miss Divers, Miss Muriel Thomas, Miss Elsie Morse, and Miss Clara Copmann. They were attired in dresses of pink silk gauze, accordeon pleated, with picture hats, and bouquets of pink roses. The three little flower girls—Miss Carol Merriman, Miss Cynthia Pakenham, and Miss Alice Walter—were also dressed in pink. The best man was Mr. George Philip, and Messrs. H. W. Fraser, F. J. Hull, G. M. Woolsey, S. Warming and E. C. Davis acted as ushers. Mr. J. T. Griffin acted as organist, and during the service Mrs. James Walter sang Gounod's "Entreat me not to leave thee." The ceremony was performed by the Rector, the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, and at its conclusion a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents. Some very handsome presents were received from all parts of Japan, Europe, and America. The honeymoon will be spent at Dzushi.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE GERMAN ASIATIC SOCIETY.

On Saturday, the 29th of October, the members of the German Asiatic Society held a meeting to celebrate the close of the first quarter of a century of the existence of this flourishing and learned Institution. The large hall of the Society's own building at Kanda Imagawakoji, Ichome, No. 8, was tastefully decorated with evergreens, flowers and German and Japanese flags, and was filled almost to its whole capacity, Yokohama being well represented.

His Excellency the German Minister, who occupied the chair, opened the meeting at half past five with a few words of welcome. After announcing the names of newly elected members, he called upon Vice-President, Mr. Lehmann, to read the telegrams of congratulation received in the course of the day. Then Dr. Riess occupied the attention of the meeting with a brief sketch of the history of the Society. Of the 71 gentlemen who constituted themselves as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Natur- und Voelkerkunde Ostasiens 25 years ago, eleven are still on the roll of its active members, but only two of these, Messrs. F. Naudin and A. Oestmann, reside still in Japan. The Society has published 60 parts of its Transactions in large quarto, besides some valuable supplements, such as Rudorff's Laws of the Tokugawa period, Dr. Florenz's translation of the Nihongi and Ehmann's Collection of Japanese proverbs. It is now intended to change the size of the Publications into Royal octavo, the first volume of this new series being nearly ready for distribution. The present number of members is 281, much higher than it has ever been before. We understand that the historical sketch will be printed together with a complete list of all members that ever belonged to the Society and the titles of all papers read before it or printed in its Transactions.—Dr. K. Miura gave a lecture on *Jujitsu*, a system of self-defence and bodily exercise peculiar to Japan. He placed its origin only about 250 years ago, traced its growth, and explained the mechanical and physiological principles on which it is based. The well-known Director of a flourishing *Jujitsu* school, Mr. Inouye Keitaro, assisted by six of his pupils, then went through the more interesting exercises on a floor of 18 mats prepared for the occasion. After the meeting, about 50 gentlemen sat down to dinner, and amidst toasts, cheerful conversation, singing and piano solos a long and most enjoyable evening was spent.

SHIPPING DISASTER IN THE INLAND SEA.

Fuller details respecting the terrible collision in the Inland Sea on the 25th ult. between the N.Y.K. steamer *Kinshiu-Maru* and the O.S.K. steamer *Miyagawa-Maru*, show, says the *Hiogo News*, that the disaster occurred at 6.30 p.m., but no information is available as to the cause of the collision. The O.S.K. steamer was making for Tadotsu at the time. She had on board about 160 persons including 34 members of the crew. Most of the passengers were in the steerage and these included about 60 bluejackets from Kure. There were three or four first-class passengers and seven or eight in the second class, and all these were saved with the exception of an old man of sixty. All the members of the crew appear to have been saved, including the Captain, and 89 of the passengers. These are figures furnished by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha Agents, and the deduction therefrom is that the loss of life is rather under 40 than over, though the vernacular press places the loss at 59. The *Kinshiu*, it appears, struck the *Miyagawa* on the starboard side near the bow, and she rapidly filled and sank. Her masts now show about five feet above the water. Boats were at once lowered by the *Kinshiu* and as many persons as possible were picked up. Several were injured in the collision—some very badly. Seven or eight of the bluejackets are reported to be amongst the drowned.

The bow of the *Kinshiu Maru* was damaged, but she was not making water when the *Satsuma Maru* communicated with her about eleven o'clock the same evening. She left for Nagasaki on Friday morning. At the time of the collision she was in charge of Mr. Kata, pilot.

THE CORONATION FESTIVITIES IN HOLLAND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Amsterdam, September 5th.

Holland is a happy land during this week of festal joy over the coronation. I arrived off the Hook of Holland about noon on August 2nd, the day of the Queen Mother's birthday. The Maas and all the towns and villages on its banks were gay with the red white and blue with which were associated the emblazonry and colour of Orange. For not only is Queen Emma herself (until August 31st Queen Regent) of the house of Orange, and the tenth in descent from William the Silent (Queen Victoria being still nearer, in the ninth generation), but she is the widow of the last in the male line of the House of Orange-Nassau. In Rotterdam and the Hague, as I saw, and all over the country, as I knew, were festivities in honour of the lady who came in 1879 as a rosy young bride to win the hearts of the Dutch people by her charms and character. Indeed, in the seventies, the old King's popularity was greatly waning in this country, which is little else than a republic, disguised, however, under the fiction of monarchy. The birth of a princess in 1880 warmed the hearts of the people towards the royal father. When the last of the princes died, the King himself followed in 1890, the male line of the House of Orange-Nassau became extinct, and all hopes of continuing so illustrious a family rested, as they rest now, upon the little girl, the child of the King's old age. No mother, apparently, could have trained her daughter more wisely than has Queen Emma; and, except the hypercritical few, who consider her "too German," the appreciation of the Dutch people of her womanly traits is large and deep.

In August then, of 1898, the Dutch were called upon to celebrate the birthday of two Queens and heartily they did it. Illuminations, decorations, military parades, the joyful hands of children and the Queen mother's portrait everywhere made the second day famous. On the 31st again, the people met by myriads in their houses of worship and showed their joy in manifold ways, while yet reserving the more spectacular features for this week of prolonged merriment, congratulation, and abundant decoration. On the eve of the Queen Wilhelmina's assumption of sole rule, her mother in a brief but noble proclamation addressed her fellow country people and resigned her responsibilities, becoming now only "the King's widow," though still actually "the power behind the Throne." The Queen herself issued a tender and affectionate address "aan mijn volk," full of filial gratitude and eloquent with the sincere desire to serve her people well. Dutchmen everywhere, in print and with living voice, express the hope that Wilhelmina's rule may be as long, as prosperous, as rich in blessing to her people and to mankind as has been Queen Victoria's.

To-day I witnessed the joyous entrance of the royal daughter and her mother into Amsterdam. The Dutch journalists, with admirable foresight and hospitality, had provided for their guests from afar a "tribune," or stage, upon the roof of the old commandant's house on the Dam, which overlooks the great square and is directly opposite the Palace, so that our view of the two royal ladies and of the pageant was very near and clear. The crowds had been kept back by police, infantry and cavalry, but every window, roof and coigne of vantage was occupied by waiting people, while each of the seven streets opening into the Dam was like a cannon loaded to the muzzle.

The special train left the Hague at 1 09 p.m. and in little over an hour the boom of artillery told of the arrival of the royal lady in white and of the Queen-mother, now out of widow's weeds and arrayed in lavender. The military of all arms of the service on land, and sea, and the civil forces of kingdom and municipality took their places with admirable discipline.

The guard of honour awaiting the procession was in seventeenth century dress and in their orange, green, red, blue, and other colours, looked like gigantic wasps. The shot-men, armed with blunderbusses having iron rests, with the halberdiers and pikemen, gave an exhibition of military evolutions of the days of Maurice and of Iyeyasu. They also formed a square, the lances sixteen feet in length being ranged behind the matchlocks which were supported on iron prongs. One could easily see that modern cavalry, charging by shock, could easily break and quickly destroy such squares.

The Queen and her mother rode round the Dam and past the Nieuwe Kerk, where the coronation takes place to-morrow, and then entered the "Paleis." This admirable City Hall, made for republicans in the days of the Republic, does not easily lend itself with grace or fitness, outwardly at least, to the uses of monarchy. It has many doors or entrances, but they are all alike in size and dignity. To-day, only by the baldachin of red velvet fringed with gold, could one tell which would admit royalty. Smiling, bowing, rosy, [illegible] the child of a nation's dearest hope

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and warmest love, greeted her people gathered here, as they were along the whole route, by thousands. Then she disappeared behind the sombre walls of "Het Paleis."

Then followed a scene as appropriate to Holland's history as it was touching to the stranger. The military defiled in good order and disappeared, leaving the great square vacant. Then, by deliberate and orderly movement, the people moved forward to be nearer their beloved young sovereign. The seven thoroughfares discharged their crowds and within five minutes of the disappearing military pageant, the empty space was filled with a sea of human beings, all the happy faces being centred on the balcony. The white-robed mistress of all hearts then stepped forth in her youth and beauty to greet her people. Smiling and waving her handkerchief, she beamed with happiness, while the great multitude shouted in responsive delight. Thus to the eye was given once more, as so often in Dutch history, a proof of the close union of the House of Orange and the people of the Netherlands. In the fortnight's programme of festivities, the notable feature is its popular character. There are indeed many admirable and striking features, such as the Exhibition of Woman's Work, with congresses of women who discuss many themes; the Congress of Diplomatic History (which I attended, finding six Japanese there, two of whom read papers, and one was sent by the Government); the Rembrandt collection; the Exhibition of historical and modern paintings, and of the National Costumes, etc., yet most of the features of the "Inhuldiging" are emphatically for the enjoyment of the people.

On the Ocean, Sept. 19th.

The "Kroningfeest" is over, and the Dutch have once more settled down to ordinary life. The inauguration ceremonies, which I witnessed from my seat directly in front of the Queen, show what a real democratic monarchy the Netherlands is. There was no coronation. The Queen wore no crown, but only a tiara of diamonds. There was no ecclesiastical ritual, yet it was a profoundly religious service. The pageantry, the decorations, the array of the men of achievement and the elite of the Kingdom made an impressive spectacle, but most striking and ever thrilling was the figure of the ruler of this free people making expression of her love and taking oath to maintain and safeguard their rights and liberties. Clear and strong, with exquisitely modulated stress and enunciation was that youthful voice, heard all over the great auditorium, and as dramatic in its intensity as impressive in its sincerity was her prayer for divine help. Then followed the oaths of loyalty to the Queen and to the Constitution, taken individually by themselves by members of the States-General or Congress, and the high function, by which the ancient covenant of mutual service between the House of Orange and the Netherlands people was concluded.

For over a week, the popular joy continued and the festivities at Amsterdam and the Hague went on. Even the awful news of the assassination of the Empress of Austria did not daunt the royal maiden, who determined that her people should lose not a jot of the enjoymen, pre-arranged. I saw Queen Wilhelmina at the popular sports, at concert, the drama, and the illuminations on land and water in Amsterdam; and at the review of twelve thousand children in orange and white at the Hague, and at the fireworks at Scheveningen: riding, standing, and walking freely among her people. Among the pleasures enjoyed by the foreign guests were banquets tendered by the cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Arnhem, Edam and at Scheveningen, receptions by members of the Cabinet and the Burgomasters of Holland's two largest cities, a reception by Mesdag, at his spacious home and residence, with its very rich collection of modern pictures, and various other hospitalities calculated to impress very favourable even those unfamiliar with the fascinating and inspiring perspective of Dutch history.

W.E.G.

KOREAN NOTES.

The Korean Government *Gazette* on the 13th October published what purported to be the statements of the men concerned in the recent Coffee Pot poisoning affair, but as torture was resorted to to obtain the avowals a certain amount of suspicion attaches to them. Stripped of the usual verbiage that surrounds these publications, we gather that Kim Hong-niuk, the erstwhile Governor of Sōul and all-powerful interpreter at the Russian Legation, was the originator of the plot. After his degradation and exile to Black-hill Island, Kim is said to have deeply resented his fall, and on the day that he left Sōul he resolved on a desperate deed. Finding among his baggage a packet of opium, about about 1½ ounces in weight, he decided to give the drug to an intimate friend, Kong Hong-sik, with instructions to mix the stuff with the Emperor's foreign food. Kong Hong-sik received the opium and in some manner made an appointment with another man, Kim Jong-whu, a Keeper of the Buttery in the Imperial Palace. To him he promised $1,000 if he could get the drug mixed with the Emperor's food. The man took the poison into the Palace and, chancing to find the Imperial Coffee Pot warming on the stove, put the opium into it. The three men were all executed, and in the case of Kim Hong-niuk, as we have learnt, unmentionable barbarities were perpetrated on the body, the Minister of Justice handing the corpse over to the mob. In connection with this incident, the Independence Club are clamouring for justice to be meted out to the mediæval-minded ex-Minister.

It is the custom in Korea, whenever a petition is presented, for the presentee to sit down in front of the building wherein lives the personage to whom the petition is given—whether Emperor, Minister of State, Magistrate, or what not—until the prayer is granted, or at least entertained. The members of the Independent Club are past adepts at this waiting game and consequently are gradually becoming masters of the Empire. They rule the roost in fact, just now. Recently the Club sat down—several hundred of them—in front of the Palace for five successive days. According to a foreign missionary who happened to visit the curious scene, the Club were actuated by two motives: —"The first a determined opposition to the resurrection of the old and barbarous laws of annihilation of the family of a man convicted as a traitor. The second, as a protest to the failure on the part of some members of the Cabinet to show proper loyalty at the time the poisoned beverage was partaken by the Emperor and the Imperial Prince." Towards the close of the fifth day, word came from the Palace that the Ministers of State had been dismissed from office. A motion to adjourn "the sitting" was accordingly made and carried, and then, to quote again from the missionary observer, "a remarkable scene followed. All the members of the club turned round, faced the Imperial Palace, removed their hats as in salute, and stood in silence for a few minutes. This meant that the people thanked the Emperor for his goodness and begged him to pardon them for their importunities."

It is curious to read, after the fore-going, that Mr. T. H. Yun, the President of the Independence Club, was on the 12th inst. officially censured by an Imperial Decree for holding meetings in front of the Palace.

The new Cabinet is said to be composed of men who favour the Progressives. At any rate the new Minister for War, Min Yong-whan, is on their side, for a few nights after his appointment he is said to have advised His Majesty "(1) to clear the Palace of special courtiers (whisperers) of all grades, sorcerers, sorceresses and fortune-tellers; re-issuing and limiting the number of gate-passes; (2) to throw the responsibility of the government upon the Ministers; (3) to select qualified officers with longer terms of service; (4) to appoint capable governors and magistrates; (5) to economize expenses, stopping the works on the Empress's grave, etc.; (6) to enforce laws without fear or favour; (7) to make trials fair and prompt; (8) to prohibit secret bribes and requests; (9) to investigate into the number, etc., of Koreans who have become naturalized under foreign Governments; (10) to employ men according to ability irrespective of caste."

On the 18th October, the *Sōul Independent* calmly gave to the world the following political programme which the Independence Club seeks to saddle upon the Emperor and his Ministers:—

I. That all illegal taxes should be abolished.

II. That the Privy Council should be reorganized, the constitution of which shall be drawn up by a select committee of the Independence Club in co-operation with the Government.

1. Of the members of the Council, one half shall be nominated by the Government while the other half shall be elected by the Club from among its members, subject to the sanction of the Emperor.

2. The President of the new Council shall be elected from the representatives of the Government, and the Vice-President from those of the Club, the election to be by ballot, in both cases.

3. The laws and orders of the Council shall be modelled after those of the deliberative assemblies in foreign countries. They (laws, &c.) shall be drawn up by the members of the new Council subject to the sanction of the Emperor.

The Ministers promised an answer within a week. The *Independent* naïvely remarks:—As the formation of such an assembly will introduce a new factor in the political system of the Peninsula, we look forward with interest to the outcome of the negotiations now pending between the Government and the Club.

Naturally the *Independent* has no good words to say about the Peddlers' Club, which was organised in opposition to the Independence Club by some members of the Palace entourage. Yet this Club only asks that the Government should organize a House of Commons out of its members. The *Independent* has only words of scorn for this petition:—"The Peddlers' Club was originally started by certain Palace-goers in order to oppose the Independence Club. Money and offices have been lavished on the Peddlers for no other reason than that they advocate, defend and practice corruption and despotism. The idea that such a crowd, *ignorant slavish, corrupt*, should ask for the privileges of a House of Commons! The truth of the business is that the Peddlers have been spoiled, and like spoiled children, they need a sound thrashing more than anything else.

The Independence Club has been joining with the Central Chamber of Commerce to petition against mixed residence in Korea, on the ground that "in a weak nation it enfeebles and impoverishes the natives, just as grass can not grow under big trees." They beg the Ministry to remove all foreign merchants now in the interior to the open ports and prohibit them from owning real estate in Korea.

A Sōul despatch dated the 25th states that the Members of the Independent Club after negotiation with the Government, have held a general meeting to urge the authorities to reform the Privy Council, and to discharge Mr. Yun Yŏng-sŏng, a Councillor. The police threatened to disperse them, much to their indignation, and they proceeded to the police station and stayed there for several days and nights. The Government promised to effect the reformation of the Council, and to appoint Mr. Yun Chiho, President of the Independent Club, Vice-President of the Council. The Club, however, clamours for the fulfilment of the whole of its demands.

Shanghai failed to float the "Shanghai Fire Insurance Company, Ltd." In view of a similar failure with a like enterprise in Japan it is interesting to note that the shares of the "Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.," with $50 paid up, are now quoted at $330, and those of the "China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.," with $ paid up are quoted at $95!

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE DISTRESS IN HOKKAIDO.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Please receive contributions to Hokkaido Inundations Relief Fund as under:—

To Sale of Tickets for Lecturette	$53 00
Donations made at Lecturette.....	11.70
	$64.70

Yours truly, EMILY S. PATTON.

Yokohama, October 29th, 1898.

[A cheque for *yen* 89 70 has been sent to the Rev. Geo. M. Rowland, Sapporo, being the amount of contributions sent into this office for this Fund.—Ed. *J.M.*]

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your last Literary Summary you quote from the *Fukuin Shimpo* that the *Kirisutokyo Shinshi* (*Zasshi*) founded by me, proved unsuccessful and suspended. This is partly incorrect. *The Shepherd's Voice* is the continuation of the *Kirisutokyo Zasshi*. There was a brief suspense of the *K. Z.* when the *Voice* succeeded it. Since then the *Voice* has appeared regularly, with *English*, *Kana* and *Romaji*.

Very truly,

Editor of the Shepherd's Voice.

Tokyo, October 27th, 1889.

KINKWAZAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have seen Kinkwazan. It is a sell. The way to get there is to go by boat, land at Aikawa, still on the mainland. Climb over a peninsula about a mile and a half, hire another boat for a *ri*, and you have arrived. A priest guides you along a well beaten path which anybody but a blind man might follow, and charges eight *sen* a head. We saw the deer, which can be seen just as advantageously at Uyeno Park. We saw no monkeys, except the two legged ones who made up the party. The old Buddhist contempt for women crops out in the fact that no woman is allowed to climb the mountain or to give birth to a child there.

Yours, etc. A. W. WOODWORTH.

BISMARCK'S RELIGIOUS FAITH.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—The German *Daheim* lately published in facsimile a famous letter by Prince Bismarck, which is interesting for the light it throws on the religious basis of his wonderful character. A friend to whom I read it suggested that I send you a translation. Bismarck's morality may have been in spots rather pagan than Christian, but there is no mistaking the fact that his religious faith, such as it was, constituted the mainspring of his character,—a fact which deserves the attention of the Japanese and of their friends.

The allusions in the letter explain themselves very well, except one perhaps. Lucca was a famous operatic singer whom Bismarck met socially at a certain health-resort and with whom by way of a jest he rather foolishly allowed himself to be photographed. Soon afterwards she married one von Rhade.

Yours respectfully, C.N.

Berlin, December 26th, 1875.

Dear Andrae,—My time is carefully parcelled out; still I cannot refuse to answer an interpellation which, coming from an honest heart, challenges me in the name of Christ. It grieves me indeed to give offence to devout Christians, but I am sure that this in my vocation is inevitable. I will not discourse on the fact that in the camps which of necessity stand opposed to me politically there are without doubt numerous Christians who are far ahead of me in the way of salvation, with whom I must nevertheless live in conflict, for reasons that on either side are of an earthly character. I will merely refer to one thing that you yourself have said: "In great spheres naught of commission or of omission can remain hidden." Where is the man who in such a position as this would not give offence, just or unjust? But I grant you more, for your expression "remain hidden" is mistaken. Would to God that I had not on my soul beside what is known to the world also other sins, for which I can hope forgiveness only through faith in the blood of Christ!

As a statesman I am not precipitate enough. To my notion I am rather cowardly. For it is not easy in the questions that press upon me always to win that clear assurance on the ground of which trust in God grows. He who reproaches me as a conscienceless politician does me wrong, and ought first to test his own conscience on this battle-ground. So far as the Virchow affair is concerned, I have passed the years in which one is wont to confer with flesh and blood. When I stake my life on a cause, I do so in a faith which I have fortified by long, severe conflict and honest, humble prayer before God; a faith which the word of a man cannot subvert, not even that of a friend in the Lord and minister of His Church!

So far as attendance at Church is concerned, it is a mistake to say that I never visit the House of God. For seven months I have been either out of town or ill. Who among my detractors has noticed this fact? I readily grant that I might go more frequently. But the reason why I neglect to go is not so much lack of time as regard for my health, particularly in winter. To those who feel themselves called to sit in judgment upon me in this respect I will cheerfully give more exact information. You yourself will believe me, without medical details. In regard to the Lucca photograph I presume that you too would judge less severely if you knew to what fortuitous circumstances it owed its origin. Besides, she who is now Frau von Rhade, though a singer, is a lady to whom, as little as to myself, have illicit sexual relations ever been imputed. Nevertheless, if at the proper moment I had considered the offence which this bit of fun has given to many true friends I should have retreated from the field the many glasses focussed upon us.

You see by the circumstantiality with which I give you information that I take your letter as being well meant and in no way strive to exalt myself above the judgment of those who confess the same faith as I confess. But of your friendship and of your own Christian knowledge I expect that on future occasions you will recommend to my judges "caution and charity." We all need that. And as I, among the many sinners who lack the praise of God, hope that His grace will not in the dangers and doubts of my vocation take from me the staff of humble faith by which I try to find my way, this confidence will not render me obtuse towards friendly words of censure nor wrathful toward loveless and haughty judgment. In haste,

Yours, &c., Von BISMARCK.

FRENCH NOTES.

The *Journal des Débats*, plaintively bewailing the difficulties of the English pronunciation, says it is not easy for a Continental, who has learned English only from books, to make himself understood by Englishmen. Try, for example, to make a London cabby understand that you wish him to drive you to Leicester-square, and it is not until you have written the words that he says "Leste squa, awright." So prudent men, who are little familiar with English, prefer in all cases where it is possible to communicate their wishes by writing. Even this precaution, however, is not sufficient, as the melancholy history of a great Belgian nobleman, Prince L. C., shows. When he came to London for the first time one of his friends recommended him to take note of the name of the street where his hotel was, so as to show it to the cabman on returning from the theatre. The Prince faithfully followed this advice, and copied religiously the inscription at the corner of his street. But the result did not answer to his expectations. He showed the address to all the cabmen, but none of them would consent to take him. For the Prince had copied in his simplicity nothing more nor less than the legend: "Stick no bills." He had to call into requisition the zeal of all the policemen in London to find the place so vaguely indicated. The Prince's friend recommended him to be more circumspect in future. But an evil destiny seemed to follow him. On the paper he showed the next night on coming out of the Gaiety the astonished cabby (*cabman stupéfait*) read simply "Commit no nuisance." Naturally he accused his intending fare of a lack of respect. (Fancy a cabman putting things so delicately). The discussion ended at the Police Station, and the Prince, disgusted, quitted the capital next day, with the singular conviction that London is a city where visitors are obliged to sleep out of doors. The *Débats* ends up thus: It only proves the truth of what a humourist has said of the genius of the English language: "It is very simple; you write Manchester, and you pronounce Liverpool."

The same paper quotes an interview between Li Hung-chang and Prince Bismarck, which has been made public by the two Secretaries who acted as the Chinese statesman's interpreters on his journey to Europe. Li Hung-chang asked Bismarck to give him a recipe for making China prosperous, and received this truly Bismarckian reply: "It is necessary first to form an army, then acquire, thanks to this instrument, the mastery of the Empire. There is no other means than this. It is not necessary that your army should be a large one; do not go beyond 50,000 men. But they must be young, courageous, and well disciplined." Li replied that "in the five quarters of the world there was no army like that of Germany," and said when he returned to China he should reorganise the Chinese army on the German model, and confide its instruction to German officers. "When your army is reorganised," returned Bismarck, "you will not be long in seeing the good results of the measure. Do not scatter it in points too far off. Keep it in the capital or in one of the most important towns. The transport of troops from place to place will be easy with good strategic roads. Give to this matter all your solicitude." The counsels of Prince Bismarck have not, remarks the *Débats*, been of much utility to Li Hung-chang; he also has found his Friedrichsruhe.

A Paris paper seizes on the assassination of the Empress of Austria to tell some of the usual stories. It says that the Empress's death recalls the sad fate of her sisters. One, the Duchesse d'Alencon, was a victim of the Charity Bazaar fire last year, and the other, Marie, occupied the throne of Naples during troubled times. A gipsy once foretold the bad fortunes of the Princesses. To the Princess Marie she said:—"You will become a Queen, but you will suffer deceptions and experience disasters. You will show a surprising courage and energy in your difficulties. *Mais prenez garde des hommes rouges.*" This is taken to refer to the "red men" under Garibaldi who were victorious over the King of Naples. In the case of the future Duchesser d'Alencon the prediction was:—"You will not attain an advanced age. You have nothing to fear from water, but keep at a distance from another element, the enemy of water." The Duchess never forgot this prophey, and when searching for her remains after the fatal fire the Duke mentioned it to those who were assisting him.

A French paper, commenting on the fact that the Emperor William has bestowed on Queen Wilhelmina of Holland the command of the 15th Regiment of Hussars, says the appointment brings up to 13 the number of Princesses who have the command of regiments in the German Army. The others are the Empress of Germany, the Empress Frederick, the Hereditary Princess of Saxe-Meiningen, the Princess Royal of Greece, the Queen of England, the

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Empress Dowager of Russia, the Czarina, the Queen of Italy, the Queen Regent of Holland, the Grand Duchess of Baden, and Princess Louise of Holland.

The *Journal des Débats* expresses the opinion that the dispositions of the law of 1889 relative to the military obligations of Frenchmen resident in Europe or the French Colonies, form one of the most grave obstacles to French commercial expansion abroad. This law dispenses with all military service in the case of young Frenchmen resident outside of Europe (or at least those outside of French colonies) but it accords no such clemency to young men resident outside of France in Europe. The consequence is that these latter, unable to quit their employment, do not answer to the call and become naturalised subjects elsewhere. Many more Frenchmen would go into business in other parts of Europe if they were not faced by the discouraging alternative of being obliged to abandon their work for three years or to lose their nationality. The *Débats* thinks some modification of the law is highly desirable.

A French paper occupied itself the other day with the *post mortem* adventures of Columbus' bones. Another now deals with the other end of his life. It appears that Genoa, Pradello, Finale, Oneglia, Norvi, Savone, Albissolo, Bogliasco, Cogoleto, and ten other towns claim that Columbus was born in them. The Corsicans have been the latest to lay claim to the honour. They have fixed the great navigator's birthplace at Calvi, in the country of Napoleon. The claim was so far established that in 1882 M. Grèvy, the then French President, signed a decree for the erection of a statute of Christopher Columbus in the square of the town. From that day to this, however, the statue has never been erected. But the inhabitants have placed on the walls of the house supposed to be Columbus' the following inscription:—"Here was born in 1431 Christopher Columbus, immortalised by the discovery of the New World. Calvi was then under the domination of Genoa. Died at Valladolid, May 20th, 1506." What will Genoa, &c., say to this?

A French paper has a probably imaginative account of the organisation of a company eight days after the news of Omdurman for the exploitation of the Soudan. It thus sums up the benefits of civilisation: The company will construct on the banks of the Nile a casino, a race course, a ground for football and another for cricket, a swimming place fenced off from the crocodiles, and a sufficient number of public houses to recall the memory of home to the colonists. General Booth (whom the paper calls *le maréchal Booth*) will send a little garrison from headquarters.

We translate from a Paris paper the following:—At the last election for the Reichstag at Sand, a little village of the Grand Duchy of Baden, only nine electors presented themselves; the population was not interested in politics. At the scrutiny, however, they found in the ballot boxes 81 ballot papers. This caused a certain amount of astonishment (*une certaine stupeur*) in the bureau. An inquiry followed, and it was found that the President of the Polling Booth, the burgomaster of the village, had himself placed 72 papers in the box. He ended by avowing his fault, and, asked to give explanations, declared that the indifference of his townsmen had piqued his *amour propre*; that he had blushed for them; and that it was only to hide their disgraceful apathy (*coupable incurie*) that he had undertaken the multiplication of papers, which he considered was simply a pious and far from reprehensible fraud. Despite these touching declarations, however, the authorities have decided to send to the courts this burgomaster too careful for the good electoral name of his townsmen.

Here is a specimen of French red tape, set out by an indignant correspondent to a Paris paper: Several days ago, while abroad and on the point of returning to France, I sent a valise to Paris *en douane*. Yesterday I received an advice that my valise had arrived, and I went to the station, armed with the letter of the Railway Company. I entered a long corridor with numerous pigeon-holes to the right and left. Above one of these was this reassuring inscription: "First applications in regard to customs house arrivals received here." I produced my letter of advice A voice came out of the hole: "It's not here; go to No. 11." Obediently I went to No. 11. Five or six persons were there already. I awaited my turn and presented my letter. Here another voice: "It's not here; go to number 10." I passed to No. 10; there I signed a register (I had already signed my declaration), and I was told to go to No. 9 to pay the carriage due. From No. 9 I had to return to No. 11, furnished with a fresh paper. This time No. 11 received me well, and gave me two new papers which I had to fill in and sign. With these, one in each hand, I had to go to the baggage room, where, after some search, I found my valise. I thought I had at last reached the *dénouement*. Error! They sent me, me and my two papers, to No. 17, the hole over which was written "*Commencement des opérations en douane.*" There they took my papers away from me, and I had to go back to the baggage room and await before pigeon hole A. the call of my name. I waited a quarter of a hour. An inspector then appeared, and my bag was opened. Then I had to wait while they made out a new paper, which I exchanged at the door for a *laissez-passer*, which again was on going out of the building claimed by the *conciergs*. I gave four signatures and received eight papers, and the whole operation lasted one hour and twenty minutes. I had nothing dutiable in my valise. If there had been it is evident that the number of signatures, papers, and pigeon holes would have been doubled.

The following note is translated from the *Journal des Débats*: At Modena, in the province of Syracuse, Sicily, judgment has been delivered on a certain Lupo Salvatore, whose name, literally translated, would be Wolf Saviour. Lupo Salvator, an advocate by profession, had for a number of years deceived his clients with marvellous cleverness. But the pitcher goes once too often to the well (*Mais tant va la cruche à l'eau*). There were finally brought home to Lupo a trifle of 73 legal villanies. The honest advocate had imitated on deeds and other papers with consummate ability the signatures of the President of the Court and the Judges, of the Procurator, and of the chief clerk (*greffier*). He had managed, too, to get hold of the seal of the Court to complete the apparent authenticity of his forgeries. The Court, starting with the minimum penalty for the offence, which is three years, condemned him for the first offence to three years' imprisonment, and, as for the other 72, to 18 months each—an exceptional measure taken for the reason that the simple minimum, multiplied by 73, would have given a total of 219 years' imprisonment, undoubtedly an excessive sentence. It is true that, even with the restriction adopted, the result is 111 years, and that Sicilian justice, unless it is careful, has a serious risk of seeing the guilty man escape before the accomplishment of his sentence. If the maximum penalty had been inflicted, viz. 10 years for one offence, the total would have reached the respectable figure of 730 years, which is evidently too much for one man.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

In view of the Chinese Imperial decree ordering the suppression of Chinese newspapers and the arrest and punishment of their editors all the vernacular dailies at Canton are now published nominally by foreigners.

The Prince of Wales, says an English paper of the middle of September, can now walk with the aid of a stick, though he has to wear, and will have to continue to wear for many weeks, an apparatus for protecting the injured knee. The massage and passive movement are continued, and a considerable degree of mobility has been obtained in the knee-joint. The medical moral of the Prince's accident is clearly the advantage of being a good patient. The Prince has been reasonable and obedient, and has given the treatment a fair chance—has been, in fact, a model invalid—with the result that he has escaped from a very nasty accident without serious evil.

The ship *Glooscrip*, Captain Spicer, 96 days out from Philadelphia to Manila with a cargo of coal, entered the Derwent at Hobart (Tasmania) on the 30th September, short of provisions and water. Unusually adverse weather appears to have driven her off her course.

The Committee of the Victoria Recreation Club have sent a challenge to the Yokohama Rowing Club to row at Hongkong regatta, which takes place on December 20th and 21st. There has been no race between the rival clubs since the Hongkong crews were defeated at Yokohama in 1892.

The Rev. U. G. Murphy writes:—In the remarks following the translation of *Yasu Kyo Koku Gairon*, which appeared in your issue of the 27th ult., the term Educational Department should read Home Department, or Department of the Interior. That Department has control of all business relating to publications.

An incident quoted in the *Morning Post* shows that no encouragement is offered to postal reformers in Germany. One Herr Walker wanted to send off a telegram, and in an altercation as to whether a certain double-name should be counted as one word or two, he said the distinctions drawn by the official were "stupid." For this he was summoned and fined on a charge of "Beamerbeleidigung."

Mark Twain has at length determined to abandon the lecture platform. In a recent letter to an applicant for his services as a lecturer, he announces this intention as having been arrived at after much deliberation. Having regard to the lucrative nature of the practice which has fallen so largely into the hands of novelists and other literary men of late years, the deliberation is intelligible, but so also is the result. The strain of the work is terribly great, and Mr. Samuel L. Clemens, who has already borne the heat and burden of a good long day, may well remember the fate of Dickens, and resign himself to the comparative repose of writing further books to charm the world.

A sensational shooting case occurred at Haiphong on the 12th October. It appears that M. Jules Bedier, a transport contractor, had for a long time past been forcing his unwelcome attentions upon Madame Hermann, the wife of a lawyer's clerk. On the afternoon of the day named, he again went to the lady's house, and she, in a moment of excitement, fired two shots at him with a revolver. The wounded man had strength enough left to try to escape by climbing over a bamboo fence which separated the yard from that of the next house, but his foot got caught between the spikes, and Madame Hermann, who was in pursuit, fired at him a third time, striking him full in the heart. The post mortem examination showed that any one of the three wounds would have proved fatal. There were two in the lower part of the abdomen, one of which had perforated the bowel, while the other had traversed the pelvis and would have brought on peritonitis. The third bullet passed through the heart and lodged in the region of the liver.

On Saturday evening about ten o'clock two houses in Nakayamate-dori, 3-chome, Kobe, fronting on the main road leading up the Hill, were completely destroyed by fire, says the *Hiogo News*. The flames were first observed in the upper rooms of the house occupied by Count Origoni, as though rising from the floor. An alarm was promptly raised, and efforts made

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to remove the furniture from the Count's house and from that of the adjoining house, which was occupied by Chinese. Mr. Curtis' house on the other side was perilously near, but with the assistance of many friends working with poles, poking the burning timber away, escaped almost entirely. The premises destroyed are owned, we understand, by M. Dussaud. Count and Miss Origoni lost many articles of considerable value. Both the buildings and Count Origoni's furniture and effects were fully covered by insurance. At the time the fire occurred the occupants of neither of the houses were at home.

A decidedly unpleasant state of things appears to rule at Cayenne, where, it is reported, a mutiny has broken out among the liberated convicts. The garrison is insufficient to cope with the mutineers, who have committed several murders and looted the Army Stores. The authorities have sent to Martinique for reinforcements, but some considerable delay must necessarily occur before these can arrive. The situation is bad enough as it is, but there is some reason to fear that it will be made infinitely worse by the mutineers releasing the four thousand convicts in gaol in Cayenne, convicts, it may be remembered, of the most desperate type.

"Scientific expeditions" are still the order of the day. The latest of these innocent excursions is to be headed by an explorer, M. Foureau, who has taken the Sahara for his province, and is going to Ouargla, Forts Macmahon, Miribel, and Mimoun, with what precise scientific object is not stated. As usual, says the *Globe*, there will be a military escort of Torcos, armed with carbines, and Saharan riflemen with Hotchkiss quick-firers, commanded by a commandant, a captain, and four lieutenants. The collection of stores for this expedition gave rise some time ago to a suspicion that a military and not a scientific expedition was intended with a view of seizing some fertile spots on the borders of Morocco.

Mr. Consul Brenan, in his report on the trade of Canton during 1897, makes the following remarks on the growth of piracy in South China waters :—

Probably never since Canton was open to foreign trade has piracy been so rife as in the year under review. The boldness of the pirate is however, surpassed by the apathy of the provincial government. Perhaps the word piracy is scarcely applicable to the acts of these adventurous robbers. They have no armed craft of their own with which to give chase and run down their victims. The usual plan is for a band of half-a-dozen men to go on board a passenger launch disguised as honest men. When a suitable spot is reached they throw off all disguise, overawe the crew and passengers by flourishing revolvers, and then half the party stand by ready to shoot, while the rest proceed to search the passengers and their luggage; and when they have taken all they want they transfer themselves to another boat or land near a friendly village where a division of the spoils takes place. They are not devoid of a certain chivalrous feeling. Cases have been known where, after having robbed some rich passengers and made a good haul, they have restored to the poorer passengers what had already been taken from them. On other occasions they have overpowered the master and crew of a launch, and "borrowed" the use of the vessel for a few hours, during which they have overhauled a junk known to have valuables on board. Having pillaged the junk they have steamed away to their own village, and before landing they have offered to pay the master for the time his launch has been detained. The owners of passenger boats are now given to engaging some old pirate as a detective. He points out suspicious-looking characters whom it is better not to take on board, and keeps in check any of his own friends who may have been premeditating a coup. The boat people never attempt to effect an arrest; there would probably be bloodshed, and they would then be involved in judicial proceedings almost as unpleasant for themselves as for the pirates. They are thankful enough if they can get rid of the dangerous passengers, and persuade them to go off and try their fortune elsewhere.

MRS. PATTON'S SIBERIAN EXPERIENCES.

A rather meagre audience gathered in the vestibule of the Public Hall on Friday evening to listen to two short lecturettes by Mrs. Patton based upon her summer tour along the Siberian coast and the narrative of a Japanese who took part in the rescue work necessitated by the Hokkaido floods.

In describing "A Summer Experience up the Gulf of Tartary to the Amoor River" Mrs. Patton first dealt with a stay in Saghalien at the Russian Convict Establishment of Korsakoff. There are 25,000 to 30,000 convicts in the Island; in fact, with the exception of officials and soldiers, they form the entire population. Last year one steamer brought 800 murderers and another 600 murderesses—chiefly husband-slayers. These were rapidly snapped up as wives by the convict settlers. From Korsakoff Mrs. Patton took a Russian steamer to Nicolaevsk, on the Amoor, and her experiences, if not altogether pleasant, were decidedly interesting. The boat was dirty, the meals were served by filthy Chinese, and the food was not inviting, while the manners of the Russians at table were none and their customs nasty. Mrs. Patton subsisted for twelve days on bread and butter and beef tea, the Russian dishes being hardly attractive to an Englishwoman, and the pleasant manner of eating with the knife and afterwards using it to cut the butter being scarcely conducive to appetite. As for the country, Mrs. Patton described it as rough, coarse, and utterly devoid of objects of beauty and interest, and she pitied the Japanese fishers condemned to live in a place so different from artistic Japan. Up the Amoor, however, the mountain scenery was fine. The description of the town of Nicolaevsk could be summed up in one word, "filthy"—men, women, streets, houses, and everything. The only clean common people she saw there were Japanese. An American fellow-traveller hit it off in one sentence:—"I reckon I've swallowed enough dirt in the last three months to make a flower bed."

During an interval Mrs. Mollison sang a dainty ballade—Miss Poole accompanying—and Mr. Sharp gave a reading from Thomson's "Seasons."

Having explained the system of colonisation pursued in Hokkaido, and remarked that the unfortunate sufferers by the flood had not even the advantage of owning the land on which they were located, Mrs. Patton proceeded :—

I will explain that on leaving Otaru for Saghalien at the latter end of August, being unable to take my Japanese boy to Siberia on account of some difficulty about his passport, I left him to board and lodge at Sapporo until my return, when he was to meet me again at Otaru the last week in September. The date on which the rain began to fall which caused the disaster was September 6th to 8th, and it was accompanied by terrific wind. On September 9th the Government authorities at Sapporo advertised for able-bodied young men to volunteer to go down the line to Ibetsu Station—an hour distant from Sapporo—to form rescue parties to render assistance to the flooded people, and my boy, having nothing to occupy him, offered himself, and from the 9th till the 20th of the month he, with about thirty other volunteers, went every morning at 7 o'clock to this station, worked all day, and returned to Sapporo at night.

A FEARFUL DISASTER.

I give you the tale in his own words, taken down by his translator, as follows :—

"The news brought to us in Sapporo on 9th September was that the Ishikarigawa had burst its embankments, and that a tract of land, 140 miles long by 40 miles wide, was submerged, and that consequently all the people living within that radius were, if not already drowned, only saving their lives by clinging to the thatched roofs of their houses, or to the tall branches of trees, and had been in that perilous situation for three days and three nights—men, women, and little children—without a morsel to eat, almost entirely destitute of clothing, exposed to the full force of the pitiless storm as they held on to their frail supports. As the days and nights went on, only the strongest retained their hold; the weaker ones, exhausted by exposure and want of food, dropped into the flood waters, the survivors being powerless to save them. Such was the news brought to us in Sapporo, and when volunteers to aid the unfortunate people were called for, I was one of those who came forward. The flooded districts being inland, there were no boats handy, and to get about by any other means was impossible. A few small sampans were brought up by train from Otaru, but these did not nearly suffice, and carpenters were set to work to construct boats after the fashion of the Ainu 'dug-outs,' which are scooped out of solid logs. Meanwhile rice was boiled at the station as 'okai' in large quantities, and by the time the food was cooked, the 'dug-outs' were ready.

WATER THIRTY FEET DEEP.

"Loading one canoe with rice, we fastened it to another in which a couple of us were seated, and with long bamboos to propel the boats, which was a very difficult job, we punted our way along. Now you must know that as the water covered the land everywhere, sometimes to a depth of thirty feet, all familiar landmarks were hidden—indeed, only for the sun, we could not tell which was east, west, north, or south; therefore we steered our course by means of the telegraph poles along the railway, when we could see them, and where possible we pulled ourselves along hand over hand by means of the wires. In this way we progressed from railway station to railway stations and hereabouts the stations are long distances apart; the stations being built on somewhat higher ground, afforded a refuge for those fortunate enough to reach them. But we had also to feed those still floating about on the wrecks of their homes men, women, and children wailing for help, with hardly strength enough to hold on to their insecure refuge. How insecure you may imagine when I tell you I saw them repeatedly overturned by the impact of huge logs which were brought down by the flood, when all those who were moment before above water would be swept off and away out of life. We saw them drown before our eyes, but could do nothing, as our frail craft could not have held many, and besides we had another duty to perform, which was to feed the living. Carefully we approached each tenanted roof, and with ladles at the end of long poles, gave handsful of 'okai' to the poor famished creatures, who ravenously swallowed their portion and clamoured for more. But we could only give one handful a-piece to those who had already been without food for three days and nights; though, after we commenced our relief work, we managed to visit them three times a day, giving a handful to each. Water, too, we conveyed to them also in dug-outs, for although they were surrounded by water, they had no means of getting any, neither could they have swallowed it if they had, for it was thick with mud and refuse, and wholly unfit to drink. All the water we gave them had to be carried by train from Sapporo.

PATHETIC INCIDENTS.

"As we went on with our daily work of rescue, such sights we saw! For instance, there was a log with four men and women clinging to it, and two children fastened on with their girdles. Another log came rushing down on the current, and, striking the girdle as it was wound round the trunk loosened it, and down dropped one child into the water. The concussion shook off the adults and before they could regain their hold, the logs had floated beyond reach, the remaining child still fastened to one, and rolling over and over with it. I was told of a father who swam with his three-year-old son on his back, from the thatched roof of his cottage, on which was all his family, to a hillock near a railway station; leaving the boy there, standing in the water, he swam back for another of his family, but before he could reach them something collided with the roof, capsized it, and every one thereon was drowned. The little fellow meanwhile was crying for his father to take him away, 'it was *so* cold!' But his father could help him no more and the rushing waters, advancing, swept him off his frail foothold, within sight of the people at the neighbouring station only a few *cho* distant, but who were quite unable to render any assistance.

"These are but a few out of hundreds of similar incidents which became common talk during the first week after the floods were out. The officials at the railway stations told us that the shrieks of the people for 'rescue' during the first three days and nights were heartrending. During the first twenty-four hours the air was rent with their piercing cries, and those who heard them were nearly driven mad with the sound; but by the third night, from many of the weakest being drowned, and the remainder being faint from starvation and exposure, the cries became less and less.

AN AINU HEROINE.

"An Ainu woman, whose usual occupation was that of ferry-woman over a small river, and who consequently understood the management of a boat in rapid currents, was the heroine of the hour, for she worked incessantly, taking people from their roofs, and carrying them to places of safety. At the lowest estimate it is said she had saved at least forty or fifty lives.

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I heard at Hakodate that the Government proposed recognizing her services in some substantial manner, as well as by presenting her with a medal.

A FORTY-EIGHT HOURS SWIM.

"Another instance of heroic endurance was related in the Sapporo papers, which also serves to give a graphic idea of the state of the flooded country at this time. Before the flood came on a company of soldiers had been stationed for drilling purposes at a place called Takigawa, a village on the branch line from Ibetsu, and not far from the Ishikari river. They were ordered by their commanding officer to assist in getting the people on to their roofs, and altogether, about forty soldiers, working all day and night, saved about a thousand people. But their situation was so critical, as they were far from any aid, that the officer in command, seeing nothing but certain death for his men, who were all from Sapporo, or the villages between Sapporo and Otaru, and fearing that their families would never know their fate, selected two of the strongest men and best swimmers of the company, and told them to make the best of their way to Sapporo, to carry the news of the perilous position of their comrades. Now the ordinary distance from the village of Takigawa to Ibetsu junction by train is three and a half hours, and one hour more from Ibetsu junction to Sapporo, and some idea of the state of the country can be had when I tell you that it took these brave men *two days and two nights* to make that four and a half hours' journey! Already weakened by their twenty-four hours of rescue work before starting, without food of any kind, sometimes swimming a few *cho*—then climbing from the water into the branches of tall trees to rest a while before renewing their battle with the elements, the heroic fellows at last reached Ibetsu station more dead than alive. Thence they were taken to Sapporo by train, and brought the news, but fortunately their comrades eventually survived the horrors of the flood. It was stated in the papers that these men were also to receive medals for their heroic act.

FEEDING THE STARVING.

"The rice in Sapporo was soon exhausted, and recourse was had to Otaru. There, a few rice merchants with souls above money-grubbing gave freely of their store. Others demanded a high price, which the Government was obliged to pay to feed the starving. Immediately after the rains we were only able to relieve about two thousand; but each day, as the waters subsided, the police officers were able to reach the villages in boats, and direct us where to go, and by the time our twelve days' work was done, we could not have relieved fewer than fifty or sixty thousand. When I left the rescue work about five thousand were still receiving rations daily.

"The flood came at a most disastrous time, for the farmers were resting from their labours in the sure hope of a plentiful harvest, whereby their provisions during the coming winter were assured. Now, they are destitute, and without any hopes of food, save that which may be provided by Government aid, or by large-hearted and charitable persons. And it is not only these unfortunate farmers who have absolutely lost their all, that are suffering through this calamity, but the farmers and small tradesmen further inland, beyond the flooded districts; who, by the destruction of the Railway will be cut off from the outside world, and only have their own small supplies to depend on.

"The reason of the flood was this: the river Ishikari is the largest in Japan, but hitherto it had never been known to overflow its banks; and as it had stood very severe floods in previous years no preparations had been made for such a possibility. Hence, swollen beyond precedent by seventy or eighty hours incessant downpour, the river found no obstacle to stay its headlong course, but with a mighty, resistless force carried everything before it. When the rain ceased on September 8th it had only risen seven or eight feet, but on the 10th and 11th it had risen to twelve, fifteen, and in some places to thirty feet."

APPEAL.

This concludes my servant's narrative, but as we travelled by train from Sapporo to Hakodate via Muroran on September 26th we saw on every side the destruction caused by the floods.

You who are in the full enjoyment of domestic happiness; you who have children in your homes and around your hearths, will, I am sure, feel as I felt when looking at these pathetic evidences of homes and families swept out of existence, and will understand that I have not exaggerated the true story of the Hokkaido floods. Your presence here this evening is sufficient evidence of your charitable inclinations before you [illegible] the details of the catastrophe on behalf of which I made this appeal to you. And should you, now that you have heard all I have to tell, feel inclined to give anything more towards the fund, there are receiving boxes at the door for that purpose.

NIPPON RACE CLUB.

An off day's meeting of the Nippon Race Club took place at Negishi on Saturday afternoon. There was a fairly large attendance, but the sport was not very interesting, the fields being in every case small, while in the fifth race on the programme there was a walk-over. Details:—

RACE NO. 1.—Match, One Mile.

Mr. Worthington's Orion, 147lb. .....(Yasu) 1
Mr. Hyogo's Miyajima, 153lb. ...(Mr. Motto) 2

Miyajima led for about half the way round, but between the Shakespeare and the Trees Orion came to the front and passed him. Down the straight Orion increased his lead and won easily by four lengths. Time, 2 min, 12$\frac{3}{5}$ secs.

PARI MUTUEL. $5—Orion 57, Miyajima 61; total 117=$585—Orion, $9 00.

SWEEPSTAKES OF YEN 100.

RACE NO. 2.—$\frac{1}{2}$ MILE.

Mr. Tytherleigh's Kestrel 149lb. (Mr. Easton) 1
Mr. Nemo's Magyar, 162lb. ...(Mr. Andreis) 2
Mr. States' Oregon, 157lb....(Mr. Pakenham) 0

Oregon was left behind at the start. A good race took place between Kestrel and Magyar, the former coming in first by about a length and a half. Three lengths between second and third. Time, 1m. 03$\frac{3}{10}$secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Kestrel 22, Magyar 24, Oregon 58; total, 104=$520—Kestrel, $21.

No. 3—FIVE FURLONGS. For China Subscription Ponies, non-winners in Japan, that have started at the meeting and not won a race. Entrance fee yen 5, prize yen 100.

Mr. Campredon's Fleur-de-lis, 147lb.
(Mr. Motto) 1
Mr. R. Field's Free Trade, 147lb.....(Rikizo) 2
Mr. Guigoul's Cascadeur, 150lb..(Mr. Longin) 3
Mr. Russia's Cozack, 147lb. .....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Nemo's Chambertin, 147lb....(Nakagumi) 0
Mr. Sphinx's Mufiton, 150lb. .....(Takahashi) 0
Mr. Campredon's Chrysanthème, 147lb.
(Kubota) 0
Mr. New's Eclore, 150lb. .....(Sugiura) 0

Free Trade and Chambertin made the running till the trees, when Fleur-de-lis came to the front, and won by three lengths; a couple of lengths between second and third.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Chambertin 6, Fleur-de-lis 42, Eclore 17, Cozack 20, Mufiton 13, Chrysanthème 4, Free Trade 25, Cascadeur 13; total, 140 =$700—Fleur-de-lis, $15.

No. 4.—$\frac{1}{2}$ Mile. For all China Ponies that have started and not won a race at the Meeting. Scale Weight. Entrance fee, yen 5. Prize yen 100.

Mr. Nemo's Mr. Darcy, 150lb.....(Ichi) 1
Mr. Hyogo's Miyajima, 153lb.....(Takahashi) 2
Mr. Guigoul's Kirigomi, 147lb. ....(Hakodate) 3
Mr. News' Eclaircie, 150lb.....(Sugiura) 0

Out of nineteen entries only four faced the flag. Kirigomi and Mr. Darcy led the way as far as the trees, when Miyajima came into second place. Mr. Darcy kept the lead to the finish, winning by a couple of lengths; had third. Time 1m. 42$\frac{7}{10}$secs.

PARI MUTUEL, $5—Mr. Darcy 55, Eclaircie 13, Kirigomi 25, Miyajima 29; total, 122=$610—Mr. Darcy, $9 00.

No. 5.—$\frac{1}{2}$ mile. For all country breds that have started and not won a race at the meeting. Weight for age. Winners in Japan 7lbs. extra. Entrance fee 5 *yen*; prize 100 *yen*.

The race resulted in a walk over for Mr. Nemo's Sasha, who was the only entry. A match was afterwards arranged between Sasha (Mr. Pakenham) and Mr. Worthington's Traveller (Mr. Easton), which resulted in a win for the former by half a length. Sasha led all the way, but Traveller made a splendid race down the home straight. Time was not taken.

PARI MUTUEL.—$5. Sasha 59, Traveller 75, total, 134=$670.—Sasha, $10.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT SEA.

Mr. R. G. E. Forster held an inquiry at H.B.M.'s Consulate on Wednesday morning relative to the death of Robert Smith Cook, apprentice on board the British ship *King Edward*, which took place on July 16th, the ship being then in latitude 6 40 S. and longitude 28 05 W.

Hugo Peter Rasmus Rohde, master of the ship, said about 6 30 a.m. on July 16th the second mate reported to him that deceased had fallen from the mizzen mast on to the hatch. He went on deck, and found deceased lying with his head stove in one side and part of the brain exuding. There was no sign of life. Witness tried restoratives, but without success. A little while after he left Middlesbrough, the port of departure, witness had called Coats, another apprentice, and Cook to him. They told him they had never been aloft, never been at the wheel, and never done any seaman's duty. He said, "This is not right; you have been two years on board ship, and ought to have been instructed in seamanship. Witness afterwards had them sent to the wheel and up aloft, and if they had any new duty witness used to order a man to go with them to instruct them. They never objected to going aloft; they were not only willing but glad, and had said so to him. Cook had never said he had any fear of going aloft. Witness had stopped some younger boys from going aloft. A week or ten days before the accident deceased told witness he had a headache and felt giddy. Witness examined him, and came to the conclusion that his stomach was out of order. He gave the boy some medicine, and told him to lie down or walk up and down the deck if he felt giddy. Witness heard no more about his illness. Two days before the accident some of the seamen with Cook were carrying up a gantline to the royal mast head. Cook was standing on the royal yard in a very careless manner hauling up the gantline. Witness sang out, as he thought he was too reckless, and shouted to another seaman to pass the word up to him. To the best of his memory witness afterwards reprimanded Cook for his recklessness. Next day he was sent up aloft to paint the stays. On the day of the accident the sea was smooth, as far as witness remembered. Witness thought the accident was due to simple recklessness on the deceased's part. No portion of the rigging had given way.

Thomas Telfer, second mate of the *King Edward* said he remembered the accident. Cook had been at the mast head five or ten minutes. He was greasing the mizzen mast down. Witness did not see him fall. Witness gave the order for him to go up aloft. He showed no hesitation at all in going, and did not complain of being ill at all. The weather was fine at the time. Greasing the masts was an ordinary job: there was nothing particularly dangerous about it. Deceased must have lost his balance; no part of the rigging gave way when he fell. Witness had been in the ship only this voyage.

John Macdonald, able seaman, said he did not see the accident. The night before deceased told witness and several other seamen that he was sick, that his head was dizzy when he went aloft, and that he was not fit for duty. The boy had only just got up from a sick-bed. It was the usual thing for a man who was sick to report it to the officer of the watch. Witness thought Cook was not sufficiently well to work and ought to have reported that he wanted to lie up. He had never complained of ill-treatment. Witness thought Cook was fit in his proper state of health for duty like that he was engaged in when the accident occurred.

By the Captain—Cook had never said to him that the second mate was down on him, or had sent him aloft to punish him.

Mr. Forster's finding was that the deceased's death was caused by his accidentally falling from the mizzen mast of the ship on to the hatch, and fracturing his skull. He decided that no blame attached to the master or the crew.

THE EDWARDS CASE.

PRISONER ACQUITTED.

In H.B.M's Court for Japan on Wednesday, before his Honour Judge Wilkinson and a Jury consisting of Messrs. Henry Moss, Edward Flint Kilby, Alfred Henry Dare, Hugh Rice Mair, and Harold Emil Hayward, *Maurice Edwards Bennett*, alias *M. Edwards*, was indicted for obtaining by false pretences a bottle of perfume and a bottle of capsules from Messrs. Brett and Co.; and a novel and four boxes of cigars by false pretences from Messrs. Kelly and Walsh.

Mr. H. C. Litchfield, Crown Prosecutor, appeared for the prosecution. Addressing the Jury he outlined the facts of the case, and pointed out that though it might seem to the Jury that the actual amount of money involved was small the principle was the same in such cases whatever the sum at issue.

Geo. Kircher, the usher of H.B.M.'s Court; and W. Hecole, of Messrs. Brett & Co. repeated their evidence given at the preliminary hearing.

Mr. Cole if he—the prisoner

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—had not written below the slip bearing his signature, which had been produced in Court as an exhibit, that he would pay for the goods at the end of the month. That portion, he contended, had been subsequently torn off. In reply, the witness said that the portion torn off merely bore his own memorandum and nothing more. He could not say when it was torn off. There was nothing there about payment at the end of the month. He had sent the bill to No. 2, Bluff, immediately after the prisoner left the shop, and a second time later on. That was the time payment should have been made. The witness did not go himself to No. 2, Bluff, but sent a Japanese boy. He could not say who told the boy that the prisoner was not living there; he presumed it would be the landlady. The witness supposed that this could be proved, but could not say so himself. When he inquired about the prisoner, he used the name given him by the witness. They knew him by that name at No. 2, Bluff. When the witness met the prisoner coming from the Grand Hotel, the prisoner asked him to go with him to No. 2, Bluff. He might have said he would prove that he was stopping there, but this the witness did not remember. The witness did not go with him because he had been told by the people of the house that he was not stopping there.

A juror—Did the fact of his giving his name as M. Edwards only, instead of M. Edwards Bennett, influence you in giving him credit?—The name he gave did not influence me in giving him credit. I believe the bill was presented at No. 2, Bluff, but I cannot remember now.

By another juror—In the case of an hotel or boarding house bills are always presented on the same day; in the case of a resident at the end of the month.

By the prisoner—You pulled something from your pocket when you were taken to the station, but I did not see what it was. You did not offer to pay.

Nakajima Kumi, a Japanese woman in the employ of Mr. and Mrs. Staniland, No. 2, Bluff, deposed—There are rooms to let from time to time at No. 2 Bluff. We take in lodgers, and I have charge of the lodging part of the house. I let the rooms and take the money for them. In July last a young man came to ask for a room, which I let him have. This was on July 17th at 6 p.m. He stayed on the night of the 17th and 18th and left on the morning of the 19th. I recognise the prisoner as the young man to whom I let the rooms. He did not return.

By the prisoner: When he left he gave no notice; he did not say he was going to leave.

By a juror—When he left I thought he would return, but he did not do so.

Frederick William Thomas, manager of Brett & Co., Ltd., deposed—I remember in July last having an interview with the prisoner in company with Mr. Cole. It was in the evening at our store, and had reference to some goods which were purchased by the prisoner in the morning. He has not paid for them, though he said he would do so when he was at the Saibansho. At the store that evening he said he had no money to pay for the goods. In the case of a stranger we send the bill with the goods, and if it is not paid the goods are brought back.

By the prisoner—You did not offer me the money in the shop. At the Saibansho I did say that if it cost me one hundred dollars I would have you punished, and that it was not a question of five dollars. If you had paid for the goods in the evening at the shop it would have been all right.

Prisoner—But when I offered you payment, why did you not take it?—But you did *not* offer me payment. I never said I would see you put in a Japanese gaol. I did not say anything to the policeman in Japanese—my Japanese is too defective to talk to a policeman. My assistant spoke to him. I instructed my assistant to put you in the hands of the police and he did all the talking. I did not drag you into the store; and I sent a boy out for a policeman. Two policemen came—one brought by the boy and a second by my assistant. You did not offer me the money at the Saibansho. You offered to pay me—two different things. I said I would spend a hundred dollars to see you convicted as an example to others who might come and do the same thing. My intention when I handed you over to the police was to prosecute you for obtaining goods by false pretences by giving an address where you were not staying.

The prisoner, asked if he had anything to say, replied: "I hope the jury will decide for themselves whether I am guilty or not, and decide favourably."

His Honour in his charge to the jury pointed out that the chief false pretence alleged was that prisoner had given an address which he knew to be false. It was the duty of the Crown to prove that he did not live at No. 2 Bluff, whereas the evidence adduced by the Crown itself showed that he had resided at that address on the 17th and 18th and was expected to return. With reference to the false name, the jury might dismiss it from their minds seeing that the jury themselves had elicited from the witness from Brett & Co.'s that the false name did not influence him in giving the prisoner credit. The evidence with regard to the false address was altogether too weak, and His Honour under the circumstances advised the jury to return a verdict of not guilty.

The jury returned a verdict to that effect without retiring. With reference to the second count, Mr. Litchfield did not produce any evidence and a similar verdict was thereupon returned.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

OMINOUS NEWS FROM HONGKONG.

COUNCIL OF BRITISH NAVAL COMMANDERS.

MOBILIZATION IMMINENT.

(From our Correspondent.)

Shanghai, Oct. 31st.

Admiral Fitzgerald yesterday received some telegrams from England, the contents of which are as yet unknown. Immediately after receipt of the messages all the Captains of Her Majesty's vessels now in Hongkong harbour assembled in council on the flagship. Subsequently the heads of departments were summoned to a council on H.M.S. *Tamar*. The result of the councils is not known, but the mails for the northern fleet have been stopped at Hongkong. The news is evidently of a very grave nature, for the ships have been ordered to prepare to put to sea at any moment.

H.M.S. "REDPOLE."

(From our Correspondent.)

Hakodate, Oct. 31.

H.M.S. gunboat *Redpole* has left here for Nagasaki.

EARTHQUAKE IN THE NORTH.

Hakodate, Oct. 31, 7.30 a.m.

An earthquake was felt here at 2.30 a.m. to-day.

(From the "Japan Times.")

FRANCE CONCEDES TO ENGLAND.

London, Oct. 28.

According to an accredited report, the French agreed to evacuate Fashoda on condition that subsequent general compensation be recognized.

CRISIS IN FRANCE.

The present crisis in France is not merely Ministerial, but is Constitutional.

THE CABINET CRISIS IN FRANCE.

M. DUPUY SUMMONED.

London, Oct. 29.

President Faure has summoned M. Dupuy to form a Ministry.

DREYFUS CASE REVISION.

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS OPENED.

Proceedings in connection with the Dreyfus case revision have commenced at the Court of Cassation. The police prevented all demonstrations.

FULL INQUIRY DECIDED UPON.

London, Oct. 31

The Court of Cassation has decided to hold a supplementary inquiry involving an examination of the whole Dreyfus case.

THE PEACE COMMISSION.

SPANIARDS AGREE TO REPUDIATION OF CUBAN DEBT.

The Peace Commission at Paris has agreed on the Cuban question, the Spanish Commissioners having yielded on the subject of the Cuban Debt.

SIRDAR ARRIVES IN LONDON.

FRANTIC ENTHUSIASM.

Sir Herbert Kitchener has arrived in London. He escaped with difficulty from the frantic enthusiasm of a colossal crowd.

MAJOR MARCHAND'S MESSENGER ARRIVES IN PARIS.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION.

London, Oct. 28.

Captain Baratier, the bearer of Major Marchand's despatches, has arrived in Paris, and met with an enthusiastic reception.

PLAGUE IN CENTRAL ASIA.

ANXIETY AT ST. PETERSBURG.

The outbreak of plague at Samarkand is causing anxiety in St. Petersburg.

EMPEROR WILLIAM IN PALESTINE.

Emperor William has landed in Palestine.

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM.

London, Nov. 1.

Emperor William and the Empress entered Jerusalem on Saturday. It was a brilliant spectacle. Troops lined the route, which was crowded with spectators.

MARCHAND AT KHARTOUM.

FRENCH OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

London, Oct. 31.

Major Marchand has unexpectedly arrived at Khartoum, and is proceeding to Cairo. It is officially stated in Paris that he quitted Fashoda on his own initiative. Captain Baratier has been sent to Egypt with instructions for Captain Marchand.

PLAGUE SHIP AT SAN FRANCISCO.

The barque *Duchess Anne*, from Hongkong, has arrived at San Francisco with plague on board. The Captain and a sailor died on the voyage.

EMERGENCY SQUADRON TO BE FORMED.

COMING NAVAL DEMONSTRATION.

London, Nov. 1.

It is stated that it has been decided to form a strong emergency squadron and make an important naval demonstration.

EMERGENCY SQUADRON A CERTAINTY.

EXTRAORDINARY PREPARATIONS: MILITIA AND VOLUNTEERS TO BE MOBILIZED.

London, Nov. 1 [Later.]

The report of the formation of an emergency squadron is confirmed. Extraordinary activity prevails both in the naval and military centres in Pall Mall. The mobilization of the militia and volunteers has been decided upon.

THE FASHODA QUESTION.

MAJOR MARCHAND AT CAIRO.

Major Marchand is awaiting official instructions at Cairo.

BRITAIN PREPARES FOR WAR.

NOTICE OF IMMEDIATE MOBILIZATION.

LARGE ORDERS FOR PORT DEFENCES.

PROVISIONING OF MALTA AND GIBRALTAR.

SURPRISE IN FRANCE.

London, Nov. 2.

The French papers express surprise at the British war preparations, inasmuch as the intention to evacuate Fashoda is clearly indicated. The British Government has ordered the manufacture of 200 six inch wire guns, and large stores and provisions are being shipped to Malta and Gibraltar. Orders have been received at Dover to be prepared to carry out imme-

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diate mobilization and also a scheme for the defence of the port.

THE PEACE COMMISSION.

AMERICA DEMANDS THE PHILIPPINES.

The American commissioners at the Paris Peace Conference have demanded the absolute cession of the Philippines.

EMPEROR WILLIAM WILL CURTAIL HIS TOUR.

OWING TO EUROPEAN COMPLICATIONS.

The Emperor William has decided to curtail his tour, owing, it is stated, to European complications.

NEW FRENCH CABINET.

The re-constructed French Cabinet comprises M. Dupuy as Premier and Minister of the Interior, M. de Freycinet Minister of War, M. Delcasse, Foreign Affairs, and M. Lockroy, Marine.

AFFAIRS AT PEKING.

CHINESE SOLDIERS CUT TELEGRAPH WIRES.

REMONSTRANCE BY THE POWERS.

ASSAULTS ON FOREIGNERS.

Shanghai, Oct. 28.

A number of soldiers belonging to the Army Corps commanded by General Yuan Shih-kai, on the 23rd inst. cut the telegraph wire leading into the capital and afterwards prevented the engineers sent from the Paoting-fu works from repairing the damage.

The Tsung-li Yamên has ordered the General to punish the soldiers.

The Manchurian Volunteers recently called up were encamped at Tong-shan, but since the *coup d'etât* they have gradually been introduced into the capital. The Representatives of the Powers requested the Tsung-li Yamên to withdraw the men and place them under proper command, but up to the present no answer has been returned. Meanwhile these soldiers have been assaulting the foreign engineers engaged on railway work at Paoting-fu.

(From the "Jiji.")

THE JAPANESE MINISTER ASKS AN AUDIENCE OF THE EMPERROR.

Peking, Oct. 29.

Mr. Yano, the Japanese Minister, has demanded an audience of His Majesty the Emperor. It is expected his request will be acceded to on the 5th proximo.

FOREIGN RESIDENTS AGAIN ASSAULTED.

A Peking despatch dated the 27th has reached the Government to the effect that some soldiers of a provincial regiment stationed in Peking have again assaulted foreign residents. The Representatives of the Powers have required the Tsungli Yamen to withdraw them from the Capital.

Peking, Oct. 29.

On the urging of the foreign Representatives, the Chinese Government has agreed to withdraw from Peking the troops under General Yuan Shik-hai who have maltreated foreign residents.

DECORATIONS FOR THE JAPANESE EMPERROR AND EMPRESS.

Peking, Oct. 31.

The Chinese Emperor and the Empress Dowager intend to present the Japanese Emperor and Empress with the highest decoration of China.

MR. YANO.

The Chinese Government has agreed to give Mr. Yano, the Japanese Minister, an audience of His Majesty.

GERMAN GARRISON IN PEKING.

Berlin, Oct. 28.

The German Government, it is said, will not withdraw the guards from its Legation in Peking.

THE FRENCH CABINET AND FASHODA

London, Nov. 3.

M. Dupuy's Cabinet has decided on his line of policy. In regard to the Fashoda affair the Cabinet maintains the position taken up by M. Declasse, the Minister for Foreign Affairs; and in the Drytus case it has recognized the finding of the Court of Cassation for a revision of the trial.

CENTAL AFRICA.

The *Daily Graphic* states that the existence of a trading convention between Great Britain and Germany is inffered from the fact that the French Government has instructed Major Marchand to leave Fashoda and retire to the boundaries of the French sphere of influence in the Soudan.

THAT INDEPENDENT CLUB.

Söul, Nov. 1.

The members of the Independent Club are continuing their meeting in the open road with a view of enforcing their views on the Government.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

TROOPS MASSED AT PEKING.

Peking, Oct. 28.

Ten Army Divisions under the leadership of General Yuan Shik-hai have encamped to the South of the Capital. Notwithstanding the protest of the Representatives of the Powers against having such a large number of soldiers in the vicinity of the Capital, the authorities have summoned four more Divisions to the same place. On this the foreign diplomats, who were recently inclined to withdraw the Legation garrisons, have altered their opinion.

Later.

To the protest of the foreign Representatives against the large muster of soldiers in the vicinity of the Capital, the Chinese Government has not yet replied. The Governor-General of Pechili, has ordered General Yuan Shih-kai to suspend the movement of fresh soldiers to the camp, and to remove the present encampment to a spot more remote from foreigners.

Peking, Oct, 30.

The Kansu troops encamping to the South of Peking are preparing to retire.

RIOTERS AT CANTON.

Peking, Oct. 30.

A Canton dispatch reports that rioters have attacked the French Consulate in Canton and inflicted injuries on two members of the Consular Staff. The French Minister has made energetic protests to the Tsung-li Yamên.

THE HEALTH OF THE EMPEROR.

Peking, Oct. 27.

The rumours of the Emperor's illness originated in a slight suspicion of chest affection, but he has now recovered.

THE DETHRONEMENT SCHEME.

Peking, Oct. 27.

The Emperor has not been dethroned yet. Since the Empress Dowager gave an audience to the young princes, a rumour has spread that Her Majesty is intending to put the Crown Prince on the throne.

DEATH OF PRINCE YO.

Peking, Oct. 31.

Prince Yo has succumbed to illness.

WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

Six divisions of troops will be withdrawn to-day or to-morrow.

FRENCH WARSHIP.

Tientsin, Oct. 31.

The French warship *Lion*, which has been anchoring at Taku, has left for Canton.

RIOTERS AT CHUNG KING.

Shanghai, Oct. 31.

The rioters have promised the Government authorities to release the foreign missionaries whom they have captured. The district is quiet.

The following telegrams have reached the Government:—

PREPARATIONS OF BRITISH WARSHIP.

Hongkong, Nov. 1.

The British warships anchoring here have completed preparations to put to sea at any moment.

CHINESE MILITARY VISITORS TO JAPAN.

Hankow, Nov. 1.

General Chang-tze Tung has decided to send to Japan ten military officials to witness the grand manœuvres. It is expected that they will leave Shanghai on the 5th inst.

(From the "Chiuo Shimbun.")

SECRET TREATY BETWEEN RUSSIA AND CHINA.

Peking, Oct. 30.

According to rumour Russia and China have concluded a secret Treaty. The principal items provided in it are reported to be that the Chinese Government is to employ Russian soldiers, when necessary, for the defence of the coasts, until the Chinese military organization is settled. Instruction and command are to be entrusted to Russian officers. The Chinese Government is to pay the wages of Russian soldiers loaned to it. The Russian Commanders-in-Chief of Liaotung and Port Arthur are to send troops into China as soon as the Chinese Government wishes it to do so.

BRITISH REPRESENTATIONS.

The British Representative has advised the Chinese Government not to proceed with an immoral administration and not to persecute the reformists.

(From the "North-China Daily News.")

RIOTING AT SHAMEEN.

Hongkong, Oct. 26.

On Tuesday night, the 25th instant, a large mob on the other side of the creek at Shameen threw stones into the French Concession, the origin of the riot being an endeavour on the part of the police to move a joss-boat. The French Volunteers were called out and were about to fire, when some Chinese troops dispersed the mob. The Volunteers remained patrolling the Concession during the night.

Canton, Oct. 26.

An attack by rowdies, assisted and incited by members of the Triad Society, occurred this forenoon upon the Foreign Settlement at Shameen. The *yamen* of the mandarin on the creek separating Shameen from the native quarters was pulled down and the mandarin himself and some of his underlings were badly hurt by the mob. The Viceroy Tan has ordered a body of troops to suppress the mob.

ATTACKS ON FOREIGNERS.

Tientsin, Oct. 26.

A large number of braves, belonging to General Tung Fu-hsian's Kansu regiments, attacked a party of Foreign employés belonging to the Lu-Han Railway Survey at a place on the Lukouchiao-Paoting Railway line. It is not known how many English engineers were injured, but a native secretary of the Railway Company and two workmen were killed.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Oceanien 1	F. Nov. 4
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 2	M. Nov. 7
America	P. M. Co.	China 3	Tu. Nov. 8
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Hupeh 4	W. Nov. 9
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 5	Th. Nov. 27
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Nov. 21
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W Nov. 23
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Su. Nov. 27
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. Dec. 1

1 Left Nagasaki on the 1st inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 30th Oct.
3 Left San Francisco on the 20th Oct.
4 Left Hongkong on the 31st inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 29th Oct.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Nov. 4
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. Nov. 5
Europe, via S'hai	M. M. Co.	Oceanien	W. Nov. 9
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. Nov. 9
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	W. Nov. 9
America	P. M. Co.	Hupeh	Th. Nov. 10
Hongkong	P. & O. Co	Rohilla	W. Nov. 16
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	F. Nov. 18
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Nov. 21
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Nov. 25

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

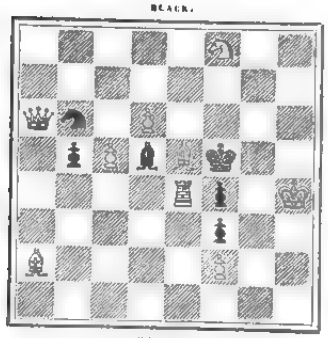
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 392.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Kt to K 4	1—K to Q 4
2—Q to Q 2 ! ch	2—B takes Q
3—B to Kt 8 mate	if 2—K to K 3
3—Q to R 2 mate	
	1—K to Q 6
2—Q to B 3 ch	2— B takes Q
3—K to B 5 mate	
	1—K to Kt 6
2—Q to B 3 ch	2—K takes R
3—Q to B 2 mate	if 2—B takes Q
3—Kt to B 5 mate	
	1—P to B 6
2—Q to Q 2	2—Any
3—Q to R 2, or B to Kt 8 mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S. and "Marco."

PROBLEM No. 395.
By JAN DOBRUSKY.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in three moves.

GAME No. 449.

A lively skirmish recently contested at the Yokohama Chess Club between a member and a visitor :—

White—Visitor. Black—Member.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	16 P KKt3	BxR
2 B B4	P KB4	17 QxB	Q KB3
3 Q K2	Kt KB3	18 Kt K3	Kt K4
4 Kt QB3	B B4	19 KtxP	Kt B6ch
5 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	20 K R sq	Q K4
6 PxP	P Q4	21 Q B4(!)	QR Q sq(b)
7 B Kt5(a)	P K5	22 Kt B4d. ch	K R sq
8 BxKt	PxB	23 Kt(B4)	
9 P Q4	B Kt5	K16ch	PxKt
10 Kt KR4	Castles	24 KtxPch	K R2
11 Castles	P B4	25 KtxQ	R Q8ch
12 PxP	PxP	26 K Kt2	R Kt8ch
13 Kt Q sq	Q Q3	27 K R3	KtxKt
14 P QB3(?)	B R3	28 QxB	RxP
15 Q Ksq	Kt Kt5	29 P KB4(c)	R R4 mate

NOTES.

(a) Kt takes K P would have been far better.

(b) The Q should have moved by all means, or Kt takes Kt which is perhaps best.

(c) B to Kt 5 would have prevented the mate; but white ran into the trap.

GAME No. 450.
FROM VIENNA TOURNAMENT.

A MODEL RUY LOPEZ.

White—Tarrasch. Black—Pillsbury.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	23 PxB	R K3(h)
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	24 P QB4	P Q5
3 B Kt5	Kt KB3	25 B R4 !	R Ktsq
4 Castles	KtxP	26 P Q3(i)	P QKt3
5 R Ksq	Kt Q3	27 P KKt3	P KR4 ?
6 KtxP	B K2	28 PxP	KtxP
7 B Q3	KtxKt(a)	29 B Q5 !	RxR
8 RxKt	Castles	30 RxR	K Kt2?(j)
9 QKt B3	P QB3	31 B KKt5 !	
10 Q R5(b)	P KKt3	(k)	P B3
11 Q B3	Kt K sq	32 R K6 !	B K4(l)
12 P QKt3	P Q4(c)	33 B Q2	R KRsq(m)
13 B Kt2	■ K3	34 ■ KKt4 !	Q QB2
14 QR Ksq	Kt Kt2(d)	35 PxKt	RxP
15 KR K2	B B3	36 R K8 !	Q Q2
16 B QR3	KR Ksq	37 R KKt8ch	K R2
17 Kt Q sq	B Q5(e)	38 Q Kt2	Q B4
18 P QB3 !	B Kt3	39 B K4 !	R KR7
19 Kt K3	Q Q2	40 RxKtP ! !	
20 P KR3	P QB4 ?	(o)	RxQch
21 B QBsq	B QB2(f)	41 RxR	Resigns
22 Kt Kt4!(g)	BxKt		

Notes from *The New Orleans Times-Democrat.*

(a) So far the moves are identical with those in the tenth game of the Steinitz-Zukertort match played in New Orleans, Feb. 26th, 1886. There, however, Zukertort moved 7..... Castles, and the game proceeded 8—Kt to B 3, Kt takes Kt; 9—R takes Kt, P to Q B 3, attaining the same position reached, by an inversion of moves, in the present game.

(b) Steinitz here played 10—P to Q Kt 3, and the continuation (which has since become "book play," the Handbuch giving it as leading to equality) was: 10....., Kt to K sq; 11—B to Kt 2, P to Q 4; 12 ..Q to B 3, B to B 3; 13—R to K 2, Kt to B 2; 14—B to R 3 (threatening R takes B and Kt to K 4!), R to K sq; 15—R to K sq, Kt to K 3, even game. Dr. Tarrasch's text-move is, unless we err, a novelty, and a distinct improvement, as the forced fianchetto resulting in Black's K's flank clearly weakens that side in a position of the present type.

(c) Why not instead, 12....., B to K B 3, at once? White can not reply 13—R to K R 5 on account of 13..... Kt to Kt 2; 14—B to Q R 3, R to K sq; 15—R to Q B 5, P to Q 3; 16—R to B 4, ■ to Q 4; 17—R to K B 4, Kt to R 4, etc., with the superiority.

(d) This Kt ultimately turns out badly posted at K Kt 3 after the adverse Q's fianchetto. Again 14..... B to B 3 seems in order.

(e) This appears to involve at least serious loss both of time and position; of which White fully avails himself. Better seems 17..... Kt to B 4!, when if 18—P to Q B 3, then 18..... Q to Q 2!; and if 18—B takes Kt, then 18..... P takes Kt; 19—Kt to K 3, Q to Q 2!, whereafter White dare not venture upon 20—Kt takes P, for then 20..... B takes Kt; 21—R takes R ch, R takes R; 22—R takes R ch, Q takes R!, threatening mate at K ■ and winning a clear piece!

(f) The natural sequence of his preceding move was, apparently, 21..... P to Q B5, and after 22—P takes P, B takes Kt; 23—R takes B, P takes P, etc.

(g) A very strong move, forcing the elimination of the adverse Q B and greatly weakening Black's game.

(h) Had Pillsbury been playing for a draw, which does not appear to be the case, by 23..... R takes R; 24—R takes R (or B takes R), R to K sq, instead, would have pointed strongly that way.

(i) Of course, not 26—B takes P, for after 26... P takes B; 27—Q takes R would not be feasible on account of 27..... B to R 7 ch, winning the Q. The text-move, on the contrary, brings his Q B powerfully into play and, with that following, makes his own position completely secure. White's game is now much superior.

(j) Pretty clearly intending to bring his R on the open K R's file, but actually costing a piece. It is difficult to suggest anything at all satisfactory for Black here, but perhaps 30..... Kt to Kt 2 at once, and thereafter R to K sq, or Q to B 4, might have given fighting chances.

(k) Threatening to win the Kt forthwith by 32—P to K Kt 4, and, in conjunction with his elegant 32d move, to force the win speedily enough.

(l) If, instead, 32..... P takes B; 33—Q to K 4! wins instanter.

(m) There is nothing better; his game is gone. If, instead, 33..... K to R 2, then still 34—P to ■ Kt 4! Kt to B 5 (forced); 35—B takes Kt, B takes B; 36—Q takes B, gaining the piece, menacing the adverse R and winning easily, 34..... Kt to B 5 is forced, because if, instead, 34..... Kt to Kt 2, then 35—Q to R 3 ch, Kt to R 4, equally losing the piece, for if 35..... K to Kt; 36—R to K 8 dlb. ch., mate!

(n) A most elegant finish to a most masterly game. Pillsbury, it is true, does not shine in this partie, but Dr. Tarrasch's play is of the very highest order.

GAME No. 451.
THE SHORTEST GAME IN THE VIENNA TOURNEY.

REEVE COUNTER GAMBIT.

White—Marco. Black—Blackburne.

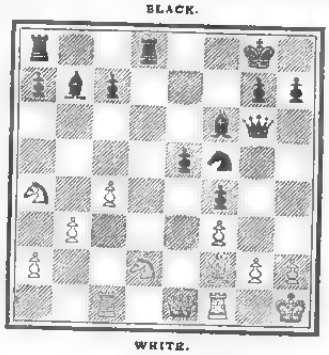
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	9 K KtxP	QB Q2
2 KKt B3	QKt B3	10 K BxKt	Kt PxB
3 KB Kt5	P KB4	11 KtxKBP	QBxKt
4 P Q3	P Q3	12 KPxB	Castles
5 QKt B3	KKt B3	13 Castles	KBxKt
6 QB Kt5	KB K2	14 Kt PxB	KRxP
7 QBxKt	KBxB	15 Q Q4	P Q4
8 P Q4	KPxQP	16 QR Ktsq	Drawn

Miron says:—"Time not reported; guess they're both ashamed of it."

END-GAME STUDY.

The following fine ending occurred in a game which divided the brilliancy prize at the Berlin International Tournament last year.

BLACK.



WHITE.

From this position the game was continued as follows:—

22	RxKt	28 RxP	Q K7
23 QxR	R Q sq	29 R Ksq	R Q8
24 Q Ksq	P K5	30 R Ktsq	RxRch
25 PxP	BxP	31 KxR	B Q5ch
26 QxB	Kt Kt6ch	32 RxB	Q K6ch
27 BxKt	QxQ	33 Resigns	

If 33—B to B 2, Black mates in three.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Ebani, British steamer, 1,003, Weigall, 28th Oct., —Samarang, Sugar.—M. Raspe & Co.

Martha, German steamer, 1,640, Kruzfeld, 28th October,—Iloilo, Sugar.—H. Gravert.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, N. Ohno, 28th October.—Shanghai via ports, 22nd Oct., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 30th Oct.,—San Francisco, via Honolulu, 11th Oct., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Kawachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,781, J. S. Thompson, 30th October,—London via ports, Kobe, 29th October, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,958, Sarchet, 30th October,—London via ports, Kobe, 29th Oct., General.—Cornes & Co.

Moravia, Austrian steamer, 2,267, E. Mecozzi, 30th October,—Trieste via ports, Hongkong, 22nd October, General.—Browne & Co.

Fuji Kan (38), Japanese Battleship, 12,749, Capt. Shikano, 31st Oct.,—Shimidzu, 30th Oct.

Yashima Kan (38), Japanese Battleship, 12,517, Captain Kataoka, 31st Oct.,—Shimidzu, 30th October.

Chiyen Kan (18), Japanese Battleship, 7,335, Captain Uyemura, 31st October,—Shimidzu, 30th October.

Matsushima Kan (28), Japanese Coast Defence Vessel, 4,278, Captain Endo, 31st October,—Yokosuka, 31st October.

Itsukushima Kan (31), Japanese Coast Defence Vessel, 4,278, Captain Saito, 31st October,—Shimidzu, 30th October.

Hashidate Kan (30), Japanese Coast Defence Vessel, 4,278, Captain Okura, 31st October,—Shimidzu, 30th October.

Naniwa Kan (14), Japanese Cruiser, 3,709, Capt. Misu, 31st October,—Shimidzu, 30th October.

Akitsushima Kan (19), Japanese Cruiser, 3,150, Captain Nashiwa, 31st October,—Shimidzu, 30th October.

Java, British steamer, 2,733, J. Chellew, 1st November,—London via ports, Kobe, 30th Oct., General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Najade, German ship, 1,691, Hasselmann, 2nd November,—Hamburg, 3rd June, Salt.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 2nd November,—Vokkaichi, 1st November, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakuru Maru, Japanese steamerr, 1,827, N. Mumezono, 2nd Nov.,—Otaru via ports, 29th Oct., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, Inman Scallin, 3rd Nov.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 2nd Nov., Mails and General —O. & O. S.S. Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 3rd Nov.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 2nd November, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, W. Brady, 3rd Nov.,—Kobe, 2nd Nov., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, C. Young, 3rd Nov.,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Kobe, 2nd Nov., Mails and General:—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, V. Yamanouchi, 3rd Nov.,—Yokkaichi, 2nd Nov., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pyhrrus, British steamer, 2,281, H. Batt, 4th Nov.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 2nd Nov., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Olympia, British steamer, 1,691, T. H. Dobson, 4th November,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 2nd November, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Hohensollern, German steamer, 1,900, E. Woltersdorff, 28th October,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co. Nachf.

Archer (6), British Cruiser, 1,770, Com. C. E. Kingsmill, 28th October,—Nagasaki.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, J. T. Smith, 28th October,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,748, W. Thompson, 29th October,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bayard (24), French Flagship, 5,880, Captain Mennier de Tournet, 29th Oct.,—Tientsin.

Kotik, Russian steamer, 299, Aulin, 30th October,—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Walsh Hall & Co.

Moravia, Austrian steamer, 2,267, E. Mecozzi, 31st October,—Trieste via ports, General.—Browne & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 1st November,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Muramatsu, 1st November,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Nishimura, 1st November,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, N. Ohno, 2nd November,—Shanghai viâ ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Ternick, 2nd Nov.,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Candia, British steamer, 4,195, W. G. Houghton, 2nd November,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Martha, German steamer, 1,640, Kintzfeld, 2nd November,—Moji, Ballast.—H. Gravert.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 3rd November,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sarpedon, British steamer, 3,022, Grier, 3rd Nov.,—London, via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 3rd Nov.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O.S.N. Co.

Stolberg, German steamer, 1,629, Formes, 4th November,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mrs. E. Rogers and 2 children, Miss Rosen-Runge, Mr. R. Little, Mrs. R. Little, Mr. S. P. Fulton, Mrs. Fulton and 3 children, Mr. K. Inouye, Miss Emma Verbeck, Mr. Constantine Santier, Mr. A. P. Robinson, Mrs. A. P. Robinson, Mr. W. S. K. Wetmore, Mrs. L. Holland, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Waring, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. F. W. B. Demaree, and Mrs. Demaree and child, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Rev. Henry Stout, Mrs. Henry Stout, Miss Stout, Mr. Hyde P. Howie, and Mr. C. G. Taillem, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Miss Rachel Bann, Dr. R. Borland, Mrs. Borland, Mr. B. Curlies, Rev. S. H. Littell, and Mr. J. H. O'Dowd, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. J. M. Welsh, Mrs. J. M. Welsh, Miss Grace Welsh, Miss Beatrice Welsh, Miss Maud Welsh, Mr. G. L. Hazzard, Mr. G. von Ostrohuszky, Mrs. R. M. Anderson, Mr. M. J. Treves, Mr. D. A. Ovieto, Mr. Peter Rankin, Major J. O. Hutchinson, Mr. David Sampson, Mr. Louis Basch, Mrs. F. E. Beatty and 2 children, Mrs. E. W. Leipei, Mrs. Edwin B. Bolton, Miss Alice C. J. Bolton, Mrs. Wm. A. Nichols, Mrs. D. D. Van Valvah, Mr. Julius Gauer, and Lieut. J. E. Lombard, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Lee Hung Qwai, Mr. E Kelly, Mr. K. Yoshisuye and son, Mr. W. S. Overton, Mr. Yung Yuet Chong, Rev. E. E. Rice, Mr. R. A. Marshall, and Mr. Nord Ameidend, in cabin; Mr. Woo Ching Ling, Mrs. T. Ogata, Mr. Ho Fung, Miss M. Aoki, Mr. Tang Chu Po, Mr. Yohdrau, and Mr. Dong Suh Dong, in second class; 23 Japanese, and 24 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kawachi Maru*, from London via ports:—Mr. R. Swain, and Mr. T. Herlihy, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Commander M. Kerr, R.N., Mr. W. Wilson, Miss Ghormley, Mr. R. C. E. Milne, Rev. and Mrs. Kelly, Mr. W. A. Seymour, Dr. and Mrs. F. M. Wasley, Miss M. Millet, Lieut. A. Gillespie, R.N., Miss Dr. L. M. Masten, Mr. H. Komada, Mr. Dunn, Mr. George, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, Mr. W. B. Meikle, Col. Martin and servant, Miss Dalnie, Mr. Finch, Mr. G. Kremer, Mr. R. C. Garnier, Miss Officer, Mr. S. H. Kuhn, Mr. B. Roth, Mr. J. Rankin, Mr. C. Nielson, and Rev. Thompson, in cabin; 8 second class; 242 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Miss Rae Green, Mr. W. J. Gotham, Rev. and Mrs. G. C. Needham, Mr. A. H Frazier, Mr. Justus Briggs, Mrs. E. T. Osborn Mrs. Shotwell, Mr. M. W. Cochran, and Mr. A. P. Brayton, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mrs. J. Monthifo and servant, Miss E. Junque, Mr. C. Reine, Mr. P. Junque, Mr. G. W. Rohr, Dr. S. Crocker, Mrs. W. F. Shields, infant and amah, Master J. G. Shilds, Miss M. J. Shilds, Mr. A. Cortes, Mr. M. Cortes, Mr. Choy Quow, Mr. Otto Heim, Mr. E. V. Greacen, Mr. C. S. Coy, Mr. C. Churchill, Mr. F. E. Berto, Miss M. J. Barrows, Mr. H. Clement, Mr. A. Oestman, and Mr. S. Miki, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for Hongkong via ports:—Rev. and Mrs. R. R. McLean and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lee, Captain W. Gordon, Mr. H. Reichart, Mrs. Lizzie A. Bean, Mr. J. W. Brown, Rev. B. H. March, Mr. Samuel Steel, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Whitehouse, Mrs. Charles M. Reynolds, Mrs. A. Forrest, Mr. J. F. Cruickshank, Mr. F. Koehler, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Kew, Mr. and Mrs. Wong Fo Foy, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sturmann, Miss Julia Sturmann, Captain G. F. F. Wilde, U.S.N., Lieut. C. P. Echols, U.S.A., Mr. Andrew Olssen, U.S.N., Mr. V. E. Abraham, and Mr. H. Grimble, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Hohensollern*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. A. Kleinwort, Mrs. Lehmann, Mr. F. Kronenberg, Miss M. A. Brown, Mrs. Kleinwort and children, Miss Mair, Miss Komori, Mr. Bun Tai and child, Miss Hogan, Miss White, and Mr. M. Weinmann, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sado Maru*, for London via ports:—Mr. J. Pooley, Mr. T. Kawakami, Lieut. K. Kobayashi, I.J.N., Staff Paymaster T. Koga, I.J.N., Chief Surgeon, R. Minobe, I.J.N., Mr. U. Ohara, Mr. R. Nakai, Mr. T. H Lamblyn, Mr. and Mrs. Gheyssens, Mr. M. Ikoma, Miss T. Koshiba, Mr. Robins, Mr. F. Tamoto, and Dr. Y. Asayama, in cabin; 41 Japanese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Captain S. Hashimoto, I.J.N., Mr. S. Hankin, Mr. Foong Ie Nye, Mr. Yuen Chi Sang, and Mr. Sai Tei Shi, in cabin; 31 Japanese, 7 Chinese, and 1 European, in steerage.

CARGO.

Raw and Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Hohensollern*:—

	RAW.			WASTE.		
	Option	Italy	Austria	France	Italy	Option
Sieber, Brennwald & Co.	59	—	—	—	—	—
Nabholz & Co.	35	—	—	—	—	—
J. Victor Gielen	—	—	75	—	—	—
Bavier & Co.	—	—	30	30	84	2
Dell'Oro & Co.	—	—	—	—	26	—

Total—94 bales Raw Silk; 247 bales Waste Silk.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Business has been practically at a stand-still for yarns, and there is no enquiry for grey shirtings. In fancy cottons and woollens, except a small demand for Italian cloths, there is nothing doing.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 30 inches	$2.55 to 2.85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	1.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7½, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.60 to 2.30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2.00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sattoons Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.28 to 0.43
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 32 inches	0.15½ to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb.	0.55 to 0.67½
	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 21 inches	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	44.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2 60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2 80, Plain	76.00 to 77.00
Nos. 2 100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2 60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2 100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.00 —
Chinese	18.00 —

METALS.

There is a fair all round demand, but prices are mentioned generally under home cost. There has been some business in iron plates and sheets.

	per picul.
Round and square ½ inch, and upward	4.00 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.85
Sheet Iron	5.00 to 5.00
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.25 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	6.05 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.00 to 6.20
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (½ to 2½ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

A brisk demand exists, and holders remain firm; a further advance in prices has resulted.

American	$2.18 to 2.20
Russian	2.10 to 2.15
Langkat	1.94

SUGAR.

Prices for browns from 10 to 20 *sen* lower. Nothing doing in Formosas.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$5.20 to 5.25
Brown Manila	5.70 to 6.30
Brown Daitong	4.30 to 4.35
Brown Canton	4.20 to 5.60
White Java and Penang	6.60 to 6.90
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The demand is now almost exclusively from America, and only a moderate business has been done at declining prices. The market closes weak. Holders are anxious to sell.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	Nominal
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$865 to 875
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	850
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	880
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	850
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	825
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	790
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	880
Kakedas—No. 1	850
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	790
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is very quiet and prices remain weak.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 127½
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Oshu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	110 to 115
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	55 to 70
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	90 to 95
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

The market is quieter, few purchases being made and those only of teas from 22 to 23 *yen* per picul. There are about 7,500 piculs, chiefly of the lower grades, in stock. The total settlements so far amount to 200,309 piculs, compared with 207,996 piculs at the corresponding date of last year.

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QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$33 & upwards
Choice	31 to 32
Finest	29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Silver again ⅛ higher from London, no change in sterling quotations from China, and rates locally unaltered.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0¼
— — Bills on demand	2/0 5/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 3/8
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 7/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 1/2
On Paris—Bank sight	2.56
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	260½
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅜ to ½
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07½
— Private 4 months' sight	2.11
On Hongkong—Bank sight	2½ to 3 %dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4 to ½%dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	74 to ¼
— Private 10 days' sight	75 to ¼
On India—Bank sight	152½
— Private 30 days' sight	155
Bar Silver (London) on 5th inst.	28 5/16

LOCAL AND JAPANESE SHARE LIST.

[Messrs. Bisset & Ura's List.]

Yokohama, November 2nd.

Japan Brewery new shares are wanted at *yen* 100 cum three instalment paid, offers of shares are wanted. Offers of and for Japan Brewery old shares are also wanted. Y. E. & I. Works are strong at *yen* 215. Grand Hotels are enquired for at *yen* 222.50. Club Hotels are in demand at *yen* 105. Offers for Oriental Hotels and Nagasaki Hotels are wanted. Bretts can be had at *yen* 9. Langfeldts can be had at *yen* 230. Japan Brewery Debentures and Oriental Hotel Debentures have sellers at *yen* 110 ex accrued interest.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50	225 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld., $100, Old	3.0 N.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. *yen* 50 (*yen* 30 paid up)	100 B.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100	222.50 E.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100	105 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100	235 S.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Pdcn.), $100	450 S.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., *yen* 100	65 S.
North and Rae, Ld., $100	200 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $10	9 S.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100	230 S.
Hugo Gas Co., Ld., $100	180 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	110 S.
Kobe Hub 6% Deb., $50	50 B.
Yokohama United Club 8% Deb., $100	100 B.
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	100 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100	110 S.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100	100 N.

Reserve Fund.—1, *yen* 110,000: 2, *yen* 3,200 equalization of dividends and *yen* 30,000 fluctuation of property; 3, *yen* 21,710-91; 4, *yen* 16,298.44.

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady, N.=Nominal, W.=Weak, E.=Enquiries.

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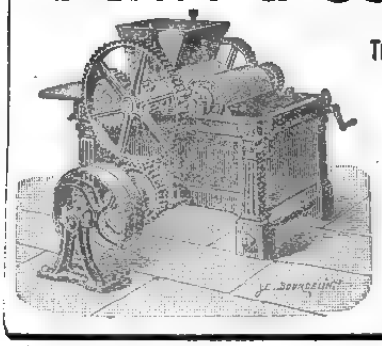

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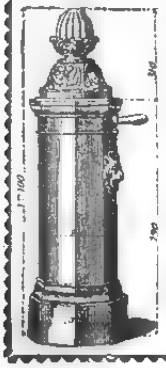

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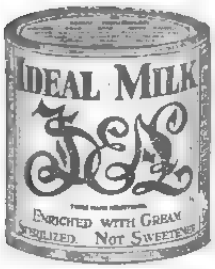

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, NOV. 12TH, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE plague in Bombay city is steadily declining.

LAST Saturday 482 emigrants left Yokohama for Hawaii by the steamer *Coptic*.

THE German and Russian press oppose the American demand for the Philippines.

ORDERS have been placed with various British firms for railway bridges for Khartoum.

MARQUIS YAMAGATA has organized a Cabinet composed exclusively of the Elder Statesmen.

THE standing squadron, after spending a week at Yokohama, have returned to Yokosuka.

THE war preparations in England continue: but their object cannot yet be discovered.

THE new chief of police in Tokyo is an Army officer having no connection with political parties.

THE last of the Turkish garrison only left Canea under British threats to bombard the barracks.

THE cricket season of 1898 closed in Yokohama last Saturday, when the Interport Eleven engaged The Rest. The issue proved indecisive.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD has left Peking for Tientsin, whence he will proceed to Shanghai and then to Japan.

THREE prisoners in Negishi Jail, Yokohama, have made their escape. They have not yet been apprehended.

MARQUIS SAIGO leaves the Naval Department for the Home Office, his former place being taken by Admiral Yamomoto.

MR. KANG YU-WEI, the Chinese refugee, is now living at a Japanese house in Ushigome, Tokyo, and is studying French law.

MR. SCHREINER has introduced a Bill into the Cape Parliament for the contribution of £30,000 annually towards the Imperial Navy.

THE 119th Bank will close in December, its term having expired. The business will be transferred to the Mitsubishi Joint-stock Bank.

ACCORDING to the Customs reports of Yokohama and Kobe, the exports during the last half of October exceeded the imports by *yen* 970,000.

IT is expected that the formal opening of the Diet will not take place until the Emperor's return from the Autumn Manœuvres, about Nov. 23rd.

MARQUIS ITO and Count Inouye are both in the neighbourhood of Moji: the former is credited with a desire to build a house in Nagano, his birth place.

THE new Minister of Finance is Count Matsukata, and with his return to power we find Baron Tajiri resuming his old position as Vice-Minister of Finance.

THE Sirdar was rapturously cheered on his way to the Guildhall, where he received the Freedom of the City of London and was presented with a superb sword of honour.

THE Diet assembled on Monday and the Lower House elected three candidates for the Emperor's approval as President. The Liberals possess a majority in the House.

COUNT OKUMA, the ex-Premier, and Count Itagaki, ex-Minister for Home Affairs, will receive at the Palace the same ceremonial treatment as when they held office.

THE Liberals held a conference on the 9th at the residence of Mr. Hoshi and discussed steps to be taken in opposition to the new Cabinet. No course is yet decided on.

A FIRE broke out on Saturday evening on the small vessel *Suehiro Maru*, anchored at Fukagawa. The cargo, 157 bales of cotton, was destroyed. The vessel had arrived the previous day from Yokohama.

ON the 5th, the ex Directors of the late Kayo Railway Company and other capitalists held a meeting at Osaka, and decided to promote the construction of a railway in Kawachi province with a capital of *yen* 3,000,000.

A MAN named Tanimura Shotaro (42), living at Okachimachi, Shitaya, Tokyo, who murdered his wife Kuri (35) was on the 8th sentenced at the Tokyo District Court to 9 years' major confinement.

INCOMPLETE returns to hand on Friday, showed that the Republicans have elected Mr. Theodore Roosevelt as Governor of New York State, and also Governors in fifteen other states, Democrats being returned by three states. The result of the elections to the State Legislatures will ensure a Republican Senate.

THE 14th instant being the anniversary of the occupation by Germany of Kiaochou Bay, the German cruiser *Princess Wilhelm* has left Yokohama for Kiaochou to take part in the celebrations there.

THE dead body of a man was washed ashore at Miyagawa-cho, Yokohama, on the 8th inst. He had the appearance of a merchant and was aged about 55 years. It is believed he was murdered and thrown into the water.

A TELEGRAPHIC despatch from Sydney, dated the 3rd inst., has been received by the Foreign Department to the effect that the New Customs Tariff was enforced the previous day. The tax on tea is 3d. per 1lb. and on rice 60s. per ton.

A MAN named Kaneko Shinkichi (26), who murdered the wife of his employer, Takagi Chokichi, No. 26, Ishikawa, 1-chome, Yokohama, on the 23rd June, in revenge for her having rejected his illicit proposals, was on the 8th instant executed at Tobe Jail.

THE price of land in Kobe and the neighbourhood has greatly increased in anticipation of the enforcement of the revised Treaties. Land in the village of Osada, hitherto valued at *yen* 2 per *tsubo* (2 yards square), now fetches *yen* 6 or *yen* 7.

AN old man named Tanaka Kintaro (62) attempted suicide by taking a quantity of sulphuric acid in Uyeno Park, Tokyo. A policeman found him and took him to the Shitaya station, where he was placed under medical treatment. The rise in prices and consequent distress are said to be the motive.

THE authorities at Söul have at last risen against the Independence Club. Its President, Mr. Yun, editor of *The Independent*, has fled to the American Legation, and many of the influential members have been arrested. The publication of newspapers was temporarily suspended during the political turmoil. Matters are still very disturbed in the Peninsula.

THE Guild of Osaka match manufactures held a meeting to discuss the question of curtailing manufacture and petitioning the Government to pay back a part of the taxes paid in advance, and to investigate the cause of the present depression. They finally decided to work half time during December and to suspend the work for 15 days in January. As to the application to Government with regard to taxes, it was referred to a committee of five.

A WASHINGTON despatch to the Government says that public opinion in the United States is in favour of retaining the Philippines, and the Government will be compelled to follow this policy. A suggestion is made that the islands should be occupied, about $35,000,000 being paid to Spain as compensation. A telegram from Paris reports that Spain will probably yield to the demand for the Philippines. The Powers will probably not object, as such a solution will prevent disputes in Europe as to the possession of the islands.

LITTLE is doing in imports, the demand for all kinds of textiles being extremely limited. There are enquiries for metals, but not at prices to tempt sellers. Kerosene is still active, sugar shows the usual steady trade. As regards exports, little is doing in tea, and both the raw and waste silk markets are inactive.

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A YAMAGATA CABINET.

Saturday, Nov. 5th.

The general belief yesterday in Tokyo was that Marquis Yamagata would undertake the task of forming a Cabinet, and that its personnel would consist of Liberals, including Baron Ito and Baron Suyematsu, the latter of whom has openly joined the Liberal Party. Count Itagaki is not to have a portfolio, and as to his successor at the Home Office some uncertainty still seems to exist. Mr. Hoshi Toru is spoken of as Minister for Foreign Affairs. If a Ministry is formed before the return of Marquis Ito, the programme here indicated is now thought to be the most likely. We can only repeat our previous statement that from the point of view of outsiders, the natural exit from the situation is to leave the administration in Count Okuma's hands and allow him to give the vacant portfolios to men of his own party. As a matter of political principle, the Progressists are entitled to an administrative opportunity. They command a majority in the Lower House, and their leader did not resign the Premiership because he found himself unable to carry on the government but because his proposed re-organization of the Cabinet failed to obtain the Emperor's approval. A transfer of the administrative power from the Progressists, who actually hold it, to the Liberals who have resigned it, would not be unconstitutional, as we read the Constitution, but would certainly be a distinct interposition of the Imperial authority to check the natural evolution of the system of party government. It may be urged, of course, that both the Liberals and the Progressists have resigned, and that the stage is clear for the organization of an entirely new Cabinet. But if the circumstances under which their resignations were tendered be recalled, the justice of our manner of stating the case will be acknowledged. Every Cabinet is, in a sense, the Sovereign's choice, and some part of the responsibility for its failures would rest on the Throne were not the latter held infallible. When, however, the administration is taken from a party which has declared its readiness to carry it on and is given to a party which has declared its refusal to cōoperate, the Throne seems to cast its shadow farther into the political arena than could be wished by those who see in the sacro-sanctity of Japanese imperialism a rock of safety amid these surging tides of political change. There is further the practical difficulty—an insuperable difficulty, so far as we can see—that the Cabinet now spoken of could not present a Budget to the Diet, or undertake to steer through the Houses the various legislative projects of the present Ministry. Men like Mr. Hoshi Toru, Baron Ito Miyoji, and Baron Suyematsu will not consent to a financial scheme which does provide an increase of the Land Tax, and it is obviously too late to include that feature in a Budget which must be placed in the hands of the Lower House within a few days. Hence, from a practical as well as a theoretical point of view, we are disposed to hope that things will be suffered to take their natural course, and that one Ministry will not be displaced in favour of another, until the former has exhausted its mandate by normal processes.

Monday, Nov. 7th.

Various rumours were circulated yesterday with regard to the organization of a new Cabinet. All agree as to one fact, namely, that Marquis Yamagata on the afternoon of the 5th, received the Sovereign's command to form a Cabinet. But there is a difference of opinion as to whether he accepted the task or asked for time to consider. The most trustworthy account says that he accepted, and we imagine that there is no longer any doubt on the subject. It remains to be seen, however, whether the Ministry will be chosen without reference to political parties, or whether the leading Liberals will have portfolios. An "extra" issued by the *Hochi Shimbun* says that the Emperor desires to have no connexion whatever between the Cabinet and political parties, lest the Throne be drawn into the latter's squabbles; but a *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* "extra," circulated at a later hour, does not suggest anything of the kind. It would appear, at all events, that Marquis Ito's return will not be awaited. There is a general agreement that the portfolio of Finance will be taken by Count Matsukata, the portfolio of Foreign Affairs by Viscount Aoki, and the portfolio of Justice by Mr. Kioura Keigo.

Tuesday, Nov. 8th.

The delay in forming a new Cabinet seems to have been caused, not by any difficulty in finding a strong personnel, but by uncertainty as to the political basis, in the first place, and by negotiations with the Liberals, in the second. Marquis Yamagata, if report may be credited, was disposed, at the outset, to organise a Ministry without any regard to political parties. But that project encountered strong opposition at the hands of Count Matsukata, Viscount Katsura, and Viscount Aoki. Indeed, it is said that the Emperor himself asked the Marquis whether he had any clear policy as to the House of Representatives. It was then decided to approach the Liberals, and Viscount Katsura undertook the task. The reply of the Liberals is variously reported, but the most credible account seems to be that they demanded five portfolios, namely, those of Foreign Affairs, of Home Affairs, of Finance, of Communications, and of Agriculture and Commerce. That would leave the War Office, the Naval Department, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Education to be filled by Marquis Yamagata's nominees. As to the candidates put forward by the Liberals, they are said to have been Count Itagaki, Messrs. Hayashi, Matsuda and Hoshi, and Baron Ito or Mr. Tatenouchi Tsuna. But another statement is to the effect that Count Itagaki himself does not wish for a seat in the Cabinet, preferring to remain out of office and look after the affairs of the Party. Marquis Yamagata is believed to have replied that he would consent to give four portfolios to the Liberals, provided that the name of Baron Suyematsu was included in those of the men proposed by the Party as its Ministerial representatives. There being thus a difference of only one portfolio, it may, at first sight, seem certain that an agreement will be reached. But closer reflection shows that the possession of that one portfolio constitutes the balance of power in the Cabinet, independently, of course, of the Premier's vote. The question is whether Marquis Yamagata's nominees shall have five portfolios and the Liberals' nominees four; or whether the Liberals shall have five and the Premier's people four. The latter arrangement might prove highly inconvenient in practice, for in a full Cabinet the two sides would number five each. It is to be sincerely hoped, however, that we are not on the eve of another squabble about the balance of power. The Liberals will be very unwise, in our opinion, if they insist upon inconvenient terms at present. It is, perhaps, rash to attempt any forecast, but the Cabinets deducible from the above statements appear to be these, the first being the organization according to Marquis Yamagata's ideas; the second that according to the Liberals' ideas:—

Premier Marquis Yamagata.

	I.	II.
Navy—	Marquis Saigo.	Marquis Saigo.
War—	Viscount Katsura.	Viscount Katsura.
Home—	Mr. Hoshi Toru.	Count Itagaki.
Foreign—	Baron Nishi or Viscount Aoki.	Mr. Hoshi Toru.
Finance—	Count Matsukata.	Count Matsukata.
Communications—	Baron Suyematsu.	Mr. Hayashi.
Agriculture and Commerce—	Mr. Matsuda.	Mr. Matsuda.
Education—	Mr. Hayashi.	Baron Ito
Justice—	Mr. Kioura.	Mr. Kioura.

Wednesday, Nov. 9th.

The expectation that a coalition might be formed between the Liberals and Marquis Yamagata has proved delusive. We reported in our last issue that the leaders of the Party asked for five portfolios and that Marquis Yamagata was willing to give them four, but the latest rumour is that their demand was four and that three only were offered. These details are unimportant, however. What is evident is that the Cabinet was intended from the first to be organized with a preponderance of the "Elder Statesmen," and that the Liberals were to have had only such a share as would secure their cōoperation without giving them any control. They were not willing to form a union on those terms, and thus they remain outside. The composition of the Cabinet is as follows:—

Minister President.	Marquis Yamagata.
Home Affairs.	Marquis Saigo.
Foreign Affairs.	Viscount Aoki.
Finance.	Count Matsukata.
War.	Viscount Katsura.
Navy.	Rear-Admiral Yamamoto.
Justice.	Mr. Kioura Keigo.
Education.	Viscount Kabayama.
Communications.	Viscount Yoshikawa.
Agriculture and Commerce.	Mr. Sone.

In the matter of ability and experience this is certainly a very strong Cabinet. It does not include a single mediocrity. The only new man is Rear-Admiral Yamamoto, and for many years he has been regarded as one of the ablest naval administrators that the country possesses. Marquis Saigo at the Home Office and Viscount Kabayama at the Department of Education are unexpected, but Marquis Saigo's tact and popularity ensure success in any sphere, and Viscount Kabayama has ability which renders him comparatively independent of special experience.

The new Chief Secretary of the Cabinet is Mr. Yasuhiro Hanichiro, who was President of the High Normal School during Marquis Saionji's tenure of the portfolio of Education. Mr. Hirata Tosuke, who becomes Chief of the Legislative Bureau, held at one time the post of Chief Secretary of the Privy Council. With regard to Captain Oura Kanetake, who is gazetted Chief of Police, we know nothing except that he is an Army officer. His appointment ought to please the public, for he is, of course, unconnected with any

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political party. The new Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Matsudaira Masanao, has been without an appointment since he served as Governor of Miyagi Prefecture. Baron Tajiri, who returns to his old position of Vice-Minister of Finance, is well known to our readers, and the same is true of Mr. Tsuzuki Keiraku, formerly Vice-Minister of Education, who is gazetted Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Fujita Shiro, now appointed Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, was formerly chief of a bureau in that Department and must be known to our readers as having often discharged the duties of a Government Delegate in the Diet. The Department of Communications receives for Vice-Minister Professor Furuichi Kintake, a civil engineer of considerable reputation, who has a long and creditable record in the Home Department. Finally, Mr Komaki Shogyo, the new Chief Secretary of the Privy Council, served formerly as Governor of a Prefecture.

The first question that will present itself to everybody is, how can such a Cabinet hope to get on with the Diet? Does it intend to ignore the Diet altogether and hold itself solely responsible to the Sovereign? Something of the kind seems to be implied in a rumour to which the *Jiji Shimpo* gives publicity, namely, that when Marquis Yamagata reported to the Emperor the Liberals' demand for four portfolios, His Majesty immediately, and with apparent satisfaction, directed the Marquis to proceed with the organization independently. That seems to us to be an exaggerated version of a sentiment which the Emperor doubtless entertains and which every friend of Japan must entertain, namely, that what the country wants above all things at present is a Cabinet which will devote its whole attention to State affairs, and stand entirely aloof from party squabbles and jealousies. But there can not be any idea of ignoring the Diet, for the Diet is in a position to employ weapons which would render the administration extremely difficult. It is suggested, indeed, that an understanding has been effected with the Liberals, and that they have promised not to oppose any measure merely because it emanates from a non-party Cabinet. In short, they will make their own policy and platform the test of a measure's acceptability, and will vote for it provided that it is not contrary to the former or irreconcilable with the latter. Such is said to be their intention. Well, we can not place much reliance on it. They have the ball at their feet, and, if they refrain from kicking it, they are not the very human politicians they have always showed themselves to be. But there is one prospect worthy of consideration. The only vital question to be submitted to the Diet is the Budget. It is essential that the finances should be adjusted without further delay. Now we may be pretty sure that Count Matsukata will take the Budget of his predecessor virtually in its entirety, so far as the expenditures are concerned, and that he will change the revenue side in the sense of including an increase of the Land Tax. The great bulk of the Progressists will oppose such a Budget, but several of them will be bound to support it, and we do not see how the Liberals can fail to vote for it. If both sides unite in rejecting it, not on its merits, but on the ground that it emanates from a non-party Cabinet, then dissolution is inevitable, and even a series of dissolutions. But if the Diet rejects the Budget on its merits, and rejects, on the same grounds, any other projects of law introduced by the Cabinet, there need not of necessity be any dissolution. The Government can go its way, leaving the Lower House to its own devices, and resorting to the alternative of urgency ordinances in cases where legislation is unavoidable. In that way the Cabinet could count on remaining in office until the assembly of the Diet for its fourteenth session in December, 1899.

The peculiar and somewhat disquieting feature of the situation is that the new Cabinet must be regarded as an Imperial Cabinet *par excellence*. It may be called a ministry chosen direct by the Emperor himself in consequence of an administrative failure made by the political parties. Hence, if there ever was a Cabinet which could claim a title to stand above and aloof from political parties, it is the newly formed Cabinet. Can the political parties openly declare their resolve not to discharge any legislative duties in conjunction with such a Cabinet? There is an element here which may easily become acute. The shadow of the Throne has been projected into the sphere of politics and will rest there for some time.

THE NEW CABINET AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Nobody seems to suspect the new Ministers of having accepted office from motives of selfishness. It is universally admitted that their reason for coming forward is purely patriotic. But as to the possibility of their retaining office for any length of time, we can not find a hopeful expression anywhere. There was talk, our readers will remember, of an understanding between the Cabinet and the Liberals. The *Jiji Shimpo* hints at something of the kind, and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* doubts whether the majority of the Lower House can be so inconsistent as to oppose a Budget based on an increase of the Land Tax. But the organs of the Liberals themselves give no suggestion of forbearance. Even the *Ckiuo Shimbun*, which represents the National Unionists, is frankly hostile. We infer that the measures introduced by the Cabinet will not be considered by the Lower House on their merits, but will be voted against by Liberals, Progressists, and National Unionists alike, on the ground that they emanate from a non-party Ministry. The *Mainichi Shimbun* gives a piece of intelligence which, if true, indicates that a collision will be precipitated at once by the Liberals. It alleges that, on the one hand, the Cabinet Ministers have made up their mind to face the Diet without making any attempt to manipulate it, and to dissolve the Lower House unhesitatingly should it prove recalcitrant. On the other hand, the Liberal leaders, after announcing to Viscount Katsura their refusal to cōoperate with the Cabinet, held a meeting and decided that, so soon as the Diet opens for business, they would introduce either a motion or an Address to the Throne declaring want of confidence in the Cabinet. No other journal contains similar news, and we therefore hesitate to regard the *Mainichi's* statement as conclusive. But if the experience of the past may be taken as a guide, we are persuaded that forbearance is the last quality to be expected of the Opposition in the Lower House. Mr. Hoshi Toru is not a man that does things by halves. It was he that created the rupture between the Liberals and Progressists four years ago, and it was he that renewed the rupture last month. He is bent upon having party cabinets, and he will not be found adopting any course calculated to postpone that end. The country has temporarily drifted back to the position it occupied in 1892, when the name *Hakwai-to* (destructive party) was applied to the Opposition. We shall see the course of legislation effectually blocked. The Government will have, in the first place, to dissolve the Diet and legislate by means of urgency ordinances; and, in the second, to determine how long that plan shall be pursued. It can not, of course, be pursued permanently unless the Constitution be suspended, and that is a contingency which has not yet been seriously contemplated, we imagine, whatever rumour may say to the contrary. The situation is so interesting that we quote the opinions of the principal Tokyo journals:—

"The Elder statesmen are not influenced by selfish motives. They have come forward simply because the failure of the political parties has created a situation demanding a patriotic effort. People say that Marquis Yamagata will be in favour of suspending the Constitution or dissolving the Diet. He is not that kind of statesman. Nevertheless, it is evident that he must have some project with regard to the House of Representatives. What is it? We believe that without openly seeking the cōoperation of any party, he will contrive to establish an understanding with a certain section of the House in the case of certain measures. For our own part we have only to ask that he will at once place the finances on a sound footing, having bold and sufficient recourse to the *Saké Tax* for that purpose."—(*Jiji Shimpo.*)

"This is merely another mixture of Satsuma and Choshiu in equal proportions. It is as little suited to the spirit of the time as a regiment armed with arquebuses would be appropriate to the autumn manœuvres now about to take place. We base no hopes on such a Cabinet. It contains within itself the elements of disruption, for while some of the members are for progress and change, others are for retrogression or conservatism. Yamagata stands in the middle like an arquebusier with a Murata-rifleman on either side. It is an impossible combination. The party politicians need only husband their strength and wait."—(*Asahi Shimbun.*)

"Marquis Yamagata thinks that the Liberals will help him. He might as well trust the clouds. And if they do not help him, there is no resource except to suspend the Constitution. But he is bound by his own record to support the Constitution. For, in 1890, when he was Premier, the Imperial Speech to the first Diet contained the words "achieving the goodly objects of the Constitution," and the Marquis himself declared that to be the Government's fundamental policy. Again, in 1892, when he held the portfolio of Finance in the Ito Cabinet, Marquis Ito assured the Diet, in its fourth session, that "the Government's policy was to follow the provisions of the Constitution, and introduce a Constitutional system of working into all branches of the Administration." Marquis Yamagata can not go back on those declarations. He must uphold the Constitution, not suspend it.—(*Yomiuri Shimbun.*)

"The Constitutional Party (*i.e.* the Liberal Party) is opposed to Independent Cabinets. An Independent Cabinet means a clan Cabinet; that is to say, a form of government in which the civil power is controlled by the military.

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Such a system checks the development of the people's rights. The nation must see to it. Some step should be adopted, similar to that recently taken in France, for formally declaring the superiority of the civil power over the military."—(*Jimmin.*)

"The Constitutional Party (Liberal) must be true to its policy, its platform, and its pledges. It can not stand side by side with an Independent Cabinet. The Party has been approached by folks with smiling faces who would fain have cajoled it. Most happily the proposals of these tempters met with unanimous rejection. They may come as often as they please and change their faces as they will, but the Party will not be false to its policy, its platform, and its pledges. The time will not permit anything of that kind. There are many obstacles still in the path to our goal, but we shall brush them aside resolutely."—(*Jimmin.*)

Progress is necessary, but extremes of all kinds are to be avoided. We used to have Cabinets absolutely independent of the Diet. That was one extreme. Then we had the Okuma-Itagaki Party Cabinet. That was another extreme, for the official residences of Ministers of State were converted into meeting-places for party politicians, and the Cabinet became an assembly-hall for the business committee of a party. We have now returned to the original extreme. The Ministers who have come into power are swayed by old-fashioned ideas. The nation can not be satisfied with them. This new Cabinet will soon fall.—(*Chiuo Shimbun.*)

However partially we may look at the new Cabinet it is far from being an ideal Ministry. We are disappointed. A Cabinet must have not merely a policy but also a means of carrying it out. How does the Yamagata Ministry propose to deal with the Diet? It can not administer the affairs of the State and ignore the Diet. The Government must either have the support of the Lower House or suspend the Constitution. We have not the least doubt that the present Ministers are actuated by patriotic motives, but if, after accepting the responsibility of governing the country, they only increase the embarrassments of the political situation, it will be difficult for them to justify themselves to the Sovereign and to the people. Marquis Yamagata's friends are blind to the conditions of the time. They have advised him badly.—(*Kokumin Shimbun.*)

If men accept office for the sake of serving the public, fame comes to them unsought. If they take office to obtain fame, it will never come to them. But worst of all is the case of those that take office as a means of livelihood. All these quarrels that we have seen are, at bottom, fights for means of subsistence. Politicians who make bit and sup the end and aim of their politics, cease to be politicians and become political traders. They are a class of labourers. The recent resignation of the Liberal Ministers was a species of strike. Washington took office for the sake of the public welfare. Disraeli took office for the sake of fame. But the bit-and-sup politician has no prototype in the Occident. It was reserved for Japan in 1898 to present to the world the first example of this unsightly race.—(*Mainichi Shimbun.*)

A military man should behave in a dignified manner. There is nothing so mean as meanness in a soldier. In Tokugawa times it used to be said that the soldier was the first of men, the cherry the first of flowers. The *samurai* should be the salt of Society: it is his function to keep it from becoming corrupt. Nogi is the only *samurai* of the genuine type that we now possess; but unfortunately he has failed as an administrator. Kabayama and Saigo were supposed to rank next to him, but see how they have now behaved. Takashima is a strong man, but his moral dignity is represented by cypher. Saigo can adapt his palate to the clear and the muddy. He knows how to manipulate many men of many sorts. But he himself furnishes a large element of the muddiness. Yamagata is not far removed from the the true Samurai, but in other respects he has little value. On the whole, then, this irruption of military men into the political world will be to its loss rather than to its profit.—(*Nippon.*)

When the administration of the affairs of the State had been rendered impossible by the squabbles of political parties, a number of men were chosen from among the statesmen of prestige, of popularity, and of reputation, and were appointed to take charge of the government. Marquis Yamagata has already obtained every honour within reach of a subject. His ambition is satisfied. If he comes forward now, it is solely because he is solicitous about his country. It is the same with Count Matsukata. His only object is to restore the national finances to a sound condition. The House of Representatives cannot conscientiously reject the measures introduced by such a Cabinet, especially as a majority of the members have publicly declared in favour of the financial policy which Count Matsukata will pursue.—(*Nichi Nichi Shimbun.*)

THE TWO PARTIES.

The result of the voting in the Lower House for the President and Vice-President shows that, contrary to the general expectation, the Liberals command a majority. Their candidate, Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi, obtained 153 votes against 142 cast for the Progressist candidate, Mr. Kono Hironaka. We are not, for our own part, surprised by these figures. The star of the Liberals is now in the ascendant. If either of the political parties is to be represented in the next Cabinet, it is the Liberal Party, and there are always a certain number of members who have no predilection for any party and are ready to vote for the holders of power whoever they may be. We do not mean to suggest that these men lack political principles and are mere trucklers to officialdom. They have a very excellent and sound principle, namely, that a stable administration is what the country wants before everything. They are, in short, practical men of business, and they employ their votes in the cause of the Administration's business efficiency. They would have voted with the Progressists had Count Okuma been Prime Minister, and they now vote with the Liberals because they expect to see the Liberals in power, or supporting those in power.

On the other hand, it is plain that the Liberals have not a working majority. They carried the election of their candidate for the Presidency by 12 votes, but in the case of the Vice-President they had a majority of 1 only. Eleven votes is a mere bagatelle: it may melt away at any moment during the vicissitudes of the session. It is true that the Liberals are receiving accessions of strength every day. The celebrated Mr. Inouye Kakugoro has joined them, and so has the well-known Mr. Shiba Shiro. These recruits do not affect the Party's voting strength, however: they doubtless cast their ballots among the 153 supporters of Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi. We may safely regard that number as the full Liberal following in the House at present, apart from the seven absentees on the 7th instant, about whose political complexion we know nothing. A really stable government will not be possible until the constituencies become more unequally divided.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

The telegraph says that the Paris Government has officially notified England of France's resolve to withdraw her people from Fashoda, and thus the direct cause of a possible rupture has disappeared, although more or less serious questions may still arise in connexion with the delimitation of the two countries territories in Africa. France has acted wisely and courageously in this matter, and we sincerely trust that some compensatory concession can be made to her elsewhere. For though she had no shadow of right, from the Egyptian point of view, to occupy Fashoda, and though a mere filibustering expedition by one of her officers should not have placed her under any obligation to support his predatory doings, she was, after all, confronted by the necessity of retreating, and her honour must have been closely touched. No settlement, as we have already said, which leaves France smarting under a sense of discomfiture, can be welcome to Englishmen, and the country would learn with pleasure that some salve had been found for their neighbour's wounded pride.

The question now arises, was it for this that Great Britain's extensive preparations were made, supposing them to have been made? It is difficult to think so. The point which specially perplexes us is the mobilization of the militia and the volunteers. The object of such a measure is to free the regular troops for service abroad. But where? Not in Egypt. Even supposing that Her Majesty's Government had resolved to put an end formally to the anomalous relation in which Egypt now stands to England, there would scarcely be any necessity to send a large garrison to the former country, for so long as Great Britain has command of the sea, no European Power could attempt an armed invasion of Egypt. Moreover, we can scarcely suppose that at the risk of precipitating European complications, Great Britain would force a solution of a question which time is steadily helping to solve. Is it then to the Far East that England is looking? That, too, seems unlikely, so far as we can see. Her Majesty's Government has shown itself very long-suffering about affairs in China. Its attitude towards them has been in marked contrast with its attitude towards the Egyptian difficulty. That was to be expected. If, then, Lord Salisbury when he had only Russia to deal with showed so little inclination to interrupt her performances in the Far East, or to resent the remarkable deception practised by her statesmen in St. Petersburg, is it probable that he would have contemplated a departure from his attitude of forbearance at the very moment when a serious complication with France existed near home? Thus, in the end, only two explanations suggest themselves. One is that Her Majesty's Government possessed and acted upon information of which the general public knew nothing. The other, that the concession now tardily made by France had to be extorted from her, and that Lord Salisbury appreciated the hopelessness of extorting it unless England showed herself thoroughly in earnest. As a matter of fact, England never does get "left." She comes out of all complications with her proverbial share. But of late years the world has learned to think that she will suffer herself

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to be flouted very badly without drawing the sword, and it is just possible that her large preparations on the present occasion were the penalty of her forbearance in the past.

Reuter tells us that *Le Temps* is "resentful at Great Britain's insisting on the humiliation of France in the Fashoda affair." We scarcely think that *Le Temps* is responsible for anything so silly. Great Britain has not insisted on the humiliation of France. If it is meant that France had to evacuate Fashoda without parley, we may venture to suggest that there was an alternative. The French can not have imagined that they would be tamely suffered to plant themselves at an important point within Egyptian territory. They knew perfectly well, all the world knew, that Fashoda was a fortified town occupied by an Egyptian garrison a few years ago, and that an Egyptian army, led by British officers and including British troops, was marching to drive away the rebellious Arabs from the districts in the south of the Soudan where Fashoda stands. In defiance of that knowledge they surreptitiously sent a party of men to enter the region from the back-door and steal the place from its rightful owners. If Major Marchand had any valid title to be in Fashoda, he should have remained there, and France should have been prepared to keep him there. If she was not prepared to keep him there, she ought never to have sent him. She had her choice between defending his title with the sword, or abandoning it without drawing the sword. She chose, the latter, and, having made the choice she would render herself ridiculous if she cried out that Great Britain had insisted on her humiliation. The French do not commit solecisms of that kind. We believe that the sense of the article in *Le Temps* has suffered seriously in the process of abbreviation by Reuter's agent.

THE "SEKAI-NO-NIHON."

The *Sekai-no-Nihon*, which is now the defendant in a criminal suit instituted by the Public Procurator, has announced its own demise. "On reflection" it has decided to discontinue its publication. We are sorry for it. The *Sekai-no-Nihon* was capital reading. Its editor, Mr. Takenokoshi, is a man of sparkling thoughts and a most attractive style. With his extreme opinions it was often impossible to agree, but from a purely literary point of view his abandonment of journalism is a great loss, and the courage shown by him in writing the article for which he has been prosecuted deserves praise, whatever may be thought of his judgment.

COUNT ITAGAKI'S SUPPOSED ASSAILANTS.

It turns out that the man arrested on the night of the 3rd instant for having, as was supposed, attempted to spring into Count Itagaki's carriage when the Count was driving home from the Birthday ball, was innocent of every offence except drunkenness. He had been endeavouring to obtain a close view of what was going on in one of the annexes, and his clumsy attempt to avoid the carriage as it passed excited the suspicions of the police. He was released on the morning of the 5th, having undergone 24 hours' confinement for giving a false name.

FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES IN JAPAN

The Japanese Business Tax (*Yeigyo-sei*) is levied in various ways; on the amount of a firm's transactions; or on the rental value of its buildings; or on the number of its employés; or on the capital of the concern. With regard to banking, insurance and money-lending, the tax is levied in three forms: first, one-fifth of one per cent. on the capital; secondly, one-fifth of one per cent. on the rental value of the buildings, and thirdly, one *yen* per head on each employé. It becomes a very important question, therefore, to determine what is meant by "capital" in the case of a foreign company doing business in Japan but having its chief seat of transactions elsewhere. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, for example, if it had to pay the tax on its total paid-up capital, would be mulcted to the extent of twenty thousand *yen* annually, and the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company would have to pay thirty-six thousand *yen*. Such imposts would either be prohibitive, or would necessitate an appreciation of charges and rates considerably hampering to trade. It has to be remembered, at the same time, that the presence of the foreign agencies in Japan is essential to the progress of trade. Insurance enterprise is still in its initiatory stage among the Japanese. The domestic companies could not possibly assume the large responsibilities of the country's over-sea trade, nor is there any probability that they will be able to take such risks for several years. On the other hand, it would be plainly unjust that foreigners should have greater facilities than Japanese subjects enjoy for engaging in insurance operations in Japan. If a Japanese company is required to pay a tax, there is no valid reason why a foreign company doing business in Japan should be exempt. The two should stand on an absolutely equal footing. Then again, since the amount of an insurance company's paid-up capital exercises an effect on public confidence and therefore on the business entrusted to the concern, it would scarcely be fair that a foreign company, having only a branch of its business in Japan, should possess the advantage of advertising its whole capital as an attraction to Japanese customers, while escaping the disadvantages under which a Japanese company with an equal capital would labour in the matter of taxation. At first sight the simplest plan appears to be that the foreign firms should appropriate a certain part of their capital to their Japanese business so that the tax could be levied on that part only. But it is exceedingly doubtful whether any arrangement of the kind could be effected, and still more doubtful whether the great European and American firms would entertain the proposition. Most of them would prefer to close their agencies in the Far East, and that is a result which the Japanese can not afford to contemplate, for the loss of insurance facilities or their monopolization by companies of inferior standing at materially increased rates, could not fail to injure commerce very seriously. So far as we can see, the only thoroughly satisfactory exit from the dilemma is to amend the Law of Taxation, in the sense of abolishing the tax upon capital and levying it solely on the business actually transacted. Speaking generally, the system of taxing capital seems defective in principle, for it should be the object of national financiers to encourage the investment of large capitals in enterprises like banking and insurance, which derive much of their soundness from the dimensions of their monetary basis. If the tax were levied on the volume of transactions actually undertaken in Japan by an insurance company, whether foreign or Japanese, there would be no unfair discrimination nor any just ground for complaint on either side.

TENURE OF LAND BY FOREIGNERS

A correspondent "Inquirer," asks whether the Japanese Government will recognise all transfers of land made within the former foreign settlements after the Revised Treaties go into operation, and whether it will take charge of the records relating to such transactions. In reply to the former point, we are able to say that transfers will of course be recognised but no responsibility will be acknowledged in connexion with them. Naturally the Japanese Authorities do not undertake to inquire into the legality of any transactions that may have taken place in the nature of sales or purchases of land. The due arrangement of such matters devolves upon the parties concerned. The transactions are entered upon the title-deed, and the recipient of the latter after the acquisition of the property to which it relates, must inform himself as to the existence or non-existence of private claims. In that respect the practice in Japan is identical with the practice in the West. As to the custody of records, the title-deed is, of course, the principal record, and it is retained by the holder of the property, the Japanese Authorities having only a register of the fact. Our correspondent's last inquiry is not entirely clear to us, but we interpret his question to mean whether land transfers made in accordance with the forms prescribed in foreign countries will be recognised as binding in Japan. The answer to that is that no transaction with regard to the sale, purchase, mortgage, etc., of an immovable in Japan can be recognised by the Authorities unless the method of bringing it duly to their notice is complied with. That method is public registration made by the parties to the transaction or their accredited agents. No other formality is required to establish the validity of the transaction in the eyes of a Japanese law court, and it is of course by the Japanese law courts that all such questions will have to be decided after the revised treaties go into operation.

MARQUIS ITO ON THE SITUATION.

Marquis Ito has been again interviewed by a representative of the *Fiji Shimpo*, and has expressed his views very clearly. He greatly regrets the failure of the recent party Cabinet, and he thinks that the natural course would have been to allow Count Okuma and his friends to carry on the Government. That is precisely what we ventured to predict would be Marquis Ito's view. He further says that he does not believe in a compound Cabinet, half clan half party. But the great thing is to get a Cabinet quickly organized, and as his return to Tokyo might impede rather than expedite that result, he does not intend to come back

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WHAT WILL THE CABINET DO?

We need scarcely say that the question set down above occupies the attention of the great majority of Japanese journalists. How can the Ministry expect to get along without the cöoperation of the Diet? To the average Englishman the situation doubtless appears quite incomprehensible. But Japan is not England. No logical comparison is possible. Constitutional Government is here in its infancy. Six months ago, neither of the great parties would have claimed competence to undertake the administration. They became apparently competent for the first time, on amalgamation. But they have proved themselves incapable of remaining amalgamated, and have reverted to their divided condition of incompetence. The Emperor hesitates to try the experiment of entrusting the administration to either of them alone. Neither Party, however, will support any Cabinet in which it does not possess preponderating power. Thus it results that an independent Cabinet has of necessity been formed. There is still an undercurrent of talk among the Liberals about measures, not men; about passing any projects of law that are not contrary to the policy of the Party. Count Itagaki has made a tentative suggestion of that kind, and so has Mr. Inouye Kakugoro. But the idea is quite illusory. We have watched Mr. Hoshi Toru's career much too closely to imagine that he will sit waiting outside the citadel even for one little minute after the breach has become practicable. The rush will be made. The Cabinet will either have to face a vote of want of confidence endorsed by 250 members out of 300; or will find its Budget and all its projects of law rejected by sweeping majorities. What step is to be taken at that juncture? Dissolution? Dissolution under such circumstances would be very like a punitive measure. Still it would ensure an interval of administration undisturbed by party squabbles, since the next Diet need not be convened for five months, and in five months a Ministry that devoted itself earnestly to work could accomplish a great deal. That seems to us to be the only logical and wise course for the Cabinet to pursue. It is obviously a Cabinet organized for the purpose of administering the affairs of the State independently of the Diet, unless the Diet choses to cöoperate with it. The Diet, then, should it prove recalcitrant, must be set aside. There are two ways of setting it aside—dissolution and suspension of the Constitution. The latter is out of the question; the former alone can be resorted to. Some may contend that a Cabinet without a parliamentary mandate has no title to appeal to the country. The contention is not without force, and, to whatever extent it is admitted, to that extent dissolution may be called a merely punitive measure. But the Cabinet has a following in the Lower House: thirty or forty members will certainly be found on its side. It has, therefore, a strictly Coustitutional right to appeal to the country, and however, hopeless the appeal may seem, it affords a respite for practical administration. We ourselves believe, and have said more than once, that the natural course would have been to leave the Government in the hands of Count Okuma and his Party. But since that has not been done, and since the Liberals also stand outside the administrative camp, nothing remains for the Government except to work independently of the Diet to the utmost limits permitted by the Constitution. Less than half a year more will probably see the end of the weary struggle. In the meanwhile the Elder Statesmen can at least confer on the country the boon of five months' frictionless and useful administration, and even legislation.

THE POLICE AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY.

At 1 a.m. on the 2nd instant, Messrs. Suzuki, Takeichi, and Furukata, representatives of the original Constitutional Party residing in the Kojimachi district of Tokyo, received a summons to attend at the police station immediately. Why such a strange hour was chosen we do not know, but it may be presumed that the police had some valid reason. On arriving at the station, the three politicians were handed the following notice:—

> Whereas, the political association calling itself the "Constitutional Party" and having its head offices at No. 3 in the Third Ward of Uchi-saiwai street, is judged to be inimical to the preservation of good order, its continued existence is hereby forbidden, in accordance with the 29th article of the Law of Public Meeting and Political Associations. (Signed) ITAGAKI TAISUKE,
> Minister of State for Home Affairs.

In the face of this order, the old Constitutional Party became, of course, an illegal association. Its answer was the issue of the following manifesto:—

> No sooner had the Constitutional Party been organized for the purpose of giving publicity to the views of its associates and furthering their policy, than we accepted the fact and enrolled ourselves immediately in its ranks, hoping to accomplish the fine aims of Constitutional Government. But a disloyal section, swayed by selfish feeling, arbitrarily simulated the name of the Party, unexpectedly changed the fixed time of the general meeting, passed a sudden resolution for dissolving the Party, and organized a new party to which they gave the false name of *Kensei-to*. It is not within the competence of one section, and that a minority, of a party to decide such an important matter as the party's dissolution, and no argument is needed to demonstrate that a decision of that kind has no binding effect. But who in the whole empire can doubt that our Party stands as immovable as the mountains? The public recognition extended to that spurious party by the Minister of the Department concerned, the dispersal of our Party's general meeting and its compulsory dissolution, are acts which not only trample under foot the right of public meeting but also ignore the sanctity of personal liberty. Who can view unmoved this spectacle of right obscured and justice violated? The truth can not be extinguished by a momentary eclipse. Since, however, the authorities have taken this disorderly step, it behoves us to adopt measures fitted to the occasion. We therefore hereby organize a new party under the name of the True Constitutional Party (*Kensei-hon-to*), and publicly announce the distinction between it and the spurious party. (Here follows an appeal for cöoperation and sympathy).

This is certainly one of the most unsightly situations that has been created during the *Meiji* era. It has its comical side, of course, for to find the leader of the Liberals accused of "trampling under foot the right of public meeting" and "ignoring the sanctity of personal liberty" is a quaint illustration of the irony of fate. But the serious aspect of the case is that a political party led by the Premier and including among its members two Ministers of State, should publicly accuse the Minister of State for Home Affairs of illegal, unjust, and arbitrary action. It is to be desired that the association of the Liberals and the Progressists in the same Cabinet should terminate as quickly as possible, for spectacles of this kind will bring the country into discredit.

We are surprised that the leader of the old *Kensei-to* have bowed to the decision of the Home Minister and changed the name of their Party. If they feel confidence in the validity of their title to the name *Kensei-to*, one imagines that they should have carried the question into a Court of law. Possibly that may still be the intention. Their adoption of a new name may be merely a temporary measure designed to maintain the organization of the Party pending an appeal to the Judiciary. But if so, their more dignified course would have been to abstain from any accusations or recriminations, and merely to make an announcement, first, of a temporary change of name, and secondly of a resolve to test the legality of the action taken against them by the police.

Just as we write these words an "extra" of the *Naigai Shimbun* informs us that a criminal charge has been preferred against Mr. Toshimitsu Tsurumatsu, a Manager of the Liberal Party, for giving to the police fraudulent notice of the dissolution of the original *Kensei-to*, and that his arrest will probably take place immediately. The question between the two parties will therefore be decided by a court of law.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

The public will learn with pleasure that the Asiatic Society of Japan is about to resume its activity. A meeting is announced for Wednesday the 16th instant, at 3 p.m, in the Parish Buildings, No. 54, Tsukiji, and Dr. Riess is to read a paper on the history of the English Factory at Hirado. The subject is of very great interest, and that it will be exhaustively treated goes without saying, since Dr. Riess has undertaken the task. We know a good deal already about Saris and Cocks, and their unfortunate relations with Will Adams, and the disorderly conduct of their men, and the vexatious restrictions imposed on their trade, and their final failure—a record rare in the history of British commercial enterprises. But there is much to be still told—the exact nature of their dealings with the Japanese; the manner in which they exported; and, above all, their shares in the machinations by which the Dutch, to their everlasting discredit, helped to prejudice the Japanese against foreigners in general and Roman Catholics in particular. Dr. Riess paper is sure to throw light on these matters. We learn that several other papers have been promised, and that the Society looks forward to a busy session.

THE SUGAMO AFFAIR.

Mr. Arima, Governor of Sugamo Prison, has been transferred to the Ichigaya Prison. So the fiasco ends. We can not recall any corresponding instance of administrative blundering in Japan. The Buddhists have been very fortunate in their first campaign against pro-Christian officials. The battle was given into their hands. Mr. Arima and Count Itagaki loaded and laid their guns for them, and party politicians pulled down the Government's rampart.

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HIGH COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

After thirteen sittings, the High Council of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry rose finally on the 2nd instant. Eleven questions were submitted to it by the Government, and the Council itself voted fourteen representations for official information. Several of the questions have great interest for foreigners. For example, the following, all of which relate to the policy that ought to be adopted when the Revised Treaties go into operation :—

1.—Should foreigners be forbidden to engage in enterprises of agriculture and marine products in Hokkaido?

2.—Should limits be set to the connexion of foreigners with railways or other undertakings having a special bearing on national interests?

3.—Are there any enterprises pre-eminently likely to be invaded by foreigners, and if so, what steps should be taken with regard to them?

4.—Would it not be advisable to create commercial courts and tribunals for arbitrating tradal questions in which foreigners and Japanese subjects are concerned?

5.—Should foreigners be admitted to membership in the Japanese Chambers of Commerce?

We should like to be able to report the discussions to which these questions gave rise, but we are not in a position to give more than the decisions arrived at in each case. With regard to the first question, the answer was that limits might be necessary in the case of special enterprises, as, for example, salt manufacture and pisciculture. For the rest, however, complete liberty might be allowed.

In answer to the second question, the Council recorded its opinion that foreigners should be allowed to hold shares in railways, in the Industrial Bank and in the Bank of Formosa, but that it was necessary to declare them ineligible for places of control in such concerns. With regard to mining, the Bank of Japan, the Specie Bank, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Exchanges and the Emigration societies, the limitations prescribed by the existing laws should be preserved.

Concerning the third question, the Council thought that the operation of the Revised Treaties would doubtless have the effect of inducing foreigners to engage in certain enterprises in the interior, but there did not appear to be any cause for apprehending injurious interference. In the matter of the camphor industry, however, some regulations would be needed.

As to commercial courts and tribunals for arbitrating tradal disputes between foreigners and Japanese subjects, the Council saw no occasion for organizing such institutions, but thought that the sphere of arbitration by Chambers of Commerce might be extended.

Finally, it was decided that no objection exists to allowing foreigners to become members of Japanese Chambers of Commerce.

Another point decided by the Council had relation to the establishment of experimental places of manufacture in the provinces under State protection. It was voted that nothing of the kind seemed desirable. Finally, as to the expediency of opening a domestic exhibition in 1902, and having one section of it international, the Council negatived the idea, but recommended that a domestic exhibition should be organized in 1907.

THE "TOYO KISEN KAISHA."

Starting with considerable éclat and much talked of in connexion with the three big steamers it intended to put on the Yokohama-San-Francisco line, the Oriental Steamship Company seems to have drifted into troubled waters even before commencing work. A very commonplace episode has disturbed its stability—the difficulty of getting the shareholders to pay up. It appears that the defaulters are chiefly in Yokohama. Three instalments aggregating 25 *yen* had been paid, but the fourth proved itself the proverbial "straw," and the managers reported defaults with regard to twenty thousand shares. Repeated pressure reduced the number to ten thousand, whose holders, when the days of grace had expired, handed in their shares at the head office, and suggested but they should be hypothecated for the required amount, the owners being ready to pay interest at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum. The managers are unwilling to adopt such a course, and something like a deadlock is said to exist. The Company's shares, 25 *yen* paid up, would not fetch more than 11 or 12 *yen* in the open market, whereas it is thought that if the whole concern were disposed of, the shareholders would not lose more than four or five *yen* per share. It is to be hoped that this small minority of impecunious speculators will not succeed in wrecking the enterprise. They are evidently mere speculators or they would not have pledged themselves to buy shares without making provision for the payment of the calls.

MR. TAGUCHI UKICHI.

In the last number of the *Economist* (*Keisai Zasshi*), Mr. Taguchi Ukichi explains his reasons for leaving the Constitutional Party. Of course everything that Mr. Taguchi has to tell us is interesting, but the public knows him too well to need any vindication of his acts: he will always be trusted to have done what his conscience dictated. Briefly, his statements may be epitomized into this:—that he advocates increase of the Land Tax and reduction of the scheme of military expansion, to both of which measures Count Okuma and his followers are opposed; that he would have left the Party so soon as he discovered its opposition in these respects, had he not seen his way to achieving some useful ends in his capacity of member of the Finance Committee; and that his resignation was prior, not subsequent, to the Party's fall from power. In fact, he resigned on the 30th of October, when Count Okuma's supporters seemed to have command of the situation. But Mr. Taguchi tells us one thing for which we were not prepared, namely, that he disapproved of Mr. Ozaki Yukio's speech—the celebrated speech. He did not believe that Mr. Ozaki intended to convey the meaning attributed to him by his critics, but only that he inadvertently used an unwise form of speech. Had Mr. Ozaki subsequently corrected his language so as to clear himself of injurious imputations, Mr. Taguchi would have been satisfied. But, in default of that step, Mr. Taguchi thought that the Cabinet should take some action. We confess that this expression of Mr. Taguchi's views is incomprehensible to us.

"ORIENTAL-LIKE POLITICAL CHANGES."

"After the fashion of Korea; after the fashion of China, and now after the fashion of Japan. The National Unionists will lend their aid to the Yamagata Cabinet; so will the Liberals. Therefore the Cabinet will be able to control the Lower House. As soon as Count Okuma's Party lost their grasp of administrative power, their candidates for the presidency and vice-presidency of the Lower House were defeated. Count Itagaki's Constitutional Party calls itself a constitutional party but is really a clan party. As for the Progressists, they make failures only. The reason assigned for Count Okuma's resignation is most extraordinary. He considered that because the resignations of the Liberal Ministers were not accepted, therefore he had forfeited the Emperor's confidence and therefore he must resign. That one fact suffices to prove that a Japanese Cabinet differs radically in its nature from the Cabinets of other constitutional countries. A cabinet in a constitutional country should be dependent on the majority in the Lower House. That is not the case here. It is solely a question of possessing or lacking the Emperor's confidence. Thus a Cabinet in Japan does not attach importance to the will of the people; does not consider it essential to have a united body politic; but is quite satisfied if only it be composed of 'Elder Statesmen' who enjoy the confidence of one person, the Sovereign. No other form of organization can live. A party cabinet cannot live. We are thus deprived of all hope that our country's Constitution will be carried out. Okuma and Itagaki, who came into power crying aloud for party cabinets, that is to say, for responsible cabinets, that is to say, for the practical consummation of constitutional government—these men joining forces, formed a party of overwhelming strength and took the administration into their hands, only to succumb in the brief space of four months, like a twig snapped by the storm. The politicians that call themselves the "True Constitutional Party" imagine that they are living in an era of constitutionalism, and fail to observe that they are really breathing Korean-like air, China-like air, Oriental air. Administrative recastings, legislative reforms—these are mere pretences. Folks that reside in a pot can not distinguish what is pot-like. Let them study the newspapers, and see what is happening in the political worlds of Söul and of Peking. Then they will have a guide to what is happening in the political world of Tokyo."—(*Nippon*).

That is certainly a most outspoken article. It is curious to observe what a different standard is applied to the writings of newspapers and the speeches of statesmen in Japan. Mr. Ozaki Yukio said:—"You Japanese worship money even more reverentially than the Americans do. If you had a republic as they have, I believe you would nominate an Iwasaki or a Mitsui to be president, whereas the Americans don't think of nominating a Vanderbilt or a Gould." Immediately the newspapers raised a storm. "Here is a Minister talking of a republic," they cried. "Down with him!" Count Okuma inferred from the history of China that popular government is regarded by the Chinese as the proper aim of revolution.

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At once there arose a hubbub. "Here is a Premier," exclaimed politicians, "who speaks of popular government as the proper aim of revolution. Down with him!" But now see this spade-calling *Nippon* which frankly declares that any country where the Cabinet takes its mandate from the Sovereign and not from the majority in the Lower House, is politically Oriental, as backward as China or Korea! How will the *Nippon* fare, we wonder.

THE "SUN'S" MUSICAL CRITICISM.

In the last number of the *Taiyo*, which appeared on the 22nd ultimo, we find an article headed "The Musical World and the Academy of Music," from which we translate the following extract:—

"Last spring, Herr Junker, who is now on a visit to Japan, gave a violin performance at a concert organized for charitable purposes at Shinobu-ga-oka, and won great applause." (Here follows a warm eulogy of Herr Junker, who is referred to as a good model for Japanese musicians). "But a critic who is enamoured of women's music, writing in the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, and a journalist who takes no account of artistic quality, writing in the *Togaku Zasshi*, declare that the skill of the Misses Koda is superior to that of Herr Junker." (Here follows a severe condemnation of such a verdict, which the writer in the *Sun*, Mr. Sakabe Kōsaburō, describes as ignorant flattery, the absurdity of which must be apparent to any one that considers Japan's imperfect acquaintance with foreign music). "Dr. von Koeber, speaking recently to a friend, said: 'Looking carefully at the accomplishments of the graduates of the Academy of Music, I find that the method of teaching is defective. Miss Nobu Koda has no disposition for music, and will deteriorate as time goes by. On the other hand, Miss Tachibana and Miss Uchida have musical ability well worthy of attention.' Such was Dr. von Koeber's verdict."

The writer in the *Sun* seems to have been greatly misinformed. We have Dr. von Koeber's authority to say that he never pronounced any such opinion. On the contrary, he thinks, and has always stated, that he considers Miss Koda to be possessed of real musical education and talent, and that he regards her as pre-eminently gifted among her Japanese contemporaries. Mr. Sakabe, who is evidently anxious to bestow praise where it is properly due, will learn with regret that he has been most unfortunately betrayed into misrepresenting the views of a musician whose opinion carries great weight, and doing an injustice to a lady whose playing is a genuine treat to all foreign lovers of music.

THE HAWAIIAN INDEMNITY.

There has been no difficulty in distributing the sum of 150,000 *yen* obtained from Hawaii. It has gone thus:—

	Yen.
To the *Shinshiu Maru* (Osaka Shosen Kaisha)	14,300
To the *Kinai Maru* (Osaka Shosen Kaisha)	6,000
To the *Sakura Maru* (Nippon Yusen Kaisha)	6,300
To the *Hakusan Maru* (Kanagawa owners)	2,100
To the Tokyo Emigration Company	3,000
To the Kobe Emigration Company	10,000
To 1,505 returned emigrants	108,000

THE PHILIPPINES.

America has demanded the cession of the whole of the Philippines. That is good news. Any half measures in such a case would not only have led to endless complications in the future, but would also have laid her open to the charge of shirking the responsibilities she incurred when she captured Manila and shattered Spain's machinery for administering the islands. But there will be some trouble, we suspect, in obtaining Spain's consent to the surrender. The protocol of the Conference does not mention the cession of the Philippines. It merely speaks of an arrangement for their administration. The Spanish Government may justly plead that an arrangement for administering a group of islands is a form of speech which can not be said to include the meaning of their total surrender, and that she did not interpret the words in that sense when she agreed to their insertion in the Protocol. What answer can the American commissioners give to that argument? We do not see how they can answer it except by recognising its validity and agreeing to give Spain some consideration. If the Protocol was intended to stipulate for the complete surrender of the Philippines, its phraseology must be pronounced curiously defective; if it was not intended to bear that construction, then the new rendering becomes a question for discussion. At all events, whether the drafters of the Protocol blundered, or whether the Washington Government changed its mind subsequently to the drafting, America will probably feel herself under an obligation to purchase Spain's acquiescence. She will not reopen the war on such a count.

THE "TO A DOBUN KAI."

The "Same-Script East-Asiatic Society" sounds a somewhat clumsy name, but it is distinctly suggestive, and its promoters are setting to work in a very practical manner. We need scarcely explain that the "script" in question is ideographic, and that the "same" refers to Japan and China, which have a common form of writing, though they use it somewhat differently. Prince Konoye is the President of the Club, and among its leading members are Viscount Nagaoka, Mr. Kishida, Professor Miyake, and so forth. Its declared objects are four: to assist in maintaining the integrity of China; to contribute to her reform; to investigate her national problems and act upon the results of the investigation; and to rouse the spirit of nationalism among her people. The society held its first meeting at the Bansei Club in Tokyo on the afternoon of the 2nd instant. Thirty-four members attended, and the most important resolution adopted was that branches should be established at various places in China—Tientsin, Peking, Shanghai, and, later on, Foochow, Chungking, &c. The magazine originally published under the name of the *Meiji Hyoron*, and subsequently called the *Chiugai Jiron*, is to be taken over by the Society, and converted into a weekly periodical with the name *Jiron* (Contemporary). It is thought that the Society may subsequently amalgamate with the *Toho Kyokai*, or Oriental Association.

ONE OUTSPOKEN MEMBER.

When the High Council of Education undertook recently to discuss whether foreigners should be granted an official status in the educational sphere, epitomes of the speeches delivered by the members of the Council were published by the vernacular press, and among them all we could not discover one that embodied a really broad and liberal view of the question. We made that comment, accompanying it with an expression of surprise and regret. The *Jiji Shimpo* then sought permission to examine the official records of the speeches, and copied from among them the remarks made by Mr. Kamada Yeikichi, Vice-Director of the Keio-gijuku—Mr. Fukuzawa's School. We frankly admit, on reading these remarks as stenographically reported in the archives of the Council, that one member, at all events, did speak with the most uncompromising and thorough liberality. Mr. Kamada said that only one conclusion was to be deduced from the arguments of those who contended against admitting foreigners to a share in educational duties, and that conclusion was that the Japanese could not yet venture to engage in open competition with foreigners, and that the country should be kept closed until such ability was developed. But it was precisely by force of competition that ability to compete was educated. As for patriotism, he declared that patriotism in Japan was the outcome of foreign intercourse. Patriotism, that is to say, love of country—not merely of fief—and readiness to sacrifice everything for its sake, was a product of the *Meiji* era. Moreover, there were thousands of men in Japan who had received their education either in foreign countries or in schools conducted by foreigners. Had any one of them shown any want of patriotism? The truth was that the publicists who advanced such timid arguments brought the Japanese nation into contempt, and proclaimed to the world their want of confidence in the moral qualities of their own countrymen. Such was the gist of Mr. Kamada's remarks. No one can ask for anything broader or more robust. Of course the discovery of such a speech shakes our whole faith in the journalistic version of the Council's proceedings. Other speeches of the same character may be lying concealed in the official archives.

"PETIT COURS DE JAPONAIS."

Mr. Kuroda Takuma has published, under the above title, a volume having for its object "to facilitate the study of the spoken language of Japan." The book seems excellently devised to fulfil its purpose. There is no royal road to the acquisition of the Japanese language. Resolute and persevering study is unavoidable. But the path may be greatly smoothed, and we think that the student will find it smoothed by Mr. Kuroda's method. His plan is to take a simple sentence as the basis of a lesson, and ring the changes on the idea it embodies, until a fairly complete mastery of one special class of phrases has been achieved. Thus the first exercise is founded on the sentence "A huit heures ce soir, je pars seul pour Kyoto, de la gare de Shimbashi," and after some notes explanatory of the construction of this phrase and the use of the words contained

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in it, twenty examples are added, all on the subject of going, setting out, &c. The evident advantage of such a method is that, from the very outset, the student assimilates knowledge having actually practical utility. If he takes the rules of grammar and syntax as stepping stones, he acquires fragments only of sentences, and a comparatively long time must elapse before he becomes competent to piece these fragments into an intelligible whole. There are twenty-five of these exercises in the first part of Mr. Kuroda's volume, and any one that has mastered them will have made a deep inroad into colloquial Japanese. The second part is devoted to grammar. This detestable subject is clearly and concisely treated. Thirty-four pages suffice, and if one can get all the grammar one needs by studying so brief a treatise there is not much to complain of. In the third part we find a number of dialogues: capital dialogues they are; well chosen and thoroughly idiomatic. Indeed Mr. Kuroda is to be complimented on having avoided, throughout the whole book, the common fault of introducing the student to Occidentalized Japanese which forms a bad foundation for future building. We cordially recommend the book to persons desiring to learn colloquial Japanese. It is procurable at the principal Japanese book-stores.

CONCERT IN TOKYO.

A concert in aid of the Tokyo Young Men's Christian Association was given on Saturday, Nov. 5th, in the Hall of the Academy of Music in Uyeno Park. It attracted a large and appreciative audience, principally of Japanese. Mrs. Mollison's name appeared on the original programme, but unfortunately she was prevented by illness from fulfilling her promise, to the intense disappointment of everybody. It became necessary, therefore, to fill the vacancy in the programme as well as to change the whole order. Application was made to the Misses Perry, and with good-nature which cannot be too highly praised, they at once agreed to give their assistance, though the request was preferred only three hours before the time fixed for the concert. These young ladies, who arrived recently in Japan, are skilled performers on the violin and violincello, and their playing added materially to the pleasure of the concert. Mr. Junker, with the unfailing kindness that he invariably shows when there is any question of charity, played three times, and was accompanied by Dr. von Koeber. These were indeed most delightful performances. Mr. Junker played magnificently and the accompaniment was absolutely perfect. It is a rare treat to hear two such artists. Towards the close of the second part, the audience, observing what arduous duties Dr. von Koeber had already discharged, began to be anxious lest the pleasure of hearing a solo from him should be denied. Thus when the gifted amateur dispelled these fears by ascending the stage alone, he was greeted with a burst of applause, and at the end of the piece received a vociferous *encore*, to which he kindly responded, playing, on the second occasion, even more beautifully than on the first, if that were possible. Mr. Junker also was twice recalled, and indeed it was plain that if his hearers might have consulted their own wishes only, he would have been kept playing until mid-night. The Misses Koda played a violin duet with great feeling and delicacy of execution, and Mr. Friedlander sang twice, eliciting well deserved applause. At the opening of the first and second parts, Japanese musicians played on the *Kotō* and *Kokiu*. They doubtless showed much merit, but we have no appreciation of such music and can not comment on it intelligently. There were two performances called "*No* Dances," but they really belonged to the category of farces played in the intervals of the *No* proper, and being at once brief and comical, appealed to the taste of the foreign section of the audience more than a more classical performance would have done.

We should add that before the Concert commenced, Mr. Niwa, the Hon. Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Society, spoke a few appropriate words, shortly explaining the general aims of the Society, and thanking the audience for their support.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

1—Sankyoku.
2—"No" Dance.
3—Trio .....Mendelssohn.
The Misses Perry, and Dr. von Koeber.
4—Vocal Solo..Aria from "Tannhauser".Wagner.
Mr. Friedlander.
5—Violin Duo .....Hans Sitt.
The Misses Koda.
6—Violin Solo—
(a) Romance .....Rubinstein.
(b) The Swan .....Saint Saëns.
Mr. Junker.

PART II.

1—Sankyoku.
2—Suite for Piano and Violin.....Goldmark.
Dr. von Koeber and Herr Junker.
3—Vocal Solo.....Serenade.....Lachner.
Mr. Friedlander.
4—Piano Solo—
(a) Pastorale .....
(b) Ano Vivace ..... } Scarlatti Taurig.
5—Violin Solo—
(b) Gavotte.....Bohm.
Mr. Junker.
6—"No" Dance.

"NO DANCES."

Narihira and the Dumplings.

A baker of rice-dumplings, famous in his line, sits in his shop with his wares temptingly displayed as usual. Ariwara-no-Narihira, the celebrated poet and dilettante of his era (850 A.D.), passes with the retinue, *en route* for a temple at Tamatsushima. Prince Narihira asks his followers whether some one of them can not compose a stanza appropriate to the occasion. Inspiration declines to come to any of them, and they all stand dumb, when the umbrella-bearer steps forth, and with some show of pride offers to do his lord's bidding. Narihira delightedly bids him proceed, whereupon the man recites the only couplet he knows, an ancient affair which he expects to pass off as his own. Of course the great *littérateur* recognises the verse immediately, and the unlucky umbrella-bearer slinks away amid the invectives of his master and the ridicule of his comrades. Narihira now observes the dumpling shop, and at once feels hungry. He is about to help himself when the seller demands payment in advance. Narihira, having no money with him, offers to pay by composing a poem, but the dumpling-man, who knows nothing of his customer's quality or fame, replies that his dumplings are worth more than any stanza. An altercation ensues, during the course of which Narihira shows such gusto for the dumplings that the seller's pride of *cuisine* is touched, and he inquires his customer's name. Of course, on learning that he is accosted by Prince Narihira, the darling of the Court and the arbiter of elegance, the dumpling-vendor is overwhelmed. But, too shrewd to lose the opportunity, he prays Narihira to take his daughter to Kyoto, and find a place for her at the Court. Narihira, thinking only of the dumplings, tells the man to produce his daughter, and no sooner does the vendor disappear for that purpose than the prince falls on the dumplings, and eats so hastily that he is in a choking condition when the shop-man reappears with the girl. The dumpling-vendor lavishes attentions on the half-strangled prince, and the latter splutters out apologies. Meanwhile the daughter stands by, coyly hiding her face and presenting such graces of mien that the prince is captivated, and begs that she may became an inmate of his own household. The dumpling-dealer, an honest fellow though ambitious, suggests that the prince should inspect the maiden a little more carefully before pledging himself to anything, but the prince, who thinks that this is only another dumpling device and also has absolute confidence in his own judgment of the outworks of beauty, declares himself not only satisfied but impatient. Then follow preparations on the father's part for his daughter's departure, and finally the girl, allowing her face to be seen, is discovered to be revoltingly ugly. Narihira attempts to escape, but he has pledged his word, and the girl is not only resolved to profit by this stroke of fortune, but has also fallen in love with the Court beau, on her own account, so the prince goes home, choked by the dumplings for his impatience and saddled with a villainously ugly wench for his imprudence, altogether in worse plight than the plagiarizing umbrella-bearer.

The "Cup Snatcher."

Two blind men, master and servant, are on their way to Kyoto, where the master hopes to obtain one of the titles granted to the blind. They arrive at a river, and the master proposes to have himself carried across by the servant. Meanwhile a traveller having the use of his eyes, arrives, and slipping between the blind men, gets on the servant's back and is carried over the river. The master, when his preparations for crossing are completed, calls impatiently to his servant, but the latter suspects that he is about to be made the victim of a trick. An altercation ensues and at length the servant is induced to perform the task again. His wits have been perturbed, however; he misses the ford, and the two are precipitated into the river, whence they scramble with difficulty, wet and cold. They sit down to solace and warm themselves with a draught of *sake*, a gourdful of which they have with them. The servant pours out the wine, but as he passes the cup to his master, the third traveller interposes and drinks the liquor. The master waits eagerly and grows irate at the delay; the servant protests that he has passed the cup; a violent discussion results, and the third traveller, unable to contain himself, betrays his presence by laughing. The two blind men detect the fraud, spring up to attack the interloper, and cudgel each other by mistake.

H.I.H. Princess Komatsu, wife of Field Marshal Prince Komatsu, gave birth to a Princess on the 2nd inst. The infant is named Suye-ko.

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THE "GENRO."

THERE is a pretty freely expressed sentiment of dissatisfaction in many quarters because the elder statesmen have been summoned to the Palace for consultative purposes at this juncture. Of course the feeling is strongest among party politicians. They find cause for chagrin in the fact that, after all their efforts to displace and discredit the "Clan Statesmen," it is to the latter that the SOVEREIGN has recourse in times of crisis. But even those whose judgment is not warped by party prejudice ask, not unreasonably, why an appeal from the THRONE should be made to the "elders" under circumstances like the present. If there were any idea of reverting to the system of independent cabinets—that is to say, cabinets without Parliamentary responsibility—the services of the elder statesmen would be necessary. But there is no such idea. The "elders" themselves would decline to endorse it unless its necessity had been proved by events much more cogent than those now witnessed. What, then, is the use of holding things in abeyance until counsel has been sought of the *genro*? This sentiment of dissatisfaction confirms a view often advanced by us during the past five years, namely, that constitutional government can never work satisfactorily in Japan until the so-called "Clan Statesmen" have been finally absorbed into, and identified with, the parties. As to the outcry against the "Clan Statesmen," it has always seemed to us a mere pretence. It served well enough at one time as a cloak to hide the absence of any solid grounds for attacking the Government; but it was unsubstantial from the outset, and became a wretched rag of fiction long ago. Modern Japan has nothing of which she may be more justly proud than the men that made her. When, therefore, we say that the independent existence of the "Clan Statesmen" is an obstacle to the consummation of constitutional government, our meaning is, not that they ought to be thrust aside, but that their administrative prestige, their fully proved ability, and the honour attaching to their achievements, render it impossible for the SOVEREIGN and the nation to repose full confidence in any Government from which they are excluded. Another way of stating the same proposition is that the political parties will never seem to possess the fullest attainable equipment of talent and competence until they have succeeded in enrolling the "Clan Statesmen" in their ranks. To suggest that the SOVEREIGN should ignore the "Clan Statesmen" at a crisis like the present is an ill-considered fancy. The SOVEREIGN'S first duty is to the country, and whatever hopes HIS MAJESTY may base on the future of the party politicians, he would be imprudent and unpatriotic did he not appeal in the first place to the men of whose capacity ample assurance has been obtained by actual experience in the past. These men, then, will always seem to stand between the THRONE and the parties, until they have become fully identified with the latter. To Marquis ITO, above all, does this proposition apply. We may say that the duty of forming a Cabinet was entrusted to Counts OKUMA and ITAGAKI because their parties were united. But we must also say that they would never have received the Imperial Mandate had not Marquis ITO recommended them for the trust. Marquis ITO, in fact, stands nearer to the THRONE than any other statesman, or combination of statesmen, in the Empire, and a Cabinet which does not include him must always feel that it has not the absolute confidence of the SOVEREIGN. When he finally and unequivocally identifies himself with any party, then and not till then will the era of party Government have fairly dawned in Japan. Next to Marquis ITO, the greatest figure in the political arena is that of Count OKUMA. But from the EMPEROR'S point of view Count OKUMA labours under the disadvantage of having for sixteen years headed a party uniformly opposed to the men who were the repositories of Imperial trust, the men who had restored the sceptre to Imperialism. Were the politicians and statesmen of the country divided into two great camps, one under the leadership of Marquis ITO, the other commanded by Count OKUMA, HIS MAJESTY'S sympathies might be with the former, but there could be no question about his extending a full and unreserved mandate to the latter whenever the voice of the constituencies was raised in its favour. What will be Marquis ITO'S choice? The considerations we have here urged were doubtless cogent to his mind when he absented himself in order to give an untrammelled opportunity to the first semi-party cabinet. He returns to find the experiment a failure, and to learn that the time has come for him to choose whether he will identify himself with the system of his own creation and thus carry it to successful consummation, or stand aloof and suffer it to forfeit the nation's respect by inchoate and abortive struggles.

A WORD TO THE LIBERALS.

BEING foreigners we have no title to offer any opinion about Japanese domestic politics, but since on-lookers often see most of the game, we wish to say a word to the Liberals, or to the Constitutional Party, as they perhaps prefer to be called. It is this:—You have now reached the parting of the ways. You can never go back to your alliance with the Progressists. You and they represent the two great political parties to which the administrative power will be hereafter entrusted alternately. But it has not yet been entrusted to either of you independently, and recent events confirm what you must have already known, that it can not yet be entrusted to either. The EMPEROR has not confidence in your unassisted capacity to manage the affairs of the State, and the nation has not confidence. What then is the assistance you want? It is the assistance of the men whose statesmanship has been proved by their achievements; the men who, in spite of all the attempts made by you and your recent allies, to injure them in popular esteem, are still regarded by the SOVEREIGN and by the people as the ablest and most trustworthy administrators in the Empire. You have not succeeded in getting those men to enrol themselves in your ranks, and until you do succeed, you will never, so long as they live and are capable of public service, acquire an unquestionable title to be the repositories of administrative power. But you have approached success and are now on the way to make another large stride towards it. For your position to-day is such that the statesmen with whom you cooperate frankly and heartily will be henceforth bound to you and to you only. They can not hereafter pass over to the camps of your opponents, with whom your rupture is final, unless by your treatment of them you prove yourselves impossible allies. The one thing interposed between Japan and party government is the little band of statesmen who stand above the parties, where their achievements have entitled them to stand, and nearer than the parties, to the THRONE, whose confidence they deserve to enjoy. There can be no finality in the constitutional struggle upon which you have entered until some, at any rate, of those men have identified themselves with your cause. You have now an opportunity of winning them, and of thus forming a government that will save Japan from becoming an object of ridicule to the world. For that is precisely what she is becoming. With innumerable questions of the greatest possible importance to be solved—questions that concern the country's prestige abroad and prosperity at home—the government is in a state of chaos, its whole time occupied in adjusting squabbles between aspirants for the sweets of office, its whole strength wasted on petty personalities entirely unconnected with the public welfare. Precisely when Japan ought to be asserting herself in the councils of the nations to whose comity she has gained admittance with such infinite trouble, she is showing that even her own domestic affairs are more than she can manage. All the gains she has acquired by thirty years of persevering effort, are being frittered away. If she continues in her present course, she will find herself, one of these not very distant days, despised by the nations of the West,

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and regarded as a light-headed child that breaks even its toys, can not look beyond the four corners of its political primers, and is incapable of playing any serious part upon the world's stage. If the promptings of patriotism have any influence with you, and if the interests of party government are really in your heart, you will, on the one hand, come forward to assist in forming a stable and practical Cabinet, and, on the other, will lay aside some of your personal ambitions for the sake of winning the statesmen without whose association you can never be a really responsible party.

GREAT BRITAIN.

WERE Lord BEACONSFIELD in power it might be possible to regard the preparations now going on in England as a prelude to one of the surprises he was so fond of "springing" on the British public, from the purchase of the Suez Canal shares to the landing of Indian troops at Malta. But under Lord SALISBURY'S régime nothing in the shape of a dramatic coup is conceivable. There must be solid reason for the extraordinary course of getting ready which the Government has adopted. The secret is splendidly kept. Nevertheless its possession can not be confined to England. Some other Power, perhaps two other Powers, know all about it; for we may take it as certain that the motive of the preparations is defensive rather than aggressive. In other words, HER MAJESTY'S Ministers have information of some scheme secretly conceived by a rival state or states, and are adopting precautions against being taken by surprise. But here the objection at once presents itself: if other Powers are contemplating a coup, evidences of preparation on their part also ought to be visible. There is nothing of the kind. Russia seems quiet. She is threatened with domestic trouble which would induce her to seek peace, even if she had otherwise an inclination for war. Besides, is it conceivable that the CZAR would have formulated his recent pacification proposals had he been harbouring, all the while, a plot for the sudden opening of strife with one of the principal among the Powers whom he invited to the conference? That is assuredly not to be supposed. We come then to France. But France is quiet also. She shows no sign of making preparations for war. There are some observers, indeed, who draw ominous inferences from the passivity shown by her under the stress of the Fashoda affair. It was a terrible thing for a great and proud Power, they justly say, to have to "scuttle" in the face of a menace, and if the French, who are brave almost to a fault, tamely bowed to that cruel necessity, it was probably because they were nursing some secret project of retribution. The theory is certainly ingenious, but, before attaching any value to it, we have to ask, what is meant by the French? The French Government, and the French people, or both? If the French people are in the secret, it could not remain a secret for a day. If they are not in the secret, then the quiescence of their attitude signifies simply that they did not think Fashoda worth fighting about; and, if that was the people's mood, then the Government reflection of it ceases to suggest any recondite contingencies. So, by a process of exhaustion, we reach the conclusion that neither the Russian Government nor the French Government entertains any intention of moving direct against England in Europe. But, though France may be officially innocent of any bellicose intention, is it not possible that some of her people may be hatching a great political plot with accompaniment of warlike enterprise beyond the sea, and that the British Government, secretly informed of the danger, is taking precautions to minimize it? That seems a very far-fetched explanation. Instead of mobilizing troops and assembling fleets, HER MAJESTY'S Ministers could resort to the much simpler and more effective course of publishing their information, and thus exposing the plot before its maturity. We come, then, at last to indirect action on the part of Russia and France. The most obvious sphere for such action is Abyssinia. It is believed that MENELIK could put an army of 150,000 men into the field—well drilled, well armed men, led, perhaps, by a large number of Russian and French officers. That would be a formidable affair. The Abyssinians are elated with their victory over the Italians; they have the Magdala scare to wipe out with England, and they may have been persuaded by French and Russian agents that substantial assistance will be rendered to them if they make a bold attempt to get possession of the upper part of the Nile Valley. As a matter of fact, no assistance could be rendered to them beyond what they may already have received in the form of leaders and arms, for if they took the field and if the slightest evidence of active Russian or French sympathy were furnished, the Suez Canal would be closed, and France and Russia would be shut off from the Red Sea. But the closing of the Suez Canal to French and Russian ships would mean war with those Powers, and perhaps they look forward to trying conclusions with England in the Mediterranean while she has MENELIK on her shoulders in the Soudan. All this is exceedingly hypothetical, but at any rate it contains no element of utter improbability. It should be observed, too, that even were there no indications of an intention on the part of France and Russia to do more than hound on the Abyssinians and render surreptitious aid to them, the complication incidental to a war under such circumstances are such as to demand the most thorough preparations by Great Britain. The slightest disaster to her arms in the Soudan, or in the invasion of Abyssinia which would of course be necessary, might encourage France and Russia to strike at her. To be ready for emergencies of that kind, to invade Abyssinia from the Red Sea with an army of forty thousand British troops, and to launch against it from the Soudan an Egyptian army led by English officers and well stiffened with English regiments, would tax the resources even of England. We are not here taking into account the possibility of Far Eastern complications as a direct cause of Great Britain's preparations, because we really fail to see what any European Power could effect, or even attempt, in this part of the world. It is said that Russia has twenty thousand troops in the Liaotung Peninsula. Well, what then? Does any one imagine that she thinks of moving them against Peking on the eve of winter? They would have to undertake a miraculous march through Southern Manchuria, or to cross the Gulf of Pechili and land somewhere in the neighbourhood of Shanhaikwan, thenceforth trusting wholly to their own resources, for their communications with Liaotung would be severed. There is no occasion to discuss these wild chimeras. If Abyssinia be not the lurid point, then we have to fall back on the hypothesis that England's mood is subjective; that she is preparing for a *coup* on her own account. If so, it must be a *coup* connected with Africa, the season being too late for operations in the Far East. The declaration of a protectorate over Egypt is suggested, and the suggestion seems not altogether unreasonable. But would not such a proceeding be a somewhat wasteful forcing of events? The mills of time are steadily grinding into impalpable powder all opposition to England in northern Africa. She has only to wait. Her policy has always been permeated by faith in that truest of all truths, "everything comes to him that knows how to wait." We can not believe that she is going to spoil the situation by any display of impatience or precipitancy.

JAPANESE LAW COURT.

MOTTU *versus* TAKENOUCHI.

On Thursday at the Yokohama Saibansho the case of L. Mottu, No. 89 Settlement, v. Takenouchi was resumed. Judges Fujise and Asami formed the Court, the latter sitting as Judge Associate. Messrs. Akiyama Genzo and Inouye Zayeki appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hirata for the defendant. The case for the plaintiff was that the defendant, a Japanese transport agent, had caused damage to 5,736 bags of Rangoon Rice which he had been instructed to land at the Customs compound and to carry to the premises No. 89. The agent and his employé were examined, and Mr. Hirata applied for leave to summon further witnesses. The Court adjourned until the 1st December.

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SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

Everything in Japan is in a state of change at present. Nothing is fixed or permanent. In dwellings we see, now the native style, now the foreign, and now the hybrid. In costume, the fashion of the Far East walks side by side with that of the Far West, and sometimes the priest in stole and scarf covers his head with a "pot-hat." Nor is this fluent condition restricted to the realm of concrete objects. In the domain of the abstract it is equally apparent. Buddhism and Christianity fight for supremacy and win converts or lose disciples in turn. In poetry we have the Chinese stanza, the Yamato verse, and the Eurasian ode. In prose, one writer affects the classic form; another chooses the mixed syllabic; a third mounts the stilts of the translator; a fourth is faithful to the sonorous terminals of epistolary construction; a fifth aims at conversational simplicity. In the world of ethics we find this party preaching the new code; that, advocating the old. Here are men crying out for woman's rights and the honour of monogamy: there may be seen others who pride themselves on keeping several mistresses. In one circle nothing is heard but applause for the immemorial canons of filial piety and patriotic loyalty: men sacrifice their lives without a qualm at the dictates of leal fidelity, and girls sell themselves into a life of shame to support their parents. But turn in another direction and you shall hear equally strident sermons preached about personal freedom and popular government. In truth it may be said that Japan is at present in a state of chaos. The obvious rôle to be played by statesmen in such a season of seething transformation is to obey the dictates of moderation and liberality, and to suffer the course of evolution to proceed without interruption. The fittest will survive, and the fittest must be suffered to work out its own salvation. Yet in certain directions freedom of movement is mercilessly checked and sharp restraints are imposed. Such abuses are notably apparent in the spheres of education and of religion. Legislators and administrators hamper the free course of evolution; interfere with the working of the great law of the survival of the fittest, and postpone the nation's emergence from a state of chaos.—(*Fiji Shimpo.*)

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So we have returned to the days of the "councils of the elders." Just as a stable principle seemed likely to assert itself in the field of politics, we find ourselves again clutching clouds and grasping shadows. Is it not wonderful that, after all we have passed through, the country must against take refuge in the councils of the elders? As for us, we care not at all about the composition of the Cabinet that emerges from these councils. All that we want is a Cabinet faithful to the principles we have at heart; a Cabinet responsive to the urgent needs of the time; a Cabinet in which the people can repose confidence. Give us such a Cabinet and it shall have our support. Therefore we have a word of counsel for the council of elders. It is this:—"Consider, in the very fore-front of your discussions, why and how each and every Cabinet has failed in the past. When you have clearly analysed that part of the subject, you will be in a position to decide what form of Cabinet may hope to achieve success in the future."—(*Jimmin.*)

The names that one hears on every one's lips now-a-days as those of probable Ministers-President are Saigo, Yamagata, Matsukata, and Itagaki. Saigo's statesmanship is common-place among the commonest-place. It has no elements suited to the conditions of such an era as the present. Yamagata is a soldier before everything. If the occasion offered, he would advocate suspension of the Constitution and the establishment of military rule. Matsukata is reputed to be the ablest financier of the day. But his methods are slow and circuitous. He is a man of many misgivings, and nothing oppresses him more than to be obliged to make up his mind. Besides, he has not stood the test of trial. Itagaki is a genuinely good man. He deserve the confidence he has earned. But his eyes are closed to the great principles of political action. His recent doings demonstrate that defect. An ideal statesmen, according to our definition of the term, does not exist in Japan to-day. But Ito and Okuma represent the highest standard that the nation possesses. Both are elderly men, but both have unimpaired faculties, and can hold their own with the rising generation. We trust that one or other of them will assume the control of State affairs at this juncture.—(*Hochi Shimbun.*)

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What we want is a Cabinet guided by principles, not a Cabinet that occupies itself wholly with the task of distributing the prizes of power. And when we speak of principles, we mean positive principles, not negative. For example, 'increase of the Land Tax; completion of the armaments-expansion programme; a fuller extension of the franchise to the mercantile and manufacturing classes. Thus the personnel of the new Ministry is unimportant. Let us not revert to the days of favouritism and the Sat-Cho balance. We care nothing about persons and much about principles.—(*Hochi Shimbun.*)

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When Choshiu was threatened with attack by the forces of the Tokugawa Regent, some of his clansmen talked of employing foreigners to aid in the defence. But Kido stoutly opposed the idea. When the Imperial forces entered Yedo, the advisers of the Regency thought of seeking aid from France. But Katsu Awa would not hear of it. These were great and wise men. The politicians of our own time belong to a far lower rank of statesmanship. They lose themselves in the troubles that confront them and have no perception of the ultimate interests of the country. So it is that at this juncture their thoughts turn to an alliance between Saigo and the Liberals; or they fall back on the expedient of summoning Choshiu to save the situation; or they would fain see the *Jiyu-to* aided by Yamagata. We have no patience with such temporizing makeshifts. If the Liberals want to wait until they can obtain the cooperation of Marquis Ito, they are doubtless acting wisely. But no other alliance will inure to their advantage.—(*Mainichi Shimbun*).

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No Cabinet that has not a political party for its basis can be strong or lasting. It is a common saying that Bismarck governed independently of political parties, and that strength as well as stability were marked characteristics of his administration. But if the history of Bismarck's time be studied closely, it will be found that he invariably managed to secure the support of a political party, and, however arbitrary and overbearing he sometimes seemed, he never ventured to dispense with such assistance. The people talk once more of reverting to the celebrated system of *chôsen naikaku*, or self-supported ministries, and they point to Marquis Yamagata as the probable restorer of the old fashion. It would be a ministry of an hour, and Marquis Yamagata knows it. Whatever ministerial edifice is erected must have either the Liberals or the Progressists for foundation.—(*Yomiuri Shimbun*).

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The real head of the new Constitutional Party is not Itagaki but Hoshi Toru. Hoshi is a strong man and a determined. He is a leader, not a follower. Satsuma and Choshiu may try to use him, but they are much more likely to find themselves used by him. He is also indomitable. No blow can prostrate nor any failure daunt him. He holds his passions so completely under control that they become instruments to serve his purposes. Popularity he can not win, but in the art of manipulating a political party and making it move towards the ends he has in view, his capacity is great. His domestic life also is a witness in his favour, and his diligence is phenomenal. He is an omnivorous reader, but the subjective side of his character is so strongly developed that his reading produces no effect upon his views. He swallows much but assimilates little. For all his long years' of study and his wide acquaintance with foreign literature, he is the same Hoshi as he was two decades ago.—(*Nippon*).

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Japan has certainly progressed. We can easily recall the time when anything like a political crisis threw the people into a ferment. But there has not been anything of that kind on the present occasion, though incidents of profound importance seemed to be occurring. It would appear that the line of demarcation between the domain of politics and the domain of ordinary work-a-day life is becoming more and more distinct.—(*Mainichi Shimbun*).

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Nothing is more uncommon and nothing more conducive to great achievements than a due combination of sincerity and craft. Ebara Soroku is essentially sincere and one can always be sure of him. Hoshi Toru's craftiness is one of the sources of his success. Kono Hironaka has both sincerity and craft but they conflict rather than cöoperate in his character, and he often misses his footing. Still, on the whole, the element of sincerity is in the ascendant. In Itagaki's case, the two qualities come into fatal collision, and not only involve him in many embarrassments of his own making, but also render him an enigma to others. He might have been Minister President when the Cabinet was organized last July, had he coveted the distinction. But he stepped aside in Count Okuma's favour. Having done so, he ought to have recognised that Okuma was Premier and deferred to him accordingly. He did nothing of the kind. He tried, rather, to be himself a second head of the Government. His memorial to the Throne at the time of his resignation is incomprehensible owing to the collision of sentiments that his language displays. Hideyoshi, and

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Iyeyasu are examples of men in whom the two qualities were perfectly blended.—(*Nippon*).

* * *

A country's administration is the product of the nation's intellectual and moral condition. Evil people have evil rulers; good people are well governed. These are fundamental truths of political philosophy. Look at English society. Nothing is more prized by the English than to possess the confidence of one's fellows. The respect paid to upright conduct illumines the whole fabric of society. A far lower grade of morality exists in Japan. There are folks that sell their votes, and there are stalwarts who for money make raids upon political meetings, and there are politicians who arbitrarily and improperly use their power, as well as police who impose illegal restraints upon the exercise of the people's rights. There are traders who enter into collusion with officials to steal the taxes paid by the people, and there are Ministers of Finance who, for the sake of getting a commission, conclude contracts with foreign capitalists. Those that assail the faults of the Government should direct their attack, at the same time, against the depravity of the people: should endeavour to improve the ethics of society; should seek to quicken the moral sense of the nation. For the people are the foundation of the Government.—(*Mainichi Shimbun.*)

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The time has come when Japan must form a definite resolution about the Philippines and make her voice heard distinctly. America's procedure is by no means in strict conformity with the dictates of right. The relations of amity that exist between Japan and the United States are not different from those that exist between Japan and Spain. It does not become a great Power to take advantage of the state of exhaustion to which another country has been reduced by a long war that the former fomented. America's demand for the cession of the whole of the Philippines can not be reconciled with the principles of international morality. From the point of view of material interests, also, there is much to said. If the Philippines become American territory, Japan will have to undertake an extensive scheme of fortification in Formosa. Moreover, her trade with China and with America will be injuriously affected. In the third place, a formidable competitor will be introduced into the field of maritime enterprise which is sure to be opened between Japan and Russia after the completion of the Siberian Railway. Fourthly, the points of contact, and therefore of possible collision, between this country and America will be increased. Fifthly, Japan's natural expansion in a southerly direction will be checked. None of these disadvantages would be felt if Spain remained in possession of the Philippines. Such are the naked facts when stripped of all paraphrase and euphemism.—(*Chiuo Shimbun*).

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A curiously retrogressive tendency is observable in the spirit of the time. The *Meiji* era opened with the Imperial Oath that a liberal and progressive policy should be adopted. Twenty-four years later the Constitution was proclaimed. Then followed the opening of the Diet. The people have now a share in the administration, and live under laws that guarantee the liberty of the subject and security of life and property. Yet we seem to have suddedly reverted to the days of queues and pattens. Let us catalogue the evidences of this retrogressive tendency. In the first place, there is a disposition to draw the Emperor once more into the sphere of politics. In the second, religion and politics are becoming confused, and creeds are being converted into weapons for political parties. In the third, the sentiment of national isolation is again coming to the surface. Look at the fuss that has been made about a sentence in Count Okuma's recent speech. Yet it was a mere historical reference. If the Prime Minister's accusers deserve any consideration, then there is nothing for it but to close the country, for it is plain that if publicists are forbidden to analyse or criticise the polities of other nations, these things should also be hidden from their vision. Nothing could be more discouraging, more distressing. The Japanese people are happily endowed with the faculty of assimilating the ethical, political and philosophical systems of other countries. They borrowed Buddhism and Confucianism from China and Korea, and out of these materials constructed the principles of Japanese loyalty and patriotism. The celebrated fidelity of the Mito faction was based on precepts found in a Chinese book. But it would seem that this useful faculty has become impaired, or, at any rate, that the people have lost confidence in their ability to exercise it.—(*Nichi Nichi Shimbun.*)

PROF. BELL & THE DUMB IN JAPAN.

The International Journalists' Association entertained Professor Bell at dinner in the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, on the 6th instant. Owing to the political crisis and to a party at the Prime Minister's Waseda villa, the attendance was comparatively small, not more than fifteen journals being represented. It had been intended that either Mr. Shimada Saburo, Vice-President of the House of Representatives, or Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, Editor of the *Keizai Zasshi*, should propose Mr. Bell's health, but, neither of these gentlemen being present, the duty was entrusted to Professor Tsuda, as the oldest among those assembled. Professor Tsuda, who spoke in Japanese, his speech being excellently rendered into English by Mr. Takahashi, of the *Japan Times*, said:—

GENTLEMEN,—I have been asked to propose the toast of the evening. The honour devolves upon me as the oldest among you, and I regret greatly that my want of ability, as well as my want of preparation, prevent me from doing justice to the occasion. However, my age enables me to recall some events of which you, gentlemen, can only have read, and among them is the coming of Commodore Perry, and the circumstances under which Japan was drawn out of her long isolation. We all appreciate the heavy debt of gratitude that we owe to America in connexion with the affair, but the fact which I would impress on you to-night is that the opening of our country was effected peacefully. I am often disposed to think that the difference between the rapid progress of Japan and the slow progress of our neighbour, China, may be partly attributed to the fact that whereas Western civilization was presented to us in a peaceful guise, it has been associated by the Chinese with wars and quarrels. We can not be too grateful to the country which took the lead in effecting that peaceful transformation of our country, and, as a distinguished American citizen, Mr. Bell is especially welcome. But he comes to us also as the representative of one of the inventions that help to bring men into close touch with each other. Professor Bell has given to the world the telephone. I need not say what an enormous boon that has been to the human race, nor need I dwell upon the fact that to provide means of communication is the first aim of civilization, and that among such means the telephone occupies an important place. A great deal might be said about Professor Bell's numerous contributions to the cause of science, and about his brilliant career, but I am addressing an audience better acquainted with the story than I am myself, and I therefore refrain from occupying your time. I wish to allude, however, to another great work with which Professor Bell's name is intimately associated—the work of teaching the dumb how to speak. To that benevolent aim he has devoted a large share of his remarkable abilities, and the excellence of the system now pursued is attributable to him in no small degree. I myself am deeply interested in this subject. I was one of the founders of the Asylum for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind in Tsukiji, and I am still an official of that institution. Most regrettably, however, our efforts in the cause of these unfortunates are still exceedingly defective in Japan, and I would beg Professor Bell to give us any hints that his exceptional ability and large experience may suggest, regarding us as children only too ready to sit at his feet and receive any instruction he may have to offer. I regret very much that our meeting this evening is not larger and more representative, but I would beg Professor Bell to understand that the absence of so many of our colleagues is not due to any defective appreciation of our distinguished guest or any want of desire to do him honour, but is merely the result of the present political crisis which necessarily occupies the attention and the time of journalists in an exceptional degree. In the name of this Association of International Journalists let me wish to Professor and Mrs. Bell a pleasant time in Japan and a safe journey back to their own country, and let me further wish that the Professor may long be spared to contribute to the triumphs of science and to confer further blessings on humanity.

Professor Bell, who was warmly cheered on rising, said:—

Gentlemen of the International Journalists' Association,—I must thank you most heartily for the honour you have done me this evening, and for your very pleasant welcome under such pleasant circumstances. I have always taken a great interest in Japan and looked forward to paying a visit to your interesting country, which has made such remarkable progress and leaped so suddenly into eminence during the past twenty-five years. Hundreds of years have passed since Columbus, sailing westward, discovered the land of the setting sun, and now we, looking seaward from that land, see a new light upon the horizon, and ask ourselves what is this strange effulgence, what is this novel luminary which begins to glow in the firmament. That question has been present in our thoughts for several years, and it is with no small satisfaction that I find myself able to see your country more closely, and to observe the conditions that give such earnest of a great future. An eminent man of science in America, Professor Marsh, recently delivered a lecture on the teachings of geology, and pointed out a very interesting fact. He said that on examining the fauna of successive geological strata, a series of progressions was distinctly visible. Thus the crocodile of one stratum was found to have a smaller brain than the crocodile of the immediately superior stratum, and the latter a smaller brain than the crocodile of the next stratum, and so on. The same rule seems to apply to human beings. If we look back to the pit-dwellers of primeval times we find a brain cavity perceptibly smaller than that of man in later eras, and it may be confidently said that the progress of the growth continues even to our own time. Well, gentlemen, Professor Marsh concluded his lecture with a remarkable statement. It was contained in a single, short sentence, but it was a very pregnant sentence. He said—"It is worthy of note that the brain of the average Japanese is larger than the brain of the average European." I do not pause to draw any inferences, but I quote the fact as something of which you may be proud—something which your recent history seems to illustrate. Small in stature, if you like, but large in brain. And during my travels through your country, gentlemen, I have been struck by the fact that nature seems to have prepared for you a great and prosperous career. Everywhere I see long ranges of lofty mountains, with comparatively narrow plains lying between their feet and the coast line. That indicates a grand gift. It indicates that your country should be the very home of electrical enterprise. For such a geographical formation shows that water power is available everywhere throughout the lowlands; that reservoirs of force convertible into electric power can be formed at points within easy reach of all

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your centres of commerce and industry, so that you are in the happy position of being able to base the economy of your country on electricity; to drive your vehicles with electricity; to substitute electricity for steam; to carry on your manufacturing enterprises by the agency of electricity. One can not exaggerate the value of this boon which nature has conferred on you, and that you will one day utilize it fully may be confidently inferred, I think, from the story of your progress during the past twenty-five years. I am particularly interested in observing that you appreciate the great truth which we in the West have come to recognise: the truth that education is the basis of progress and prosperity. Educate the masses; elevate their standard of intelligence, and you will certainly have a successful nation. That is what we tell ourselves, and the latest reports of your department of education show that it is what you tell yourselves also. For I learn from the reports, if my memory serves me, that no less than 64 per cent. of your school-age children throughout the empire are receiving education, and that, in the case of male children, the percentage is as much as 79. Those are highly creditable figures, and they may be accepted as evidence that your progress stands on a really sound basis. But, gentlemen, I do not find things equally satisfactory throughout the whole field of education, for whereas 64 per cent. of your healthy children are receiving instruction, only 3 per cent. of your deaf and dumb are similarly fortunate. Your educational statistics show that among your children of school-going age there are no less than four thousand afflicted with the calamity of deafness. How many of them are receiving education? Only a hundred and twenty. Gentlemen, think of what that means. I do not speak much of the blind. With them I have not had much to do. Their calamity seems too terrible. It necessarily limits the range of possible effort on their behalf. But the deaf and dumb appeal to our sympathy all the more strongly inasmuch as we can do much to assist them. It is generally supposed that dumbness indicates some radical defect of the vocal organs. In the vast majority of cases such a supposition is entirely mistaken. Dumbness comes from the fact that a child is born deaf, and that it consequently never learns how to articulate. For it is by the medium of hearing that such instruction is acquired. Put a Japanese child in America, and you find that it easily and without any apparent effort learns to speak English. Put an American child in Japan, and you will soon hear it speaking Japanese. The whole source of trouble, then, is that the ears of these unfortunates are closed. Their brains, their minds, are as fully developed, or as capable of development, as yours or mine. Imagine the horror of being shut off from the intellectual world that surrounds you, debarred from all intercourse with your fellow-creatures, though all your faculties with a solitary exception entitle you to take your place in that world and enjoy that intercourse. I am proud to think that we in America have recognised these facts and acted upon them. The money devoted in America to the education of the deaf and dumb is two million dollars annually; four million *yen*; nearly as much as the total sum spent out of the public funds for all educational purposes in Japan. We have forty thousand deaf mutes in the United States, and we have upwards of eighty schools with an attendance of about ten thousand pupils. In the city of Philadelphia there is a school whose buildings and other property are valued at a million dollars, or two million *yen*. You in Japan must have about twenty-five thousand deaf-mutes in the Empire, and yet you have only two schools for their education, one in Kyoto and one in Tokyo. That is indeed a state of affairs that calls for remedy. Besides, this is not a mere question of humanity. It is also an economical question. With proper education the deaf and dumb can be fitted for almost any walk in life. All the range of intellectual achievement is open to them. They can become authors; they can become painters; they can become journalists; they can discharge a number of valuable and wealth-earning functions. Why, gentlemen, there are actually forty newspapers and periodicals in the United States, written and edited by deaf mutes, chiefly for the use of their fellow-unfortunates. We spend four million *yen* annually upon the education of our deaf and dumb, but we find that their contributions to the wealth of the country after they are educated exceed that amount, so that, instead of being a burden to the state, they become a factor of prosperity. You see what interest this problem has from every point of view, and you will agree with me, I am sure, that what Japan is doing is sadly inadequate, and that, instead of only two schools in the whole empire, you should have at least a school in every province as we have schools in every State of America. Gentlemen, you of the press are the eyes and ears of society, and you can also be its leaders. I know the immense influence you can exercise upon public opinion, and I trust that you will exercise it in this noble and useful cause. Again thanking you for your kind hospitality, I beg to wish the fullest prosperity and success to this Association of International Journalists.

Mr. Takahashi, editor of the *Japan Times*, rose and said:—

GENTLEMEN,—May I say a word with reference to the eloquent speech we have just heard. It is commonly said of us Japanese that we are not content unless people praise us; that we are always anxious to hear something good of ourselves. Well, if I may be permitted to make a comment without any intention of discourtesy, our distinguished guest seems to have acted more or less on that theory. Now it is true that we like to be praised. We are human, and to be pleased by agreeable compliments is common to all human beings. But I do not think the criticism is just, so far as it implies any special tendency of that kind on our part. We are always grateful to those that speak frankly of our faults and shortcomings, and Professor Bell has placed us under an obligation by pointing out one very defective feature in our system. I think that if we, who have heard his words, unite our strength and earnestly endeavour to bring the subject to public notice, we may succeed in doing much to remedy the great want of educational facilities for the deaf and dumb, and I trust that this Association will take up the question in a practical and thorough-going manner.

CONSERVATISM IN EDUCATION.

It is impossible to deny that the state of opinion throughout the provinces of Japan on educational subjects is unsatisfactory, from the point of view of every lover of progress. The so-called "nationalistic movement" is by no means confined to a small body of agitators in Tokyo who ventilate their opinions in the *Nippon Shugi* and one or two other organs. Conservative thought and opinion predominate throughout the provinces, among school-teachers especially, and this at a time when foreigners and Japanese are about to be brought into closer relationship than they have known in the past. It is quite common to hear school-teachers discoursing to their pupils on the moral superiority of the Japanese to foreigners. Apologists for such strange instruction contend that it does not accord with the views of leading educationists and would be condemned by them. But the tone of numerous articles in journals and magazines shows that the conservatism of the provinces receives cordial support from many of the leaders of thought in Tokyo. We give one among many instances recently brought to our notice. Dr. Inouye Enryo has lately been touring in Miyagi Prefecture. On the 5th instant, at the invitation of the local Education Society of that Prefecture, he delivered an address to a large audience in Sendai on the subject of education. His speech was pronouncedly conservative and indirectly anti-foreign throughout. He marshalled all the unproved and unprovable theories bearing on the origin of the Japanese people. They were descended from the gods. In all other countries the sovereign as Emperor was derived from the people, but here the people had the honour of being derived from the emperor. (*Kōshitsu atte jimmin ga dekita*). Other countries had filial piety and loyalty, but no such filial piety and loyalty as exist in Japan. The moral attainments of the people were altogether unique. Dr. Inouye is a scholar and has spent twenty-five years or more in studying Western literature. Does he really think that any such thesis is capable of logical defence? It so, he has read history to no purpose. But, even granting that the Japanese are morally superior to all other nations or races, to proclaim that superiority as a doctrine for the guidance of elementary school-teachers is surely an unwise proceeding. National vanity is a plant that needs no such cultivation as Dr. Inouye gives to it. He informed his audience that, though they might adopt foreign ways of doing things, their minds needed no renovating; they were good enough as they were. The whole gist of the address was "beware of becoming occidentalised." Now the effect of a speech of that kind coming from a man of high reputation and deep earnestness can not but be harmful. It is in the popularity of such opinions that we must look for the source of the rudeness to foreigners frequently reported from all parts of Japan. The elementary school-teacher who heard the above lecture doubtless returned to his country-village the following day impressed with the importance of laying stress on the superiority of the Japanese people to all other nations. That the persons whom they have been taught to consider inferior should be treated by students as such, and spoken of as *ijin*, *baka*, *chikushō*, and the like is a most natural consequence. It is common to blame the semi-educated, narrow-minded elementary school-teachers for these anti-foreign demonstrations, but ought we not to mount a step higher and blame such men as Dr. Inouye Enryō for using their influence to increase the already excessive satisfaction with which the Japanese youth is apt to regard himself? Dr. Inouye no doubt thinks that in acting in this way he is playing the rôle of a true patriot. But in our view there is no greater enemy to his country than he who helps to increase the self-conceit with which so many are born, nor any greater obstacle to a people's progress than the notion that they belong to a race of superior beings with few defects to be remedied and few virtues to be acquired.

Another remark made by Dr. Inouye on the occasion to which we refer was that amid all the turmoil, flippancy, and change of the political world in Japan, there was one safe resting-place, one reliable fortress, namely, the body of men into whose hands the education of the country has been committed. They were the compass by means of which the ship of State could decide on its course and steer straight to its port of destination. We wish we could think so. We wish that Dr. Inouye's view could be honestly shared by the majority of those who have made a special study of Japanese educational systems and methods. Abundant are the proofs that in the opinion of most observers there is little to choose between the chaos in the region of politics and the chaos in the region of education. Constant changes in the ministry and in the personnel of the *Mombushō* make the carrying out of any settled policy quite impossible. With the elementary school teachers wretchedly underpaid and the teachers of the Middle and Higher Schools inadequately remunerated; with the rules of all schools constantly undergoing revision which lacks uniformity because dictated by no settled policy; with no attempt to meet, by the increased employment of foreign teachers, the new situation which will be created next year; with all

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things in a state of flux and transition; with nothing fixed but change—how is it possible to join Dr. Inouye in regarding the situation complacently? To our eyes it seems that there is no department where such grave cause for anxiety exists as the Department of Education. Instead of being the compass to guide the State into a safe harbour, we prefer to compare it to the unsound plank which threatens her with disaster.

THE BUDGET AND THE DIET.

Count Matsukata has been interviewed, and has made to his interviewer (the *Yorozu Choho*) a general statement of financial policy precisely on the lines already predicted in these columns. He will take the expenditures as compiled by the last Cabinet, and the Revenue as compiled by himself when he was last in power, namely, a revenue depending for its increase on the Land Tax and the *Saké* Tax, and dispensing, as far as possible, with all petty additions to the people's imposts. There will still be a deficit next year, since the return from increased taxation can not be fully realised before the fiscal year 1900-1. Recourse will therefore be had to the sale of bonds. Evidently the new Budget will require some time for compilation. It is therefore anticipated that the official opening of the Diet will be postponed until after the Emperor's return from the autumn manœuvres on the 23rd instant.

ILLNESS OF PRINCESS KOMATSU.

Her Imperial Highness Princess Komatsu (Junior) is said to be very seriously ill. She is suffering from an affection of the kidneys, and her temperature rose to 42° C. on the 9th instant. Doctors Baelz and Saigo are in constant attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LAND TRANSFERS UNDER THE NEW TREATIES.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The Treaties that go into effect next July state the perpetual leases held by foreigners will be recognized by the Japanese Government. I mean the leases in the concessions will be recognized as the property in perpetuity of the foreigner then possessing them, or any one's property to whom he may sell them. Does it mean the Japanese Government will recognize all transfers that have been made during extra-territorial times, and take charge of all records of the same, and recognize the usages and laws of the countries of the nationals making such transfers, or that those leases will be recognized as estates in perpetuity of the owners next July absolutely by the Japanese Government without regard to the laws of the countries of the owners?

INQUIRER.

THE SINGLE TAX STARTED IN CHINA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have word direct from Nankin, China, saying the "Single Tax is being put into operation in Tientsin." Dr. W. E. Macklin, of Nankin, has been working for the Single Tax with great pertinacity and with marked success. He has been invited by the reform party to write a book on the subject, and now suddenly word comes that it is going into operation in an important city.

Of course, "Anglo-Saxon" or some one else will come out and say that does not amount to much, and will try to throw people off the track, but a beginning in a great empire like China, one of the conservative nations, means that the cause of Justice is moving forward.

Marquis Ito, while in China, was fortunate enough to obtain a two hours interview with Dr. Macklin, also a copy of "Progress and Poverty," which if he studies will give him light to solve some of the problems that Japan must face. In California, Congressman Maguire has been nominated by the Democratic and Populist parties for Governor. While the Single Tax is not an issue as set forth in the platforms, it is being made an issue by the forces opposed to Maguire. He is abundantly able to meet the issue.

The Southern Pacific R.R. which has systematically robbed the farmers of California, and which owns an hotel and a newspaper in nearly every city, to complete its monopoly, is weeping crocodile tears over the farmers, who, while they only own 10 per cent. of the land value of the United States, pay 50 per cent. of the taxes. That is, they pay about five times as much as they would under the Single Tax system.

Lies and robbery can not always triumph, and when the Chinese, who are nearly as stupid as the people who can not see the justice of the Single Tax, commence to operate it, we can be hopeful that the end is not far off.

CHAS. E. GARST.

44, Tsukiji, Nov. 5th, 1898.

[We ourselves are whole-hearted believers in the theory of the Single Tax. But we do not believe that Marquis Ito's acquaintance with "Progress and Poverty" dates from his receipt of Dr. Macklin's copy; we do not believe that the Chinese are stupid, and we do not believe that every one differing from us about the Single Tax is stupid.—Ed. *J.M.*]

CLOSE OF THE CRICKET SEASON.

The Cricket season of 1898 was brought to a close in Yokohama on Saturday afternoon in glorious, but cool, autumnal weather. The Interport eleven were pitched against The Rest and for once in a way, The Rest had a thoroughly satisfactory time of it, keeping the Eleven leather-hunting in most approved style. Mr. E. V. D. Parr, for The Rest, had the distinction of making top score, 53, accomplishing this work by bold but judicious hitting. Scores:—

THE REST.

E. B. Clarke, c. Kilby, b. White	13
H. Goddard, b. Kilby	2
J. Dodds, b. White	4
E. Powys, jun., b. White	4
A. J. Easton, b. Kilby	0
C. Thwaites, b. White	7
W. J. White, b. White	10
D. T. Weed, b. Fradgley	1
H. S. Goddard, run out	12
H. Goddard, b. Fradgley	8
A. W. S. Austen, b. Fradgley	0
H. R. Barnard, b. Clarke	13
F. H. Bugbird, l.b.w., b. Fradgley	0
E. V. D. Parr, b. Fradgley	53
C. M. Duff, b. Kilby	6
H. R. Mair, b. White	0
H. A. Stewart, c. Forrest, b. Joy	15
E. H. Irwine, not out	0
Extras	6
Total	154

INTERPORT ELEVEN.

F. E. White, c. Stewart, b. Bugbird	12
T. S. Forrest, c. Weed, b. H. S. Goddard	16
P. B. Clarke, b. H. S. Goddard	21
C. B. Joy, c. Mair, b. H. S. Goddard	6
E. W. Kilby, not out	0
H. W. Kilby, T. L. Taverner, G. Philip, E. G. Fradgley, R. C. K. Johnson, F. J. Lias	to bat.
Extras	3
Total	58

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

MONDAY, NOV. 7TH, 1898.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers met at 9.05 a.m., and proceeded to effect the usual division into Sections, and to elect the Heads of Sections and Managers. This business having been completed, the President, Prince Konoye, reported the fact to the Cabinet, and the House rose at 10 30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 10 a.m., and proceeded to elect three members, whose names are to be submitted to the Emperor for the nomination of a President. Two hundred and ninety-three members were present. The result of the first ballot was:—

	votes.
Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi (Liberal)	153
Mr. Kono Hironaka (Progressist)	142
Dr. Hatoyama Kazuo (Progressist)	5
Mr. Shimada Saburo (Progressist)	5
Mr. Abei Iwane (Progressist)	3
Mr. Sasa Tomofusa (National Unionist)	3
Mr. Motoda Hajime (National Unionist)	2
&c. &c.	&c.

A second ballot was then taken to obtain two names from among Messrs. Kono, Hatoyama, Shimada and Abei, and the result was:—

	votes.
Mr. Kono	161
Dr. Hatoyama	127
Mr. Shimada	76
Mr. Abei	37

Thus the names submitted to His Majesty were:—

Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi.
Mr. Kono Hironaka.
Dr. Hatoyama Kazuo.

The ballot for Vice-President was very close, Mr. Motoda Hajime (National Unionist), the Liberal Candidate, obtaining 147 votes, and Mr. Abe Okito, the Progressist candidate, 146. The names submitted to the Emperor were:—

Mr. Motoda Hajime.
Mr. Abe Okito.
Mr. Suzuki Shigeto.

THE PRESENT EXHIBITIONS OF PAINTING.

To one who has had faith in the future of Japanese art the present moment is of special interest. For fifteen years the disputes of the rival factions have obscured and endangered the one vital issue; but this year the exhibitions of the four societies in the neighbourhood of Uyeno give evidence that the end of the doubtful period has come. The growing intelligence of the public and of professional criticism in their grasp of aesthetic principles makes it now certain that the true nature of the problem is hereafter to be clearly recognized.

The danger of the past has not been what either party thought it to be;—the conservatives, that foreign oil-painting would supplant national taste; the radicals, that Japanese work was unscientific and uncivilized. It was rather the fact that both parties in their blindness clung to the tyranny of method, instead of working out toward the freedom of fresh expression. It was not a question at all of oil or water, foreign or native, radical or conservative; it was a question whether any one should dare enough and know enough to create in any medium. It was the narrow adherence to tricks of the brush in either case that brought us almost to despair; one camp being as barren as the other of any genuine artistic intention.

The ultimate hope, however, turned more upon education than upon exhibitions. It was not so much what had been done, as what was doing. In early stages of growth value lies rather in promise than in achievement; and if past formalisms promised no growth, neither did the amateurish maxim, "Be natural!" This alone never wrote a fine poem, composed a fine symphony, or painted a fine picture. Technical knowledge of structure is necessary in all art;—in literature the capacities of words, in music the nature of harmony, in

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painting the difficulties of composing lines, values, and colours. These are not conventions imposed on nature, but the native language of art, of art whether expressive or not, uttered purely even in the fine panelling of a simple door. The real educational crisis concerned the possibility of teaching a progressive mastery of pictorial structure in principles that are universal, and underlie *all* art from Greek to Japanese. The oil painters in Japan gave not a jot of evidence that they appreciated this problem. Their work did, and does still, violate every universal law of line structure, *notan* massing, and colour harmony; and, therefore, is most unlike old European work. The exhibitors in native style, as a general rule, although they had a profounder conception of line-composition and space-proportioning, were almost equal violaters of every principle of *notan* (dark and light); and, therefore, were very much unlike the old Chinese and Japanese masters whom they professed to adore. Only among the teachers and pupils of the Fine Art School was a consistent effort shown to express fresh thought and emotion in pictorial language also fresh, yet pure and universal; and the best work of this sort was declared by the Chicago jury of European artists to be the finest pictorial exhibit of the 1893 Fair.

If there were any doubt about the success of this movement in the minds of foreign observers acquainted with recent efforts in western state-education, it was whether principles of freedom and of growth from within could be maintained in the face of the inevitable pressure for recognition of parties, factions, and systems. Compromise is not even the first step toward creation, and even the evil of the recent alienation of a large part of the Art School's working force is perhaps now compensated by the unity of aim and the passion for creation which seem to animate this purely private association of Japanese artists that has called itself Bijitsuin. It is the occasion of its first exhibition, and of the lessons deducible from a comparison of this with the efforts of the older clubs that makes the year a notable and a decisive one in the history of Japanese art.

Of the general qualities of the Bijitsuin's exhibition we are struck first with the earnestness of effort to attack and solve,—each artist and in his own individual way,—some new great problem of expression through pictorial structure. Here at once we see the benefits of release from the old administratively necessitated classification of school work into watertight compartments; foreign school (oil painting), the antique school (Nara and Fujiwara influence), the mediæval school (Tosa and Kano), and the modern school (Shijo and Ukiyoye). A student of painting had to graduate in one of these four "straight jackets!" Now the categories have suddenly become as numerous as the individualities of the artists, who no longer call themselves pupils, but mingle, teachers and apprentices together, as associates in a democratic community that reminds us of an early European guild. This was the kind of spirit that created the art communities of Florence, Sienna, Arezzo, and a host of other Italian hill-towns in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

It is not in the perfection of their work, either, or in its ability to defy all criticism, that the enormous hope of this movement is based; rather upon its going to work in the right way and order. It would be only a decrepit amateurish system of teaching that should aim at complete results from the beginning. It took Italy two hundred years to grow up from Giotto to Michelangelo; and when it reached the point of apparent perfection, it at once went to pieces in hopeless degeneration. The glory of Italian art comes not so much from its momentary crisis as from its previous and enormous creative effort in which each new work for two centuries struggled for the solution of a new pictorial problem. Doubtless the decadent successors of Angelo scoffed at the primitive efforts of Giotto, Orcagna, and Masaccio, and called them their equivalent for "*bakemono* pictures." But if instead of working for the single mastery of structure, they had dispersed their efforts by aiming at everything, especially if they had tried to please a fickle popular taste, they would have succeeded in nothing. Just so in Japan to-day foreigners and thoughtless Japanese want pretty things, perfect in little ways that lead to nothing, instead of a glorious deliberate imperfection in grand ways that lead to everything. Any system of art education for Japan at this stage that aims to produce momentary perfection must be radically wrong. The great thing is to waste no effort, to begin at the right place, to have to unlearn no debasing tricks; and this truth seems now to have struck home to the hearts of the Bijitsuin painters.

The hopeful doing of the Bijitsuin work is well shown in the new range of subjects which it has faced. In landscape, instead of colossal mountains, and an angular twig with a few scattered leaves thereon, such as the old Kanos delighted in, it has turned itself to the rendering of soft, lush, richly massed foliage. This is as strictly a problem in proportion, dark and light, and colour feeling as any more sharply articulated pictorial expression, and produces new and striking effects. That it is being treated, too, on a large scale suitable to the rendering of grand atmospheric impressions as well as to the decoration of screens and *fusuma*, is a sign of health. Immediately after entering the well-lighted hall, one comes face upon the two soft screens by young Kanzan which rightly exhibit this effort in its first stages as a dark and light problem to be worked out in ink. Here there are few hard lines, as is proper for sunset and sunrise mysteries; but endless stretches of forest trees rise up and burst into feathery tufts, each one of which, and each part of every one, hold a definite value of size, shape, and depth of tone in the quiet mosaic of the whole. How different this from the ordinary oil landscape-painter's insolent defiance of relations, and childish reliance on hap-hazard meaningless and formless dabs! Here not one stroke is accidental and careless, everything has been thought out and allowed for; the very infinity of the blur has been mastered. It expands elements already suggested by the ancient Chinese Mokkei, but by no means in barren imitation of him. It merely uses the universal resources of a brushful of thinned ink to express poetically and yet clearly a delicate thought. In the face of this we may ignore the somewhat inadequate attempt to secure reflections in the foreground water. That they were made at all seems to have saddened some local oil painters, who were overheard to complain,—"What right have these Japanese painters to infringe our sphere?" As if Heaven had granted a patent to dabbers in oil to paint thick foliage and water-reflections! Let the latter, indeed, look to their laurels! In the oil-painting shows there is not a single study of massed trees that begins to compare with this in conscientious effort and in the difficult handling of pure, intentional, pictorial arrangement.

Similar in effect, though vastly different in composition, is the ink-painting for a screen by Shunso, also one of the young associates of the academy. It presents the interior of a forest flooded with light. It makes a deliberate experiment in ignoring all strongly drawn lines, and relies solely on the subtle massing of its values. Great white sun-silvered rocks choke the forest floor, friends of wild creepers and sheeny fringes. The strong light from the distant centre vibrates overwhelmingly through the thickly set pillars of the trees. All is soft Japanese brush-work over large firmly planned spaces, where no intricacy of primæval textures has been avoided; and the whole screen looks to us like a glorified and modernized Soami.

A further stage in these foliage solutions is reached in the right lower corner of Mr. Yokoyama's colossal picture, of which as a whole we shall speak in a moment. It is the confusion of nature's massing, yet with the clear intent of an artist's composition; each stroke, whether in its contrasts or its blendings, bearing colour as well as light messages to its sympathetic neighbours. It deals with new textures, too, opaque colours shot thin over transparent grounds, a synthesis of wash and scumbling that would tax the ability of all but the greatest master in oil. Only the more formal composition of Sotatsu and Korin can compare with it in former Japanese work; and no oil-painting in Uyeno even dimly suggests such a magnificent jewelled tangle of wind lashed boughs.

Of other innovations in coloured landscape we may praise Konen's modest temple-enclosure, where the contrast of foreground objects against hazy trees is given with as much colour mystery as in a Corot, the very sunlight that shoots warm through the haze and falls gleaming on the upright tree-trunks being rendered with gold pigment; and Shunso's other large picture, a feather-tufted moor across whose waves one looks for miles at a cloud-shadowed mountain, and in which the foreground *susuki* reminds us of the English poet, Francis Thompson's wonderful lines;—

"The grasses, like an anchored smoke,
Ride in the bending gale."

But it is in the figure paintings that the real test of the new power lies. What a glorious, infinite field have Japanese artists, the totality of half-used Oriental legend, and the rich suggestions in method of the schools of a thousand years! And how imperative the world's need that the geniuses of to-day shall seize these suggestions, and expand them into a new and true poetic language in which to pour out their modern hearts!

A few of the most striking shall serve to point the lesson. Take Tanrio's delicate rendering of the attack on Nobunaga in Honnoji,—two figures and a bit of delicious architectural background, the Tosa school modernized and etherialized, as I have always predicted that it should be. Tanrio is a young man, and indeed a pupil of the old Tosa school; but here the drawing is modern and full of action, and the figures stand out in firm relief against the architecture, whose perspective is used not priggishly, but in connection with aerial tones of green and purple to enhance the feeling of space. Also a development from Tosa is Shintaro's large painting of Court ladies in a garden, an enlargement as it were of a Keion makimono,—somewhat too thin, perhaps, in colour, but beautiful in line, and most exquisite in its restrained outline drawing of flower and leaf forms. In fact this seems to me almost the loveliest flower drawing of modern times.

The Ukioye and the Yosai schools also give birth to new and fine figure suggestions, all by young men. Of Toshikata, the pupil of Yoshitoshi, and thence through Kuniyoshi related to the main line of Ukioye ascent back to Moronobu, we have the clear rendering of a little girl with a baby on her back, full of promise in its modern drawing even where the correctness of this may be criticized. Chikuha gives us the fine large panel of girls gathering *matsudake* under maples, which may well compare with an Utamaro, the splendid keeping of the warm tone of Autumn sunlight throughout contrasting most favourably with the sick purple coldness borrowed by some of the oil-painters from modern French degenerates. And Hanko's "Farewell" is really a beautiful idyll in its contrast of the delicate girl with the wild wind-swept rocks and tree-stumps of the peak, and in the delicious creamy softness of the distant reaches of the sea. It has absolute realization of space and atmosphere without much of modelling or shadow, a lovely poem in line and tone more subtle than the work of Yosai himself.

European influence is frankly acknowledged in the painting by Shodo of two girls and a boy at a river. It is almost French in drawing and placing, but how much purer in colour than its congeners of Hakubakai! "A water-colour!" the foreigner will exclaim; yet—mark well!—drawn and coloured with purely Japanese strokes. And while one might criticize it as borrowing unnecessarily something of French coldness, it is a living proof of the truth of our contention that both the subtlest and the strongest effects of foreign feeling can be rendered as well by Japanese technique.

But among many other praiseworthy attempts the two great triumphs of the exhibi-

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bition are the works which break away from all tradition whatever, Japanese or foreign, and realise with overwhelming power and by original handling hitherto untouched Oriental subjects One of these we have already mentioned for its foliage. "The Misanthropy of Kutsugen" by Yokoyama Taikwan. I have been to see this picture now for five or six times, and every time I approach it, it moves me more and more to tears, as sometimes I am moved by an affecting passage in a *No* opera. Kutsugen, the great lonely poet of China, crazed by love for nature and shunning human haunts, eventually drowns himself in the Yellow River. In his extant poems he cries like an elemental spirit misplaced in man:—"I am the soul of gaunt stones on peaks, where clouds weave phantoms behind me, and monkeys shriek in one another through the mist, whose gusts tear spray from the crests of the frowning trees.' That this colossal picture goes far to realize the intensity of such a conception implies an enormous mastery of resources. It is absurd for the feeble painters of corpse-coloured flesh in Hakubakai,—corpse-coloured even on young blooming maidens,—to cry of this work, "bakemonoye!" What sort of face *would* they give to Kutsugen? A jinrikishaman model's? The human inhumanity of this mask actually tears the soul with storms of mingled awe and pity. No *No* mask yet carved is more subtle and intense. Of the foliage that surges to the right I have spoken; but for the storm that summons the elements like ghosts from their lairs and envelopes the colossal silk in the baleful spell, Taikwan had to invent a new technique, a scrumbling of body white over a ground of transparent grays which carries the resources of silk-painting quite up to the force of oil-effects. The chief criticism one could make on the work is that the figure of Kutsugen seems too large for his surroundings; yet, if this were intentional, it surely contributes to the impression of a wandering spirit that broods in the blast, and is out of touch with merely human scale.

The second creation is that of another young nursling of the old Fine Arts School, and an associate of the Academy, Shimomura Kanzan. I remember Kanzan as a boy of thirteen suddenly appearing at the Kangakai exhibition of 1886 with a fine original landscape that recalled Kakei. Easily he has forged to the front, and now stands to the new school of Japanese art as the young Giotto stood to the total achievement of Italian. We have noticed his study of gray trees; here his range grapples with the highest difficulties of religious conception, and with the ultimate capacities of colour. It is the solid outcome of the prophecy uttered by the lamented Kano Hogai before his death in 1888; for, if Hogai was the Giunta Pisano of this movement, and Gaho his Cimabue, here again I say is our Giotto!

This is a colossal thing, a score of figures two thirds life-size composing a subject never before treated by artist, "The Cremation of Sakyamuni Buddha's Body." To this scene, says scripture, came the Bodhisattva of the nine realms, the kings of the earth, and the sorrowing *bikshu* his monks, all bearing vessels of holy oil to feed the flames. Here they stand in two groups, gods and men mingled, right and left of the gilded coffin beneath which Kasyapa has just lighted the incense. The bursts of flame and smoke are rendered in tones of gold that variegate those of the coffin they enshroud, behind which, through the gold-spangled atmosphere, a halo stretches, its bow radiated with lines of gold light, as in Fra Angelico's "Paradises." Against this background of dazzling, choking light the figures stand out dark and gaunt, affected with every individual emotion of awe and sorrow,—a transcendent humanizing of type-faces found in ancient altar-pieces and groups of Chinese Rakan. I presume it is these faces which some Japanese call *bakemono*; yet if they knew enough to compare them with the most admired faces of the Giotto frescoes at Santa Croce, the Orcagna at Santa Maria Novella, or the Fra Angelico at San Marco—all in Florence,—they would see that these do not lose a whit by comparison. Indeed the two figures of Rakan in profile go even a step beyond the artists mentioned, and remind us of Masaccio's immortal types at the Carmine. Like the old Italians, too, Kanzan has introduced an excellent portrait of himself among the spectators, the second face from the right edge.

In pure line quality, also, this work is great, a field where Ririomin and Kanawoka have set an almost unapproachable standard; yet never before have the lines of Butsuga blended with such large related curves. And if anybody wants a western standard, there is almost none too high for comparison; the kneeling figure on the left suggesting Greek, and the drapery lines of the Rakan in light dress on the extreme right standing peer to the greatest of Italian studies, hardly excepting Angelo's himself. It may be remarked here, too, that Kanzan has followed Hogai in carrying the power of his lines to their fulness by making them also glow with colours that enter and modify the total colour harmony.

If this be too technical, let us pass to *notan*. Everyone can understand that the supposed necessity of introducing oil into Japanese art was the inability of native methods to secure a depth of colour-darks sufficient to render full effects of contrasted lights. To anyone who had seen the ancient Horiuji frescoes this mistake might not have occurred; but, indeed, it would have been more than half justified by the feeble absence of values in almost all recent native work, were it not for the stupid insensibility of the oil-painters themselves to all claim for pure firm depth of tone. It has taken years of experiment for Hogai, Gaho, and Kanzan to mass their pure red, green, and blue pigments in such a way as to make them stand out in consistent dark masses against light backgrounds. This difficult feat, always difficult in any large group of figures, has been here accomplished consistently with the *notan* clearness of every separate texture in the numerous draperies;—that is, every head has its own special depth of dark, every figure as a mass stands clear of its neighbours, and yet every piece of cloth has a peculiar "value" in addition to its colour. It is a complicated dark and light mosaic in which all the parts of a hundred different depths have been designedly and firmly held. The resulting effect is relief, solidity, shadow; and that not merely in bold contrast with the fiery atmosphere, but as shot with its reflections and bathed in its envelope. In this respect it advances away beyond any previous Japanese work, beyond Giotto and Orcagna, even beyond all Fra Angelico's except his colossal "Crucifixion," right up to Piero della Francesca and the Bellini. Some day we will prove this opinion by a public comparison of photographs.

But the last wonder of this work,—we know not whether it be the greatest,—is the splendour, consistency, and saturation of the colour that covers its colossal panel. Great colour is the rarest quality in painting; Ruskin says that the Western world has produced only seven supreme colourists. All critics agree that the supremacy in colour of the early Venetian school is due to the fact that even in its deepest shadows it kept its colour pure, deep crimsons, blues and greens, but always colour and essential to the colour-whole. What vitiated the work of all other schools, and after Titian of the Venetians themselves, was the habit of thinking of *notan* (dark and light) in terms of black and white, and not in terms of colour. When colour came to be added to a drawing, the mind of the artist vacillated confusedly between two antagonistic conceptions, in carrying out which he sullied his hues with dirty brown spots and charcoal streaks. It is this prostitution of colour in some foreign academic education that makes the flesh of many modern French, and of all modern Japanese oil-painters, look like smooched labourers in coal mines.

It was most important from the beginning of the new education here that the Japanese, if they were to develop depth and range of color at all, should do it as the early Venetians did it, that is, work it up as a pure colour-mosaic, as if, indeed, the design were for a stained glass window. Hogai led the way in this experiment; but Kanzan's picture is its first creative triumph in the composition of many large figures. Let it be remarked, too, that this colouring is no copy of the Venetian Bellini's or even of its congener Fra Angelico's; but based upon the ancient "Yamato" scale of colouring shown best in the work of Motomitsu and Mitsunaga. This is here exhibited in a scale of superb oranges, connecting the yellows of gold at one end with the depths of carmined vermilions at the other, and contrasted with every variety of tone in purplish blues. It carries to undreamed of depths the finest colour thoughts of the early *Butsuga*.

We have now but short space to speak of the other exhibitions; but perhaps they do not merit more. In the Bijitsu Kiokwai there is but one great original picture out of the hundreds shown, the landscape with maples by Nomura Bunkio. Bunkio's landscape in the Bijitsuin is good, but not equal to this; and of Bunkio we may say that to-day he is almost the only artist who can re-create in terms of the pure Shijo feeling. We hope that he will not lose the purity of his tone, as some Kyoto artists have done, by aiming at brutal force; but we suggest that his triumphs of the future are likely to come from greater simplicity in composition, discarding that overloading of piled-up mountain forms which most modern Shijo painters have adopted from Bairei and Kuansai.

Of the old oil-painters' exhibition, too, there is little to say, because little of it is new, and that little leads nowhere and signifies nothing. We would particularly caution the Japanese public against the collection of "old European Masters" shown there. A worse set of bad copies of the most thoroughly vicious phases of European work could hardly be found. They illustrate well the black charcoal disease that had eaten out all sense of colour.

Thus the real issue lies between the Hakubakai and the Bijitsuin. Both claim to be progressive and modern, to create fresh impressions. It is not as foreign or native, radical or conservative, oil or water, that we and the Japanese of the future must compare them, but from the universal principles of clearness, structure and growth. Which of the two knows what it is doing, and what of universal value it will lead to? Which is gathering strength and mastery over the expression of imaginative conceptions and over beautiful execution? There is the issue hopefully joined to-day, and no party can avoid it.

In the Hakubakai there are few figure pieces large and important enough to challenge serious comparison with Kanzan's, but the two most prominent are typical of the qualities of all. No. 324 by Renzo is a very large charcoal study of seven figures. In the black and white of this, if anywhere, we should expect a suggestion of the artist's knowledge of and mastery over "values"; but a more complete absence of all that intelligent dark and light can contribute to a painting it would be hard to find. Enough to analyze as follows. Of the seven whole figures not one is distinguished by variety of general tone from any other one; but all are of the same dead uninteresting gray.—an impossibility in open air and light. Next, of each figure as a whole, not a single contrast in value marks the differentiation of flesh from clothing. In all art, European or Japanese, one of the great facts and beauties is the glow of light flesh against dark garments, or else the transparent gleam of dark flesh against opaque light cloth. In either case texture, to say nothing of local colour, demands a contrast, however slight. Third, among the various pieces of cloth themselves, it is a physical impossibility, as well as a gross ugliness, that there should be no local differences of dark and light; yet here all are wrought of the one despairing substance. Lastly, these many parts, large and small, are not only alike in tone, but the tone of each is impure, uncertain, and muddied all over with meaningless smooches, as if the whole family had just emerged from the same coalpit.

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To observe whether the addition of colour may not do something to compensate for this lack of *notan* we turn to Mr. Kuroda's colossal canvas, No. 203, where six nearly life-size figures are set against an elaborate landscape. Alas! the confusion and the ugliness are only heightened by the introduction of chromatic problems. Almost every fault in the dark and light of No. 324 is repeated here. Moreover, the background of trees and other things is as uncertain and dirty in tone as the figures and their garments, so that nowhere does the intention appear to give a figure relief by making it either lighter or darker than the ground. Next, on every single face—notably of the old priest—or on a single leg the contrast of the muddy shadow-parts with the parts supposed to be lighted is very strong, far stronger than any contrast in local tone between object and object. This violates nature's most beautiful and obvious facts, except in the one case of an artificial "studio-light" concentrated from a point on a single figure. Never does it appear in open air, as any good photograph will show. Never does it appear in that good modern French work which aims to cure the black shadow disease, as we shall see after a moment in the case of M. Collin.

But Mr. Kuroda's colours are no less dirty and uncertain in their hues than they are in their values. Nowhere throughout his whole work is there a single pure colour combining with other colours into a "colour intention." Here, as through the whole exhibition, the faces, even of delicate young girls, are daubed with black, green, and purple spots that make them look—one does not like to say it,—really like decaying flesh. But here it is not only the flesh; the garments and the trees also, all are dirty, all ugly, all as full of streaks that correspond to no colours in nature. Splendid chances have been thrown away, for example in the girl on the right. Every one knows what a fine note in nature is the glossy black globe of a Japanese girl's hair; and here the artist might easily have brought it, or her purple *obi* below, into strong and fine contrast with the washed out trees behind. But no! He had to make an extravagant and unnatural effort to paint into both all sorts of colorless reflected lights that sickened and killed both their color and their value. Thus there is no conviction of reality in a single presence, and no attempt has been made to draw a single face so as to interest the beholder. There are lay figures, a dreary summoning of ghosts, if not of corpses, that hover and do nothing in some ill-defined element.

It is an interesting point to ascertain whether Mr. Kuroda inherited this decadent and hopeless manner from his French teacher, M. Collin. The pretty little specimen of the latter's work in the opposite corridor answers in the negative. The two styles flatly contradict each other. It is but a bit, this painting of a little girl by Collin; but how inexcusable compared with its sweet purity is the dirt and death of almost every Japanese face in the exhibition! There the back-ground is a light green foliage shot with sun yellows; yet even against this intensity the little demure child face shines out as a single, consistent, and still more glowing tone of pure soft orange. Note that there is not a shadow on it, not a spot, not a smooch, only the faintest modification of the one delicious orange toward yellow at the edges. A single scar of high modelling or of strong reflected light would have torn this delicate value into dirty shreds. This is true art; the picture is actually built up about the face, so as to bring it out as a whole, of a single lovely hue and a certain delicate *notan* tone. Everything else contributes to this effect. To prove it so that any student may see it, let me analyze a bit further. The whole figure is composed of four pure distinct tones in flat passages;—the flesh, the white of the cap and the shoulder cape, the soft gray of the dress, and the dark gray of the apron. The whole execution is restrained and evened to make clear these four simple tones. These are the primary thing, the one excuse for the artistic substance of the picture. No modification within each of the four, whether caused by shadow, reflection, or modelling, is allowed for an instant to interfere with its individual value, and with its average contrast to its neighbouring masses. Such is the first and chief law of *notan* and colour structure, whether observed by Greeks, Venetians, M. Collin, or Shimomura Kanzan.

This is why I say that the true issue for Japan is now decided for ever in this year's interesting exhibitions. No intelligent Japanese can fail to see whose is the progressive method, and which better meets the requirements of private emotion and of public use;—a degenerate perversion of French coldness that, with all its parade of scientific drawing, leads to weakness, ugliness, and death; or a hopeful creative solution of primary pictorial problems which, in spite of some crudities, already points ahead along the same splendid path of advance that the Italians of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries discovered and explored.

ERNEST F. FENOLLOSA.

"BISMARCK."

Dr. Moritz Busch, the man who has been described as Bismarck's Boswell, has printed his diary; the Messrs. MacMillan publishing the book in London. The work has stirred up much dust. Englishmen are not pleased, because the book reminds them that Bismarck was no friend of theirs, and they confine their criticism, in the papers so far to hand, chiefly to the passages which refer to this hatred of the great Chancellor. The *Athenæum* takes a broader view, as was to be expected, and discusses the book thoroughly and impartially; but it finds little to praise either in the writer or his hero. The Germans censure Busch's work as a mere jumble of unimportant remarks, taken principally from his former books, which teach us nothing new, yet cause a great deal of bad feeling. The following are a few essentially Bismarckian extracts:—

"They [the English] want to send a gunboat up the Seine—in order, they say, to remove the English families there. They merely want to ascertain if we had laid down torpedoes and then to let the French ships follow them. What swine! They are full of vexation and envy because we have fought great battles here—and won them. What swine! They can not bear to think that shabby little Prussia should prosper so. The Prussians are a people who should merely exist in order to carry on war in their pay. This is the view taken by all the upper classes in England. They have never been well disposed to us, and have always done their utmost to injure us."

"The Crown Princess herself is an incarnation of this way of thinking. She is full of her own great condescension in marrying into our country. I remember her once telling me that two or three merchant families in Liverpool had more silver plate than the entire Prussian nobility. 'Yes,' I replied, 'that is possibly true, your royal highness, but we value ourselves for other things besides silver.'"

"France is a nation of ciphers—a mere herd. The French are wealthy and elegant, but they have no individuality, no consciousness as individuals, but only as a mass. They are like thirty million obedient Kaffirs, each one of whom is in himself featureless and worthless, not fit to be compared with Russians and Italians, to say nothing of ourselves."

"You can give a Frenchman twenty-five lashes, and if you only make a fine speech to him about the freedom and dignity of man of which those lashes are the expression, and at the same time strike a fitting attitude, he will persuade himself that he is not being thrashed."

"We were on good terms with England under Beaconsfield; but Professor Gladstone perpetrates one piece of stupidity after another. He has alienated the Turks; he commits follies in Afghanistan and at the Cape, and he does not know how to manage Ireland. There is nothing to be done with him."

"Once a man came to see me who sent word that if I would not receive him he would hang himself. My reply was, that if he must needs do so, I would have the newest and strongest rope brought down from the garret for his use. He did not get to see me all the same, and went off again without, so far as I am aware, doing himself any harm."

Bismarck's opinion of the Crown Prince (afterwards the Emperor Frederick) was not high. Says Dr. Busch:—

"I remarked, 'What your Serene Highness has just said about the Crown Prince bears out the description of him which you gave me in 1870 during the drive from Beaumont to Vendresse—a pleasant life without much thought or care, plenty of money, and praise from the newspapers.' 'Yes, that is his character,' he replied. 'Like his grandfather, Frederick William III., whom he resembles in other respects also. . . . . The old King used to drive seven times a week from the Pfaueninsel or the palace at Potsdam to the theatre in Berlin, in order to see worthless commonplace pieces, and afterwards to go behind the scenes and chuck the actresses under the chin, and then drive back the long dusty road he came. This is also the Crown Prince's style—he wants to amuse himself, not to govern.'"

And this was his opinion of the Emperor William after his dismissal:—

"'Things have gone more rapidly than I imagined they would. I thought he would be thankful if I were to remain with him for a few years, but I find that, on the contrary, he is simply longing with his whole heart to be rid of me in order that he may govern alone—with his own genius—and be able to cover himself with glory. He does not want the old mentor any longer, but only docile tools. But I can not make genuflections (*Ich aber kann nicht mit Proskynesis dienen*), nor crouch under the table like a dog. He wants to break with Russia, and yet he has not the courage to demand the increase of the army from the Liberals in the Reichstag. I have succeeded in winning their confidence at St. Petersburg, and obtain proofs of it every day. Their Emperor is guided by my wishes in what he does and in what he refrains from doing. What will they think there now? And also other expectations which I cannot fulfill, together with the intrigues of courtiers, rudeness and spying, watching with whom I had intercourse! My retirement is certain. I cannot tack on as a tail to my career the failures of arbitrary and inexperienced self-conceit for which I should be responsible."

The English papers are not flattering in their comments. The *Westminster Gazette* says the book shows that Bismarck was a great rascal; the *Evening News* (Glasgow) says:—"Dr. Busch has so fully drawn the screen from before this great German Idol that we have no difficulty in seeing that the feet were of clay. And such clay!" The German papers, as we remarked above, to a large extent condemn the work.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

His Majesty the Emperor will leave for the western Cities on the 13th inst. to witness to Grand Army Manœuvres.

Mr. H.A.C. Bonar on Tuesday took up his appointment as H.B.M. Consul at Yokohama and Assistant Judge of H.B.M. Court for Japan

Mr. Sakuma, proprietor of the great printing office in Tokyo, who has been ill of consumption for some months, died on Sunday night at his house, Nijikken-machi, Ichigaya.

We understand that the cost of the construction and establishment of the Hiranuma Charity School amounted to $30,000, and in addition $50,000 has been invested for its maintenance. The income from this sum, which is invested at 5 per cent., will amount to about $2,500 per annum. The total sum expended upon the school by Mr. Hiranuma is therefore $80,000.

The *Kobe Herald* of Wednesday published a rumour that the Blue Funnel steamer *Pyrrhus* was supposed to have gone ashore near Tomagashima. There was no truth in the statement. It appears that some slight accident occured to the machinery shortly after leaving Kobe, and the captain stopped near in shore to have it repaired. This having been effected, the steamer proceeded on its voyage, and came into Yokohama harbour on Friday morning.

Henri Rochefort is generally believed to have lost his reason over the Dreyfus case. Certainly his recent writing in *l'Intransigeant* has become most violently crazy. Fancy any man in his senses putting such stuff as this into sober print: "The members of the Court of Cassation,

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having been previously drawn up in single file, an executioner, duly trained to the work, should cut off their eyelids, so as to leave the eyeballs denuded, and then spiders of the most venomous kind should be inclosed in nutshells and applied to the eyeballs, properly fastened behind the culprits' heads. These spiders, in famished condition, would slowly and gradually feed upon the culprits' eyeballs until nothing but ghastly cavities remain. This done, these hideous blind men should be chained to a pillory erected before the Palace of Justice and on their chests a placard should be affixed bearing the words: 'Thus does France punish traitors who attempt to sell her to the enemy.'"

Really serious news, says a home paper, is reported from Paris concerning that famous Boulangist and anti-revisionist, M. Rochefort. It appears that the wonderful plume of white hair which, in the words of the *Cri de Paris* "has made his countenance legendary from Paris to Noumea, and from Longchamps to Epsom," is getting terribly thin, and no longer sticks up in all its pristine glory. The strain put upon the old pamphleteer by his efforts to bolster up the blunderers of the General Staff after the discovery of the forgeries of Colonel Henry, and the exposure of those heroes, Colonel du Paty de Clam and Major Esterhazy, has been too much for the famous "toupet," and M. Rochefort has been forced to temporise with his advancing years. We learn from the Parisian Press that M. Rochefort is obliged before he retires to rest to fasten up what remains of his once proud head of hair with hairpins, so that in the morning it may be found up-right and bristling as of old.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

The monument to be erected in memory of the crew of the German gunboat *Iltis*, which was lost with virtually all hands in a typhoon off the S. E. Promontory on the 25th of July, 1896, was landed at Shanghai from the German mail steamer *Sachsen* on October 29th and will be erected shortly on the Bund foreshore opposite the hong of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co.

A dispatch received in Shanghai from Hangchow, capital of Chekiang, reports that Governor Liao has received secret orders from the Empress Dowager to arrest seven or eight prominent members of the Reform Party who left Peking soon after the recent *coup d'état*. A Peking dispatch also states that numbers of young men, some of them belonging to the mercantile class, who joined the Patriotic Association, *Pao-kuo-hui*, are leaving the capital for fear of arrest owing to the renewed activity of the Reactionists.

Kang Yi, President of the Board of War, and one of the Empress Dowager's right-hand men since the *coup*, has denounced H.E. Hu Yü-fên, Governor of Peking, as Chief Director of the Tientsin-Peking Railway, for allowing the foreign Legation guards to go up to Peking by his line. Governor Hu really tried to prevent the guards from travelling by the railway and only withdrew his objections upon receiving instructions from the Tsung-li Yamên to do so.

Mr. Byron Brenan, British Assessor in the Shanghai Mixed Court and H.M.'s Consul-General, has made formal protest against the Taotai's judgment in the case brought by the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits against its Chinese shareholders. Mr. Brenan asserts that the Taotai has not followed Chinese law in this case. "By Chinese law a Chinese subject is held bound by any contract he may enter into of his own free will."

The *Echo de Chine* announces the murder in the district of Poklo, near Sunou, of a French missionary named Chanès. It says that, though the Viceroy declares that poor M. Chanès is not dead, the mission has no doubt that the sad news is true.

The *N. C. Daily News* hears that the enemies of H.E. Shêng, Director-General of Railways, have been again doing their best to ruin him by numerous denunciatory memorials to the Empress-Dowager, and from indications to hand they will very probably succeed. When it is remembered, says our contemporary, that, in addition to the above Director-Generalship, H.E. Shêng is also Director-General of the China Merchants' S. N. Co., the Telegraph Administration, and the Hanyang Iron-works—all of them most lucrative offices—it is no wonder that envy and malice have had a great share in the opposition shown to that official.

The Empress-Dowager, as we learnt by telegraph last week, has commanded that "the old system of examination in horse and foot archery, brandishing swords and stone weights, etc., be continued as usual," proficiency in modern weapons of precision and gunnery being, in her opinion, "more fit for instructing those who have graduated in the above degrees and who wish to enter the active army." She has further commanded, however, that military graduates shall henceforth be ordered to join the military academies of their several districts where they can be instructed in the modern branches of military learning.

The French authorities have ordered the retention of the *Bruix* on the Far Eastern Station. She was to have sailed for France, together with the *Duguay-Trouin*, but after the Peking *coup* was ordered to proceed to Taku with a detachment of troops for service in the Chinese capital. The *D'Entrecasteaux*, which has just joined this station, will remain south in the neighbourhood of the French Colonies. The repairs on the French cruiser *Jean Bart* have cost 100,000 francs. This cruiser is to replace the *Bayard* as French flagship. The repairs were effected at Saigon. She was in Along Bay undergoing trials before sailing for Manila according to last reports.—*China Mail.*

According to the *Universal Gazette*, the Viceroy Liu, of Nanking, recently turned the old barracks of the German-modelled Tze Chiang Brigade, in that city, into a school for the encouragement of mechanical sciences. The teachers of the new school are master artisans who have had years of instruction and experience at the Nanking Arsenal, while the students have been selected from the well-to-do farming classes in the vicinity of the city. At present the students are being taught how to make spinning and weaving machines according to the newest foreign types, models of which are placed in the school for the students to copy.

An influential petition has been sent to the Foreign Ministers at Peking by the Protestant Missionaries, British, American, Swedish, and German, resident in Shantung and Hunan Provinces, in conference assembled at Weihien, urging Their Excellencies to do what is possible to urge upon the Chinese Government the necessity of trying new plans for controlling the waters of the Yellow River. The methods hitherto adopted have proved quite inadequate and are of doubtful utility. The petitioners respectfully suggest that the Chinese Government be pressed to appoint a commission of foreign experts to make a full investigation and report on the best means of preventing the ever-recurrent calamities that now make the Yellow River China's perennial sorrow.

A special telegram to the *N.-C. Daily News* from Chunking, under date October 29, brings news that Yu Man-tze, the notorious brigand, has been bought off. The Acting-Viceroy Wên, we learn, received by courier on the 27th October a letter from General Chou, commanding the troops opposed to Yü Man-tze, stating that he had received a petition from that rebel asking for peace with the Government and promising to release the Roman Catholic priest, Father Fleury. The Acting-Viceroy gave his consent to a peace and ordered a "reward" or *solatium* to Yü Man-tze in the shape of a commission carrying a brevet button with it. This was sent on the same day to General Chou to prove the *bona fides* of the Acting-Viceroy's intentions towards the rebels in order to obtain the persons of the Priests, Fleury and Huang, held by them. Some of the followers of Yü are to be enlisted in the local battalions, while others are to be paid their expenses to their homes. Peace is therefore within reasonable distance of accomplishment, and in consequence alarmist rumours are already dying out. Shanghai, Shasi, and Hankow bankers and merchants having trade connections with Chungking have been advised to take advantage of the present opportunity, coupled with the favourable condition of the river, to hurry on their winter shipments so as to avoid loss in delay.

THE "KINSHIU MARU" COLLISION.

MARINE COURT OF INQUIRY.

A preliminary inquiry was held at Osaka, on Friday, by the Marine Court regarding the recent collision in the Inland Sea between the N. Y. K. steamer *Kinshiu Maru* and the O. S. K. steamer *Miyagawa Maru*. From what we can learn the facts of the case are as follows:—

The *Kinshiu Maru* left Kobe on October 25th at noon, for Nagasaki direct, and from thence was to proceed to Hongkong. She was commanded by Capt. F. J. Brown and for the passage through the Inland Sea the Nippon Yusen Kaisha sent their regular Pilot, Capt. Y. Kaya, a reliable and trustworthy man, who had been in the service of the Company many years both as Captain and Inland Sea pilot. Soon after leaving Kobe, Capt. Brown arranged to take charge of the ship and allow the pilot to sleep, and rest himself, during the afternoon, knowing that he would have to be on the bridge throughout the night. Captain Brown was at his post attending to the navigation of the ship until sunset, at which time the *Kinshiu Maru* was approaching Nabae-Sima Light-house, when Captain Kaya came on the bridge. Captain Brown and his pilot remained on the bridge together until past all danger, and at about half past six, being out of narrow waters, the course was set to pass well to the southward of Mutsu Sima. All being clear ahead, and a fine moonlight evening, with nothing afloat in sight but one bright light, well on the starboard bow—at that time so far distant that no side-lights were visible—no thought of danger entered the minds of any one. The Captain at this time left the bridge in charge of the pilot and third officer, and himself and other officers went into the saloon for dinner. The Captain had just commenced, the other officers not having yet appeared at table, when two blasts were sounded by the *Kinshiu's* whistle, which caused Captain Brown to leave the table at once. As he was going up the companion-way, he states that he heard another steamer answer by two blasts from her whistle. This caused him to think that the other steamer was also putting her helm to starboard, and consequently would pass well clear, but on reaching the bridge he saw the other steamer putting his helm to port and trying to cross the bow of the *Kinshiu Maru*. There was then no time to shift the helm of the *Kinshiu Maru*, and the only alternative was to go full speed astern. This was done, but too late to avoid a collision. The other steamer, which proved to be the *Miyagawa Maru*, came across the bows of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer and was struck near the bridge, the *Kinshiu Maru* cutting a tremendous hole in the other ship. At once the engines of the *Kinshiu Maru* (which were then going astern) were stopped and orders given to assist in rescuing people over the bow, also to lower boats, whilst others threw over life buoys and belts for the people who were then struggling in the water. In a very short time (less than five minutes) the *Kinshiu Maru* had two boats at work among the people who were struggling in the water. In fifteen minutes from the time of the collision, the *Miyagawa Maru* sank under the bows of the *Kinshiu Maru*. Most of her people had then been rescued, but the *Kinshiu's* boats were kept searching until near midnight. Soon after the *Miyagawa* sank the *Kinshiu Maru* anchored, and remained by the wreck until the following afternoon, doing all that could be done to assist the unfortunate people. After this the *Kinshiu* proceeded to Miyara (in the northern passage) to land some of the rescued people who wished to be put on shore there. After doing this she proceeded to Nagasaki and from thence has gone on to Hongkong.

It appears that the *Kinshiu Maru* sustained very little damage, and from this fact it may easily be deduced that her speed must have been greatly reduced at the time the collision took place. It is reported that about 130 people were rescued, and about 60 perished. It is said that only one of the crew of the *Miyagawa* (a fireman) is missing; it is supposed that they all escaped from their ship by climbing over the bows of the *Kinshiu Maru*.

A final enquiry will soon be held at Osaka, but the date is not yet fixed.—*Communicated.*

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TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

HONGKONG ARMING.

KOWLOON REDOUBTS BEGUN.

THE FLEET IN READINESS.

(From our Correspondent.)

Shanghai, Nov. 4.

The war preparations continue at Hongkong. General Black, Acting Governor of the Colony and Officer Commanding the Troops, with his staff selected, yesterday, the positions for defence. The erection of redoubts on the Kowloon frontier have begun. The Fleet is thoroughly prepared and the orders to-day were that no Admiralty mails were to leave for the north by the M.M. steamer *Sydney*.

STIRRING NEWS FROM TIENTSIN.

REFUSING TRAIN-PASSAGE TO RUSSIANS.

M. PAVLOFF STOPS THE ENGINE.

(From our Correspondent.)

Shanghai, Nov. 5.

The *Shanghai Mercury's* correspondent at Tientsin telegraphs that on the 3rd instant forty Russian marines, who were escorting M. Pavloff, Russian *Chargé d'Affaires* at Peking, and the Russian Admiral, were detained at Tientsin waiting for permission to proceed to Peking. On an attempt being made to start a train without the sailors, M. Pavloff and the Admiral took their stand in front of the engine and defied the authorities to proceed.

(From the "Japan Times.")

EMPEROR WILLIAM FORCED HOME BY THE HEAT.

London, Nov. 3.

It is announced from Berlin that the German Emperor's tour in Asia Minor is curtailed owing to the intense heat.

THE BRITISH WAR PREPARATIONS.

London, Nov. 4.

A large number of Coastguardsmen have been called out for immediate service with the Reserve Squadron. The *Daily Graphic's* statement is denied.

The *Temps* is resentful at Britain's insisting on the humiliation of France in the Fashoda affair and hints at a future recasting of the international policy against England.

Mr. Schreiner has introduced a Bill into the Cape Parliament for the contribution of £30,000 annually towards the Imperial Navy.

London, Nov. 5.

It is officially announced from Paris that the Government has decided to evacuate Fashoda. The new Cabinet has announced to the Chamber its decision to uyhold the supremacy of the civil power.

London, Nov. 7.

At the Mansion House banquet in honour of Sir Herbert Kitchener, Lord Salisbury said that he had received notification that the occupation of Fashoda was valueless and that France has resolved that its occupation shall cease. The Marquis could not say that all the causes of the controversy have been removed, in fact probably not; but that the acute and somewhat dangerous question has been removed.

The French press has become resigned, but declares that the Fashoda affair will long rankle in the French mind, in view of the attitude adopted by England, and urges the formation of a strong French colonial army.

THE SIRDAR AT THE GUILD-HALL.

London, Nov. 5.

The Sirdar was rapturously cheered on his way to the Guildhall where he received the Freedom of the City of London and was presented with a superb sword of honour.

JOINT OCCUPATION OF CANEA.

The international troops have occupied the fortress of Canea, and four different flags have been hoisted on its walls.

London, Nov. 7.

The evacuation of Crete is practically complete. The Powers have agreed to allow a small Turkish detachment on the island, to maintain the emblem of the Sultan's sovereignty.

Russia has formally proposed King George of Greece as Commissioner-General of European Powers in Crete.

London, Nov. 9.

The last of the Turkish garrison only left Canea under British threats to bombard the barracks.

THE FATE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

London, Nov. 5.

The German and Russian press oppose the American demand for the Philippines.

London, Nov. 7.

The Spanish Commissioners have virtually rejected the American demand about the Philippines.

THE MOBILIZATION IN ENGLAND.

London, Nov. 8.

The newspapers report that General Walker, commanding the Western district, has been ordered to mobilize the troops in his division.

MENELIK HELPS THE MAHDI'S MEN.

The *Times* publishes a despatch from Harar dated October 14, stating that the Emperor Menelik sent a good supply of clothes and necessaries to the Dervish refugees after their defeat at Ghedaref.

London, Nov. 9.

The Naval preparations continue amid much speculation as to their object. The German and Austrian papers attach grave significance to them.

Orders have been placed with various British firms for railway bridges for Khartoum.

THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS.

REPUBLICAN VICTORY.

London, Nov. 10.

Incomplete returns to hand show that the Republicans have elected Roosevelt as Governor of New York State, and also Governors in fifteen other states, Democrats being returned by three states. The result of the elections to the State Legislatures will ensure a Republican Senate.

DECLINE OF THE PLAGUE AT BOMBAY.

The plague in Bombay city is steadily declining.

RUSSIAN WARSHIPS AT JINSEN.

Jinsen, Nov. 5.

The Russian cruisers *Sivootch* and *Admiral Kornidoff* cast anchor here this morning.

RAID ON THE INDEPENDENCE CLUB.

Soul, Nov. 5.

To-day had been fixed for the election of privy councillors, but in pursuance of a proposal by the Imperial (Peddlers) Club, the Government decided to apprehend all the leading members of the Independence Club, to the number of thirty or more, the reason being alleged that the latter club often acted contrary to Imperial ordinances and was a standing menace to the Government. The President, Yun fled to the American legation, but the Vice-president Ye and others, numbering twenty persons have been already arrested.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

Peking, November 3rd, 9 a.m.

Mr. Hu King-ching, formerly Chinese Representative in St. Petersburg and now President of the East China Railway, has been appointed a member of the Tsung-li Yamên.

Tientsin, Nov. 4.

Twenty U.S. marines left for Peking to-day.

Peking, Nov. 8.

The soldiers under General Sung Ch'ing who committed assaults on foreigners, are still staying in the Capital, though the Chinese Government agreed to withdraw them on the request of the foreign diplomats. The Chinese Government's pretext is that the soldiers have not finished drill and cannot be withdrawn. The Representatives of the Powers have sent another message requiring their retirement within 15 days. Otherwise the Powers will increase the numbers of their guards at Peking, and take steps to protect the railways and telegraph lines.

Baku, Nov. 8.

The Chinese military attachés who were to have gone to Japan to witness the grand manœuvres have been detained.

(From the "Hochi Shimbun.")

Peking, Nov. 5.

Mr. Yano, Japanese Minister, to-day had an audience of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress Dowager. They conversed with him in a most friendly manner. The health of the Emperor is gradually getting better.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

Peking, Nov. 5.

During his audience Mr. Yano presented to the Emperor the highest decoration of the Empire of Japan. The Emperor, in returning thanks added that he wished for more friendly intercourse with Japan. The Empress Dowager also spoke. The audience continued about 15 minutes. The Empress Dowager looks younger than her age. The Emperor does not appear sick though he is feeble. It is said that during the audience the Emperor asked for Japanese assistance in the improvement of China.

Peking, Nov. 7.

The Empress-Dowager has issued an Imperial Edict for the reform of the military system and of local administration. It strictly prohibits bribery; proposes to organize a volunteer force, and contemplates the establishment of national granaries.

Shanghai, Nov. 8.

On the 4th Chinese policemen, accompanied by some 50 vagabonds, attacked the premises of the Japanese firm Arai Shoten, near Suchau. They broke all the furniture, and inflicted serious wounds on an employé of the firm.

Peking, Nov. 7.

The warship *Numa* is expected to arrive at Tientsin about the 10th inst. The guards for the Japanese Legation are composed of marines from the *Akagi*.

The Chinese Government is still keeping in Peking the soldiers of the Kang Army Division under various pretexts. They are staying in the Southern part of the capital, where more soldiers seem to be gathering. The Representatives of the Powers have urged the Government to withdraw them by the 15th, stating that otherwise they will require the control of the railway between Peking and Canton during the winter, when the Pechili Gulf is frozen up.

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at Wright's Hotel on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

Solution of Problem No. 393.

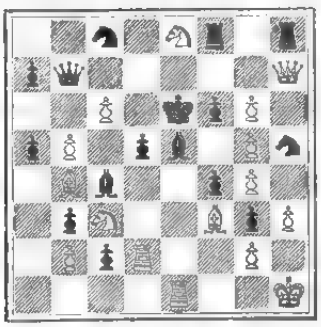
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—B to Kt 2	1—K to K 4
2—Q to K B 4 ch	2—K takes Q (must)
3—Kt to Q 3 mate	
	1—K to B 2
2—Q to Kt 8 ch	2—Kt takes Q (must)
3—Kt to R 6! mate	
	1—K takes Kt
2—Q to Kt 8	2—Any
3—Q to K B 8 mate	
	1—Any other
2—Q to Kt 8 ch	2—Kt takes Kt (K 7)
3—Q to K B 8 mate	if 2—K takes Kt (B 5)
3—Q to Kt 4 mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., S.S., and Voila.

Problem No. 396.

By Mr. A. Monk, Yongala.

This is the fiftieth problem constructed by this composer, who dedicates it to the chess public of South Australia :—



White to play and mate in two moves.

Relative to the above position the following letter was addressed by the composer to an Australian paper :—"The position which I am sending you is my fiftieth problem. I have endeavoured to make it unique by using up all the pieces. As far as possible each piece has been endowed with some office, and it might be an interesting study for the solvist to find out what that office may be. It is now upwards of five years since I constructed my first problem in chess, and I have derived much pleasure as a problemist. It has been gratifying and encouraging to me to observe some of the comments made by solvers. I made an effort to have chess introduced into our schools by publishing a chess column in our Fourth Class "Children's Hour." I offered to edit the column, and to include instructions in the game, but as yet I have not been successful. I have such a high opinion of the game of chess—of its educational value—that I think every boy and girl should be instructed in it."

Yokohama Chess Club.

At a committee meeting of the Y. C. C. it was decided to arrange a handicap tourney to commence next Monday and conclude on 31st Jan., 1899. For this purpose members will be divided in four classes, each player to play two games with every other.

The Ladder Tournament, which worked so well last year, also re-commences forthwith and members will be classified in a similar manner as before. It is not necessary that this should be done very accurately, because through frequent challenging, every player will in a short time find his proper level.

An enthusiastic visitor to the club has challenged the champion to a match of 10 games, the latter undertaking to win eight games out of ten. Our visiting friend is by no means a weak player, having once beaten the champion of Port Pirie. Three games have already been played, all resulting in a win for the local player.

Fifty Tournaments.

In the September number of *The American Chess Magazine*, there is a full and most interesting table of Tournaments prepared by the veteran Chess-editor, Reichelm. The names and ranking of all the players are given. We haven't space for the table; as it occupies over three pages of *The A. C. M.*; we, therefore, give only the place, date, character, and winner of first prize :—

1—London, 1851; 16 players; knockout; Anderssen.
2—Manchester, 1857; 8 players; knockout; Löwenthal and Boden.
3—New York, 1857; 16 players; knockout; Morphy.
4—Birmingham, 1858; 14 players; knockout; Löwenthal.
5—Cambridge, 1860; 8 players; knockout; Kolisch.
6—Bristol, 1861; 8 players; knockout; Paulsen.
7—London, 1862; 14 players; Anderssen. (The first Tourney in which each contestant plays with every other, and the first in which Steinitz plays, winning 6th prize).
8—Paris, 1867; 13 players; Kolisch, 1st; Steinitz, 2d.
9—Dundee, 1867; 10 players; Neumann, 1st; Steinitz, 2d.
10—Baden, 1870; 9 players; Anderssen, 1st; Steinitz, 2d.
11—Cleveland, 1871; 9 players; Mackenzie,
12—London, 1872; 8 players; Steinitz, 1st; Blackburne, 2d.
13—Vienna, 1873; 12 players (three games with each player); Steinitz, 1st; Blackburne, 2d.
14—Chicago, 1874; 8 players; Mackenzie.
15—Philadelphia, 1876; 8 players; Mason.
16—Leipsic, 1877; 12 players; Paulsen.
17—Paris, 1878 12 players; Zukertort.
18—Leipsic, 1879; 12 players; English.
19—New York, 1880; 10 players; Mackenzie.
20—Wiesbaden, 1880; 16 players; Blackburne.
21—Berlin, 1881; 17 players; Blackburne.
22—Vienna, 1882; 18 players; Steinitz and Winawer.
23—London, 1883; 14 players; Zukertort.
24—Nuremberg, 1883; 19 players; Winawer.
25—Hamburg, 1885; 18 players; Gunsberg.
26—Hereford, 1885; 11 players; Blackburne.
27—London, 1886; 13 players; Blackburne.
28—Nottingham, 1886; 10 players; Burn.
29—Frankfort, 1887; 21 players; Mackenzie.
30—Bradford, 1888; 17 players; Gunsberg.
31—New York, 1889; 20 players; Tschigorin and Weiss.
32—Breslau, 1889; 18 players; Tarrasch.
33—Amsterdam, 1889; 9 players; Burn, 1st; Lasker, 2d.
34—Manchester, 1890; 20 players; Tarrasch.
35—London, 1891; 12 players; Lasker.
36—London, 1891; 5 players; Lasker.
37—Belfast, 1892; 4 players; Blackburne and Mason.
38—Dresden, 1892; 17 players; Tarrasch.
39—Kiel, 1893; 9 players; Bardeleben and Walbrodt.
40—New York, 1893; 14 players; Lasker (clean score).
41—New York, 1894; 11 players; Steinitz.
42—New York, 1894; 11 players; Pillsbury.
43—Leipsic, 1894; 18 players; Tarrasch.
44—Hastings, 1895; 22 players; Pillsbury.
45—St. Petersburg, 1895; 4 players; Lasker.
46—Nuremberg, 1896; 19 players; Lasker.
47—Buda Pesth, 1896; 13 players, Tschigorin.
48—Berlin, 1897; 20 players; Charousek.
49—Vienna, 1898; 20 players; Tarrasch.
50—Cologne, 1898; 16 players; Burn.

Game No. 452.

The Vienna Winner Beats the Cologne Winner.

Notes (abridged) by Emil Kemeny.

Queen's Gambit Declined.

Burn.	Dr. Tarrasch.
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to Q 4	1—P to Q 4
2—P to Q B 4	2—P to K 3
3—Kt to Q B 3	3—P to Q B 3

4—P to K 3. He might have moved B to B 4 first, for the text move will delay the development of the Q B. Another play for White was P to K 4, which, however, is hardly of any advantage.

4—.....	4—B to Q 3
5—Kt to B 3	5—P to K B 4. A

move introduced by the late Preston Ware of Boston. It establishes a strong centre position, and White can not easily break through. The defence is called the Stonewall Defence.

6—B to K 2. He should have moved Kt to K 5 or B to Q 3. The text-move enables Black to move Q Kt to Q 2.

6—.....	6—Kt to Q 2
7—Castles	7—Q to B 3

The main object of the play ■ to prevent the opponent from Kt to K 5. In the present game the text-move leads to a successful King's side attack.

8—Kt to K sq. With the intention to continue P to K B 3 and P to K 4, practically the only way to break through Black's powerful centre.

8—.....	8—Q to R 3

9—P to K Kt 3. Much safer was P to K ■ 4. White, however, did not care to abandon the more aggressive P to K B 3 and P to K 4 continuation.

9—.....	9—P to K Kt 4. A

powerful move, which prepares the advance of the K B P.

10—P to K B 3	10—Kt to K 2
11—P to K 4	11—P to B 5

12—P to K 5. This move cuts off the Black Bishop and apparently gives White a pretty good game. The position, however, is not a satisfactory one. White's Q P is weak, and the ultimate loss of the centre Pawns will cause the loss of the game.

12—.....	12—B to B 2

13—P to K Kt 4. Not good; the play will enable Black to enforce the King's side attack with Q to Kt 2 and P to K R 4. Much better was K to Kt 2 or P to B 5.

13—.....	13—Q to Kt 2
14—R to B 2	14—P to K R 4
15—R to K Kt 2	15—Kt to K Kt 3
16—P takes R P	16—R takes P
17—B to Q 3	17—Kt to R 5
18—R to Q B 2	18—P takes P
19—B takes Q B P	19—Kt to K B 4. A

powerful move, which threatens Kt takes Q P. White, of course, can not then capture the Kt, for ■ to Kt 3 would win the Queen. The position is a pretty complicated one.

20—K to R sq	20—B to Kt 3

20—B takes KP He had no better play. He could not well guard the centre Pawns. If Kt to K 2 then P to K Kt 5 leads to ■ winning attack. If R to Q 2 then Kt takes K P would have been Black's reply. The continuation then would have been quite brilliant. Black winning as follows: 21—R to Q 2, Kt takes K P; 22—P takes Kt, Kt to Kt 6 ch; 23—K to Kt 2, R takes P ch; 24—K takes R, Q to R 3 ch, followed by Q to R 8 mate.

21—.....	21—Kt takes Q ■
22—B to Kt 4	22—R to R sq
23—R to Q 2	23—Kt takes K P.

Brilliant and sound play.

24—B takes B	24—R takes ■
25—R takes Kt	25—B takes R
26—Q takes B	26—R takes P ch. The

decisive move. White can not answer K takes R, for Kt to Kt 5 ch and Q takes Q would follow. It is true that White would remain with three pieces against the Queen, but his forces are so badly placed that defeat would be but a question of time.

27—K to Kt sq	27—Q to R sq

28—B takes P. He had no better play. White's game now becomes hopeless.

28—.....	28—P takes B
29—Kt to K 4	29—R to R 8 ch

30—K to B 2. He could not play K to Kt 2, for Q to R 7 would have followed. The move selected enables black to play Kt to Kt 5 ch followed by Q takes Q.

30—.....	30—Kt to Kt 5 ch

31—Resigns.

Game No. 453.

A masterly game by Charousek played at the recent Cologne Tournament :—

IRREGULAR DEFENCE.

White—R. Charousek. Black—J. von Popiel.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P QB3	28 PxR	B Q5
2 P Q4	P Q4	29 R KKtsq	K Q2
3 Kt QB3	PxP	30 P B3	B B3
4 KtxP	B B4	31 P R5	K B3
5 Kt Kt3	B Kt3	32 P KB4	KxP
6 Kt B3	P K3	33 R Ksq	K Q3
7 P KR4	P KR3	34 K B2	P QKt3
8 B Q3	BxB	35 K Q3	P R4
9 QxB	Kt Q2	36 P R4	K Q2
10 B B4	KKt B3	37 P B3	K Q3
11 Cstls. QR	Q R4	38 R QKtsq	K B2
12 K Kt sq	Cstls. QR	39 P B4	K B3
13 Kt B sq	B K2	40 R Kt5	B K2
14 Kt(B sq) Q2	Kt B4	41 P KB5	PxPch
		42 KxP	PxP
15 Q K2	Kt Q4	43 RxBP	B B3
16 PxKt	KtxB	44 P B4	K Q3
17 Q K4	Kt Q4	45 R QKt5	K B3
18 Kt K5	KR Bsq	46 P B5	B Kt4
19 KtxKBP	B B3	47 R K5	B B3
20 Kt B4	Kt B6ch	48 R K6ch	K B2
21 PxKt	QxP(B6)	49 K Kt5	B Q5
22 Kt(B7) K5	R Q4	50 R B6ch	K Q2
23 RxR	BPxR	51 R B4	B B4
24 Q B3	Q Kt5ch	52 R KKt4	K K2
25 Kt Kt2	QxKtch	53 RxPch	K B3
26 KxQ	BxKtch	54 R Kt6ch	KxP
27 K Kt3	RxQ	55 RxRP	Resigns(a)

NOTE.

(a) This is another admirably played game with a special point of interest—viz., the ending with Rook against Bishop. There is, however, beginning with move 19—K takes K B P, some very remarkable complications which threatened

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to overwhelm White, but it is interesting to see how finely the attack was met. This game is full of excellent points.

GAME No. 454.

A specimen of the play of the new master, Herr Pavelka, of Prague, won by him in the "Haupt" tourney at Cologne.

FRENCH DEFENCE.

White—Pavelka.		Black—Balsmegey.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K3	28 QxP	QxQ
2 P Q4	P Q4	29 KtxQ	K B-q
3 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	30 K B-q	K K2
4 B Q3	P B4	31 K K2	K Q3
5 KPxP	BPxP	32 Kt Q3	Kt B3
6 B Kt5ch	B Q2	33 K K3	P QR4
7 QxP	BxB	34 P QKt4	PxP
8 KtxB	Q R4ch	35 KtxP	Kt R4
9 Kt B3	B B4	36 K Q4	P K4ch
10 Q KR4	KtxP	37 K B3	P B4
11 B Q2	B Kt5	38 Kt B2	P R4
12 KKt K2	Kt Q B3	39 P KR4	B B4
13 Castles(KR)	KtxKt	40 Kt K3	P Kt3
14 BxKt	BxB	41 P Kt3	P K5
15 KtxB	Castles(KR)	42 Kt Kt2	Kt B5
16 QR Q-q	QR Q-q	43 Kt B4	KtxP
17 P QR3	Q Kt3	44 KtxP	Kt Kt4ch
18 Kt R4	Q B2	45 K Q2	K Q5
19 P QB4	Kt K4	46 Kt B4	Kt Q3
20 P QKt3	Kt Kt3	47 KtxP	Kt B5ch
21 Q R4	RxR	48 K K2	P K6
22 RxR	R Q-q	49 P B3	Kt Q3
23 RxRch	QxR	50 Kt B4	Kt Kt4
24 Q B2	Q B2	51 Kt Kt2	Kt B6ch
25 Q B3	Kt K4	52 K K-q	K Q 6
26 P R3	P QKt3	53 P R5	Kt Q4
27 P B5	PxP	54 Kt B4ch	Resigns

NOTES.

The Championship of the World is now held by Lasker, but there are two other players who by their magnificent record have the right to ask the Champion to grant them the privilege of meeting him in a match. What a splendid thing it would be to have a three-cornered match for the World's Championship. Lasker, Tarrasch, and Pillsbury would give us some fine Chess.

A special prize of 300 marks was offered by Baron Albert de Rothschild for the most beautiful game played at the Berlin international chess congress last. The judges—Dr. S. Tarrasch, Albert Heyde and H. Raumeforth—have just announced their award, which equally divides the prize between Herren Metger and Linke, the former for his game with Suechting, the latter for his game with Metger.

The Bronklyn Chess Club is about to organize a league of American chess clubs for the purpose of arranging the next match by cable with Great Britain. Hitherto the Brooklyn Chess Club has managed the affair all by itself, but the next time other clubs will be allowed to have a voice in the matter.

Among the chess possibilities of the American season is a match by telegraph between Chicago players and the chess club of St. Louis.

Never play with a better player without offering to take odds, nor with an inferior in skill without insisting on giving such odds as will make the game interesting to you. Nothing can be more ungentlemanly than to compel a superior player to furnish amusement without reciprocity. —*Walker.*

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Hupeh 1	S. Nov. 13
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 2	Th. Nov. 17
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Melbourne 3	F. Nov. 18
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Nov. 21
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. Nov. 21
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Nov. 23
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Su. Nov. 27
America	P. M. Co.	C. R. Janeiro	Tu. Nov. 29
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. Dec. 1

1 Left Kobe on the 10th inst.

2 Left San Francisco on the 29th Oct.

3 Left Hongkong on the 10th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M. Co.	Hupeh	Su. Nov. 13
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Nov. 16
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. Nov. 16
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	F. Nov. 18
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Nov. 21
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Melbourne	W. Nov. 23
Hongkong	N. D. L.	Hohenzollern	F. Nov 25
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Tu Nov. 29
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	C. R. Janeiro	W. Nov. 30
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Dec. 2

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 4th November,—Shanghai via ports, 29th October, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Myrmidon, British steamer, 1,750, James Rorison, 4th November,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 3rd November, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Oceanien, French steamer, 2,080, R. Schmitz, 5th November,—Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 4th November, Mails & General.—M. M. S.S Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, J. F. Allen, 6th Nov.,—Seattle, Wash., 20th October, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Devawongse, British steamer, 1,056, Curtis, 6th November,—Hongkong, 25th October, Sugar, Molasses and Rice.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hyson, British steamer, 2,880, D. Davies, 6th Nov.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe 5th Nov., General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 7th Nov.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 5th Nov., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

China, Hawaiian steamer, 2,690, W. B. Seabury, 7th November,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 20th Oct., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 9th Nov.,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 7th Nov., Mails and General.—P. & O.S.N. Co.

Savoia, German steamer, 1,622, Jaeger, 10th Nov.,—Hamburg via ports, Shanghai, 6th Nov., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,652, R. Nunome, 10th Nov.,—Bombay via ports, Kobe, 8th Nov., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, H. Pybus, 10th Nov.,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, J. McGillivary, 11th Nov.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 9th Nov., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibold, 4th November,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Samuel Skolfield, American ship, 1,435, James B. Hall, 5th November,—Hongkong, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Ebani, British steamer, 1,093, Wergall, 5th Nov.,—Moji, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Olympia, British steamer, 1,691, T. H. Dobson, 5th Nov.,—Victoria, B C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, Inman Sealby, 5th Nov.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,958, Sarchet, 5th Nov.,—Moji via Kobe, Ballast.Comes & Co.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 130, J. T. Harrison, 5th Nov.,—Guam, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Nanwa Kan (14), Japanese Cruiser, 3,709, Capt. Misu, 7th November,—Yokosuka.

Nerite, British steamer, 3,155, Wm. Daniel, 8th November,—Saigon via Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 8th Nov.,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Prinsess Wilhelm (22), German Cruiser, 4,400, Capt. Thiele, 8th November,—Kaio-chou.

Fuji Kan (38), Japanese Battleship, 12,649, Capt. Shikano, 8th November,—Yokosuka.

Chinyen Kan (18), Japanese Battleship, 7,335, Captain Uyemura, 8th November,—Yokosuka.

Akitushima Kan (19), Japanese Cruiser, 3,150, Captain Nashiwa, 8th November,—Yokosuka.

Matsushima Kan (28), Japanese Coast Defence Vessel, 4,278, Captain Endo, 8th November.—Yokosuka.

Hashidate Kan (30), Japanese Coast Defence Vessel, 4,278, Captain Ogura, 8th November,—Yokosuka.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, J. F. Allen, 8th November,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hyson, British steamer, 2,880, D. Davies, 9th Nov.,—Saigon, Ballast.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Oceanien, French steamer, 2,090, R. Schmitz, 9th Nov.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

China, American steamer, 2,422, W. B. Seabury, 9th November,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 9th November,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Itsukushima Kan (31), Japanese Coast Defence Vessel, 4,278, Captain Saito, 9th November,—Yokosuka.

Pyrrhus, British steamer, 2,281, H. Batt, 10th Nov.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,181, E. W. Haswell, 10th Nov.,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Devawongse, British steamer, 1,056, Curtis, 11th November,—Moji, Ballast.—Butterfield and Swire.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Hawaiian steamer *China*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. H. P. Bowie, Mr. Geo. B. Burnham, Mrs. W. Brannerstrenther, Miss Brannerstrenther, Mr. P. W. Barton, Mr. F. B. Crocker, Mr. L. L. Collyer, Rev. H. B. Dahner, Mrs. M. L. Delaplaine, Miss Delaplaine, Mr. W. Barhart, Mr. K. Esaki, Mrs. M. C. Flavel, Miss Flavel, Miss Flavel, Mr. Geo. A. Horne, Mr. H. W. Jeffries, Lieut. A. L. Key, U.S.N., Mrs. Key, Mr. W. W. Jack Latta, Mrs. Latta, Miss C. A. Middlebrook, Capt. R. O. Phillips, Mrs. Phillips, and Miss J. S. Vail, in cabin; 2 Europeans and 51 Japanese, in steerage. For Nagasaki:—Mr. Arthur L. Jones, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. H. S. Bevan, Mrs. Baller and infant, Mr. J. C. Chatteji, Mr. R. C. Hunt, Mr. H. B. Magau, Mrs. C. M. Noyes, Mr. W. B. Parsons and 4 family, and Mrs. S. Reed, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Trade has been practically stagnant in all branches. There is very little enquiry for yarns or grey shirtings.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 1.85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 21 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches,.	1.60 to 2.30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches,.	2.00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.14 to 0.35

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.28 to 0.43
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15½ to 0 22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0 60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per lb	0 55 to 0 67½
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22inches	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches,.	0.60 to 0.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	43.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/80, Plain	76 00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	Nominal
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.00 —
Chinese	18.00 —

METALS.

The demand continues, but prices are still unsatisfactory and transactions are therefore not numerous.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch, and upward	4.00 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.65
Sheet Iron	5.00 to 5.20
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.25 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	6.05 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.00 to 6.20
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (¾ to 1¼ inch)	3.00 to 3.25

KEROSENE.

The demand continues steady, and prices are well maintained.

American	$2.18 to 2.20
Russian	2.10 to 2.15
Langkat	1.94

SUGAR.

The usual steady business has been done at about last week's rates.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.20 to 5.25
Brown Manila	5.70 to 6.30
Brown Daitong	4.30 to 4.15
Brown Canton	4.70 to 5 60
White Java and Penang	6.60 to 6.90
White Refined	7.70 to 9.60

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EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The American demand has fallen off, and little business has been done. A large stock remains on hand.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	Nominal
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	$865 to 875
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/13 deniers	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	850
Filatures—No. 2, 10/13 deniers	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	880
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	850
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	825
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	790
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	860
Kakedas—No. 1 / Kakedas—No. 1½	830
Kakedas—No. 2 / Kakedas—No. 2½	790

WASTE SILK.

The market is quite stagnant. A large stock is on hand, and there is practically no enquiry.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 127½
Noshi—Filature, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	120 to 125
Noshi—Oshu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	70 to 75
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	115 to 120
Noshi—Bushu, Good	110 to 115
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	90 to 95
Noshi—Joshu, Good	55 to 70
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	55 to 57½
Kibiso—Filature, Best	90 to 95
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	80 to 90
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

The market is dull, there being little enquiry for any but low grade teas. A pretty large stock is still in the country. Prices are nominally the same as last week.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	$33 & upwards
Choice	31 to 32
Finest	29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Rates all steady without change; silver from London and sterling quotations from China being unaltered.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0½
— — Bills on demand	2/0 9/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 13/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 11/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 13/16
On Paris—Bank sight	255½ to 6
On Paris—Private 4 months' sight	260 to ½
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49¾
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅜ to ½
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07
— Private 4 months' sight	2.11
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3½% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	5% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	75
— Private 10 days' sight	76
On India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	155
Bar Silver (London) on 5th inst.	27⅞

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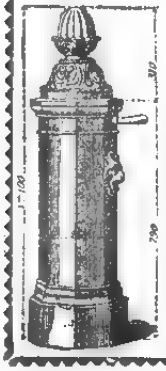

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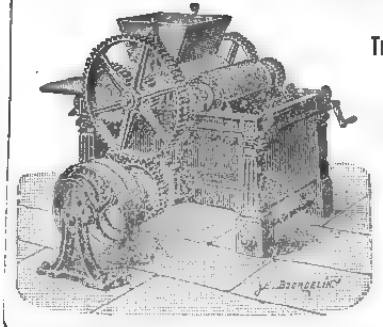

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, NOV. 19TH, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

IT is said that the Progressists will oppose any suggestion leading to an increase of the Land Tax.

FOOTBALL began in Yokohama last Saturday. The season's prospects are said to be promising.

THE Yokohama Ladies' Hockey Club begin their winter practises next week on the Cricket ground.

THE political excitement continues in Korea, affairs seemingly becoming more entangled every day.

A TELEGRAM from Shanghai reports that the Japanese warship *Chikushi* has left there for Hankow.

THE Crown Prince entertained the Foreign Representatives at dinner in the Akasaka Palace on Friday.

LI HUNG CHANG has been directed to report on the best method of controlling the Yellow River—China's Sorrow.

THE political parties seem as undecided as ever as to their course of policy in the forthcoming session of the Diet.

SECRET conferences are said to have been held at Otsu on Thursday by Marquis Ito, Marquis Yamagata, and Count Itagaki.

THE foreign community of Kobe intend presenting an address to the Emperor to-day when he visits the port for the purpose of reviewing the Standing Squadron.

THE British Press generally strongly supports America's insistence on her retention of the Philippines.

THE stock of foreign rice in Kobe is about 350,000 bags, 200,000 of which are in the hands of Chinese traders.

THE general meeting of representatives of railway companies throughout the country will be held on the 23rd inst.

FINE weather favoured the grand Army manœuvres near Osaka this week. H.I.M. the Emperor was present every day.

IT is reported that Mr. Fukuzawa has almost recovered. He can now walk firmly. His sight is, however, still imperfect.

THE Empress-Dowager has invited the wives of the Foreign Representatives in Peking to an audience and a theatrical entertainment.

THE Tokyo Ice Manufacturing Company at its general meeting decided to declare a dividend at the rate of 40 per cent. per annum!

A TELEGRAM has reached the Government that the new Japanese warship *Kasagi*, which has left New York, is expected to arrive shortly at Plymouth.

MR. KASHIWADA, Vice-Minister of Education, is under medical treatment at the hospital belonging to the Medical College, with a brain affection.

A SCHEME is afoot to establish a Japan-Chinese Bank to assist the China trade. It is said the Bill will be introduced into the Diet through Mr. Itagaki.

THE Emperor at the close of the manœuvres expressed his pleasure at the work done and said they were an improvement on the Utsunomiya meeting.

THE opening of the Diet will take place after the return of His Majesty from the Western cities. It is stated that Marquis Yamagata will accompany His Majesty.

THE dead body of a young woman, apparently about 18 years of age, has been washed ashore at Komakata-gashi, Asakusa, Tokyo. It is supposed that she committed suicide.

A CONFERENCE of Agricultural and Industrial Banks throughout the country was held on the 13th at the Maple Club, Shiba Park, Tokyo, and over 50 members were present.

THE Kyoto Chamber of Commerce held a conference on the 11th inst. and discussed the desirability of the Nippon Bank issuing convertible notes to the amount of *yen* 120,000,000, with taxation.

LUCCHENI, the murderer of the Empress of Austria, has been sentenced at Geneva to penal servitude for life. He cynically declared that the Duc d'Orleans and King Humbert would be the next victims.

TELEGRAMS from China report that Tientsin harbour and the surrounding rivers will probably be frozen up about the 5th proximo. Newchwang harbour and the rivers will be frozen about the 20th December.

A DESPATCH dated the 30th September from Mr. Furusawa, acting Japanese Consul in Sydney, reports that the law regarding emigrants to New South Wales was, on the 12th August, promulgated for enforcement on the 9th October.

ber. Its operation, however, has since been postponed to 1st December.

DURING October 344,226 lbs. of tea were brought into market at Kobe. 93,700 lbs. were sold to foreigners, 298,474 lbs. exported directly by Japanese traders, and 124,980 lbs. remain in stock. The average price was *yen* 22.84½.

MR. YOSHIUMI, a Buddhist Priest of the Hongwanji Sect, left Kobe on the 12th inst. to explore Thibet and the other countries of Central Asia. He will travel via Shanghai, Chungking, and the Yangtze. A military officer accompanied him.

AT a meeting to form a Sociological Society Mr. Kato Hiroyuki was elected President, and Messrs. Tsuda, Inouye, Miyake, Hara, and Tomizu delivered lectures. The Society will publish a periodical in January next year. Over 200 members have joined.

INTELLIGENCE from Washington states that Admiral Schley has been appointed in command of the European squadron, which is shortly to be re-established. The American Admiralty has issued orders pointing to a partial naval mobilization.

THE Spanish troops at Havana have turned mutinous owing to their pay being in arrears. Senor Sagasta has informed the Governor that it is impossible to send money. Cannon have been placed to command the main street, and the situation in the town is grave.

IT is reported that the rice harvest in Korea is very abundant this year. The import of spinning cotton yarns, dried fish, cuttle, and other Japanese products has increased. The steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha bring large cargoes for Mokpho, Chemulpho, Jinsen, and other ports. The Osaka Shosen Kaisha, it is said, is about to increase the number of steamers on its line.

SPAIN strenuously opposes the annexation of the Philippines. The press hopes for intervention on the part of Germany, Russia, and France. The Washington Cabinet has instructed its commissioners not to admit any further discussion of the right to consider the disposition of the Philippines, the only matter for discussion being the manner of transferring them.

THE elections to the House of Representatives are resulting in large gains for the Democrats in the Atlantic States. The latest returns give 180 Republicans and 165 Democrats, Silver Republicans, and Fusionists. The Republicans have received a large majority in the Senate, thus excluding free silver legislation for at least six years. The Republican majority in the House of Representatives is about twenty.

THE import trade does not call for much comment. There has been a somewhat healthier feeling in the market for yarns, but for textiles generally there is still practically no demand. The advance in home prices of metals has checked trade, and very little has been doing. Kerosene is firm at last week's prices. Brown sugar rules cheaper in the lower grades; in white refined there is a slight advance. As regards exports some business has been done in raw silk both for Europe and America, but at slightly lower prices. More has been doing in waste silk, but the market is weakening and prices are lower. The settlements since Nov. 2 have been 4,050 piculs. The present stock is 9,670 piculs. In tea the business has been small, only common leaf being in demand; prices for this have ruled easy. The stock is reduced to 6000 piculs, chiefly of low qualities. Of choice the stock is exhausted.

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THE CABINET AND THE PARTIES.

Monday, Nov. 14.

It is difficult to see clearly what the attitude of the Liberal Party will be towards the Cabinet—difficult, that is to say, if we take for guide speeches delivered by politicians and the articles published in the newspapers. The Liberals outside the Diet are agitating vehemently for implacable opposition. They desire to have a vote of want of confidence introduced immediately after the official opening of the Diet. And the Party's organ, the *Jimmin*, is evidently in sympathy with that policy. But Count Itagaki's tone does not suggest any extreme measures. Speaking, on the 11th instant, at a meeting held for the purpose of congratulating Mr. Kataoka on his nomination as President of the Lower House, the Count laid great stress on the importance of regulating the finances of the State. He said that if the Diet was again dissolved without passing the Budget, the finances would be reduced to a condition of serious disorder, and many important industries would be paralysed. Similarly, with regard to foreign politics, the neighbouring Empire was threatened with disruption, but Japan's attention was wholly absorbed by her domestic difficulties. "Innumerable problems press for solution at home and abroad. The country's most vital interests are concerned. Our Party must proceed with the utmost circumspection. Who is there but we to help the Empire out of its difficulties? Whether we are in office or out of office, whether we are directly responsible or indirectly responsible, our duty is to work loyally and sincerely for the country. If, while obeying that principle, we do come into collision with the Government, then we may confidently count on finding the people on our side. The sum of the matter is that in determining our attitude towards the Cabinet, we must consider carefully the nature of any measure before we make it the basis of a struggle involving dissolution, and we must be sure that any opposition organised by us will command the glad approval of the nation at large. The sentiment of the country has at length inclined towards us."

The interpretation of the above is pretty plain. Count Itagaki does not contemplate a destructive policy; does not think of reverting to the weapon of wholesale opposition. His programme is to be guided by the merits of a measure, and, above all, to pass the Budget with its correlated bills for increased taxation. It is a wise policy. The nation must be weary of this endless squabble; this perpetual paralysis of its useful energies. If the Liberals are the means of restoring some stability of administration and some equilibrium of finance, they will establish a large claim on the nation's confidence and gratitude. But can Count Itagaki lead his party in that direction? Can he induce Mr. Hoshi Toru to take that view? He is assisted by Mr. Inouye Kakugoro, one of the Party's latest and greatest recruits. Mr. Inouye, speaking on the 8th instant in the Maple Club to a combined assembly of Liberals, National Unionists, and Business Men, said pretty much what Count Itagaki said three days later. If the Liberals follow their veteran leader in this matter, foreign opinion of Japanese politics will be greatly modified.

We may note that a rumour, by no means incredible, is in circulation to the effect that Marquis Yamagata and Count Itagaki have come together, and that the Marquis, in consideration of receiving the support of the Liberals for passing the Budget and other important projects of law, has promised that, after the Diet rises, he will recommend to the Emperor the advisability of re-casting the Cabinet so that it shall include several leaders of the Liberal Party. We consider that idea quite credible because it is one of the most obvious solutions of the difficulty. Everybody understands that the advent of party cabinets is only deferred until one or other of the parties can develop sufficient capacity. The Liberal star is at present in the ascendant, and the next change of Ministry can scarcely fail to secure their triumph, unless, indeed, they have recourse again to the policy of uncompromising destructiveness which discredited them in former years. There are embellishments of this rumour. Some say that Marquis Yamagata has pledged himself to support the state purchase of private railways, and others that Marquis Ito is to head the next Cabinet with the Liberal leaders for his lieutenants. We mention these things for what they may be worth.

Tuesday, Nov. 15.

We have had from Count Itagaki one version of the probable attitude of the Liberal Party towards the Cabinet. Mr. Hoshi Toru gives another. The difference between the two versions is striking. Mr. Hoshi says, in effect, that what Count Itagaki has spoken upon the subject, is simply Count Itagaki's private opinion and must not be taken as an authoritative indication of the Party's views. In truth, unless we greatly misunderstand Mr. Hoshi, and unless his interviewer of the *Yomiuri Shimbun* greatly misrepresents him, he wishes it to be publicly known that Count Itagaki no longer possesses a paramount voice in the councils of the Party. There has been no meeting, says Mr. Hoshi, between Marquis Yamagata and Count Itagaki. They will probably meet at the Autumn Manœuvres, but even if they do, Count Itagaki is not competent to constitute himself the mouthpiece of the Party. He has no power to speak for it. "It is true that I issued instructions to the local sections not to pass any independent resolutions or formulate any decisions, and people have interpreted the injunction to mean that we wish to bring the provincial sections into line for a conciliatory policy. That is not the case. The step was taken solely with the view of making the Party unanimous. We have, indeed, to be very careful about our procedure, but when we say that we do not mean that our policy is at all uncertain. I do not hesitate to declare positively that we are radically opposed to the Government. What we have to be careful about is simply the method of our opposition. Shall we introduce a motion of want of confidence forthwith, or shall we be guided by the nature of the projects emanating from the Cabinet? That is the question. When the Yamagata Cabinet was being organized, Viscount Katsura came to us with certain proposals. Matsuda and I repaired to the Viscount's house to give our answer. We said that we were obliged for the consideration shown towards us, but that we declined any union with the Cabinet. We were also careful to point out that we could not make any immediate engagement as to the attitude which the Party might assume towards the Ministry. In point of fact we are totally opposed to the Cabinet.

That is just what we should have expected from Mr. Hoshi. He is not a man of half-measures. Uncompromising as he is, however, he evidently recognises that the season for wholesale obstruction is past. The people are weary of such tactics. In the early days of the Diet there was a certain novelty and piquancy in the spectacle presented by a good stout fight between the political agitators and the Government. One side had been monopolizing the sweets of office for so many years and the other had been waiting to get a share of them for such an unconscionable time, that, when the scramble came at last, not much forbearance could be expected. Besides, there were no great national problems pressing for solution at the moment. But things are different now. The country will get a bad set-back if it continues to dissipate its energies on political squabbles. Everybody is sensible of that fact, and we do not think that the Liberals can afford to ignore it in shaping their plan of campaign.

Wednesday, Nov. 16

There is not the smallest glimpse of blue sky to be detected among the clouds of political vapourings which still fill the columns of the vernacular press. *Kensei-to*, *Kenseihon-to*, *Jiyu-to*, *Shimpo-to*, and *Kokumin Kyokai*—these monotonous associations flit to and fro across the vista, and the fact that they have not yet become intolerable to the Japanese gives us a profounder respect for the patience of the nation than we ever had before. Many Tokyo papers have an astute way of forefending disagreeable issues by representing them as actually present. Thus while the Liberal leaders vehemently deny that any understanding has been effected between them and the Cabinet, their political rivals affirm with equal assurance that they have struck their colours to the Clan Statesmen, and phials of abusive contempt are poured upon their heads for such renegade behaviour. That sort of writing could not fail to be most effective in preventing a *rapprochement* were anything of the kind contemplated. The situation may be summed up by saying that the Progressists are exhausting every device to hound the Liberals on against the Cabinet, whereas the Liberals are halting between two opinions, one section of them being disposed to suspend hostilities for a time, while the other wants to continue the fight but is uncertain as to the most advisable tactics to be adopted. The latter section is led by Mr. Hoshi Toru, and of course Mr. Hoshi Toru is roundly rated by the Progressist organs for his hesitation, there being, in their view, no possible room to hesitate so long as a non-party Cabinet sits in the seats of power. It is pretty safe to predict that the onward section will win the day, especially when it is led by Mr. Hoshi Toru. Meanwhile the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* stands disdainfully on the margin of the lists, and sneers at both the combatants with most objectionable ability and justice. "Why don't you study the elementary rules of discipline," it asks them, "and try to marshal your opinions into intelligible form so that you and the world may know what you are fighting for. You are merely mobs of agitators, every one battling for his own hand. If you got possession of the Administration, you couldn't possibly

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agree as to the means of carrying it on, for though you issue grandiloquent manifestoes and sonorous statements of policy three or four times every year, no one has ever yet discovered what they mean, and it is plain that you yourselves do not understand them. You are not qualified to hold the governing authority: you wouldn't know what to do with it, for you have no principles. Always hitherto you have been obliged to ally yourselves with others when you attempted to play at statesmanship, in order that they might do the thinking and leave you to make the clamour." The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is about the nastiest kind of chorus that any political players could have: it is so abominably candid.

THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES.

The sword that the House of Representatives holds suspended over the Cabinet's head seems to be hovering in an uncertain kind of way. The Liberal leaders have cruelly disappointed the more ardent section of their followers by talking about *shincho no taido*, or a circumspect attitude, which is naturally interpreted to mean that, instead of forcing the fight to a final issue, the Party is to bide its time and await the warrant of opportunity. Even the Progressists, who have always loved the rattle and rush of a furious onset, say that their opposition will be limited to rejecting any measure for an increase of the Land Tax. Thus the programme has a tame, colourless aspect from every point of view, and there is a great deal of impatience among the hot bloods. One Progressist organ tells the Liberals that their circumspect attitude is like the pretence of the fool, who simulates thoughtfulness to hide the vacuity of his mind; and another, professing to believe that Marquis Yamagata and Count Itagaki have arrived at an understanding, accuses them both of sacrificing their principles, since the former, while declaring party Government unconstitutional, is seeking to govern by the aid of a party, and the latter, after fighting for twenty years to overthrow the clan statesmen, is now lending his assistance to prop them up. In short the newspapers are egging the parties on, and the party leaders are holding back, and no one seems to know precisely what to think. It is not wise to prophesy; but, having watched the course of parliamentary procedure in Japan and taken note of her parliamentary system, one finds it difficult to conceive the possibility of a smooth session under the circumstances that will exist when the Diet begins to work. It is so easy to get up a fight. Half a dozen members can force the situation by combining to bait one of the Ministers when he appears in the House. And the Progressists—what is there in their past career that suggests the probability of their forbearance? In fact, with so much gunpowder lying around, we don't see how an explosion is to be avoided.

A sumptuous tiffin was given at Kobe on Monday on board the *Kasuga Maru*, the new N.Y.K. Australian liner. The toast of prosperity to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha was given by Mr. F. J. Abbott, agent of the P. & O. Company. Dr. Thornicraft proposed the health of the popular Commander, Captain E. W. Hall, whom he had known for the last 30 years. Captain Haswell suitably responded.

FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES AND AGENCIES.

Concerning the question of foreign insurance business in Japan after the Revised Treaties go into operation, we have to make a correction in one of the figures recently quoted by us. Dr. Lönholm, in page 41 (b) of "The Condition of Foreigners under the new Treaties," gives the tax levied on buildings at $\frac{3}{1000}$ of the rental value. We accepted that figure as correct when writing on the subject, but we find, on referring to the law itself, that the words are *chintai-kaku no senbun no shiju*; namely, 4 per cent. of the rental value. Apparently a somewhat serious misprint has crept into Dr. Lönholm's brochure, and we have to apologise for quoting it without verification. Another point has to be noted. The law fixes the tax on capital at $\frac{3}{1000}$ of the capital. The words in the original are *shihon kinkaku no senbun no ni*, where no distinction is made between subscribed capital and paid-up capital. But on direct reference to the principal insurance firms in Tokyo, we learn that, in actual practice, the tax is levied upon the paid-up capital plus the reserve, and that in the latter is included the sum carried to the reserve during the year on account of which the tax is levied. These details are fixed by regulations which govern the practice prescribed in general terms by the law itself.

It is very plain, as we interpret the law, that the taxes mentioned above—namely $\frac{3}{1000}$ of paid-up capital and reserve; 4 per cent. of rental value of premises, and 1 *yen* per head for employés—are leviable only on firms having their principal offices, or branches, in Japan. An interesting question arises, therefore, with reference to foreign firms having agents only in this country, because it is on the latter basis that the great bulk of foreign insurance business is conducted. The Business Tax Law says that the tax leviable upon *daiben-gyo* shall be 1 per cent. of the remuneration received, together with one *yen* for each employé. The word *daiben-gyo* literally means a business (*gyo*) transacted (*ben*) in the capacity of representative (*dai*) or intermediary. We have then to consider whether it can be read in the sense of "agent." Such a question ought not to be open to the slightest doubt, and would not be open to any doubt, were not Japanese legal terminology in a state of flux, inevitable, perhaps, but none the less inconvenient. The Business Tax Law was drafted by jurists with reference to the original Commercial Code. In the latter (Art. 406), the word *daiben-nin* is defined as "a trader whose business is to carry on trade as the representative of another" (*shōjo ni oite tanin no dairi wo nasu wo yeigyō to suru shōnin tari*). That description is unquestionably applicable to the men who conduct insurance operations in the settlements as representatives of foreign firms having their establishments in Europe or America. On such agencies (*daiben-gyō*) the tax leviable is one per cent. of the remuneration received by the agent (*daiben-nin*). But we have also to consider what is meant by "remuneration." The word in the original is *hōshō-kinkaku*; that is to say, the monetary amount (*kinkaku*) of the reward (*hō=mukui*) and compensation (*shō=tsugunai*) received. The term, according to the signification of the ideographs, includes any fixed salary or percentage of paid-up capital to paid to the agent as well as any commission leviable by him on the amount of the transactions secured by him for his principals. There is finally the question, does insurance business belong to the "trade" (*shōji*) mentioned in the Code? As to that, there can not be the slightest doubt. "Insurance" is included in the Commercial Code's list of "commercial transactions" (*shōji*).

All this is perfectly plain, nor is there any absolute necessity to discuss the matter further, inasmuch as the foreigner's concern is limited for the moment to the laws actually in operation, and those laws, for the purpose of our present argument, obviously place the agents of foreign insurance firms in the category of *daiben-nin*, and fix the taxes leviable upon them at 1 per cent. of their remuneration and 1 *yen* per employé. Our reason for saying that some cause exists for doubt or perplexity is because the word used in the Revised Commercial Code is not *daiben-nin* but *dairi-shō*, which literally signifies a "trade substitute." The term *dairi* has been employed in the sense of "substitute," or "agent," or "representative" from time immemorial in Japan, and the compilers of the Revised Code seem to have reverted to it for the sake of general intelligibility, instead of using the comparatively new-fangled term *daiben nin*. The definition given of the former, however, in Art. 36 of the Revised Code, is sufficiently conclusive:—"A *dairi shō* is a person who, not being a trade assistant, acts habitually on behalf of a particular trader as his representative (*dairi*) or intermediary (*baikai*) in the conduct of transactions belonging to the branch of commerce carried on by the said trader." Here again, plainly enough, the representative in Japan of a foreign insurance firm is indicated. There is, therefore, no real ground of uncertainty. Under the provisions alike of the Commercial Code, now in operation, and of the Revised Commercial Code, which has not yet passed the Lower House, the foreign insurance agents will not be liable to the taxes on capital and on rental value of the buildings occupied by them. When the Revised Commercial Code is duly enacted, we presume that the Business Tax Law will be amended so as to bring its phraseology into accord with that of the Code.

With regard to the taxation of branches of foreign insurance companies, there need not, we imagine, be any special difficulty in determining what portion of their capital is involved in their transactions in Japan. A ratio can be at once formed between the volume of the risks borne by them and the amount of their paid-up capital and reserve. That ratio can then be applied to the Japanese branch of their business. Thus, if we assume that the policies issued or underwritten are 300 times the paid-up capital—the figure usually varies, we believe, from 200 to 350—and that the risks accepted in Japan aggregate three million *yen*, the taxable capital becomes ten thousand *yen*, and the annual tax is 20 *yen*. Companies which have special reasons for not apportioning a definite fraction of their capital to their Japanese branch, can easily convert the latter into an agency, within the provisions of Japanese law. We may mention here that, according to a corres-

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total insurance in the case of Japanese fire insurance companies is 1 to 35, and, in the case of marine insurance, 1 to 210.

THE "YAKUMO."

There is a long and involved story in the *Yorozu Choho* about the Japanese cruiser *Yakumo*, about Messrs. Carl Rohde & Co., about Mr. Baehr, about the Sasuga Shokai in Tokyo, about Mr. Hidaka, about Mr. Ozaki, and about Mr. Miyashita. We need not invite our readers to peruse all the particulars. The broad outlines are that in obtaining from the Naval Department a contract for the building at Stettin of the cruiser *Yakumo*—cost, six million *yen*—, Mr. Baehr promised Mr. Hidaka a commission of ■ per cent., and Hidaka, having arranged matters in Japan, went to Germany, for what purpose we can not clearly understand. Ozaki of the Sasuga Shokai, by whom Mr. Hidaka's services had been obtained, then became discontented with the prospect, and put forward Mr. Miyashita as a person more likely to succeed with the Naval Department. Mr. Baehr accepted the change and telegraphed to prevent any payment of commission to Hidaka. But in the meanwhile everything had been settled, and Hidaka, appealing to a court of law, obtained his money. Now, therefore, it became necessary to cry off with Miyashita. But he, being a prompt person, had already consumed thirty thousand *yen* of his expected commission on riotous living. Hence he declined to be dispensed with, and has preferred, complaint in the German Consulate. We are not sure that the story is worth retailing, but we leave our readers to judge.

THE CHA NO MIZU MURDER.

The celebrated Cha-no-mizu murder case has had a most extraordinary development. Matsudaira Noriyoshi, the supposed murderer, was found guilty by the inferior tribunals, but managed to carry the case to the Supreme Court, and the latter discovered that the whole of the previous trial had been illegal, owing to the failure of the Public Procurator to comply with one of the formalities prescribed by law. The man had to be released, of course, but was at once re-arrested, and will be again tried *de novo*. It is certainly a singular story, but there is nothing to be said except that a gross blunder was committed.

The supposed perpetrator of the Cha-no-mizu murder, a particularly brutal murder, seems to be favoured by chance. Taking advantage of all the delays legitimately available, he has managed to postpone for months the punishment that he merits if guilty, and when it seemed inevitable that the Court of Appeal must confirm the verdicts of the inferior tribunals, the judges discovered, or thought that they had discovered, an error in the procedure, so that the trial had to be commenced *de novo*. That was singular enough, but still more singular is the fact that the Chief Public Procurator of the Appeal Court has now appealed from the latter's verdict to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, therefore, will now have to determine whether the Judges of the Appeal Court were right in deciding that the Public Procurator originally charged with the conduct of the case was wrong. If they decide in the affirmative, the trial must be re-commenced, and if they decide in the negative, the Appeal Court will have to proceed with the original appeal.

It appears that the difficulty which has arisen in connexion with the trial of the man accused of committing the Cha-no-mizu murder, is due to a conflict of systems. The Public Procurator, in preparing the original charge, did not enter the man's name. He obeyed the theory of French criminal procedure—we are quoting vernacular newspapers, not speaking from original knowledge—, which is that the crime itself, not the criminal, forms the basis of legal inquisition. The tribunals of first instance also acted on that view, and the Appeal Court would have taken a similar line had not the personnel of the Judges recently undergone a change which gave a majority to the supporters of German procedure. The Chief Public Procurator of the Appeal Court, however, is a disciple of the French School, and has appealed to the Supreme Court against the ruling of the Appeal Court. Such is the story told by our Tokyo contemporaries. It seems strange that any doubt should exist about the proper procedure under Codes which have been in operation for sixteen years.

SHINTAI-UKAGAI.

We are reminded by the latest development of the Cha-no-mizu murder case that a peculiar custom which prevails among officials in Japan is evidently not understood by foreigners in general. One constantly sees it stated that a Japanese official has resigned under circumstances which do not appear to demand any such sacrifice, and a local contemporary recently made that custom the text for a commentary on the morbidly unpractical code of responsibility obeyed in this country. The comments would have been very just had their basis been true. But the fact is that the act commonly translated "resignation" is not resignation at all. It is what is called *shintai ukagai*, or asking for instructions as to the responsibility of the official concerned. Something untoward happens within the sphere of an official's functions, and, when submitting a statement of the facts, he inquires whether, according to the view of his superiors, he should consider himself responsible. If they answer in the affirmative, he submits his resignation. The Public Procurator, owing to whose inadvertence the preliminary stages in the Cha-no-mizu murder case proved abortive, has taken this step of *shintai ukagai*, and so did the master of a public school recently where an accident had occurred owing to a student's having carried a cartridge into the class-room. It was on the latter incident that our local contemporary's remarks were based, but the school-master did not resign, as was supposed by the critic. He merely inquired whether any blame was held to attach to him, and, being answered in the negative, he took no further step. We do not yet know how it has fared with the Public Procurator. Of course an official's voluntary expression of willingness to bear the responsibility for an incident sometimes helps to extricate him from a scrape.

MARQUIS YAMAGATA.

Marquis Yamagata has consented to be interviewed by a representative of the *Fiji Shimpo*, and has spoken very plainly. This is the gist of what he is reported to have said:—"These frequent changes of Ministry are a misfortune to the country. The last Cabinet was organized on the basis of a union of the two great parties. It was reasonable to hope that the administration would proceed smoothly in their hands. But the resignation of a solitary Minister led to their disruption. On the very eve of the Diet's meeting, the Cabinet disappeared. I supposed that Okuma would have been entrusted with the task of remodelling the Ministry. But I was summoned from Kyoto, and on my arrival I found that the Emperor had consulted the Elder Statesmen in the capital, and, having learned their views, His Majesty had ordered that Marquis Ito's return should be awaited. But the occasion was too pressing. I could not decline. My responsibility to the men who are no longer with us and to the country constrained me. There was no interval to consider what Budget, what projects of law, should be submitted to the Diet; what understanding could be effected with the Lower House. I had merely to obey. It was a leap in the dark. I do not consider that Cabinets organized on a party basis are consistent with the spirit of a Constitution enacted by the Emperor. Therefore I did not think of forming a party Cabinet. But I would fain have taken counsel of my friends as to the means most conducive to the nation's progress. There was no time. No one could have found the time sufficient for such a purpose. I have accepted this embarrassing responsibility because I am sensible of what I owe to my country. People talk of a union with the Liberals. If their policy and ours agree, we may march in step. But there is no union. We shall be guided solely by our sincere convictions as to the country's needs. Since the opening of the Diet, there has been perpetual strife. Finally we had a party Cabinet. But it resulted in many abuses and in the obstruction of State business. . . . With regard to the Budget, we shall take the previous Cabinet's estimate of expenditures in its entirety, but we shall make some changes in the revenue side. As to officials, we propose to employ freely men of learning, of talent, and of experience, so long as they are not party politicians. We shall adhere closely to our policy; spare no effort to promote the public interests; submit to the Diet full statements of our views, and endeavour, with its cōoperation, to secure the best result of constitutional government."

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA INSURANCE.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has now—or will soon have—22 steamers on its four foreign lines, namely, those to Europe, America, Australia, and Bombay. The aggregate tonnage of these vessels is 107,269 tons, and their value, in round numbers, is 7½ million *yen*. According to the Company's regulations, a sum representing 5 per cent. of the value of its fleet has to be set aside yearly—2½ per cent. at each semi-annual balancing of accounts—by way of insurance. It is believed, however, that as the twenty-two

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steamers on the foreign lines are not only new, but also of the best possible construction for competence, insurance could be effected on these vessels with a foreign office at 3 per cent., by which means a saving of 150,000 *yen* annually would be made. At the general meeting of shareholders on the 25th instant, the Directors propose to introduce an addition to the Regulations, in the sense that, according to circumstances, the Company may insure its vessels with an outside firm, and abstain from making any addition to the reserve on account of steamers thus insured. We take this statement of the Directors' intentions from the *Chiugai Shogyo Shimpo*, but we venture to express doubts of its accuracy. If a foreign office can afford to insure the steamers of the Company at 3 per cent., the Company itself can still better afford to take the risk. There is a certain point, easily fixed by calculation, below which a shipping company can not perfectly be its own insurer, but so soon as the value of its property exceeds that point, then the company gains by taking its own risks. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has no better vessels than the steamers engaged on its foreign lines. Their possession should tend to reduce the average rate of premium for the fleet. If insurance is obtainable on them at 3 per cent. in Europe, then the obvious course for the Company, so far as we can see, is, not to insure them in Europe, but to reduce to 3 per cent. the sum annually added to the reserves for insurance purposes. Any outside firm taking the risk must do so at a rate calculated with a view to profit, and there is no apparent reason why the Nippon Yusen Kaisha should not keep the profit for itself. If such a proposal be submitted to the meeting, it will doubtless be intended to lead to a reduction of the insurance reserve, not to the actual taking out of policies abroad.

THE PRESS AND THE LAW.

The *Sekai-no-Nippon* was recently held to have offended against the dignity of the Throne by an article of which we subsequently published an epitome. Proceedings at law were considered necessary by the Minister of State for Home Affairs; the sale of the offending number was stopped, and the plant of the periodical was temporarily impounded. Before the case came up for hearing, the *Sekai-no-Nippon* announced its own demise, "for reasons." Of course, people attributed the announcement to the legal prosecution and its probable pains, so that not a little sympathy was felt with the unfortunate periodical. But it now appears that the prosecution has come to nought. The Public Procurator has refused to institute proceedings, and the *Sekai-no-Nippon* might rejoice in having obtained a splendid advertisement had it not precipitately committed suicide. Evidently the invoking of the law against a journal is beset with difficulties, even when an offence against the Imperial Court is supposed to have been committed. It is pleasant to find the Public Procurator exhibiting so much independence, but we can not help think that he might have shown a little more expedition. A fortnight should not have been needed for discovering that no case exists.

CHRYSANTHEMUM PARTY AT WASEDA.

Count and Countess Okuma gave a garden party at Waseda on the 17th instant. The weather, though not as brilliant as the days of late autumn generally are in Japan, was balmy, and the atmosphere held just enough sunshine to make a halo for the autumnal tints and to mellow the glorious galaxy of bloom for which the garden is famous at chrysanthemum time. After the Palace blossoms there is no such display of chrysanthemum in Tokyo. Hundreds upon hundreds of varieties are nurtured and trained there with the most delicate and untiring attention, every one an object of special beauty and every one having its own distinctive name. The western conservatory is devoted solely to single-blossomed plants, and there, of course, one sees the chrysanthemum in the zenith of its grandeur and vigour. The eastern conservatory has the rarest and most novel kinds only —strange flowers, often so weird and attenuated as to suggest wraiths or phantoms rather than the velvety bloom and crowded tresses of interlacing petals popularly associated with fine chrysanthemums in Europe and America. These quaint types can be seen, we believe, in Japan only. London, Paris, New York, and Berlin have flowers of gigantic size and ideal tints, but one must come to Japan to find such dainty, dishevelled oddities. On the south of the garden, honoured with a building all to themselves, stand the three colossi of Count Okuma's collection. It was on one of these plants that the gardeners managed to cultivate 1280 blossoms last year. The miraculous shrub seems to have been satisfied with that record: it has restricted itself to 970 blossoms this season. Naturally the visitors had eyes for the chrysanthemums only, but to a lover of Japanese horticulture even greater charms were presented by the dwarfed shrubs in another part of the garden. These *bonsei*, as they are called, are quite a feature of the *Meiji* era. They have been favorites, of course, for many centuries in Japan, but the care bestowed upon them in modern times and the number of varieties successfully cultivated are among the boasts of the epoch. Count Okuma is not content with his *bonsai* and his chrysanthemums only. He has built spacious conservatories in foreign style near the entrance of the gardens, and already they contain a remarkable collection of orchids. It was a most delightful party—a beautiful scene, pretty music, a profusion of refreshments, and the most genial hospitality. Among the guests were Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Arisugawa, Marquis and Marchioness Nabeshima, Count Matsukata, Baron and Baroness Iwasaki, Viscount Yenomoto, Count Hijikata, all the Foreign Chefs de Mission, and many other notables.

EARTHQUAKE IN GIFU.

An exceptionally severe shock of earthquake is reported as having taken place in Gifu on the 13th instant at 11.30 a.m. It is said to have been the worst felt for many years. Tokyo was visited by an earthquake on the same forenoon, but at a much earlier hour.

"A HISTORY OF PROTESTANT MISSIONS IN JAPAN."

This is a book by many writers. According to the title page, it was compiled by Pastor H. Ritter, Ph.D.; translated by the Rev. G. E. Albrecht, A.M.; revised and brought up to date by the Rev. D. C. Greene, D.D., under the editorial care of Pastor Max Christlieb, Ph.D. These names alone are sufficient guarantee of the quality of the work, and when we add that the account of each mission and its work is furnished by a leading member of the mission, it will be seen that the volume is a veritable cyclopedia of information about all subjects connected with the efforts made to propagate Christianity in Japan since her opening to the world in 1859. Not a moment was lost by the missionaries after Japan became accessible. The year 1859 saw the arrival of Messrs. Liggins, Williams, Hepburn, Brown, Verbeck, and Simmons, every one of whom ultimately became a celebrity in Japan. It is almost startling to learn how slow was the progress made by such workers in those early years. Beginning their labours in 1859, they did not succeed in making a single convert until October, 1864, when Yano Riyu, Mr. Ballagh's teacher, accepted the sacrament on his death-bed. It was a conversion so far as concerned the man himself, but the outer world saw nothing of it, nor was it until 1866 that what could be described as a veritable success took place, two Japanese then presenting themselves for baptism. Three converts in seven years! And only three others had been gained by 1869. Six converts in ten years! When we recall that record, we begin to regard as signally successful the result now shown, insignificant as the actual number is, namely, thirty-three thousand Protestant converts. The Roman Catholics have fifty-two thousand and the Greek Church twenty-three thousand, so that the total number of Christians in the country is a hundred and eight thousand. We ourselves should be inclined to add, as a greater result than the above, the awakening of Buddhism, for the coming of the Christian Missionaries has certainly produced that effect, in a partial degree at any rate. As an achievement the Greek Church is incomparably the most remarkable. It has only one foreign missionary, Bishop Nicolai, yet it has 168 organized churches and twenty-three thousand converts. The Roman Catholics have 205 missionaries, of both sexes, and the Protestants have 680. There has been a season of comparative ill success for all missions of late years, and the causes are analysed with great care and insight in this excellent volume. Overwrought patriotism is assigned as one of the principal adverse factors, but we are somewhat surprised to find that, while the celebrated Imperial Rescript on education is quoted, and its false interpretation casually mentioned, no reference is made to the brochure which Prof. Inouye Tetsujiro compiled by way of commentary on the Edict. In our opinion the harm done by that brochure has been incalculable, and to it must be attributed the main part of the anti-foreign feeling manifested of late years by the Japanese. Professor Inouye's work has been accepted by practically all the elementary school-teachers as an infallible interpretation of the spirit of the Rescript, and we never hear a little child call out *Ijin baka* or *Tōjin*

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chikusho without feeling that the inspiration came originally from the Imperial University. Children, students, and common people are not to blame. They merely practise what they learn at school. The school-teachers are not greatly to blame either, for they are ill-instructed, poorly paid men who naturally accept the views of their superiors. With the latter rests the responsibility. Speaking of the edict, we observe that the Rev. J. T. Yokoi, in an article quoted from the *Far East*, makes the Edict say :—"These unerring principles run through all past and present time and belong alike to all peoples;" a sentence concerning which he remarks that it must be a perpetual stumbling block to all reactionary interpreters. Where did Mr. Yokoi find such a sentence, we wonder? The words of the Rescript are :—*Kore wo ko-kon ni tsūjite ayamarazu* (This holds for ancient and modern times and is unerring). There is not a word about "belonging to all peoples" in any version that we have seen.

This most valuable volume abounds with useful and interesting information. We strongly recommend its perusal to all that care to know something of the noble labour of philanthropy and devotion that is being carried on in this country by nearly a thousand Europeans and Americans. The only thing we miss is the Salvation Army. Was it not thought worthy of a place?

COUNT OKUMA.

Count Okuma is not a bit distressed about the turn that things have taken. He is one of those men that revel in a "glorious hour of crowded life." He never seems happier or more buoyant than when complications thicken and business comes in a flood. Nothing great is born, he says, in the brains of a somnolent people lapped in the indolence of peaceful times. Motion, excitement, change, clashing opinions and ambitious struggles—these are the factors that beget big men and big ideas; these are the spurs that drive a nation forward along the path of progress. The people want something to toughen their moral fibre and set their brains working. If they can not emerge from a crisis with some gain of knowledge and experience, their future is hopeless. Besides, the younger generation is pushing its way to the front; a little clamorously, perhaps, and a little hastily, but the obstacles it has to overcome will teach it not to abuse its victory. The elders have to step aside. If they did not hold on grimly, however, they would not be the men they have proved themselves to be. No one need be distressed about this time of turmoil. It will bear fruits worth all the trouble and disturbance their cultivation costs.

ALCOHOL SMUGGLING AT NAGOYA

From Nagoya comes news that two traders at that place have been detected in tolerably extensive operations of smuggling alcohol. They obtained the spirit from Kobe, succeeded in warehousing it surreptitiously, and had carried on a profitable traffic in selling it or converting it into "mixed *saké*," when some difficulty about implementing an agreement with a customer induced the latter to retaliate by giving information to the police. It was a veritable case of thieves falling out.

ORDERS.

The Emperor of Japan has been graciously pleased to confer quite a shower of Orders on the foreign military attachés attending the Autumn Manœuvres. Four Russian, one German, one Mexican, one French, twenty Chinese, and five Korean officers have been thus honoured, the Orders ranging from the Second Class of the Sacred Mirror to the Sixth Class of the Rising Sun. We do not for one moment believe that because a fashion is English it must be good. But we do think that Japan might have reserved some of her Orders to be the rewards of genuine merit, as England reserves all of hers. An officer sent by one State to observe and report upon the military and naval manœuvres of another does not render, and is not supposed to render, any shadow of service to the latter. On the contrary, the more intelligently, the more accurately, he discharges his duty to the country sending him, the less title does he establish to the gratitude of the country he is sent to. That the Emperor should confer a decoration on a stranger who comes to spy out the shortcomings of the empire's systems, or to take advantage of their excellences, may justly be regarded as a most effective means of exposing the hollowness and insignificance of the distinction. We do wish that Japan could be just a little original now and then in her adoption of Western customs. What necessity was there to follow the fashion of a petty principality in the matter of bestowing orders? She conserves much of the old etiquette of her Court with inflexible tenacity, and yet her Sovereign bestows his orders as though they were the most valueless of trinkets.

THE RICE CROP.

Out of 560 rural divisions in Japan proper—Hokkaido, Formosa, and the Riukiu islands excluded—325 have sent in statements as to the rice harvest, which can now be spoken of with tolerable confidence. It will be sufficient to quote the principal figures :—

	Koku.
Average yield in these districts	23,962,181
Yield in 1897	19 189 075
Yield anticipated this year	27,580,848

Thus the figure for this year is 15.1 per cent. above the average. It is not possible, of course, to draw any hard and fast inference about the crop in the remaining 235 rural divisions, but we may fairly conclude that this year's crop will be considerably above the average.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Baron Sonoda Yasukata, formerly Chief of the Metropolitan Police, is gazetted Chief of the Hokkaido Administration. Baron Senge Takatomi, a distinguished member of the House of Peers, becomes Governor of Tokyo, and Mr. Uchida Kosai, hitherto a Minister *en disponibilité*, is appointed Chief of the Political Bureau in the Foreign Office. The officials hitherto occupying these posts, namely, Messrs. Sugita, Koizuka, and Hayakawa, are relieved from office at their own request. Mr. Hoshi Toru also has resigned his appointment as Minister Plenipotentiary.

THE OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA.

The affairs of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha are not in a flourishing condition. It set out with flying colours, the rates of dividend paid by it originally being from 8 to 20 per cent. Thus :—

1893.....	second half.....	8 per cent.
1894.....	first half	10 "
—	second half.....	14 "
1895.....	first half	16 "
—	second half.....	20 "
1896.....	first half	20 "
—	second half.....	12 "
1897.....	first half	6 "
—	second half.....	8 "
1898.....	first half	8 "

The source of trouble is the Formosan line. In home waters the Company seems to do well enough. The accounts of the coasting trade for the past four months show the following table :—

	Income.	Expenditure.	Profit.
July.....	189 974 *yen*	175,870 *yen*	14,004 *yen*
August	271,612 "	187,365 "	84,247 "
September...	237,874 "	175,172 "	62,702 "
October ...	345 972 "	243,593 "	102,449 "

The Hongkong and Shanghai line also showed a profit of 6,177 *yen* for the four months. But the service to Formosa, despite a State subsidy of 30,000 *yen*, involved a total loss for the same period of 256,627 *yen*, the income having been 1,215,358 *yen*, and the expenditure 1,318,655 *yen*. The Company's steamers make 8 voyages a month to Formosa, and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamers also make 2. There is not sufficient freight offering for so many trips, and it is proposed to reduce the number, as well as to seek an increased subsidy. We may add that the Company's fleet comprises 56 steamers, with a total tonnage of 41,796 tons, the present value of which is put at 5,568,598 *yen*.

FOREIGN CAPITAL FOR JAPANESE RAILWAYS.

Far-Eastern securities are not gilt-edged in the eyes of British capitalists at present. The Kiushiu and the Sanyo Railway Companies want to borrow money in London for the purpose of extending their roads. They are thoroughly sound concerns, and are in a position to offer the security of Baron Iwasaki, one of their principal shareholders, as well as to hypothecate the earnings of the new lines and some part of the earnings of the old, we presume. They have also the advantage of getting the business transacted by Messrs. Suyenobu and Imamura, two exceptionally competent and practical men. Yet the best terms they can obtain are 5 per cent. interest; 92 *yen* for a hundred *yen* bond, and repayment within 20 years. They are offered 30 million *yen* by Messrs. Peacock and Company on these conditions, and they are inclined to hesitate about closing, though the probability is that they will accept ultimately. Six years ago one of the leading financial firms of Great Britain offered to lend any sum from one million to ten millions sterling at 5 per cent. on bonds at par, or 4½ per cent. on bonds at 90. The offer was not restricted to a Government-guaranteed loan: it was specifically made to any municipality or corporation desiring to undertake a productive enterprise. We speak from absolute knowledge. Thus the Japanese could have obtained better terms in 1892 than they can get to-day. That is not encouraging. They ought to be going up, not down, in the world's credit.

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A PUBLIC RECREATION GROUND IN TOKYO.

We observe that an idea mooted in these columns in 1896 is now put forward by the *Japan Times*; the idea that the Tokyo Municipality should make some effort to provide a public recreation place for the youths of the city. We suggested the former Hibiya Parade Ground as a suitable site, and since the Municipality has now voted a considerable sum—133,100 *yen*—for the purpose of converting Hibiya into a park, the time seems opportune to urge once more the advisability, if not the necessity, of including a bicycle track and a base-ball and lawn-tennis ground in the plan of improvements. There are hundreds of young men in Tokyo who ride bicycles and there are many scores who play tennis and base-ball. It is quite a disgrace that there should be no place where these amusements can be practised, outside the precincts of the Schools and Colleges. When the foreign community of Yokohama challenge a Tokyo base-ball team or hold a cycle race open to all comers, they are in a position to provide for the latter an excellent track and for the former a fine turfed area, where members of all nationalities can assemble and view the sport. But if Tokyo wants to have a return match or a race on its own account, some out-of-the-way and very unsuitable spot has to be found, and the event comes off practically beyond the range of public observation. That state of affairs is not just to the rising generation or to the country. Japan must provide for her young men some, at least, of the advantages that their foreign competitors enjoy for the development of physique and the strengthening of health. No additional expense would be involved in making this change in the plan of the new park. The space available measures fifty acres, approximately. A half mile circular bicycle track and a ten-acre green might be laid down in one-fourth of the area at a total cost of about six thousand *yen*. It would be probably the cheapest way of disposing of that section of the ground, and the boon to the young men of the city could not be overestimated. Will any influential citizens push the project, we wonder? Probably not. What is everybody's business is nobody's business.

THE HYOGO SOKO KAISHA SETTLEMENT.

The Warehouse-Company trouble in Hyogo has been at length settled on the basis of a payment of 750,000 *yen* to the creditors in the space of five years, without interest, the installments to be thus:—

	YEN.
On December 1st 1899	218,000
" " 1900	116,000
" " 1901	116,000
" " 1902	68,000
" " 1903	164,000

Concerning the provenance of this money, the programme is:—

	YEN.
From the shareholders, 5 *yen* per share	150,000
From Mr. Yonezaya's bankrupt estate	100,000
From profit on the Company's business during 5 years at 28,000 *yen* yearly	140,000
From Messrs. Kusuri, Hashimoto, &c.	200,000
Total	590,000

There is, consequently, a deficiency of 160,000 *yen*, which the Directors propose to borrow "or procure in some other way."

WAIT.

That was an excellent piece of advice given by a leading Liberal, Mr. Ebara Soroku, to the Tokyo section of his Party on the 14th instant. He told them to "wait." The hot-headed politicians had just passed a resolution declaring themselves radically and uncompromisingly opposed to any Cabinet not having a party basis. Mr. Ebara, premising that he spoke as Ebara, not as a representative of the Party, told them not to be flurried or precipitate. What they had to do now was, not to pull down their already prostrate opponents, but to prepare for the task that would soon devolve on themselves. There was no occasion for newspaper diatribes; no need for votes of want of confidence. Victory was coming to them without further effort on their part. Certainly Mr. Ebara seems to have sized up the situation pretty accurately. The rising tide is with the Liberals, and will carry them safely into port if they refrain from struggling. The present Cabinet may last through one session of the Diet, but its tenure of office depends chiefly on the forbearance of the Liberals. If they suffer it to restore the finances to a sound footing and to enact a few essential projects of law, the country will be quite content that they should take its place, and so will the Sovereign, which is perhaps more important, for it was the Emperor's finger that tilted the scale in favour of the Liberals last month, and a touch from the same powerful hand would bring the other side uppermost in a moment.

SINCERE FLATTERY.

Little children may call us "Ijin Papa" and grown up folks may decide that the Occidental is played out for all Rising-Sun purposes, but so long as the Japanese pay us the compliment of imitating us frankly, we shall take leave to doubt whether they regard us as such contemptible beings after all. The *Asahi Shimbun* wants to have a promise exacted from China that Japan shall enjoy a monopoly of railway building in the province of Fuhkien. That part of China is at present regarded as Japan's "sphere" because of its proximity to Formosa, but such a reason seems too intangible in the eyes of the *Asahi*, and it urges that railway concessions be substituted. We wish that the Japanese could manage to be a little original. It is very flattering to find them so sincere in their imitation, but the novelty of the sensation wore off long ago. Besides, in this particular case, the imitation is faulty: it is entirely devoid of the practicality of its original. European States have asked for railway concessions in China because they are in a position to build railways. But Japan can not utilize the concession she has obtained in Korea. She can not continue the line begun by the Chinese in Formosa. She can not even complete the system of roads in her home territories. What on earth would be the use of seeking further concessions in Fuhkien? The result of enforcing such a demand would be to condemn Fuhkien to do without railways.

THE CROWN PRINCE.

On Friday at noon the Crown Prince entertained the foreign diplomats to dinner at the Akasaka Palace.

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

Following are the customs returns for the month of October:—

EXPORTS.

		Declared Value. Yen
Camphor	208,263 catties.	208,243
Carpets	25,914 pieces.	52 772
Coal	248,589 tons.	2,009 867
Cotton Goods	—	248,004
" Yarns	6,502,176 catties.	1,794,107
Copper, crude and refined	3,029,527 "	815 795
Cuttle-Fish, dried	957,157 "	289,000
Flower Matting	—	483,056
Kombu	2,037,140 "	555,508
Lacquer-Ware	—	99,077
Matches	2,824,442 gross.	518,127
Mushrooms	93,779 catties.	50,306
Oil, fish and rape seed	1,294,206 "	73,994
Porcelains	—	168,351
Rice	16,355 piculs.	96,867
Silk	588,631 catties.	5,199,540
" Ne-hi, and Waste	542,428 "	388,393
" Habutai	88,417 pieces.	1,346,643
" Piece Goods	6,209 "	58,040
" Handkerchiefs	86,890 dozen.	1,794,107
Straw Braid	—	892 990
Tea	3,250,249 lbs.	719,331
Umbrellas	51,380 bundles.	25,921
Wax, vegetable	466,724 catties.	73,898
Miscellaneous	—	2,074,235
		16,218,260

IMPORTS

		Declared Value. Yen.
Alcohol	667,398 catties.	62,685
Beans	210,189 "	595,841
Camlets	968,527 yards.	166 832
Cars and Wagons	—	603,166
Cigarettes	—	248,907
Cotton, Yarn	158,896 catties.	93,011
" Raw	230,563 "	2,281,224
Cotton Goods	—	102,579
Flannel	95,813 yards.	35,218
Indigo	97,291 catties.	108,746
Iron, bar and iron rod	4,253,643 "	153,140
Iron and Steel Goods	12,746,433 "	288,829
Italian Cloths	210,305 yards.	34,848
Machines	—	573,336
Nails	584,676 catties.	29,253
Petroleum	3,387,042 gallons.	274,277
Rails	2,380,442 catties.	43,923
Rape Oil Cake	364,368 "	367,877
Rice	147,090 bags	617,215
Shirtings	2,954,530 yards.	194,815
Sugar	398,940 catties.	2,364,684
Watches	18,438 pieces.	84,170
Wool	289,024 catties.	263 879
Woollen Cloth	99,025 yards.	134,854
Miscellaneous	—	5,377,081
		15,211,790
Excess of Exports		906,470

GOLD AND SILVER.

EXPORTS.

Gold Coins and Bullion	841,149
Silver Coins and Bullion	2,550 792
	3,391,933

IMPORTS.

Gold Coins and Bullion	4,583 067
Silver Coins and Bullion	5,722
	4,588,789
Excess of Imports	1,196,856
Duties	654,774

N.B.—Amounts under 1 yen are omitted.

LADY RUN DOWN BY A CARRIAGE.

A somewhat serious accident happened to Mrs. N. F. Smith, while riding a bicycle on the Bluff road. Seeing a carriage approaching in the opposite direction Mrs. Smith steered to the right, but the betto, neglecting to observe the proper rule of the road, also kept to the right, and drove into the bicycle. Mrs. Smith was thrown and sustained a severe cut over the eye. She was attended by Dr. Wheeler, who happened to pass by just at the time. It is almost a wonder that accidents of all kinds are not more frequent in view of the dangerous speed at which carriages are driven along crowded streets, and the absolute disregard shown for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

A CALIFORNIAN HEALTH RESORT.

We have received from Mr. T. D. McKay, agent for the San Francisco Overland Route, very artistically printed guides to the now well-known Californian pleasure and health resort, Hotel del Monte, Monterey. Here the Pacific Improvement Company has done everything to complete the work of nature, which has favoured this spot with her choicest gifts of scenery and climate. Certainly, if Monterey is anything like as good as the pictures given of it in these ornate little books, bestrewn as they are with the photographic process plates so beloved of American printers, then there ought to be a rush on the part of all who have the necessary time and dollars to get there. The booklets are full of useful information as well as of descriptive writing and plates.

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AUTONOMY.

TOKYO has just obtained its autonomy and has shown some enthusiasm in celebrating the event. Lookers-on were in danger of being deceived. They might have imagined that the city had hitherto been driven altogether in official leading strings, and was now about, for the first time, to enjoy the privilege of managing its own affairs. But in truth the city has managed its own affairs for many years. All the splutter of fire-works and popping of corks on Sunday last, signified nothing more than that the offices of Mayor and Governor had been separated, and that the former had become elective. The citizens do not acquire by the change any practical power which they did not possess already.

Speaking as friends of improvement, we think that the Japanese capital should mourn over every extension of its autonomy, for it certainly has not afforded the smallest evidence of autonomic competence. It is exactly thirty-one years since we first had the pleasure of passing through its streets, and we can not discover that Tokyo has made one solitary step of progress on its own behalf during that long interval, if the electric light be excepted. Baron IWASAKI has done something to embellish the capital. He has constructed four really fine business edifices, and he has built a street with fire-proof partitions between the blocks. The MITSUI firm have also constructed a handsome building for their bank. But these are private enterprises, and outside them every massive and imposing structure that the city can boast is the outcome not of municipal but of official energy. From the building point of view, and, indeed, from every point of view, the citizens, were they awake to their own interests, would petition the Government to deprive them of all autonomy and take the management of their affairs entirely into its own hands. Few countries are disgraced by such a backward metropolis. The first essential to successful self-government is that public opinion should be active. In Tokyo public opinion is absolutely passive. If the citizens had the most rudimentary conception of their rights, they would long ago have risen in arms against the extraordinary incompetence, the insolent incompetence, of the water-works engineers, who think nothing of dumping half a mile of huge pipes on a crowded thoroughfare, and leaving them there for a whole year, in some cases for even more than a year; and who, when they have torn up and destroyed a road, do not recognise any duty of restoring it to passable condition. But why should we speak of the temporary damage done to the roads by the water-works when their permanent condition is execrable? Outside the precincts of the Palace there is not one good road in Tokyo, and some of the great arteries of traffic are almost worthy of a Chinese city. The expenditure incurred on account of repairs must be considerable, for the gravel spread so profusely over the surface of the streets within the limits of the city proper is a very costly material. But the system is radically wrong: it is mediæval. This metropolis of a nation of forty millions does not even possess a steam roller, and absolutely ignores Macadam. Japanese engineers have learned from foreign experts how roads should be made, but their knowledge remains useless: the people make no demands on it. Of course the explanation of that is that the people's standards are low: they don't know what a good road is and so they remain content with bad. But the explanation is as humiliating as the fact. Yet thirty years ago the roads were better kept. To be sure that was before the days of wheel traffic; above all, before the days of tram-cars. The tram companies are allowed to lay their lines right in the very centre of the streets, which from that time lose all title to be called civilized thoroughfares, since the tram-car owners, in the absence of any pressure from public opinion, recognise no obligation whatever to repair the damage they cause. Twenty-five years ago, the Government introduced Tokyo to the railway, but the citizens have not yet built a yard of line for purposes of inter-street communication, and electric trains seem as remote as ever. A harbour could easily be made, and plans for its construction were prepared thirty years ago, but the project has never emerged from the sphere of talk. And living in the midst of such a miserable state of affairs, newspaper editors, who might do so much to educate and rouse public opinion, devote their columns week after week and month after month to the discussion of party politics, and find not a word to say about the practical problems which belong to the realm of real progress. Of course we don't expect a sensational rate of advance all the time. It was inevitable that Japan, sooner or later, should seem to be moving slow by contrast. But Tokyo doesn't move at all. It is, we repeat, one of the least progressive cities in the world.

SUMMARY OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

Japan seems to have temporarily lost herself in the sea of domestic politics. The newspapers can talk of nothing else. It is wearisome in the extreme. We shall not tax our readers' patience with long extracts, but will endeavour to cut down our epitomes to the smallest dimensions consistent with a clear review.

"Marquis Yamagata"—says the *Jiyu-shin*, organ of the Liberal Party—"is like a crow perched among the boughs of a withered tree at the end of autumn. His Cabinet may be compared to the last flicker of an expiring lamp. During the years prior to the war with China, the Diet steadily and uniformly opposed the Government. But after the war a change took place. Attempts were made to amalgamate or reconcile the hostile elements, and the result was like the contact of two clouds charged respectively with positive and negative electricity. Since then, confusion and impediment have been the order of the day. It is time to terminate the experiment of commingling and to revert to opposition pure and simple. There is no reason, indeed, why party politicians should not regulate their attitude towards any particular measure in accordance with its merits, voting for or against it as their judgment suggests. But to sacrifice their policy and principles on the altar of an agreement with the Government, is most undesirable. The Yamagata Cabinet is called 'independent,' but it has lost no time in seeking to cajole the parties with talk about giving office to men of talent, and about allowing party politicians to retain their posts. We know what that imports. It is necessary to assume an absolutely immovable attitude. There may indeed be some who dread the dissolution of the Diet too much or love the sheen of gold too keenly, to face the former or withstand the temptation of the latter. We would fain believe that no party politicians will consent to become the teeth and claws of the Clan Statesmen, but how far and yet how near is the relationship between the Cabinet and the parties (*tokute chikaki wa seifu to seito no aidagara*). Do not be content, comrades, with paltry gains. Strike for the great prize, party government. The life of the Yamagata Cabinet depends upon the resolution of the Parties."

Another article in the same journal says:—"We have one entreaty to address to Marquis Yamagata: it is that he will be thorough in his assertion of the principle of independent cabinets. With one or two exceptions, every Minister that has held a portfolio since the Diet came into existence has tried his hand at trafficking with the parties. A charred log is easily set on fire. The familiar experiment may be essayed again. If the Diet proves recalcitrant, dissolve it. If the parties can not be controlled, suspend the Constitution. Play the independent rôle for all that it is worth. The Japanese people will not yield. The spirit of resistance is strong in them. Marquis Ito discarded the clan system too easily. He threw it it off like a worn-out straw-shoe, and the parties, gaining their object with so little difficulty, lost their heads. We are sorry to give the Elders so much trouble: sorry that they have again been put to the pain of taking office. We beg of them now to trample on us with all their force. Thus we shall develop the necessary spirit of self-assertion."

The *Tokyo Asahi* (Independent) writes:—"We offer a suggestion to the Ministry. The Diet will be the test of the situation. Do not resort to any devices with it. Marquis Yamagata has reputation and popularity. He is the first soldier in the Empire. Let him be perfectly simple, straightforward, fair, and open with the Lower House. If he appeals to the members sincerely and earnestly, they will listen to him."

"Brief indeed has the life of Cabinets become. Alive to-day, a Ministry is dead

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and buried to-morrow. Thus progress is suspended and the discharge of State business interrupted. Look at the Formosan railway, for example. Four years have passed since Formosa came into Japan's possession, yet not a mile of additional railway has been laid. There can no longer be any doubt that the State must undertake the work. But the State has no money to spare. The Diet's consent to increased taxation can not be obtained; therefore the revenue does not cover the expenditure. There is no resource but to draw on the Indemnity, and the Indemnity will soon be exhausted. If we are now to have another series of dissolutions, the national affairs will go from bad to worse. Look again at the Söul-Fusan railway. The Government employed all the resources of diplomacy to obtain the concession, and now there is not the smallest prospect of the work being commenced. It is absolutely essential in the interests of the country that the reality of Constitutional Government should be achieved so that we may have a strong Cabinet."—(*Jiji.*)

The *Mainichi* (Progressist organ) urges Marquis Yamagata to undertake the task of bringing the military system into proportion with the needs of the country. The scheme of army expansion mapped out after the war was too extensive. It must be reduced; and Marquis Yamagata is the man to do it. For the past few years the Ministers President have all been civil officials. It would have been been difficult for them to touch the Army. But Marquis Yamagata is the first soldier in the Empire. Whatever he does will be approved by the Army. He is also in a position to propose an increase of the Land Tax. There is his opportunity. If he profits by it, the *Mainichi* predicts that the Diet will not oppose him, from the outset at any rate. But in this matter the *Mainichi* represents not even the whole of the Progressist Party; only a section of it.

"The short route to party Cabinets is to make the interests of the parties identical with the interests of the State. To suppose that nothing is needed beyond the command of a majority in the Lower House is an error due to confounding of things English with things Japanese. No such theory is workable in Japan. Even in England it is not really workable. Gladstone, for all his great political following, found himself hampered as compared with Disraeli because he did not possess the Queen's confidence in an equal degree. In Japan three things are essential: first, the confidence of the Sovereign; secondly, the support of the Peers; thirdly, a majority in the Lower House. Idle and violent opposition will merely have the effect of forfeiting the Emperor's trust, alienating the Upper House and wearing out the patience of the people."—(*Kokumin Shimbun.*)

Professor Miyake has one of his pungent articles in the *Nippon*. The gist of it is that while men clamour for party Cabinets, they have what they ask for but fail to appreciate it. The Yamagata Ministry is a "My-Party Cabinet." The Premier is rapidly filling up all the vacant posts with members of his own clique. He says that even party politicians will not be removed from office if they are competent officials. There are no signs of his words being realized. There is a *Jiyu-to* (Liberal Party); there is a *Shin-to* (Progressist Party), and now there is a *Shi-to* (My-Party) in power. So the country has party government after all.

In the face of such extremely unstable Ministers, says the *Jiji Shimpo*, it is hopeless to look for any success in the field of foreign politics. Western States can have no confidence in a country where the Cabinet changes perpetually. The system of Clan Ministries has lost much of its efficiency, and the parties are not competent to provide a substitute. We must wait. We must fix our eyes patiently on party Cabinets as the necessary goal of Constitutional government, and we must wait. The conduct of the parties has not been such as to inspire confidence. They have shown themselves incapable of forbearance and concession, and by their blunders they have re-opened the door to the Elder Statesmen. What they have to do now is to study the teaching of their own failures and endeavour to qualify for taking over the administration. To win the confidence of the people must be their first aim. When they have that, the *raison d'être* of the Elder Statesmen will disappear automatically. Let them open the door wide for the admission of men of talent. Let them fix their eyes on great ends, not on petty gains. Then they will find themselves sailing before a fair wind into the port of their desires and towards the reality of Constitutional government.

A STORY AND A MORAL.

Three men very well known in Japan at present are sons of a humble fisherman, whose good fortune it was to be shipwrecked fifty-seven years ago. They are Dr. Nakahama Toichiro, Professor Nakahama Nishijiro, and Chief Paymaster of the Navy, Mr. Nakahama Keizaburo. Their father, Nakahama Manjiro, when a lad of fourteen, went out fishing with his father and three other men in January, 1841. Caught in a storm, their boat drifted to the Bonin islands, its occupants in a half-starved condition. The American whaling schooner *John Holland* carried them thence to Honolulu, and the lad Manjiro, having been sent to America by charitable folk, found a home with Mr. James Aron, of New Bedford, whose daughter, Jane, taught him English, mathematics, and surveying. In 1847, he took service in the *John Holland*, and received, as his share of the whaler's profits, a sum of $350, which he augmented by working in a mine near San Francisco, so that, in 1851, he was able to find his way to Honolulu, and make arrangements for the passage of his four companions and himself to Japan. It was a serious matter for a Japanese in those days to have visited a foreign land. Manjiro, on arriving in his native country, had to undergo all kinds of official investigations, but he finally escaped with a *pro-formâ* punishment of 3 days' imprisonment at Nagasaki. Thenceforth his success was assured. The knowledge he had acquired abroad gave him so much importance in Japan, that he was raised by the feudal chief of Tosa, his father's liege lord, to the rank of a banneret; had the honour of an audience with the *Shogun* in Yedo; received an appointment in connexion with the *Kaisei Gakko*—now the Imperial University,—and rendered many useful services to the Government. He died on the 12th instant at the age of seventy-one. The story has considerable interest, and it has also a moral to which we invite the attention of Japanese Conservatives. Manjiro was a bright lad. The ability he showed in profiting by his opportunities entitled him to the success he afterwards enjoyed. But how were those opportunities created for him? Simply by foreign benevolence. From Captain Whitefield of the schooner *John Holland*, to Dr. George and Mr. S. C. Damons of Honolulu, and Mr. Aron and Miss Jane Aron of New Bedford, every one gave him a helping hand. We wonder whether that phase of the record will be alluded to by any of his countrymen when they write his obituary notice. Thus far it has not been mentioned. Yet it was the preface to a long chapter of similarly benevolent acts performed by foreigners towards Japanese. When Perry came to Japan there was already a missionary among his companions, and even before the first treaty went into force in July, 1859, two American missionaries had landed at Nagasaki. They came to do for the people at large exactly what Miss Jane Aron did for the cast-away Japanese lad fifty-seven years ago. There are now 886 of these benevolent Europeans and Americans devoting their lives to the service of the Japanese nation. They have established 289 schools and colleges and 23 hospitals and dispensaries in Japan, and the philanthropic people of the Occident who support these 886 missionaries, have spent 1½ million *yen* on the building and equipment of the 312 educational and therapeutic institutions where they work. What is it all done for? Can any Japanese pretend to think that this large band of men and women and the multitude of folks by whose munificence they are maintained, derive their inspiration from selfish motives, or have any purpose of their own to compass? They want to convert the Japanese to Christianity, of course; but if they do, it is not for any honour or profit that the conversion can bring themselves, but because they believe Christianity to be the creed which, above all others, makes for the moral elevation of mankind. Viscount Torio wrote a clever essay six years ago to prove that the civilization of the Occident is based entirely on egoism, and that the supplanting of Japanese altruism by such a cult would be a national calamity. Well, we do not deny that the *ego* looms very large on the horizon of practical morality in the West. The prizes of successful endeavour are so dazzling among communities where material civilization is in its zenith that human nature can not choose but struggle for them. We ask, however—can the altruistic civilization of Japan or of any non-Christian country offer an evidence of practical altruism comparable, even remotely comparable, to the philanthropy of which Japan herself is now the object at the hands of Christian peoples? There is nothing so convincing as hard facts. We offer these facts and the lessons they suggest for the consideration of the gentlemen who think that Japan already possesses a moral code which can only be vitiated by foreign teaching and example, and for the consideration of the gentlemen who think it quite becoming that Japanese parents should stand idly by while their little children deride the pas-

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

Mr. Honda Yōichi has been visiting the missions in Korea, and to the Kōbe Shinkō Club some weeks ago he gave an account of his trip, which is reported in the *Kirisuto-kyō Shimbun*. The following is the gist of Mr. Honda's address:—Mission work in Korea to-day resembles mission work in Japan twenty years ago. There is great eagerness on the part of the natives and the services held are largely attended. In Sōul the Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Methodists are all thriving. I preached twice by interpretation and on each occasion there were about 250 people present. The Bible has not yet been translated into Korean. There are some points in which the Koreans differ very much from the Japanese in their method of receiving the Gospel message and acting upon it. It is very hard to get converts to become evangelists as they do in Japan. In outward profession of assent to appeals made to them they go beyond the Japanese. I was present at a service held by a Methodist Bishop where the discourse seemed to me to be far above the heads of the audience. The preacher at the conclusion of the address asked those who agreed with him to signify the same by standing. To my surprise the whole audience, consisting of six or seven hundred people, stood up. No Japanese audience would act in that way. It was a kind of slavish obedience to the directions given them. The motives which actuate Japanese in seeking to become Christians are various. Some hope to get a knowledge of English by joining a Church. But a large number accept Christianity because it is said to be a civilised religion (*Bummeiteki Shūkyō*). The motives of the Koreans rank lower than this. The acceptance of Christianity is regarded by them as the best way of preserving their lives and their property. The general insecurity is so great in Korea and the difficulty of making a living so formidable that foreign missionaries are regarded as saviours from temporary evils rather than as the teachers of spiritual truths. There are French Missionaries labouring in Korea who make considerable use of this native craving for protection and pecuniary assistance. There are not wanting Koreans who are in favour of Christian teachers meddling with politics, who say that political crises and exigencies are to be utilised for the spread of the Gospel. To me this appears a most dangerous doctrine. If acted upon, it might lead to revolution of a most undesirable type. . . . . Not a few Japanese who do not believe in Christianity themselves welcome its propagation in Korea on account of the civilising influences which the missionaries exercise wherever they go. Outside of the capital there is very little effective government. The missionaries carry on their labours in the interior, and wherever they go they prepare the way for travellers and merchants. . . . . If Japanese Evangelists would take up the work seriously they could effect a great deal. The present time is specially suitable for evangelisation carried on by Japanese. There is a reaction against Russian influence and in favour of the Japanese. More schools are needed. The Government Japanese schools can only accommodate 50 pupils; there is a large demand for teachers of the Japanese language.

It is announced in the *Kirisuto-kyō Shimbun* that Mr. Kosaki Hiromichi is henceforth to take part in editing the paper. This publication, like so many others in Japan, has had a chequered career. Dating from August, 1885, when it bore the name of the *Maishū Shimpō*, it began by being a non-sectarian organ, but the state of its finances did not long allow of the original programme being carried out, and in return for pecuniary support it filled the rôle of the organ of the Kumiai churches. But even in this capacity it did not answer the expectations of its promoters. It is hoped that Mr. Kosaki's open connection with the paper and the literary help which he will give it may make it a success. These particulars we have culled from No. 770 of the *Kirisuto-kyō Shimbun*.

* * *

The *Bukkyō* comments in a very sensible manner on the dispute about the rights of Buddhist priests in prisons, reference to which has several times been made in these columns. The tendency to rely on the patronage of Government or noblemen, instead of on its own inherent merits, is a defect of long standing in the case of Buddhism. It has appeared on various occasions throughout her history. The religion may be said to be aristocratic rather than democratic. Many years ago attempts were made by the Jōdo, Shin, and Nichiren sects to overcome this tendency, and for a while they were successful, but eventually the old weakness reappeared. The successes of Buddhism have all been under Government patronage and support. Everywhere one goes one finds Buddhist priests bowing the knee to the government Baal. Even inferior government officials are treated with servile deference by priests who seem quite unconscious of the shame attached to their attitude. This proclivity must be got rid of at all costs. Buddhism must compete with other religions on her own merits. The notion that Buddhism is the state religion or ever can become so again is absurd. People do not seem to see that in as far as Buddhism has been connected with Government in the past so far has her liberty been curtailed. The connection was equally bad for both the Government and Buddhism. In reference to the Sugamo prison dispute, the *Bukkyō* thinks that the significance of the new Government regulations has been exaggerated. Mixed residence necessarily involves some concessions to foreigners and to the religions professed by them. We are of opinion, concludes the *Bukkyō*, that in all religious matters the Government should act on the principle of non-interference as much as possible.

* * *

The *Kirisutokyō Shimbun* has an article on the importance of conforming religious practices to native customs as much as possible, of which we give a short epitome:—There are certain Japanese tastes and instincts that are very marked and ought to be respected by the Church of Christ in Japan. If asked what principles should be observed in instituting new customs, we reply: (1) It should be borne in mind how fond we are, as a people, of nature and its many beautiful objects and scenes. To this instinct many of the heroes of antiquity appealed on memorable occasions. Even in the heat of battle Kajiwara Genda was seen with plum blossom attached to his armour. Even poor people who live in tiny houses find room for stunted pines or flowering shrubs. There are certain professors of Christianity whose practices outrage Japanese taste. Prominent among these are the Salvation Army people, who march through the streets, beating a drum.* (2) Reverence and the spirit of worship need to be cultivated. The effect of many of the changes of the *Meiji* era has been to render too familiar to Japanese objects and ceremonies that used to inspire awe. (3) In order to produce the feeling referred to above, places of worship should be constructed in a different manner from ordinary dwelling-houses, and should only be used for Christian services of a solemn kind. Architectural beauty and perfect cleanliness should be made to contribute to the nourishment of respect for the building in which God is worshipped. We are also in favour of pictures that recall Bible scenes to the mind; that, as Ruskin says of pictures generally, "may arouse deep thoughts in the minds of those who gaze on them." Christianity has much to learn in the matter of architecture from the Shintoists, the chaste and unadorned beauty of whose sacred edifices are the admiration of reverent and thoughtful minds. (4) Music should be made use of to deepen the sense of sacredness. There are those who say that the *samisen* or even the *tsuzumi* would answer this purpose, but we are of opinion that the organ alone is suitable on account of the great range of its tones. Japanese music is in a backward state and many reforms are needed. (5) The question of religious ceremonies is not one on which we can pronounce a decided opinion. Should prayers be read or delivered extempore? Should intervals be allowed for silent prayer and thought? To what extent should psalms and hymns be sung? On these and similar questions there is much difference of opinion, but one thing is certain, which is, that our Christian practices, customs, and ceremonies need to become more refined and more reverential.

* * *

Another history of Japanese Buddhism has appeared. Its author is the well-known Professor Murakami Sensei. The work is to consist of 2 volumes, one of which has been published by the Kinkōdō, Honchō, Nihonbashi, and sells at 55 *sen* per copy. In reviewing the book the *Tōyō-tetsugaku* says, there is no one who has spent more time and labour in studying Buddhism than Professor Murakami. Some time ago, he gave us the first volumes of a long work entitled "The History of Japanese Buddhism," which it will take some years to complete. The title of the present work is *Nihon Bukkyō Shikō* (史綱). "The important points in the History of Japanese Buddhism." It has been written to serve as a text-book in Buddhist schools. The want of such a book has long been felt. The *Bukkyō* and the *Shigaku Zasshi* both write in laudatory terms of the care and scholarship displayed in the *Nihon Bukkyō Shikō* and recommend it for perusal to the general public, maintaining that it is the best account of the many changes of the Heian era that we possess.

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The *Indo Shukyō Shikō* (史考) is a work

* The *Yomiuri Shimbun* has a column headed *Tōsei Hyaku baka* (The Hundred Follies of the Present Age) No. 57 consists of a representation of two Salvationists marching with a drum.—(*Writer of the Summary.*)

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by Mr. Anezaki Masaharu, on Indian Religions. Last year, Mr. Anezaki published a history bearing a similar title to the present volume. The present book is a complement of the earlier work and as such is very full, covering no less than 800 pages. It gives the views of scholars on various disputed questions and the general results of the author's researches in a readable form. The cause of the decline of Buddhism in India when it prospered elsewhere is thoroughly discussed.

Professor Takakusu Junjirō, a former pupil of Professor Max Müller, has published a Sanscrit Reader, which ought to prove very useful to students desirous of acquiring a knowledge of the language. The title of the work is *Bon* (梵) *Bungaku-Kyōkwasho*. It is divided into 5 parts, the headings of which are (1) *Nara-ō* (王) *no hanashi*, (2) *Hitpadīsha*, (3) *Manu-hōten*, (4) *Kongō-Kyō*, (5) *Amida-Kyō*. Part First is printed in Sanscrit, the remainder in Roman letters. A vocabulary is appended.

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The *Shinseiki* (No. 9) offers to its readers a goodly programme. The Rev. H. Kozaki discusses "The faith of the Apostle Paul," and Dr. de Forest "Modern Civilisation and Christianity." Mr. T. Makino contributes some "Observations on the evil tendency of the times." The Rev. Geo. Albrecht asks and replies to the question "What is evangelical?" Mr. S. Katayama discusses "Factory Laws and workmen," and Mr. Watanabe Hiromoto treats of the chastity of young men. These articles are supplemented by Biblical Expositions, Editorials, reviews of books, summaries of current thought, and a variety of miscellaneous information. Among the editorials is an interesting article comparing the fortunes of the various Protestant sects during the past 5 or 6 years. The following is the conclusion the writer has reached:—The Episcopalians stand first as regards rapid development; next come the Methodists. At the bottom of the list in the number of baptisms stands the Kumiai Church. Taking last year's statistics, the members of the Episcopalian churches amounted to 8,349, and the number of baptisms during the year were 518. The Nihon Kirisuto Kyōkai (Presbyterian) had 11,108 members and their baptisms were 774. The Kumiai-Kyōkai (Congregational) had a membership of 10,047, but their baptisms only amounted to 420. Coming to money subscribed for religious or charitable purposes, the Methodists stand first, with 17,833 *yen* subscribed during the year, which approximately represents five *yen* for every member. The subscriptions of the Kumiai Churches, which in proportion to the number of members used to stand first, now only represent 2 *yen* for each member. These figures suffice to show that there have been great changes in the relative positions occupied by the various sects. The first have become last and the last first. There are many causes for this. One reason for the advance that the Episcopalians have made as compared with the Congregationalists is the amount of money that Episcopalians have at their command for carrying on evangelistic work. The tendency with the Congregationalists is to discontinue using foreign money. But at the same time one cannot but acknowledge that the freedom of thought which prevails among the Kumiai Churches is not conducive to united evangelistic effort.

In reference to the settlement of the Dōshisha question, the *Shinseiki* says that at first the conferences between the representatives of the American Board and the Trustees were tolerably harmonious, but that on the question of who possesses the right to alter the rules of the Association they are hopelessly at loggerheads, and that it looks as though the matter would have to be brought into court—a course very much to be regretted, says the *Shinseiki*.

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"Plaintive are the notes of the dying bird," may well be applied to the last utterances on religion of the much-regretted *Waseda Bungaku*, whose premature death has already been announced in these columns. There are perhaps few better judges of the real state of public opinion in reference to religion than the highly educated and deeply earnest editor who has so recently laid aside the pen that he used so well. The present characteristics of religious thought and belief are thus summed up in the leave-taking pages which the *Waseda Bungaku* issued at the end of its career:—Dreary indeed is the state of religion in this country at the present moment. Time was when both Christianity and Buddhism took delight in free inquiry and scientific criticism. But to-day they are absorbed in the work of patching holes, in accommodating their practices to the demands of the age. Young Buddhists who used to champion the cause of progress now banish reason from the domain of faith. And as for orthodox Christians, they seem to be raising their standard on the very ruins of traditional theology. Although the practical turn which religion has taken of late is not without its advantages, as long as it is unaccompanied by activity of thought it can only produce bigotry, narrow-mindedness, and morbidity. It cannot be predicted of this kind of religion that it will exercise control over the minds of the coming generation. This condition of affairs is not difficult to account for. It has been brought about by the habit of regarding scientific inquiry as an enemy to religion, as the underminer of faith. "What is to be esteemed in religion," say many, "is the inner consciousness, and the experience of the believer, and not science or philosophy." Thus, while admitting in one breath that free investigation is necessary, in the next they refuse to accept the results of free inquiry. Though science and religion, reason and faith have different sources, yet surely they are capable of reconciliation with each other and may cöoperate in bringing about desired ends. Though science has no authority to deal with the original material of religion, yet in deciding on the religious practices to be adopted, in guarding the devotee from the abuses to which all the best things in the world are constantly exposed, science and reason surely have an important rôle to play. The religion that is robbed of the light of science naturally develops into superstition. Hence the true believer, the man who esteems truth above all things, can never regard science as an enemy to religion. . . . My conception of religion leads me to think that the religious consciousness of any age should be inseparable from the most exalted contemporary thought. Religion that refuses to come up to this standard is at best defective and misleading. The religious devotee who is afraid of free inquiry and the higher criticism has no confidence in himself, and no confidence in the strength of his religion when brought into contact with reason and science.

To sum up what I have to say in a few words: Religion among us Japanese to-day is a mere temple and church affair. It is shut up within its own castle walls and is busily engaged in defending its citadel against attacks from without. While upon Christianity and Buddhism alike devolves the responsibility of leading thought, of turning the tide of affairs into proper channels, neither of them is able to fulfil this task. Helplessly they float down the stream. Perfunctoriness marks their actions. And as for union among them, based on broad principles, it seems further off every day. That this kind of religion should have little effect on the lives and actions of the mass of mankind is little cause for wonder. The general opinion of the world is that religion is mere sectarianism. The Christians and Buddhists alike are a coterie of bigots that are too much engrossed in their own affairs to care for the world around them. The creeds and their professors have alike become fossilised.....If ever Christianity is to become a power in this country the principles of the original system must become part and parcel of our Japanese life. Without this of what avail will be the creeds with their numerous articles or the countless ceremonies daily performed?

* * *

The *Taiyō*, in the pages devoted to the discussion of religion which each number contains, makes the narrow-mindedness displayed by religious devotees the subject of a theme. Religious bigotry, prejudice, and envy are no better in Japan to-day than they were in the Tokugawa era, says this organ. How contrary to the spirit of the age is all the wrangling that has gone on over the rights and privileges granted by the Government! The Shintoists ask for special rank as the guardians of the nation's ancestors and the propitiators of its gods. The Buddhists wish their creed to be treated as a State religion and the Christians ask for public acknowledgment. All alike clamour for Government help and patronage.† Then the prison episode. How childish the whole thing is! How much there is of petty spite and jealousy among the sects. The Protestants are jealous because one of the leading magazines of the day (the *Tenchijin*) is being run by Roman Catholics. Numbers of Japanese Christians are full of envy because foreigners figure so conspicuously in evangelisation and in education. What folly it all is! In other things we have progressed, but in religion alone it would seem we still think and act as our ancestors did 200 years ago. So weeps the *Taiyō* over the weaknesses of the inhabitants of the religious world.

* * *

Among the articles published in the *Shinri* is one by the Rev. H. Minami on the future of Buddhism, of which we give an epitome. The day has passed for relying on any transcendental sources that a religion may be said to have. If a religion has no intrinsic merits apart from the miracles that are supposed by some

† This is a manifestly unfair statement of the attitude of Christians to the Government. They do not seek for patronage, but for recognition only—a very different matter. (*Writer of the Summary.*)

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to have marked its inauguration, it will be forced by science and philosophy to take a back seat. The attempt is being made to establish Christianity in this country on a basis that shall render it capable of withstanding all attack from without. How is it with Buddhism? Can she follow suit in this matter? Christianity and Buddhism are encountering the same difficulties, and Christians cannot but sympathise with our Buddhist brethren in their attempts to keep their head above water in these critical times. There is not the slightest doubt that not a few Buddhists are fully aware of the dangers to which the creed is exposed and are preparing to meet them. Among Buddhist literary organs none is more progressive than the *Bukkyō*. In number after number this magazine advocates radical reform. Specially noticeable are the articles published in Nos. 140-42 of the magazine.‡ The only question is whether the argument elaborated in the essay to which we refer does not go too far for Buddhist interests. It is maintained that Buddhism must adopt new principles, a new attitude, and new tactics. Hitherto she has preached pessimism and separation from the world. Henceforth she must preach optimism. Hitherto she has magnified the future life and represented our earthly existence as comparatively insignificant. In future she must concentrate her thoughts chiefly on the present. The despair with which she has regarded the course of the world's affairs must give place to hopefulness and so on. But what it is important to ask is, are not the doctrines and principles that the *Bukkyō* purposes to discard of the very essence of Buddhism? Was not the teaching of Shaka Muni pessimistic to the very core? Do not all the more important of the Buddhist scriptures teach the insignificance of this life as compared with the next? Can Buddhism any longer maintain its identity when transformed to the extent here proposed? It seems to us that to carry out the recommendations of the *Bukkyō* in the articles to which we refer it would be necessary that Buddhists should become Christians. Having lost all the reality of the old creed, of what use would be the retention of its name? Men of the type of the writer of these articles had better become Christians.§

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The new literary and religious Roman Catholic organ, the *Tenchijin*, which, as some of our readers are doubtless aware, is edited by Mr. Takahashi Gorō, contains an article entitled "Civilisation and Religion," in which the writer refers to the erection of cathedrals like that at Nagasaki, Sendai, and elsewhere as a proof that Christianity is keeping pace with western civilisation. There are some people, observes the *Tenchijin*, who affirm that as civilisation advances Christianity retires; that Christianity is as the light of the firefly, only welcome on a dark night. But are not the recently erected Roman Catholic structures at New York, Paris, and other places a proof that men value Christianity to-day? The Montmartre cathedral cost 30 million francs. But the erection of these places of worship is only a small part of the work of the Church. Look at her mission stations, her preaching places, her charitable institutions, her schools, which represent an expenditure yearly of not less than 100 million francs. Is a religion that can boast such activity as this to be considered dead? Does its light fade away before that of civilisation? We invite those who maintain that there is an obverse ratio between the progress of Christianity and that of civilisation to open their eyes and examine the actual state of the world around them.

* * *

No. 426 of the *Seikyō Shimpō* (Greek Church) discusses what to some Christians appears to be a very difficult question, namely, the obligations of Christians to worship at the Imperial Ancestral Mausoleums. After expressing disagreement with those Christians who suppose that there is anything of importance that Christians and Shintoists believe in common, the writer in the *Seikyō Shimpō* goes on to observe that he feels under no obligation to alter his creed or trim in any way in order to bring himself into conformity with Shintō believers. When there is any conflict between national institutions or customs and Christianity the former must be made to give way. Even if a man's creed involve his breaking of the law of the land, it is his plain duty to break it and suffer the consequences rather than act against his conscience. Having thus generalised, he goes on to say that in reference to Christians worshipping at the Ise Imperial sepulchres or elsewhere, the Greek Church does not condemn ancestral worship by any means. It is a question of the kind of homage rendered as to whether the worship of Imperial ancestors is or is not idolatry. There is worship that ought only to be rendered to the one supreme God, and there is worship which may be rendered to the spirits of deceased persons. In the ceremonies that are ordinarily performed at such places as the Ise Taibyō (Imperial Mausoleum), the writer we are quoting sees nothing to which a Greek Church Christian could object. He may bend the knee before the shrine and show his profound respect for the spirits of the dead in the usual way. But if he goes beyond this and presents offerings, as it is customary to do before *hotoke* or *kami*, then he is certainly guilty of idolatry and is breaking one of the Christian Commandments. There is not the slightest objection, however, to his contributing money towards the preservation of the Imperial tombs. The homage that he renders to Imperial ancestral spirits and to other ancestral spirits is the same. In neither case is he at liberty to ask from them for the blessing and protection that he asks from God.

* * *

The *Kyōrin* (Shintō) announces that the Government has created a new bureau, henceforth to be connected with the Cabinet, called the Jinja-kyoku 神社局, and that an official of *Chokunin* rank is to be appointed as its head. Thus the control of Shintō Shrines is no longer to be exercised by the Home Department in conjunction with its control of Buddhist temples, as has hitherto been the case. Whether the Shaji-kyoku, (社寺局), hitherto one of the bureaux of the Home Department, will be abolished or continue to control Buddhist temples is not stated. The *Kyōrin* welcomes the change, but regrets that there is no guarantee of permanency in such an arrangement. It wishes to see the nation's ancient shrines secured against desecration and decay to all time by laws that shall be absolutely irrevocable.

The Government has prepared, says the *Kyōrin*, a draft of a set of laws bearing on the management of Shintō shrines and the status of priests, etc., to be called the Jinjahō, which will be presented to the Diet at its next session. But they have not consulted any Shintō scholars in reference to what is required. Is it to be expected, asks the *Kyōrin*, that such a bill as is contemplated will meet the requirements of the case? since no one connected with the bureau that has prepared the draft is intimately acquainted with the subject. The reasons for observing such secrecy in a matter that intimately concerns national religion are not at all apparent, concludes the *Kyōrin*.

‡ The gist of the first of these articles was given in a former summary. Vide *Japan Weekly Mail* of August 20th last.—(*Writer of the Summary.*)

§ It is the contention of Dr. Katō Hiroyuki and many other writers that Christianity is not optimistic, but pronouncedly pessimistic. For Dr. Katō's views on this subject *vide* the Summary of the Religious Press published in the *Weekly Mail* of Sept. 17th last.—(*Writer of the Summary.*)

*JAPANESE WOMEN.**

REPORT ON THEIR CONDITION AND PROGRESS DURING THE PAST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS.

INTRODUCTION.

It is asserted as a fact and with some probability that when Columbus started out in search of new lands, and was nearing the great continent whose four hundredth birthday is being celebrated, he had in mind not America, but a country lying to the East of Asia, whose fame had reached him from Marco Polo. This land *Jipangu*, for so it was then called, undiscovered by Columbus, remained hidden for nearly the whole four hundred years with its long sleep undisturbed. It is barely forty years since it awakened to find itself, like the Rip Van Winkle of old, in a world changed beyond recognition, and it has been with bewildered eyes that it has observed the progress of Western nations.

It is needless to repeat here what every one well knows, the story of the opening of Japan by Commodore Perry in 1854. The incoming of the foreign element and the political complications it caused hastened on an inevitable revolution which took place in 1868, one of the greatest that has ever occurred in Japan or in any country, and the more famous since it was almost without bloodshed. Then it was that the true Mikado, the blood descendant of one hundred and twenty-two Emperors, took up his perogatives, and, regaining the real as well as the nominal power of sovereignty, assumed the actual sway of the government which had fallen into the hands of powerful nobles, and for two hundred and seventy years had been held by the great Tokugawa Shoguns (Tycoons). The world is well aware that since that time it has been with a blind haste and hurried steps that Japan has striven to catch up in the progress of civilization. That she has done so with fair success, I think can not be denied. The changes which have shown themselves in every quarter of our country the past forty years have by no means been limited to one sex. The women of Japan, though not so rapidly nor in the same degree as the men, have nevertheless passed out from the middle ages to modern life and civilization during these

[* This report was prepared for the Columbian Exposition of 1894 by Miss Tsuda Sen, a Japanese lady well-known in educational circles. It was not published, however, owing to a change of programme, and we are pleased to be able to lay it before our readers, for it is the only essay, we believe, hitherto published about Japanese women by a Japanese woman. It is entirely from Miss Tsuda's hand. The English is her own; the ideas are her own. The first part of the essay has already appeared in our columns, but the publication had to be suspended temporarily, and it seems advisable now to print the whole for the sake of continuity.—ED. *J. M.*]

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few years. This has been a necessary effect of the change of surrounding circumstances, but it still remains to be seen how far our women will go on beyond the mere outward progress hitherto made, and will themselves pave the way for further advancement intellectually and morally. It is not possible that an age that has seen so much advance will end as it is at present.

In giving an account of women for the past four hundred years in Japan, it will be necessary first to briefly sketch the women of Old Japan, whose condition barely changed, much less progressed, during the past centuries, and then to compare them with the very different women of modern times. It is my task to touch on a revolution, not of government, but of society, a sudden uprooting of old ideas, prejudices, and customs, many of which yet remain to be replaced,—an upheaval which has not settled down to show us exactly what the women of our country are capable of, what they will desire to do, or what they will be permitted by the men to do. It is therefore no easy task to give a true estimate of the present condition of women in Japan and of the place they occupy, since every year and month brings important changes, and customs varying with almost each family give no clue to the state of things that have been, or to those that are to be.

The women of old Japan at the worst, however, always enjoyed freedom and respect immeasurably above their Asiatic sisters, and always held a position unique in the East. History, as far back as it goes, has given an honourable place to women. The wives and mothers of the Emperors are carefully mentioned in the records, and they played no unimportant part in the old life. Even passing backward into the age of myths, we read that at the beginning there were two beings who sprang into existence, a God and a Goddess, equal in power and distinction. They represented the male and female elements, and from them it is believed came the Japanese rulers. In those early ages, strange to say, there seems to have been no feeling making the male the respected, and the female the despised sex—an idea which is entirely foreign to Japanese soil. It is very clear how widely this differs from the attitude of other Asiatic countries towards woman. The old ideas regarding woman were enlightened ones, and outside influences have only tended to lower the old standard. Buddhism from India, and still more the precepts of Confucius from China, and the introduction of Chinese manners have caused the subjection of women, and yet in spite of all these foreign innovations, the Japanese women have never at any time become degraded nor despised, but have time and again risen above the inferior position assigned them by custom and the teaching of the philosophers. The women of ancient Japan, before this foreign influence was strongly felt, presented an almost unprecedented example to the whole world. Nine Empresses have ruled in their own right. A woman was the first historian.† Artists of rare skill and scholarship may be counted among the sex, and, strange as it may sound, the greatest of the classic writings are from their hands. In administration, as reigning Empresses, as Regents, as Dowager empresses; as court ladies in political intrigues; as religious devotees, even on the battlefield, women have played a conspicuous part in the ancient life as it comes down to us in history, literature, and tradition. In the tenth and eleventh centuries, at the Imperial court of Kyoto, and amid the luxuries and splendours of those days, we may picture women playing an important part in the life of the times, and often with a secret and unseen hand they have been the movers in intrigues and conspiracies that have sometimes shaken the throne.

Later on, the spread of Buddhism, the introduction of Chinese literature, and above all the strong influence of the Confucian scholars, especially in the sixteenth century, together with the political changes which brought on long civil wars and revolutions in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries tended to lower the condition of women. Literature and learning were rapidly replaced by the military arts, and skill with the sword ranked higher than skill with the pen. At the time the new world was presenting its wonders to the nations of Europe the Japanese woman had sunk down from her former position of respect and equality, and her life, based on Chinese teachings, became narrowed, her opportunity for displaying talent and skill in those branches which suited her became lessened, and we find the power and influence of the Japanese women at its lowest ebb. It is unfortunate that at this period we must take up the record.

History has left us but little account of women for the four hundred years which followed. They seem to have played a most insignificant part in the outer world. We hear of few notable names even in connection with great men. The home was a sealed one hidden from outside gaze. Here in quiet and seclusion the young girl grew up under the strict doctrine of the great Chinese sages, instilled in her by father and mother. Implicitly obedient to her parents in childhood, when married she served her husband as her master, looking to him as her only heaven, and in old age, leaning on sons, who took their father's place, she taught the same doctrines to her daughters that she had held all her life, impressing on them her standard of duty and right, of gentleness, sacrifice, and self-abnegation. She believed and taught that in her husband's life she must live, her personality was merged into his, his home was hers solely by his permission and will, and in all cases, she must yield, adapt, and sacrifice herself. No monuments or records tell of the self-devotion, love, and faithful service of these generations of women, and we know not what aspirations or struggles they may have had. But among the many hidden lives thus hemmed in by social barriers, there were some that arose above their narrow surroundings and proved themselves real factors in the world, not mere playthings and conveniences for men. Outwardly without the slightest power or influence, we know women to have been the secret agents in political intrigues, even official messengers of the feudal lords in cases when woman's wit, mingled with woman's reserve, served better than man's boldness and bravery. A wife's wise foresight and action helped to win the battle of Sekigahara, one of the greatest battles fought on Japanese soil.‡ In times of danger they have scorned to desert their homes, but have welcomed death for their husbands' sake. Mothers have urged their sons to battle or to revenge, or by judicious counsel have prevented rash deeds. It must be added that physical courage and loyalty were not accidental traits among women. The daughters of the feudal retainers (*samurai*), as well as the sons, were brought up in Spartan bravery. Loyalty to country and to lord and a fearless meeting of death were the first principles under the old feudal system of thirty years ago. Romance and history teem with examples which prove that the women, full as much as the men, lived up to the ideals held out to them, and dearer than life it was to guard the family honour, and to bring renown on the family name. Thus during the quiet of centuries life in Japan passed on with but little excitement or change for the men, still less for the women, until the sudden awakening which has taken place within the memory of the present generation of men and women. With this general introduction, I will now pass on to the more special points.

EDUCATION.

The women of old Japan had few educational advantages. They were, however, not without some training, and except in the lowest classes received instruction in the written language. As the sphere of woman was limited to the domestic circle, it was not supposed to be necessary for her to receive instruction in matters which concerned the outside world. Even in the case of a husband's public life, the wife was supposed to have no concern in the matter. As implicit obedience was her lot, it was considered useless for her reason or judgment to be enlightened; indeed she was hardly thought capable of it. Her education consisted chiefly in moral discipline as embodied in the *Onna Daigaku* (Woman's Great Learning), written by Kaibara Ekken, a great Confucian scholar of the seventeenth century, in which are given the moral duties of woman founded on the teachings of the Chinese sages. In this, as has been before mentioned, a woman was taught subjection, obedience, self-sacrifice, and filial obedience. The *Onna Daigaku* says—"In childhood, a woman must obey her father, when married her husband, in old age her son." These were called "The Three Obediences."

The daughters of the nobility were instructed in reading, writing, poetry, and Japanese literature, and in some cases Chinese. These were taught them by masters who came for the purpose to the home. In addition they learned music, the tea ceremony, etiquette, flower arrangement, and incense burning, the last two being branches of etiquette and supposed to teach calmness and repose. The tea ceremony also was a series of forms and ceremonies, attendant on making a peculiar kind of tea. In some parts of the country the young girls of the nobility were taught to ride horses and to fence (*naginata*).

In the middle classes among the daughters of retainers (*samurai*) very much the same course of study with the addition of more Chinese was pursued, but usually in the case of poorer families, the young girls went to the teacher's home for their lessons. This was nearly always either at a temple, where instruction was given by priests, or at the house of a doctor, for priests and doctors were the learned men of the period, and in the interval of other duties would spend their time in giving instruction to the young. There were also writing masters, who gave lessons in penmanship. Sometimes a woman who had spent most of her life in some noble's palace and had never married, would, on leaving service, receive a few young girls for instruction. These may be said to have been the beginning of schools for girls. The pupils were rarely more than thirteen or fourteen years of age, for it was considered unnecessary for a woman to have more than an elementary knowledge of books, and if she could write a letter and keep the household accounts, nothing more was expected of her. A knowledge of sewing and household work was indispensable and often comprised the greater part of training at home. Etiquette was acquired by service in the family of the feudal lord, to enter which was thought a great honour. Dancing and music were also essential accomplishments.

Under these circumstances, it was not easy for women to acquire much learning. Nevertheless, some young girls of this class gained a far better education than could have expected. Through the indulgence of father or mother or by the talent which can not be repressed, it was not such a rare thing for a Japanese woman to get a good knowledge of Japanese literature and Chinese classics. Some of the letters and writings left by such women are vigorous in style, clear in thought, and indicate a wide acquaintance with literature.

The daughters of the lower classes (merchants, farmers, artizans) were far less educated. In the cities they gained the bare rudiments of reading and writing, but sometimes spent much time on accomplishments, music, and dancing, and often became teachers of them. In the country, the days were too filled with labour in the various occupations, with work in the field or at the loom, that little time was left for study of any sort.

It will be seen that this limited education was in keeping with the narrow life of those days. The special attention paid to etiquette and moral training, the keen sense of duty, loyalty, and honour early instilled into the mind, tended

† *Hiyeda no-Are* (who lived about the year 670 A.D.) is supposed to be the writer of the *Kojiki*, the most ancient history now existing.

‡ Chiyo, wife of Yama-no-uchi Kazutoyo, a general under Tokugawa Iyeyasu, finding out the enemy's plans for battle, informed her husband by strategy of them, and her prompt action greatly aided the victory of Sekigahara.

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to produce women, who, though not intellectually trained, were not without moral responsibility and dignity, mingled with gentleness and sweetness of disposition. In the educational problems of the present day for women, none is more perplexing than the difficulty of keeping the beauty and refinement of the old system, with the broader and new ideas, and the freedom of thought and action, which come from the culture of the intellectual powers. Such was the condition of women and the state of education at the time of the revolution in 1868.

The changes that have followed each other in rapid succession since then will here be briefly noted. The Government early saw the need of broadening the basis of woman's education, and of giving her opportunities of fitting herself for something above the mere daily routine in the home. Schools for girls were established and are now on a firm basis, having passed beyond the experimental period. The twenty years which have elapsed since the first schools were started show amply the wisdom of this movement and the results have produced great changes in woman's life.

The first official step was the establishment of public primary schools for boys and girls all over Japan in 1869. There are now in the Empire 25,374 common schools open to both girls and boys, and in 1891 the number of girl students was estimated at 964,194. The schools give instruction in reading, writing, history, arithmetic, geography, and the elements of science. The pupils enter at six years of age and the course covers nine years.

In 1871 a small school for Eurasian girls was established in Yokohama. From the beginning the school now known as the Kyo-ritsu Girl's School has grown. Another school in Yokohama, now the Ferris Seminary, was started the same year. It received the aid of the Governor of the Prefecture, and was afterward endowed by Isaac Ferris. These were among the first beginnings of girls' education in Japan. In 1872, the Educational Department established the Tokyo Girls'School, the first Government school for girls. A preparatory department was added to this for pupils from eight years of age to fifteen. Owing to financial difficulties, the school was closed in 1877.

In 1874 was established by the Government the Higher Normal School for girls. In 1876 a Preparatory Department was attached and in the same year also a Kindergarten was added. In 1882, in place of the Preparatory Department a Girls' High School, was established. The Higher Normal School at present gives the highest course of study as a whole that is offered in any school in Japan. Its purpose is to train teachers for the country Normal and High Schools, and the students are selected from graduates of these schools. These are chosen by nomination of the Governors of the different Prefectures all over Japan. All the expenses are paid by the Government.

The only drawback to this institution is that the instruction is open to only a few, and these are only women who can promise to teach a certain term of years. An institution of similar grade opened freely to all who desire higher courses of study is needed.

In 1872, a public high school was established for girls in Kyoto. In 1879, other schools began in the different provinces. In 1886 there were nine public and Government high schools, and many private schools were started at this time also. Among them may be mentioned the Atomi Jo Gakko, Toyo Eiwa Jo Gakko, Sakurai Jo Gakko, Meiji Jo Gakko in Tokyo, the Kobe Jo Gakko in Kobe, and the Baikwa Jo Gakko in Osaka. The standard of instruction in in most of them supposed to be that of a High School course, though each school has its own special features. In many cases, great importance is attached to English. In 1886 was established by H.I.H. the Empress the Peeresses' school for the daughters of the nobility—the first girls' school for the higher classes. Previous to this there had been girls' department of the school for the sons of Nobles, established in 1878, and this department was made the nucleus for the new school. It opened with 145 students and twenty-five teachers. At present there are over 400 students and about fifty teachers, of whom more than half are women. The course in the lower department covers six years, beginning with pupils at six or seven years of age; the higher department is also for six years. Instruction is given in morals, reading, and writing history, mathematics, natural history, music, drawing and painting, sewing, and calasthenics. To the course of the higher department is added Chinese and Japanese literature, science, etiquette, English and French, and domestic economy. The Empress visits and inspects the school from time to time and watches the progress of the pupils. She has attended nearly every commencement, and shows the greatest interest in the welfare and success of the school.

The largest private school is the Atomi Girls' School, established about 1876 by Miss Atomi Kwakei. It has sent out 3,000 graduates from its different departments. This school is modelled on the old system of education for women.

Another flourishing private institution is the Corporate Industrial School for Girls in Tokyo, established in 1886 by several well-known women educators. This school gives instruction in the essentials of an ordinary education and also trains them in the industrial arts, which include sewing, knitting, painting, drawing, flower making, embroidery, etc. There are two courses of study, one for three and one for four years. Seven hours of work are done each day under thirty-two teachers. More than 400 graduates have been sent out, and over 300 pupils are now in the institution. The school has been honoured by a visit from the Empress and a gift of 200 *yen*, beside the purchase by the Imperial party of many articles made by the pupils.

The Girls' High Schools usually give instruction for three or four years beyond the primary schools in ethics, Japanese and Chinese literature, English, history, (native and foreign), geography, mathematics, sciences, drawing, domestic economy and sewing. In the missionary schools, the course in English is long and full, and covers a knowledge of English literature.

It is estimated that almost 6,000 women are engaged in teaching all over the Empire, and the number of girls attending schools is over a million. From 1881-1889 there were 354,892 graduates from different primary and High Schools.

In addition to the educational work in the schools above mentioned, there has been established among the women "The Women's Educational Society." It was started by thirty women in 1888 for the purpose of self-improvement and the spread of knowledge among women. It has a membership of about 400 at the present day, and the members meet once a month for the purpose of listening to lectures given by specialists on differents subjects that pertain to education and the questions of the day. The lectures are printed in a magazine, managed and edited by a board of women, and published monthly to be distributed to all members. The society also supports, by voluntary contributions, a free primary school and an industrial school, where young girls are given an elementary education, and are then trained in some industry. This school has at present about fifty pupils.

No institution offers a higher course to women than is offered in the Normal and High Schools. There are no colleges open to them, and though two women with special permission have worked in the Imperial University they are not permitted to do so now. Higher education can only be obtained by private study under special masters. Co-education has never been tried, the girls' departments of Normal Schools being entirely separated from the boys.

About the year 1886 there was a great tide in favour of better education for women. At that time many of the girls' schools were established and the press and public opinion were almost unanimous in urging that women should have better advantages than they had possessed hitherto. The girls' schools were well attended, and the standard of instruction was raised in all foundation of the ancient literature has no of them; since then there has come a decided reaction. Whether the experiment was considered a failure, or whether there has been dissatisfaction at the methods tried, the tide of public opinion rose against the higher education for women. Hence it became very difficult to make new openings for women in advanced work. Even the high school course has not been generally attended, and the number of high schools is exceedingly small.

Many of the educators of the present day, however, feel that this is only a temporary reaction. The women themselves are too anxious for better education, to be kept back long. The rapid advance made hitherto will not, it is believed, end here. There are some that dare hope for educational advantages for women not inferior to those of men before many years have passed. The ardent desire of many women for education is an earnest of success in the future should the opportunity be given for the higher development of woman's mind.

The chief danger in going too rapidly in this matter lies in the faults of the present social system, and in the fact that education will open the eyes of women to many injustices that hitherto they have accepted as a matter of course. When women have the education and the same intellectual training as men, they will not be willing to accept their husbands as their masters, nor can they be all their lives merely passively obedient. Their social status and position must be raised, or else education will only make them unfitted for and discontented with the life that they must lead. The laws of Japan concerning women have been greatly modified, but a greater reform than that of mere laws must take place in the minds of men, and prejudice and custom must give way to more enlightened ideas of woman's place in the home and in society.

No one can deny that there has been a decided advance in the position of woman in society, but already education has gone further ahead, and the clash between the newly educated girls of the past ten years and the social system under which they live has already produced results that the conservatives are only too ready to lay at the door of education. No doubt our educational experiment has been faulty in many ways, for the problem of engrafting western ideas and education on to an old Eastern civilization in many points highly advanced is a difficult one to grapple with.

The best methods have not yet been worked out for even the present system of education for women, low as the standard is. We have still to come to the question of the higher education. When the time comes for that, there will be many grave difficulties and problems peculiar to our national ideas and customs which will confront the pioneers, and which will need more than ordinary wisdom, strength and perseverance to overcome.

LITERATURE AND ART.

One reason which may account for the fact that so little remains of the literature of the past four hundred years from the hands of women, is, not that there were no productions from them, but that, under the teachings of the day, it was considered forward and unwomanly to have poetry or writing of any sort published and sent abroad. Moreover, it was held as a shame to be known as a writer, poet, or a learned woman, and such women kept their accomplishments hidden from the world. It is greatly to be regretted that such was the case, for there is no doubt that much was produced worthy of preservation and fame. Some of the letters, diaries, and poems which have now come to light are beautiful in thought and expression, and show literary skill, though none have equalled the productions of ancient women. One might expect after the illustrious example of Murasaki Shikibu, Seishonagon, and others, at the court of the Emperor Ichijo in the 10th century, that literary work would have been considered fitting for a woman, for Murasaki Shikibu's principal work, "The Genji Monogatari," is the greatest classic of the Japanese language. The part that women took in the

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parallel in the history of European letters, as is attested by many authorities. Griffis says, "It was woman's genius, not man's, that made the Japanese a literary language." Yet even in those ages, women hid their learning and were modest in offering their writing to public gaze. They often feigned ignorance of the rudiments of knowledge, when they were mistresses of all the literature and learning of the times. So it came about as a natural result, when literature and learning were cast aside for the arts of battle, and women lost their prestige in the turbulent war times of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, that more than ever was the publication of writings thought to be bold and vulgar. In the revival of learning and the peaceful arts under the Tokugawa rule, women never regained their place in the domain of letters, for Chinese literature and philosophy had usurped the pure Japanese style of writing that had seemed peculiarly fitted as an outflow of woman's thought.

Such literary remains as we possess cause us to regret that the customs of the times prevented the preservation of its literature, and it is yet possible that other fragments of manuscripts never published may still come to light from hidden places.

Of the Chinese and Japanese literature, which were studied at this time, poetry which composes the greater part of the latter was the specialty of the women, and most of their productions were poems. The study of poetry has never been considered unwomanly. It was taught to all the daughters of the nobles and was one of the most highly esteemed accomplishments of the higher-class women. To write a few lines of poetry at the close of a letter or in answer to some gift, or at the sight of some beautiful scene, was not only appropriate, but greatly admired. Many of the best of these poems, however, were probably never preserved.

The first great woman's name that meets us in the history of this period is that of Ono-no-Tsū, who lived in the time of the famous general and statesman, Ota Nobunaga (16th century) and who served in his household and in that of his successor in power, the great Hideyoshi. Besides her fame as an artist of no unusual talent, especially in portrait painting, she has the honour of being the founder of a peculiar kind of song (*joruri*) which is a story in poetical language sung to music. She wrote in twelve parts the animated narrative of one of the Japanese heroes of ancient times (Yoshitsune). The music was set to it by a famous blind musician of the period, and this style of song sprang into popular favour. We may also date from the *joruri* the origin of the Japanese theatre, for to this narrative singing was added afterwards representations of the scenes by lay figures, or dolls moved by machinery. Later on, the action was performed in pantomime by men. At the present day, the singing which comes in so frequently during the intervals of a theatrical performance and which from the side of the stage tells the story, is the same *joruri*, having taken a subordinate place, and only serving to fill in the blanks in the thread of the narrative.

Of the few women who have been known as scholars, it is specially noticeable that they have been mostly the wives or daughters of learned men, and, unlike the ancient literary women of court circles, they were of the middle class. Living in an atmosphere of learning, they have, contrary to the customs and teachings of the times, imbibed the knowledge and learning of the day and have had a part in literary work. Among them may be mentioned the wife of Kaibara Ekken (17th century), the Chinese scholar and author of "Women's Great Learning." She was highly accomplished, and helped in the literary work of her husband. She is suspected to have more than assisted him to write his work on the duties of woman. It is said a great portion of it is from her hands, though we must acknowledge that it does not show a woman's hand in the low position it assigns to all of that sex.

Another woman of the same age, Otakasaka Isa, wife of the most celebrated Chinese scholar of his day, was an authoress and wrote, by the order of the wife of her feudal lord, a treatise for women on education, etiquette, etc.

The daughter of the most famous novelist of Japan, Bakin (1767—1848), is well known to have assisted her father in his literary labours, and especially in his great work, the Hakkenden. The latter part of this work was dictated by Bakin to her in his old age when he had become blind, and the whole work was made complete by her.

In the middle of the eighteenth century a woman named Araki Rai appears as a well-known historian. Her most famous work was a history of Japan covering 270 years (1325—1595). Araki Rai was also a poetess of note.

Almost all the other well-known names of women are those of poetesses. Among them Inouye Tsū (1641—1696) is said to have written remarkable poems when a mere child. There is a collection of her poems in existence, as well as a diary of her journey to Yedo, as attendant to a noble lady. Six years later, she wrote another account of her return journey. Both of these journals contains many poems written about the sights on the way.

Kaga no Chiyo, 1701—1775, a daughter of the merchant class, was the founder of a new style of short poem, and many of her verses are so familiar as to have become almost proverbial. At the beginning of the present century, an influential literary woman lived in Yedo named Takashima Bunho. She not only was highly learned, but was accomplished in all the feminine arts of the day. Six hundred women came to her as her pupils and disciples, and the powerful and learned court ladies from the palace of the *Shogun* begged instruction from her. The influence she had in her day was phenomenal.

In spite of these exceptional women, the past four hundred years have seen little development of literature as a whole and woman's work in letters occupies a low place. The present era has brought many changes in the writings of the day. The whole language is now putting on new growth owing to the introduction of many new ideas, and the influence of European literature. A number of women at the present time are known not only for their work in classical and poetical style but for writing in touch with modern thought. At least two magazines are edited entirely by women, and a few who are English scholars have translated English works into Japanese. Novelists and essayists are counted among them. The time has, however, been too short to have given a fair test of the literary ability of the modern women, or indeed of any of the writers of the present day, but it may be safely predicted that great developments will take place in the literature of this country from the impetus lately received and the encouragement given to such work.

Among the well-known women of the present day may be mentioned the famous poetess and court lady Saisho Aisuko; Shimoda Utako, also a poetess and the lady directress of the Peeresses' School, who has published a number of books, including one on domestic science; and Atomi Kwakei, well-known for her writings in Chinese.

Women's history in Art is very similar to that in literature. The same age that encouraged the literary talent of women brought forth many artists and musicians, for music and art as well as literature were highly prized at the Imperial Court in the tenth century. Prizes and even rank were awarded to the most proficient, and women as often as men won fame for superior skill. In the middle period, the fine arts were greatly neglected, until in the fifteenth century appeared a number of Japan's best artists, and a great revival of art took place under these great masters.

Painting and drawing were considered especially womanly pursuits, but no woman was supposed to make art her profession nor had she as a rule the opportunity to acquire the higher artistic knowledge, and so, like the literary women of that period, the skilled painters were often the daughters and wives of the great artists. The daughter of Mitsunobu, the founder of the Tosa School of Art, who married a still more famous artist, Kano Motonobu, gained great fame as a painter. A few other names have come down to modern times. The best known is Yukinobu, who belonged to the family of the artist Tanyu, founder of the Tanyu School, Gyokuran (about 1700) a well known painter of flowers and a poetess as well, and Koran, wife of Yanagawa Seigan, who lived until the beginning of the present century. The work of all these women is highly prized.

Much is being done at present for the encouragement of the Arts, and since women are now at liberty to choose their own pursuits, there are many zealous and intelligent artists, and though there are no women students at the Government Art School in Tokyo, nearly all the great masters have diligent women disciples, and from among them may come perhaps some who will influence the art of Japan in the future.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SINGLE TAX AND STUPIDITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Please allow me another word on what I wrote about the stupidity of the Chinese and those who cannot see the justice of the Single Tax. Chinese exclusiveness and the fact that they rejoice in harbour and river obstructions which increase labour, their system of taxation in exchange, their non-taxation of city lands, etc., are things which are generally condemned as stupid, from the economic standpoint. A man who, in geometry, can not be got to understand that the square of the hypothenuse, is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides would be considered geometrically stupid. A man who worships an idol is generally regarded as religiously stupid. I do not regard all non-single taxers as stupid, because many have not had their attention called to the subject, but, after investigation, he who cannot see the justice of the Single Tax theory, it seems to me, is stupid like the man who cannot be taught the mathematical proposition mentioned above, or like the idol worshipper. I have met many who have opposed the Single Tax theory, but have never met one who could give an answer to the question, "What does the landlord do for society, or the tenant, that corresponds to the rent he gets?" He does nothing.

But all honest exchange is an exchange of services. The landlord, simply as a landlord, performs no services. If he who opposes the Single Tax can not see this point, he is, to my way of thinking, stupid; if he sees it and does not acknowledge it, he is stupid. The Editor's open confession is "good for the soul."

Between the worshipper and the idol the service is all one way, the former serves the latter; the same is exactly true between the tenant and the landlord. Of course I use the term landlord, as the owner of land without improvements. There is just as much reason for worshipping an idol as there is in believing in landlordism. Door shows us there are only two things that can be taxed, one is labour, the other is land. Taxing labour and labour products (the same thing) makes the price of goods high; taxing land rents makes more land available for use, and makes land cheap. The burden of the land rent tax falls on the consumer of the rent, the landlord; the land rent is not a burden on the user of the land, but the rent levied on the tenant by the landlord is unbearable. Marquis Ito may have read "Progress and Poverty" and he may not; he is in a position to win immortal glory by helping on the S. T. Cause, if he understands its justice and its importance. We read a great deal about the Czar's peace proposals, but we do not hear much about justice, economic justice, just taxes in order to just wages. Justice and liberty are absolutely essential to peace. Access to land is necessary to justice and liberty. The S. T. would prevent men from acting "like dogs in the manger," with reference

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to the bounties of nature. As a political question there is none greater than this, and as an ethical question it has been too long ignored by religious teachers. I would like to hear from others on the subject, particularly if any one can give an answer as to "what service the landlord performs corresponding to the rent he collects?" CHAS. E. GARST.

44, Tsukiji, Nov. 9th, 1898.

WILL ADAMS' GRAVE AT YOKOSUKA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have just returned from a trip to Yokosuka, and to the grave of Will Adams. When I last visited the latter, it was in good order, and the iron railing had been repainted by order of the captain of H.M.S. *Edgar*. Now, the gates have been pulled down, the pins of the hinges stolen, and the monuments themselves overthrown and badly damaged. I am quite at a loss to account for this outrage, as I am sure that no foreigner would have perpetrated it, and I have always understood that the Japanese themselves held in high respect, and even veneration, the memory of the man who did so much for their navy, and who practically laid the foundation of what has since developed into their most important arsenal. I feel certain that it is only necessary to call attention to the state of things in order to ensure that it will be promptly rectified.

Yours, &c., W. SILVER HALL.

Tokyo, November 14th, 1898.

THE SUGAMO PRISON AFFAIR.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Will you allow me space enough in your valuable columns to call attention to two or three points in connection with the Sugamo Prison Incident which have been either overlooked entirely or have received but slight attention?

And first, it has not always been remembered that the Institution is a prison. It is not an Almshouse where devoutly religious and morally irreproachable persons have, along with others, been driven by stress of pecuniary misfortune. Nor is it a hospital in which persons of all classes and characters have been compelled by disease or accident to seek temporary homes. Among the inmates of such institutions there are usually a large proportion of religious people by whom the guidance and the comforting ministrations of their recognized religious leaders are very highly prized.

The case is, however, greatly different with the inmates of a prison. It is presumable that they are moral offenders as well as legal offenders. And if moral offenders, the presumption of course is that, whatever religion they may be the nominal adherents of, such religion has very little power over their lives. The work of the chaplains is therefore not so much to supply devout persons with the consolations of their religious faith, though this may be and usually is a part of their duties; it is rather to create in those who are indifferent to religion and morals a desire and purpose to lead better lives, to become better men and women. Now the Government has no special interest in religion as such, but it has a tremendous interest in the moral character of its people, and therefore in the moral reformation of the inmates of its prisons.

In the second place there is a strong feeling that religious faith has a very important bearing upon moral character. No irreligious effort among prisoners has ever achieved conspicuous success. It is also a matter of history that Christianity has done far more than any other religion for the prisoner. Prison Reform is a Christian movement, inaugurated and carried on by Christian men. Christianity has bettered the prisoner's condition physically, paying attention to the drainage, ventilation, temperature, and soon of the dwellings in which they are forced to live. It has supplied schools to develop their intellectual powers. It has given them industrial instruction to aid them in the struggle for a living after leaving the prison, thus putting temptation one step further from them. By its moral and religious instruction, and especially by the self-sacrificing lives of its splendid corps of prison workers, it has turned despair into hope, indifference and doubt into faith, and hatred of the race into Christ-like love.

All kinds of humane effort for the prisoners of Japan had its origin historically in similar work done by the Christians of America and Europe. The writings of Dr. Wines, for example, have had large influence upon many prison officials who have perhaps never heard a Christian sermon. Many of these officials have, rightly or wrongly, come to believe that Christianity promises more help for reforming the prisoners of Japan than any other religion or than all other religions combined. And this feeling is shared by many Japanese statesmen. If this be so, why should not these statesmen and prison officials have an opportunity to try the influence of Christianity in at least a few of the prisons of Japan?

A third point is the peculiar training which the Rev. K. Tomeoka, the present Christian Chaplain of Sugamo Prison, has had for his work. After a good theological training he spent several years as an evangelist and pastor in a country church. Then for about three years he was chaplain of one of the largest and most important prisons in the Hokkaido. Feeling the need of a fuller knowledge of prison management, he then resigned and went to America, where he spent two years in the study of its prison system. For the greater part of the first year he was an inmate of the Massachusetts Reformatory, one of the best institutions of its class in the world, working with the prisoners and studying from the inside the daily life of the prisoners. Unused to American life and at that time having but a meagre knowledge of English, it is the testimony of the officers of the Reformatory that never on a single occasion did his conduct fall below that of a cultivated Christian gentleman. Later, by the kindness of a few American philanthropists, he was enabled to visit many of the prisons of the United States, so that it was said by a prominent official who is careful of his words that the number of Americans who knew the prisons of their native land as well as Mr. Tomeoka knows them is extremely small.

Since his return to Japan Mr. Tomeoka has been working for prison reform and for prisoners without salary indeed, but with unflagging zeal. He has delivered many lectures on the subject. He has visited many prisons. He has been the editor of two magazines devoted to the prisoner, and has been a frequent writer for other periodicals on the same subject.

What I have here set down so imperfectly is at least sufficient to enable us to see that the question of the Sugamo prison is not simply that of the propriety of appointing Buddhist priests to minister to Buddhist prisoners. It is much broader than that. In its wider aspects it touches upon the question of religious liberty in Japan, a constitutional right now unquestionably in great danger. More narrowly, it has a close relation to the future condition of the prisons in Japan. Shall this philanthropist, this expert in prison affairs, be cast out and prevented from giving his services to the prisoners of Japan simply because he is a Christian? That is a question of the gravest importance to Japan.

Very sincerely yours,

M. L. GORDON.

Kyoto, November 11, 1898.

The foreign community of Kobe have decided to present an address of welcome to the Emperor on Saturday, when His Majesty visits the port to review the standing squadron. The day will be observed as a public holiday, the Bund and all the principal streets in the concession are to be decorated, and, in the evening, illuminated.

KOREAN NOTES.

The *Independent* of Nov. 1st contains an account of a great mass meeting held under the auspices of the Club, and attended by people of all degrees, *Yangbans* and common folk, "even butchers, the pariahs of Korea, not being forgotten." Not an inch of available ground was left unoccupied; "many an ex-Minister was seen in the assembly; and the Female Education Society was out in full force—a novel departure in this land of female seclusion." Mr. T. H. Yun, the President of the Independence Club, was elected to preside and in a short address he laid down four conditions on which alone he could resume the responsibility. They were:—

1. The Independents love our Emperor and his dynasty. No word of disrespect shall be allowed toward His Majesty or the Crown Prince or any members of the Imperial family. None shall be tolerated to advocate democracy or republicanism.

2. The welfare of Korea depends largely on the good will of our treaty Powers. For whatever misfortunes Korea has of late sustained, we, and not foreigners, are responsible. Therefore no disrespectful terms shall be allowed, throughout the meeting, toward a foreigner or his nation.

3. We meet here as brothers and sisters, being the children of our Emperor. Hence no personalities shall be indulged in words or deeds. No abusive language shall be tolerated towards the ex-Ministers and others whose official conduct we have been obliged to censure from time to time.

4. Some many suspect that we intend to initiate certain measures looking toward the change of our customs or costume. Be at ease, ladies and gentlemen. Nothing is further from us than such foolish notions. Hence none shall be allowed to propose any plan that may affect our social rites, our religious observances, our modes of dress, or our *topknots*, which some of us love and respect even more than their country or life.

These remarks, especially the references to topknots, were received with loud cheers and the meeting went on cheerfully. The Ministers of State, however, did not give it their countenance, declaring that the Club's holding a meeting in the open air was in contravention of an Imperial order. The Club retorted that the Club had no right to hold the meeting in its hall, as it was not only a meeting of Independents, but of Koreans generally. Furthermore it demanded that the Cabinet should be fully represented at the meeting, which was adjourned to enable the Ministers to attend.

This demand was actually agreed to, for the next day, by Imperial decree, the Cabinet Ministers attended. The following resolutions were passed, the Ministers expressing their willingness to coöperate in bringing them into operation:—

I. That both officials and people shall determine not to rely on any foreign aid but to do their best to strengthen and uphold the Imperial prerogative.

II. That all documents pertaining to foreign loans, the hiring of foreign soldiers, the grant of concessions, etc.,—in short every document drawn up between the Korean Government and a foreigner, shall be *signed* and *stamped* by all the Ministers of State and the President of the Privy Council.

III. That no important offender shall be punished until after he has been given a public trial and an ample opportunity to defend himself either by himself or by counsel.

IV. That to His Majesty shall belong the power of appointing his Ministers, but that in case the majority of the Cabinet disapproves a man, he shall not be appointed.

V. That all sources of revenue and methods of raising taxes shall be placed under the control of the Finance Department, no other Department or office, or a private corporation, being allowed to interfere therewith, and that the annual estimates and balance shall be made public.

VI. That the existing laws and regulations shall be faithfully enforced.

The Six Articles were presented to His Majesty for his sanction on the 30th ult. His Majesty did not give his direct consent to the Articles, but said: "Let the Government attend to them." The Club and the people refused to adjourn their meeting on the Public Square until they saw the Government take positive steps toward putting the articles into force, for,

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as the *Independent* says, "Koreans have been so often deceived by fine promises that they want some real facts to assure them of the sincerity of the Government."

On the 31st ult. an edict was issued ordering regulations for the control of newspapers; punishment for embezzling governors, magistrates, and military officials; and the establishment of a commercial and industrial school. The *Independent's* comment on this was:—"The Edict is one of the many which His Majesty has issued this year showing his solicitude for the welfare of the people. Unfortunately none of the Edicts have been carried out so far. Will the present one succeed any better? It is a pity that the Ministers have so often and so long failed to give effect to Imperial decrees, that the people have no faith in them.

Great progress is being made in the laying of the rails for the Sŏul Electric Railway. The first shipment of cars is expected in Sŏul shortly, so all that will be needed is the finishing of the line.

Referring to anti-foreign feeling in Korea, a correspondent of the *Independent* asks:—

Why this objection to the presence of foreigners? They are beautifying the streets of the city with their buildings, and are giving the Korean business men who care to learn an object lesson which ought to be of great benefit. For I am assured that the said Koreans do not understand the first principles of business, so their neighbours, the Japanese and Chinese, are using them to the best advantage. I went into a Korean store last week to price an article which may be bought in Chinkokai for $1.50 and was asked $5.00 for it. As I had neither the time nor the inclination to "barter" for an hour or so I left. The same is true of the hawker and the mechanic. So long as the Korean shields himself behind his mistaken self-conceit, so long will he continue to go to the wall and the unalterable law of 'the survival of the fittest" will be re-enacted here. Hard but true.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

According to an official recently arrived in Shanghai from Hankow it seems that since her *coup d'état* the Empress Dowager has twice sent secret edicts to the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung desiring his immediate presence in Peking. Having friends at Court, remarks a contemporary, H.E. Chang replied to the first command that his health was not good and that he was consequently unable to undertake the journey north. About a fortnight afterwards, a second and more urgent command arriving, H.E. replied that the duties of his important post precluded his leaving Wuchan until a more favourable time, the said duties absolutely requiring his personal attention. Discretion is certainly the better part of valour in this case.

Marquis Ito had a grand send-off at Shanghai on his departure for Japan in the N.Y.K. steamer. The Taotai and suite, a number of influential Chinese, and nearly all of the Japanese community were assembled. On the vessel leaving the wharf three hearty cheers and "a tiger" were given, which the Marquis cordially acknowledged.

During Captain Pattisson's recent visit to Japan, he applied, through the British Legation in Tokyo, for permission to examine the working of the Japanese police system. The permission, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, was gladly accorded and every possible assistance rendered by all the police officials with whom Capt. Pattisson came in contact. He speaks very highly indeed of the system, which he describes as admirable, and was very pleased with the great courtesy extended to him by all ranks of the police service, both in Tokyo and Yokohama.

From Newchwang, the *N.-C. Daily News* on Nov. 7th learnt that all was quiet there. The port is quite full of visitors, principally Russians, and all the inns are crowded. Mr. Petersen, who is about to open up mines for the Russians, and his staff were expected to start very shortly for the interior. Large stocks of coal were being collected, both from Japan and from the Kaiping collieries. The Russians have imported large quantities of sleepers, rails, timber, and railway material generally; the first locomotives were expected in a day or two, and an engine shed is nearly ready for them. They have also several vertical boilers for taking into the country, and the embankment for the railway towards Port Arthur is already laid for some miles. Some three or four miles of rails are already laid on the bare earth, without any stones or ballast. The Shanhaikuan Railway, financed by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, is also being proceeded with, and the earthworks from the Newchwang end are getting forward fast. Mr. Kinder is expected before the port closes to look into matters. At the Shanhaikuan end over fifty miles of embankment are completed and the rails are now being laid. A temporary bridge that will carry an engine has been erected, preparatory to erecting the permanent bridge of thirty spans of 100 feet each. This work has been in the charge of Mr. Newmarch, and before long we may hope to see Newchwang in railway communication with Peking. This will be followed by the opening up of new coal mines along the line. The land question at Newchwang has been settled amicably by the purchase of some lots inside the Russian lines. It will be difficult to recognise old quiet Newchwang when both railways are in full swing. With the number of visitors of all nationalities a hotel is urgently needed, and next year is likely to see a great boom in land and house property.

The United States will have eighteen men and a Lieutenant U.S.N. at Tientsin this winter, and eighteen men and a Lieutenant of the U.S. Marines at Peking.

According to the *Supao* of Shanghai there was observed on the night of the 27th ultimo in Peking a grand shower of shooting stars, said to number many thousands, which believers in omens consider unfavourable to the reigning dynasty.

Shanghai's slumbers were rudely disturbed between 2 and 3 o'clock on the morning of Nov. 7th by a salute being fired from a Chinese gunboat in honour of General Li, who had been dining aboard. A salute at such an unearthly hour is characterised by a Shanghai contemporary as an outrage.

The *Supao* states that the Hsingli Land Company of Woosung, the Directors of which are Taotai Shen Tun-ho (Chief) and the Shanghai Taotai Tsai Chun (Vice), recently sold a piece of land at Woosung, bordering the river's edge, measuring 13 *mow*, odd to a Japanese syndicate for Tls 200,000. Of this sum Tls 60,000 have already been received as bargain money, the balance to be paid as soon as the bill of sale has been stamped and sealed by the Governor at Soochow. The money obtained through the sale of land at Woosung will, it is started, be devoted towards the working expenses of the new port.

Chang Yin-huan is not dead. It is reported at Tientsin that an official telegram was received about the end of October from Taiyuenfu, capital of Shansi, to the effect that the distinguished exile had arrived in that city in safety, accompanied by a strong guard of soldiers, and that, if nothing prevented in the meantime, he would be able to pass the Chinese New Year at Suchou, Kansu province, the last city on this side of the Western extremity of the Great Wall.

The application of a stream of cold water directed from a fire hose has often proved effectual in the West in dispersing unruly crowds. Shanghai saw the "gentle determinant" applied the other day. It seems that the Directors of the Lungwha filature recently reduced the hours of labour, and consequently the pay of their employees, who are principally women and children. The Celestials, although in favour of shorter hours, objected to the reduction of pay. About 2 o'clock one afternoon some two hundred of the two thousand employees marched in a body from the North Shansi Road to Ching Chong's in Broadway, Shanghai, one of the Directors of the Silk Company. They kept perfect order until arrived at the store, when a rush was made and a crowd filled the building, yelling and threatening *ad lib.* The Sikh and Chinese policemen being unable to restore matters a *posse* was telephoned for. In the meantime a foreign constable, assisted by several civilians got a private hose to play on the crowd and dispersed them in a remarkably short time.

Dispatches received in Shanghai from Canton report that Viceroy Tan of that city recently received notice of the decision of the Central Government at Peking "to purchase from the Russo-Chinese Bank 500,000 stand of the Russian Berdan army rifle, with accompanying ammunition, for the arming of the Peking Field Force and the Banner corps throughout the Empire. The price demanded for the Berdans was Tls. 5 per rifle and Tls. 12 per thousand cartridges, every two rifles being supplied with a set of extra parts in case of loss. It was further stated that the arming of the troops—all Manchu—will commence as soon as possible, the Berdans having already arrived from abroad. These Berdans are said to be of the same calibre as Mausers, and Mauser cartridges may be used with Berdans and *vice versâ*. The Berdans were offered by the Russo-Chinese Bank to the Tsungli Yamen in a dispatch of the 30th of August last, but were refused by the Government; recent events, however, have, it is said, induced the Empress Dowager's advisers to close at once with the offer of the Bank." In connection with this matter, the following exhortatory decree issued by the Empress Dowager on Nov. 6th is interesting. From a note in the *N.-C. Daily News* we gather that this decree is pointed at the Foreign Powers against whom the Empress Dowager desires to avenge, one day, the "disgrace" she has suffered:—

(1) The chief idea of the Imperial Government in establishing armies and maintaining them is, of course, to be able to count on their help in fighting the enemies of the Empire. Now I, the Empress Dowager Tze-hsi-tuan-yu etc., etc., am perfectly aware that numberless frauds have crept into our Army organisations to the extreme detriment thereof, and it is now my earnest desire to exhort you all, Tartar-Generals, Viceroys, and Governors of provinces, to cast off from you the old enervating ways that now obtain and set about at once to reform our armies, personally looking into all matters, dismissing the sick and weaklings and retaining the healthy and strong in the ranks of your troops. You all must have some love for your sovereign—some gratitude—which ought to spur you on to work earnestly in this duty of army reform; and when once you all set heartily to work I am sure that when the day of danger arrives you all will do your duty by your sovereign and country to wipe out against our enemies the disgrace under which we all are now suffering. Deserve then the confidence we have placed in you and be energetic!

To judge by various reports appearing in Shanghai papers, the Empress Dowager is endeavouring to weaken the forces of the viceroys in the Yangtze provinces, by withdrawing some of their best troops to Chihli.

The Empress Dowager, having placed her nephew Jung Lu in supreme command of the various army corps and naval forces of the Pei-yang, has appointed her two grand-nephews, Tsêng Ho, formerly Provincial Treasurer of Kansu, to be Governor of Hupeh, thereby making him the custodian of the provincial purse strings, and Yü Ch'ang, Provincial Treasurer of Chihli, to a similar post at Nanking. Another kinsman, Sung Shou, formerly Treasurer at Nanking, is Governor of Kiangsi, succeeding Tê Shou, another Manchu, who has been transferred to the Governorship of this province.

According to native official reports, says a Shanghai paper, the route of the proposed Canton-Hankow Railway, the contract for the

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building of which has been given by the Tsungli Yamên to an American Syndicate represented by Mr. Bash, will pass through the principal tea-growing districts between the two termini, and it is also alleged that the regions to be passed through are full of mineral and coal deposits of exceptional richness. The line, it is estimated, will cost nearly eighty million dollars.

We learn that Mr. Frederic Yates, the painter, who spent a considerable portion of this year in Japan, is now busily at work in Shanghai, where he intends to spend some three months.

Our senior Shanghai contemporary has the following note regarding the troops to be raised by Lord Charles Beresford :—

With reference to the 2,000 men to be handed over to Lord Charles Beresford to organise as the nucleus of the Chinese disciplined army of the future, the term should, properly speaking, be Manchu instead of Chinese. Dispatches have been received from Nanking and Wuchang to the effect that the Grand Council has notified the Viceroys of those cities to select a thousand men each from the Manchu garrisons of Kiangning (Nanking) and Chingchou, near Shasi, and have them ready to be turned over to the sole command of Lord Charles "to be drilled according to the system of the British Army." It has not yet been determined where the future camp is to be, but probably near Nanking or Chinkiang.

It is reported that H.E. Liu, Viceroy at Nanking, has applied to the British Admiral for three instructors to drill his soldiers.

The *Universal Gazette* states that a syndicate of Chinese gentry, many of whom are natives of Kiangsu, has received sanction from H.E. Wang Wên-shao, Imperial High Commissioner of Mines and Railways, to open some coal and galena mines situated in the district of Haing-kuo, in Hupeh province. The headmen of the syndicate in question are a Taotai named Ting Chao-chi, and two sub-prefects named Yao Tze-yü and Hsiung Liang-jui, and their capital Tls. 500,000, with another Tls. 500,000 to be lent by the Mining and Railway Bureau of Control at Peking.

Lord Charles Beresford, speaking at a meeting recently held at Newchwang, referred to the ignorance of the people at home regarding Manchurian affairs. He was himself astonished at everything. Wherever he turned he met innumerable armed Cossacks and everything impressed him with Russian ascendency. He was astonished to see the Russians ignoring the Customs authorities in their importation of railway material. This was a matter of the utmost importance, inasmuch as British and other foreign capital had been invested in China on security of the Maritime Customs revenues. He considered that these bondholders were being done out of their rights ; he would give this the publicity it merited.

According to the *Shen Pao*, as translated by the *Shanghai Mercury*, Marquis Ito when in Peking expressed his firm disapproval of Kang Yu-wei's ill-considered reform schemes and charged the "Modern Sage" with self-seeking and incompetency to effect the changes which he proposed should be made. The native paper goes on to say that Marquis Ito declared that the action of Kang Yu-wei in the natural order of things could only end in such a catastrophe as had occurred.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The services of a number of trained surveyors have been applied for to the Government of India, for service on the Burma-Yangtsze Railway survey.

The *China Mail* says that Kang Yu-wei was indebted to the generosity of Mr. Ho Tung for his ability to travel to Japan. Mr. Ho Tung has extended his kindness to Kang's wife, mother, and family.

A telegram dated Peking, Nov. 11th, that appears in the *Osaka Mainichi*, says that the Governor-General of Port Arthur has arrived at Peking and is entertaining the new Ministers at a succession of banquets.

On Friday at 3 a.m. a man entered the house of a wealthy merchant named Miura Kwanichi (52) No. 26, Hanacho, Honjo, Tokyo, and attempted to murder him and his wife Hide (43), inflicting serious wounds. The police are investigating the matter.

A French cook employed at the Hospital, No. 91 Bluff, Yokohama, had a dispute with Japanese coolies in Magane-cho the other day. The coolies resorted to violence, and the unlucky fellow received some rather serious wounds on his head. The police are investigating the matter.

Sanction has been granted to a scheme for reclaiming the seashore from Yokohama to Honmoku, provided work commences within six months. The promoters propose to divide the work into sections, and to complete it within three years.

A rumour is in circulation that a well-known foreign firm doing an extensive business in Nagoya, has been heavily victimized by their trusted Japanese agent. Great confidence was placed in him, particularly as he was a professed Christian, and a graduate of the Doshisha College.

The *Foochow Echo* says:—We learn on good authority that a match factory is being built on the other side of the river opposite to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s hong. The large importations of matches from Japan show how extensive the consumption is in this province, and we have no doubt that success will attend this new enterprise.

Much dissatisfaction has arisen over some of the provisions of the new harbour regulations, especially with regard to the unloading of alcohol, matches, kerosene, etc., within the breakwaters The Minister of Communications has accordingly ordered a conference of Harbour Masters at Kobe to decide the question whether or not such articles shall be allowed inside the respective harbours. Vice-Admiral Mori, Harbour Master at Yokohama, left for Kobe on Monday, accompanied by Mr. Ishiwatari, Secretary to the Department of Communications.

The revenue collected for the Canadian Government in the Yukon for the seven months ending with July is thus stated: Sale of lots in Dawson City, $28,450 ; liquor permits, $6,829 ; certificated and licenses issued by the commissioners, $90 964 ; fines, 605 ; lease of water front for three months, $7,500 ; Crown timber accounts, $923 ; customs, $38 000 ; royalty on gold produced, $351,793—total, $826,145. In addition $24,000 was collected on behalf of the North-west Territorial Government for saloon licenses.

The *Independance Tonkinoise* says:—"There is announced the formation at Hongkong of an Anglo Chinese Company which, under the presidency of the rich compradore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, at Hongkong, intends to open branches at Haiphong, Hanoi, Laokay, and Mengtzu. So we are going to allow ourselves to be invaded by foreigners and to let them monopolise what little business there is! It seems to us that the conquest of Tonkin has cost France so much blood and treasure that the Metropolis has no right to regard its industrial and commercial future with indifference. How much capital is there lying unproductive in France or earning only paltry interest which, ably employed here, would increase ten-fold the volume of business and assure the economic development of our colony!" The *Avenir du Tonkin*, commenting on the above, joins the *Independance* in condemning the indifference of the Government to the development of the colony, but regards the introduction of foreign capital with satisfaction. But what has the Government got to do with it? If Frenchmen would help themselves instead of waiting for official initiative, they might have less cause to dread "invasions."

THE SINGLE TAX.

WHAT IT IS AND WHY WE URGE IT: FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES STATED BY HENRY GEORGE.

I shall briefly state the fundamental principles of what we, who advocate, it, call the single tax. We propose to abolish all taxes save one single tax levied on the value of land irrespective of the value of improvements in or on it. What we propose is not a tax on real estate, for real estate includes improvements. Nor is it a tax on land, for we would not tax all land, but only land having a value irrespective of its improvements, and would tax that in proportion to that value. Our plan involves the imposition of no new tax, since we already tax land values in taxing real estate. To carry it out we have only to abolish all taxes save that on real estate, and to abolish all that which now falls on buildings or improvements, leaving only that part of it which now falls on the value of the bare land. This we would increase so as to take as nearly as may be the whole of the economic rent, or what is sometimes styled the "unearned increment of land values." That the value of the land alone would suffice to provide all needed public revenues, municipal, county, and national, there is no doubt. To show briefly why we urge this change, let me treat (1) of its expediency, and (2) of its justice. From the single tax we may expect these advantages:—It would dispense with the whole army of tax-gatherers and other officials which present taxes require, and place in the treasury a much larger proportion of what is taken from the people, while, by making government simpler and cheaper, it would tend to make it purer. It would get rid of taxes which necessarily promote fraud, perjury, bribery, and corruption, which lead men into temptation, and which tax what the nation can least afford to spare—honesty and conscience. Since land lies out of doors and cannot be removed, and its value is the most readily ascertained of all values, the tax to which we would resort can be collected with the minimum of cost and the least strain on public morals.

2. It would enormously increase production of wealth—

(a) By the removal of the burdens that now weigh upon industry and thrift. If we tax houses, there will be fewer and poorer houses; if we tax machinery there will be less machinery; if we tax trade there will be less trade; if we tax capital, there will be less capital; if we tax savings, there will be less savings. All the taxes, therefore, that we would abolish are taxes that repress industry and lessen wealth. But if we tax land values, there will be no less land.

(b) On the contrary, the taxation of land values has the effect of making land more easily available by industry, since it makes it more difficult for the owners of valuable land, which they themselves do not care to use, to hold it idle for a larger future price. While the abolition of taxes on labour and the products of labour would free the active elements of production, the taxing of land values in taxation would free the passive element by destroying speculative land values, and preventing the holding out of use of land needed for use. If any one will but look around to-day and see the unused or but half used land, the idle labour, the unemployed or poorly employed capital, he will get some idea of how enormous would be the production of wealth were all the forces of production free to engage.

(c) The taxation of the process and products of labour on the one hand and the insufficient taxation of land values on the other, produces an unjust distribution of wealth, which is building up in the hands of a few fortunes more monstrous than the world has ever before seen, while the masses of our people are steadily becoming poorer. These taxes necessarily fall on the poor more heavily than on the rich; by increasing prices they necessitate larger capital in all businesses and consequently give an advantage to large capitals; and they give, and in some cases are designed to give, special advantages and monopolies to combinations and trusts. On the other hand, the insufficient taxation of land values enables men to make large fortunes by land speculation and the increase in ground values—fortunes which do not represent any addition by them to the general wealth of the community, but merely the appropriation by some of what the labour of others create.

This unjust distribution of wealth develops, on the one hand, a class idle and wasteful, because they are too rich, and on the other hand a class idle and wasteful, because they are too poor—it deprives them of capital and opportunities which would made them more efficient producers. It thus greatly diminishes production.

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(d) The unjust distribution which is giving us the hundredfold millionaire on the one side and the tramp and pauper on the other, generates thieves, gamblers, social parasites of all kinds, and requires large expenditures of money and energy in watchmen, policemen, courts, prisons and other means of defense and repression. It kindles a greed of gain and a worship of wealth, and produces a bitter struggle for existence which fosters drunkenness, increases insanity, and causes men whose energies ought to be devoted to honest production to spend their time and strength in cheating and grabbing from each other. Besides the moral loss, all this involves an enormous economic loss which the single tax would save.

(e) The taxes we would abolish fall most heavily on the poorer agricultural districts, and thus tend to drive population and wealth from them to the great cities. The tax we would increase would destroy that monopoly of land which is the great cause of that distribution of population which is crowding people too closely together in some places and scattering them too far apart in other places. Families live on top of one another in cities because of the enormous speculative prices at which vacant lots are held. In the country they are scattered too far apart for social intercourse and convenience, because, instead of each taking what land he can use, everyone who can grabs all he can get in the hope of profiting by the increase of value, and the next man must pass farther on. Thus we have scores of families living in dugouts on the prairies afar from neighbours—some living too close to each other for moral, mental, or physical health, and others too far separated for the stimulating and refining influences of society. The wastes in health, in mental vigour, in unnecessary transportation result in great economic losses which the single tax would save.

Let us turn to the moral side and consider the question of justice. The rights of property do not rest on human laws; they have often ignored and violated it. It rests on natural laws—that is to say, the law of God. It is clear and absolute, and every violation of it, whether committed by a man or a nation, is a violation of the command, "Thou shalt not steal." The man who catches a fish, grows an apple, raises a calf, builds a house, makes a coat, paints a picture, constructs a machine, has, as to any such thing, an exclusive right to ownership, which carries with it the right to give, to sell, or bequeath that thing, but who made the earth that any man can claim such ownership of it, or any part of it, or the right to give, sell, or bequeath it? Since the earth was not made by us, but is only the temporary dwelling place on which one generation of men follows another; since we who find ourselves here are manifestly here with the equal permission of the Creator, it is manifest that no one can have any exclusive right of ownership in land, and that the rights of all men to land must be equal and inalienable. There must be an exclusive right to possession of land, for the man who uses it must have secure possession of land in order to reap the products of his labour. But this right of possession must be limited by the equal right of all, and should therefore be conditioned on the payment to the community by the possessor of an equivalent for any special valuable privilege thus accorded him.

When we tax houses, crops, money, furniture, capital, or wealth in any of its forms, we take from individuals what rightfully belongs to them. We violate the right of property, and in the name of the State commit robbery. But when we tax ground values we take from individuals what does not belong to them what belongs to the community, and what cannot be left to individuals without the robbery of other individuals.

Think what the value of land is. It has no reference to the cost of production, as has the value of houses, horses, ships, clothes, or other things produced by labour; for land is not produced by man, it has been created by God. The value of land does not come from the exertion of labour on land, for the value thus produced is a value of improvement. That value that attaches to any piece of land means that that piece of land is more desirable than the land which other citizens may obtain, and that they are willing to pay a premium for permission to use it. Justice, therefore, requires that this premium or value shall be taken for the benefit of all in order to secure to all their equal rights.

Consider the difference between the value of a building and the value of land. The value of a building, like the value of goods, or of anything properly styled wealth, is produced by individual exertion, and, therefore, properly belongs to the individual; but the value of land only arises with the growth and improvements of the community, and, therefore, properly belongs to the community. It is not because of what its owners have done, but because of the presence of the whole great population, that land in New York is worth millions an acre. This value, therefore, is the proper fund for defraying the common expense of the whole population, and it must be taken for public use, under penalty of generating land speculation and monopoly, which will bring about artificial scarcity where the Creator has provided in abundance for all whom His providence has brought into existence. It is thus a violation of justice to tax labour, and it is also a violation of justice not to tax land values.

These are the fundamental reasons for which we urge the single tax, believing it to be the greatest and most fundamental of all reforms. We do not think it will change human nature. That man can never do; but it will bring about conditions in which human nature can develop what is best, instead of, as now in many cases, what is worse. It will permit such enormous production of wealth as we can now hardly conceive. It will secure an equitable distribution. It will solve the labour problem, and dispel the darkening clouds which are now gathering over the horizon of our civilization. It will make undeserved poverty an unknown thing. It will check the soul-destroying greed of gain. It will enable men to be at least as honest, as true, as considerate, and as high-minded as they would like to be. It will remove temptation to lying, false-swearing, bribery, and law-breaking. It will open to all, even to the poorest, the comforts and refinements and opportunities of an advancing civilization. It will thus, so we reverently believe, clear the way for the coming of that kingdom of right and justice, and consequently of abundance and peace and happiness, for which the Master told His disciples to pray and work. It is not because it is a promising invention or cunning device that we look for the single tax to do all this; it is because it involves a conforming of the most fundamental adjustments of society to the supreme law of justice, because it involves the basing of the most important of our laws on the principle that we should do to others as we would be done by.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

(From the "Japan Times.")

LORD SALISBURY ON THE DANGERS OF THE SITUATION.

FRANCE'S GOOD SENSE COMMENDED.

ARMAMENT NOT TO CEASE.

AMERICA'S IMPERIAL POLICY IN BRITAIN'S INTERESTS.

NO WAR: BUT EMPIRE MUST BE UPHELD.

London, Nov. 11.

Lord Salisbury, speaking at the Lord Mayor's Banquet at the Guildhall, said they lately had had to face the danger of war, but happily that had been averted owing to the great judgment and sense displayed by France. Surprise had been expressed that the British preparations had not suddenly ceased, but it was impossible to cease them suddenly. One reason for not stopping preparations was the general temper of the world and the dangers surrounding them. The entry of America among European nations was a grave event not conducing to peace, though it was likely to conduce to British interests. The Premier dilated on the fearful rapidity with which a war may break out, and unless their great colonial maritime Empire were adequately defended by the Navy, their power might suddenly come clattering down. Armaments implied no dangerous enterprises. He abhorred war, but they must transmit the Empire unimpaired to posterity. The papers agree that the future is full of dangers, and endorse Lord Salisbury's views as to the necessity for complete preparedness.

THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS.

The elections to the House of Representatives are resulting in large gains for the Democrats in the Atlantic States. The latest returns give 180 Republicans and 165 Democrats, Silver Republicans, and Fusionists.

UNITED STATES RE-FORMS HER EUROPEAN SQUADRON.

MOBILIZATION ORDERS.

London, Nov. 15.

Intelligence from Washington states that Admiral Schley has been appointed in command of the European squadron, which is shortly to be re-established. The American Admiralty has issued orders pointing to a partial naval mobilization.

THE PHILIPPINE QUESTION.

BRITISH PRESS BACKS AMERICA.

The British Press generally strongly supports America's insistence on her retention of the Philippines.

SENTENCE ON AUSTRIAN EMPRESS' MURDERER.

HIS LAST THREATS.

London, Nov. 12.

Luccheni, the murderer of the Empress of Austria, has been sentenced at Geneva to penal servitude for life. He cynically declared that the Duc d'Orleans and King Humbert would be the next victims.

FRENCH NAVAL ACTIVITY.

There is renewed activity in French dockyards.

THE REPUBLICAN VICTORY IN AMERICA.

FREE SILVER SHELVED.

The Republicans have received a large majority in the Senate, thus excluding free silver legislation for at least six years. The Republican majority in the House of Representatives is about twenty.

LORD SALISBURY'S SPEECH.

RUSSIAN PRESS SUSPICIOUS OF BRITISH DESIGNS.

London, Nov. 14.

The Russian press is dissatisfied with Lord Salisbury's speech and urges the vigilance of the Continental Powers against British designs.

SPAIN DECLINES TO YIELD PHILIPPINES.

INTERVENTION HOPED FOR:—AMERICA STANDS FIRM.

Spain strenuously opposes the annexation of the Philippines. The press hopes for intervention on the part of Germany, Russia, and France. The Washington Cabinet has instructed its commissioners not to admit any further discussion of the right to consider the disposition of the Philippines, the only matter for discussion being the manner of transferring them.

BANQUET TO GENERAL MILES.

ANGLO-AMERICAN ENTENTE FAVOURED.

A banquet has been given at New York to General Miles at which the most cordial demonstration was offered in favour of an Anglo-American *entente*.

GERMAN EMPEROR RETURNING.

MALTA AND SPAIN TO BE VISITED.

Emperor William, on his return from Palestine, will visit Malta and Spain.

HE ENTERTAINS THE AUTHORITIES.

The German Emperor arrived at Malta, but did not land. His Majesty entertained the British authorities on board the *Hohenzollern*.

SPANIARDS MUTINOUS AT HAVANA.

SOLDIERS DEMAND PAY IN VAIN.

GRAVE SITUATION.

London, Nov. 16.

The Spanish troops at Havana have original allotments owing to their pay being

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in arrears. Senor Sagasta has informed the Governor that it is impossible to send money. Cannon have been placed to command the main street, and the situation in the town is grave.

DREYFUS TO BE ASKED TO PREPARE HIS DEFENCE.

London, Nov. 17.

The Court of Cassation has decided that Dreyfus shall be informed of the revision proceedings and requested to present his defence.

THE RECENT DISTURBANCES IN CRETE.

ADMIRAL NOEL KNIGHTED.

Admiral Noel has been made a knight of the Order of St. Michael and St. George for his services in Crete.

QUIET RESTORED AT HAVANA.

The city of Havana has been quieted.

KING OF GREECE GOES TO CRETE.

King George of Greece has started for Crete.

FIRE AT HAKODATE.

(From our Correspondent.)

Hakodate, Nov. 13th, 7.55 a.m.

At 1 o'clock this morning fire broke out in the town and destroyed 7 houses. The flames were not subdued until 3 o'clock.

EARTHQUAKE AT HAKODATE.

(From our Correspondent.)

Hakodate, Nov. 16.

A shock of earthquake was felt here at 2.30 p.m., to-day.

(From the "North-China Daily News.")

THE PROGRESS OF LORD CHARLES BERESFORD.

Newchwang, Nov. 5.

The *Esang* arrived here last night from Tientsin with Lord Charles Beresford and suite, who are the guests of Mr. Bush, agent for Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. Dr. Morrison, *The Times'* correspondent, accompanies his Lordship.

ANOTHER CRISIS IN KOREA.

Sōul, 6th November.

There is a political crisis, and nineteen of the leaders of the Independence Club have been arrested. The President has escaped.

There is a multitude before the prison begging for arrest. The Government threatens to disperse them by force. An uprising is dreaded.

YU MAN-TZE'S PRICE.

Chungking, Nov. 5.

The "gift" of the high provincial authorities at Chêngtu to Yû Man-tze as the reward for his return to the allegiance to the Manchu dynasty was sent him yesterday. It is in the shape of an opaque blue button official hat, with peacock feathers, and a commission as Second Captain in the Chinese army. In consideration of the above Yû Man-tze will hand over Pere Fleury to-day to the authorities.

A SERIOUS CHARGE.

Hongkong, 10th November.

Mr. Vaughan Robinson (of the Robinson Piano Co.) has been committed for trial on the charge of forging a telegram.

THE SZECHUAN TELEGRAPH LINES.

Chungking, Nov. 7.

Work on the 150 *li* of telegraph lines and poles destroyed last month by rebels under Yû Man-tze has now commenced under the superintendence of deputies sent for the purpose, owing to the return of confidence among the inhabitants caused by the recent pacification of the rebels by the officials.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Peking, Nov. 14.

Viceroy Li Hung chang has been appointed to inspect the Dyke in the banks of the Yellow River, Shantung Province.

The foreign troops for the protection of the Legations are to pass the winter here.

Peking, Nov. 16.

The wives of the Representatives of the Powers will have an audience of the Empress Dowager, and will witness a theatrical performance at the Palace.

(From the "Chiuo Shimbun.")

The following telegram has reached the Government Authorities:—

Shanghai, Nov. 10.

According to rumour, the movements of the British squadron are certainly connected with Russian affairs. It is said that Russia is scheming to take active measures in the Pechili Gulf as soon as the winter is over, and Great Britain will be obliged to oppose the scheme.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

Sōul, Nov. 11.

Mr. Li Shan-sei, Vice-President of the Independence Club, and 17 other members, were released last night.

Members of the Club are still gathering at the gate of the High Court, and the authorities can not disperse them. It is expected that they will memorialize the Throne.

Mr Min In-mok, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Cho Pyon-sik, Vice-Premier, have been discharged, and Mr. Li Ning-yei appointed Councillor. Mr. Pak Sel-shang was today appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Yu Chi-wang Minister to Japan.

Jinsen, Nov. 11.

The Japanese warship *Chokai* arrived here to-day from Chemulpo.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

Sōul, Nov. 13.

The concession allowing the public to elect one-half of the Privy Councillors has been revoked by an Imperial Ordinance.

Sōul, Nov. 15.

The Korean Court has instructed the local Governors to expel foreign residents in Pyŏngyang and other places.

The Representatives of Japan and the United States have urged the Korean Government to open Pyŏng-yang to foreigners. The British Minister has also made similar representations with regard to Mashang, Gungshang, and other places.

Sōul, Nov. 15.

About 100 members of the Shing-shing Club, under the leadership of Kim Yingau, have held an open air indignation meeting, and deputed Ming Yen-chu to proceed to the Palace and interview His Majesty on the situation.

Sōul, Nov. 16.

Yielding to the persistence of the people, the Korean Cabinet has decided to punish Messrs. Cho Yŏng Sik, Ming Supak, and three other officials. The sanction of His Majesty has already been granted. The indignation meeting is still being held, the crowd having moved to the front of the Palace.

The Emperor has rejected the counsels of Ming Yongchu, and last night he left the Palace.

THE GRAND MANŒUVRES.

Osaka, Nov. 14.

The Southern Army (the invaders) are gathering at Wakayama, while the Northern Army (the defenders) are encamped at Sakai.

The general idea of the Grand Manœuvres is that the warships of the Northern force are blockaded in Tokyo Gulf and Saseho Gulf, and a part of the land force is gathering at Osaka. Another part is advancing along the river in Kii prefecture against the invaders. The Southern Army, the invaders, after landing on the western coast of Kii prefecture, will advance to the Wakayama frontier, and a part will seize the Miyama portion of the Yura fortifications.

General Oku, Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Army, and other officers arrived at Wakayama on Monday.

Kishiwada, Nov. 15.

The Southern Army (the invaders) this morning divided into two bodies and advanced on Osaka by different roads. At 8 30 a.m., they met with the enemy at Hobo, near Kishiwada. A fight ensued for two hours, the Northern Army having to retire. His Majesty inspected the operations as Generalissimo.

His Majesty took his midday meal at Kaishiwada Academy, and returned to Osaka at 1.30 p.m.

Kobe, Nov. 15.

The standing squadron, consisting of the *Fuji*, *Chinyen*, *Hashidate*, *Akitsushima*, and *Matsushima*, arrived here to-day at 7 a.m., and the *Takao* this afternoon. It is expected that the *Takasago* will arrive on the 17th from Yokosuka.

It is reported that His Majesty will arrive here on the 19th at a.m. from Osaka and will at once proceed to the flagship *Fuji*. The operations will then take place.

Kishiwada, Nov. 16.

The Northern Army, who last night encamped in the vicinity of Kata and Ikeda villages, commenced to move this morning at 5 o'clock, and occupied the high ground in Shinoda village. At 9 o'clock they opened fire against the Southern Army, who are advancing from Kanouji, Ota-oka, and Kokufu. Artillery and cavalry were used on both sides.

Kobe, Nov. 16.

Rear-Admiral Shibayama, Commander-in-Chief of the Standing Squadron, has proceeded to Headquarters by summons of His Majesty.

Sakai, Nov. 16.

The Southern Army commenced operations at 8 a.m. They advanced by the Kishu road and the Oguri road, and at 9.20 encountered the enemy. The Regiments under the command of H.I.H. Prince Fushimi defeated wings of the Northern Army at Kitasone, Oji, Shinoda, and Chihara. The action ended at 11 o'clock.

Osaka, Nov. 17.

To-day the operations came to an end. His Majesty issued the following to the chief officers:—"We find that the recent operations show an improvement over those at Utsunomiya, and that this result is due to the capable drilling of the officers. We hope you will endeavour to effect a still further improvement, as all the world is in competition with us and is in continual progress."

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	C. of Peking 2	F. Nov. 18
Hongkong	M. M Co.	Melbourne 2	F. Nov. 18
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta 3	M. Nov. 21
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern 4	Tu. Nov. 22
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 5	Th. Nov. 24
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 6	Su. Nov. 27
America	P. M. Co.	C. R. Janeiro 7	Tu. Nov. 29
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. Dec. 1
America	P. M Co.	Aztec 8	F. Dec. 2
America	O. & O. Co	Belgic	Th. Dec. 8

1 Left Nagasaki on the 16th inst.
2 Left Shanghai on the 15th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 18th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 16th inst.
5 Left Vancouver on the 10th inst.
6 Left Hongkong on the 17th inst.
7 Left San Francisco on the 20th inst.
8 Left San Francisco on the 15th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	F. Nov. 18
America	P. M. Co.	C. of Peking	S. Nov. 19
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Melbourne	W. Nov. 23
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Satsuma Maru	W. Nov. 23
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. Nov. 24
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	S. Nov. 26
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Tu. Nov. 29
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Nov. 30
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	C. R. Janeiro	W. Nov. 30
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Dec. 2

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at Wright's Hotel on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 394.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—B to Kt 3	1—K takes R
2—R takes B mate	
	1—Kt takes R
2—R takes B mate	
	1—K to B 4
2—Kt to K 4 mate	
	1—K to B 2
2—Q to Q 7 mate	

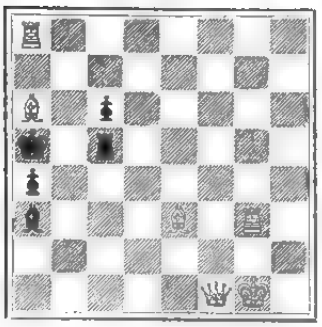
Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Marco, S.S., and Skipper.

PROBLEM No. 397.

By J. W. LE COMTE, Soerabaya.

(From the *Java Bode*.)

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME No. 455.

The following very interesting game was played in the Vienna Tournament between Steinitz and Trenchard:—

White—Trenchard.		Black—Steinitz.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	25 Q Kt2	P QR4
2 P K3	P K3	26 R QB sq	Q Kt sq
3 B Q3	P QB4(e)	27 Kt B2(h)	Kt x P !
4 P QB3	Kt QB3	28 B x B	Kt K7ch
5 P KB4	B Q3	29 K Rsq	Q x B
6 Kt KR3(b)	Q R5ch(c)	30 Q R Ksq	Q R3
7 Kt B2	Kt R3(d)	31 P x P	Kt Q5
8 Castles	B Q2	32 B B3(i)	Kt B6
9 Kt Q2	Q K2	33 P QKt5	Q Kt2
10 Kt B3	P B3(e)	34 R Q sq	Kt R5
11 Q B2 !	P K Kt3	35 Kt Q3(j)	Kt x Kt
12 B Q2	Kt B4	36 Q x Kt	Q x P
13 Q R Ksq(f)	P B5	37 Kt B2	R Q4
14 B K2	P QKt4	38 R x R	P x R
15 P K4 !	P x P	39 R Q sq	R Q sq
16 Kt x P	Cdls. K R	40 P Kt5	P x P
17 P K Kt4	Kt Kt2	41 P x P	Kt B4
18 Kt Kt3(g)	K Bsq !	42 B Q2	Q K7
19 Kt R4	Q QB2	43 B B4	Kt R5
20 Kt Kt2	B Kt2	44 Q R3(k)	Q x Kt
21 B B3	Q R Q sq	45 R KBsq	Q K7
22 Kt K4	B K2	46 B K3	Kt B4(l)
23 P Kt4 ?	P x P e.p.	Resigns	
24 Q x P	P Kt5 !		

NOTES.

(a) 4..... Kt to Q B 3, threatening P to K 4, as well as Kt to Q Kt 5, is perhaps preferable.

(b) This awkward move is more or less necessary, for if 6—Kt to Q 2, then P takes P (!), and White will be obliged to play B P takes P.

(c) This check might have been well dispensed with. It does White no harm, nor Black any good.

(d) The penalty of having indulged in the luxury of a useless check. If Kt to B 3, or Kt to K 2, his Queen would be in some danger.

(e) To prevent Kt to K 5.

(f) Better seems 13—K R to K sq, and if then 13..... P to B 5, 14—B to K B sq, to be followed soon by P to K 4.

(g) He would probably have stood a better chance if he had now relieved the adversary of one of his Bishops, instead of going back with the Knight.

(h) An error, and of which Steinitz takes prompt and clever advantage.

(i) Not 32—P takes P, on account of Kt to B 6, winning at least the exchange.

(j) This loses the invaluable Q K P. [illegible] would not have been much risk in making a fight for it, by playing 35—R to K Kt sq, instead of the text move, which practically loses the game.

(k) The position is rather a curious one. If 44—Q to Kt 3, Black plays B to B 4, and wins a piece by force.

(l) For 47—Q to R 6 ch, followed B to Q 4 ch, might have proved troublesome. One cannot be too careful at this game.

GAME No. 456.

A specimen of the play at the midsummer meeting of the New York Chess Association which was held at Lake Kenka, N.Y., the competitors being the renowned F. J. Marshall and S. Lipschutz.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—F. J. Marshall. Black—S. Lipschutz.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	21 R Q sq	K R Q sq
2 P QB4	P K3	22 R R4	K Q4
3 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	23 Q B3	P B4
4 B Kt5	B K2	24 B x B	Q x B
5 Kt B3	Q Kt Q2	25 Q K3	K x Kt
6 P K3	Castles	26 P x Kt	B Q4
7 B Q3	P x P	27 R QB sq	P R5
8 B x P	P B4	28 P QB4	P R6
9 Castles	P QR3	29 B R2	B K5
10 R B sq	K Kt4	30 R R3	R x QP
11 B Q3	B Kt2	31 Q x RP	Q Q sq
12 B Kt sq	R B sq	32 B K3	K R sq
13 Q K2	P x P	33 B R4	R x B
14 P x P	Q Kt3	34 Q x R	Q Kt4
15 K R Q sq	K R K sq	35 P B3	Q x Kt ch
16 Kt K5	Kt B sq	36 K B2	Q Q7ch
17 P QR3	P Kt5	37 K Kt3	Q K4ch
18 P x P	Q x P	38 K B2	R Q7ch
19 R Q3	P QR4		
20 R R3	P Kt3	39 Resigns.	

CHESS, A SCIENCE.

A correspondent to an American Exchange gives voice to an idea which is not entirely new, but which is, nevertheless, worthy of considerable attention:—

San Francisco, September 26, 1898.

That chess, the knightly game of chess, perhaps the most fascinating intellectual pastime known, is susceptible of being reduced to an exact science, in which correct moves and counter moves can be calculated with mathematical precision, will doubtless be indignantly denied by the many votaries of the famous game. Yet the history of mathematical and chess progress certainly seems to indicate that such a consummation is possible, even probable.

The classified series of openings, the continual development of chess analyses, and the ever increasing number of determinate positions and definite replies, all seem to show that through the apparent infinite complexity of games there run some so far undetermined, but, nevertheless, constant and determinable factors, which, were our mathematical processes of sufficient subtlety, could doubtless be ascertained and used as a basis of calculation. It cannot be denied that a game of chess is essentially the movement of the parts of a well-balanced mechanism, every movement of one part having a definite limitative action upon all the others, and as the portion on one side exactly balances that on the other at the beginning of the game and as the pieces on both sides are subject to the same liberty and limitation of action, it is certain that if each move were answered by the correct balancing one the equilibrium would be maintained to the end of the game, resulting in a draw. Indeed, no less an authority than William Steinitz, who held the chess championship of the world for a longer period than any other player, says in his "Modern Chess Instructor":—"It is now conceded by all experts that by proper play on both sides the legitimate issue of a game ought to be a draw."

Then, again, the reception accorded Baron Kempelen's famous automatic chess player shows conclusively that there is at least a popular belief that chess can be played by mechanism, and as has often been the case with popular beliefs, this one really seems to have a basis of fact.

Our continual mathematical progress makes it at least conceivable that we may some day resolve the basic principles upon which the intricacies of chess games are built, and it is likely that we only need some slightly more powerful engine of analysis than the differential calculus to solve our problem. Even now our applications of calculus enable us to understand and to make computations upon most intricate mechanical movements, and it is possible that if the calculus of quaternions were thoroughly understood by a master chess player, it might enable him to devise a set of rules from which proper chess moves might be deduced through a process of eliminative calculation.

Whether thing that indicates the prospective decadence of chess is the fate that has overtaken checkers or draughts. At the last tournament held at Spennymoor, England, in 1888, to decide the world's checker championship, 80 per cent of the games were drawn, showing that almost all of the correct moves and replies had been worked out to a finality. Of course, it may be argued that checkers is a far more simple game than chess, and is, therefore, not to be classed with it, yet the two games have many points of similarity, the main difference being more in degree than in kind.

So may one not presume to predict that in time chess may be, as checkers has been, changed from a contest of intellect to a matter of figuring with a pencil and paper? Do not the prodigies of the chess world correspond to the lightning calculators of the mathematical world, and may they not be outdone in the one case as they have been in the other by the slower and less pyrotechnic, but more generally explicable processes of the man with the pencil and the method?

VICTOR R. LOUGHEAD.

CHESS NEWS.

The British Chess Club of London has accepted the challenge of the Brooklyn Chess Club to a cable match for the Newnes trophy, to be played early next year.

Max Gunsberg and Julius Finn, two members of the Cosmopolitan Chess Club, were to conduct a game of chess with living pieces on the stage of the Windsor Theatre, on the Bowery, New York, on October 20th.

A story is current in New York chess circles to the effect that Sir George Newnes has contributed $1,000 toward the prize fund for an international chess tournament to be played in London in the month of May next year. The tournament will be limited to sixteen competitors, who will have to play thirty rounds.

According to the *American Chess Magazine*, Harry N. Pillsbury's playing in the Vienna Tournament stamps him as the coming champion, the step beyond Lasker being seemingly but a short one. The world's championship is a title which all Americans will feel is now justly due to our greatest player, and it is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when there will be an opportunity to bring it across the ocean again. Showalter is reported to be anxious to have another bout with Pillsbury for the United States premiership. It is hardly likely that he will be encouraged in this respect, after the outcome of the Vienna tourney.

The Hongkong Chess Club is now open three nights weekly. The programme of the session is to be limited to eight or two matches, so that time may be spared for all-against-all tourneys and private play. Mr. de Souza retains the championship, having defeated Col. The O'Gorman by 2 to 0.

When you cannot see your way to an attacking move, play a developing move. When you cannot make a developing move, play, if possible, a restraining move that will check your opponent's development.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 11th November,—Shanghai via ports, 5th Nov., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hupeh, British steamer, 1,846, F. Quail, 12th Nov.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 11th Nov., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Yamanouchi, 12th November,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 13th November,—Kobe, 11th November, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bingo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,677, G. E. P. Cook, 13th November,—Kobe, 12th November, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,682, W. Townsend, 14th November,—London via ports, Kobe, 13th November, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ceylon, British steamer, 2,734, C. L. Daniel, 15th Nov.,—London via ports, Kobe, 14th November, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higo, 16th November,—Kobe 14th November, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, F. R. Evans, 16th November,—Yokosuka 16th November, Mails from Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,036, Harry Smith, 16th November,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 29th

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October, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,661, W. Smith, 17th Nov.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria B.C., 25th Oct., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Ternick, 17th November,—Moji, 14th November, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Strathmore, British steamer, 2,292, Cunningham, 17th Nov.,—New York via Suez Canal and way ports, Kobe, 15th Nov., General.—C. Illies & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Ternick, 11th Nov.,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co

Yashima Kan (38), Japanese Battleship, 12,517, Captain Uchida, 11th November,—Yokosuka.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, H. Pybus, 12th November,—Hongkong via Kobe, General.—C. P. R. Co.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, J. McGillivary 12th November,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill, & Co.

Hupeh, British steamer, 1,846, T. Quail, 13th Nov.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Savoia, German steamer, 1,622, Jaeger, 13th Nov.,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Nishimura, 14th Nov.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Myrmidon, British steamer, 1,750, James Rorison, 15th November,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,652, R. Nunome, 15th November,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 15th Nov.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bangalore, British ship, 1,699, Albert N. Blanchard, 15th November,—Batavia, Java, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 16th Nov.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Java, British steamer, 2,733, J. Chellew, 16th November,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 16th November,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, K. Kahara, 16th November,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lynton, British ship, 2,324, T. G. Fraser, 17th November,—Port Townsend, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Bingo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,677, G. E. P. Cook, 17th Nov.,—Marseilles, London, and Antwerp, via Hongkong and way ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,661, W. Smith, 16th Nov.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Lay, Mrs. Sawer, Miss Vaigh, Mr. A. G. S. Lefroy, Rev. C. H. Evans, Mr. H. Haesloop, Capt. Andrews, and Capt. Brown, in cabin; Mr. L. Rundsen, in second class, 19 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from San Francisco, via Honolulu:—For Honolulu: Mr. Jas. Morgan and 2 children, Colonel J. H. Soper, Mrs. Soper and 2 children, Mr. N. Halstead, Mr. E. M. Murch, Miss Murch, Mr. E. Lindermann, Mrs. Lindermann, Miss Lindermann, Mr. J. K. Farley, Mr. Geo. A. McLeod, Mr. Jas. Ogilvy, Miss Anna Perry, Mr. Geo. A. Paine, Mr. W. W. Hyslop, Mr. W. G. de Cobging, Mr. J. C. Isenberg, Mrs. J. C. Isenberg and maid, Mr. Paul Isenberg, Mr. Nolteenius, Mr. Steeckewald, Mr. E. H. Anthony, Mr. O. B. Stillman, Judge A. S. Hartwell, Miss Madelaine Hartwell, Mr. Jas. Brewer, Miss Rachel Brewer, Mr. A. D. Cristianson, Mr. J. A. McCandless, Mr. B. F. Sandew, and Mrs. B. F. Sandow in cabin. For Yokohama: Mr. A. R. Whittier, Miss Isabel Whittier, Miss Harriet B. Whittier, Mrs. J. R. Morse, Mr. J. Strauss, Mr. Mr. W. S. Schwartz, Mr. J. V. C. Comfort, Mr. W. A. Behrens, Mr. Paul G. Friedler, Mrs. Paul G. Friedler, Mr. E. W. Brown, Mrs. E. W. Brown, Dr. D. G. Greene, Mrs. D. G. Greene, Mr. Aug. Schauenberg, Mr. [illegible], Mrs. R. J. Kirby, Mr. C. F. Heidlen, Mr. [illegible] Tabata, Mr. Jas. Hogg, Mrs. Jas Hogg, Mr. W. Hogg, Miss M. Hogg, and Miss E. Callaghan in cabin. For Nagasaki: Miss J. O Paine and Miss Fannie Hulsman cabin. For Shanghai: Mrs. J. G. Ure, Mrs. A. McLeod, Rev. J. A. G. Shipley, Mrs. J. S. Fearon, Miss Marjorie Fearon, Mr. W. J. Thacher, Mr. E. U. Smith, Mrs. Rotie Decker, Miss Decker, Miss Gussie Munn, Miss E. M. Glenk, Miss Isabel Longstreet, Mr. J. S. Fearon, Rev. H. F. Rowe, Mrs. H. F. Rowe, and Infant, and Rev. R. E. Wood in cabin. For Hongkong: Mr. A. H. Rennie, Mrs. A. H. Rennie, Mr. Geo. E. Wolff, Mrs. E. B. Rodgers, Mrs. A. M. Lossius, Miss M. Potter, Mrs. J. Patterson, Mrs. C. E. Nosiro, Mrs. F. W. Haynes, Mrs. L. H. Knapp, Mrs. W. W. Rienhert, Jr., Mr. Hong Quan, wife and children, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Tacoma*, from Tacoma, Wash., via Victoria, B.C.:—Mrs. Pool, Mr. Alwen, Mr. Ridly, Mr. Green, Mr. Perrett, Mr. Smith, and Mr. P. Smith in cabin; 41 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. A. Stewart Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Shaefer, Mr. and Mrs. Shortridge, Lieut. W. H. Young, Mr. J. N. Kalff, Mr. Tsue Quan Men, Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson, Mr. Hutchinson, Jun., Mr. F. J. Hall, Mrs. E. A. Hewett, Miss Pritchard Morgan, Mr. F. Parrott, Mr. Gunthar, Mr. Leang Ket Sang, and Mrs. Woolley in cabin; one Italian sailor and 10 Chinese and 2 children in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. Carl Merz, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Ellen, Mr. Tsui Dae, Mr. Denys Larsen, Mr. P. S. Avert, Mr. Shoda Heiguro, Captain and Mrs. Kusunose, Mr. and Mrs. C. Matsumuro and 5 children, Mr. and Mrs. T. Matsumuro, and Mr. and Mrs. Y. Shidaka in cabin; Mr. Shu Yue Chen, Mr. Ho Fung, Mr. Stoker Meigs, Mr. N. Osaki, Mr. N. Ogasawara, Mrs. Takahashi, Mrs. Tagami, and Mrs. Kawasi in second class, and 52 Japanese and 7 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Java*, for London via ports:—Lieut. G. H. S. Potter, R.N., Mr. Walter King, Mr. William Whitehead, and Mr. and Mrs. J. McCausland Yuill in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Bingo Maru*, for London via ports:—Lieut. I. Hachida, Mr. N. Yatsuhiro, and Mr. M. Kobayashi in cabin; Messrs. Watanabe, D. Ikeda, M. Oguri, S. Hino, T. Kagawa, and K. Yokoi in second class, and 3 Japanese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Glenogle*, for Tacoma, Wash., Nov. 12:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL PACKAGES.
Calcutta	—	—	—	33	—	33
Kobe	1,563	291	265	—	—	2,118
Yokohama	2,754	150	—	—	—	2,904
Total	4,317	440	265	33	—	5,055

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL BALES.
Hongkong	45	—	45
Yokohama	277	15	292
Total	322	15	337

Per M. M. steamer *Oceanien*, for Marseilles, Nov. 9:—

	Bales.
P. Doudille	15
L. Gouillioud	21
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	10
Lougin & Co.	90
Nahlolz & Co.	15
Otto Reimers & Co.	50
Sieber B ennwald & Co.	93
Sieber & Co.	32
Total	326

Per N.P. steamer *Glenogle*, for Tacoma, Wash., Nov. 12:—

	Bales.
China & Japan Trading Co.	25
Fraser, Farley & Co.	15
Middleton & Smith	5
Sieber & Co.	62
Vivani Bros.	70
Kiito Gomei-Kaisha	115
Total	292

Per P. M. steamer *Hupeh*, for San Francisco, Nov. 13:—

	Bales.
Herbert Dent & Co.	45
Middleton & Smith	27
Nahlolz & Co.	20
Varsone & Co.	10
Kiito Gomei-Kaisha	1
Total	103

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Some improvement has taken place in yarns, and what transactions there have been have shown an advance. Grey shirtings continue without movement, and there is complete stagnation in fancy cottons and woollens.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2 00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 24 inches	2.60 to 2.30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.28 to 0.40
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.15½ to 0 32½
Cloths—Pilots, 51 to 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5½, per lb	0 55 to 0 67½
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 24 inches	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42.5 inches,	0 60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$34 50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	41.50 to 45.50
Nos. 1 60, Plain	64.00 to 65.00
Nos. 1 80, Plain	76 00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97 00 to 99.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	84.50 to 90 00
Nos. 2 100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.25 —
Chinese	18.25 —

METALS.

The advance in home prices has had the effect of checking business, and very little has been doing.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch, and upward	4 00 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.65
Sheet Iron	5 00 to 5.30
Galvanized Iron sheets	9 25 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	6 05 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6 20 to 6 50
Pig Iron, No. 1	2 08 to 2 10
Hoop Iron (¼ to ½ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The market remains firm at last week's rates.

American	$2 18 to 2.20
Russian	2.12 to 2.15
Langkat	1.95

SUGAR.

In lower grades of browns prices rule 15 to 30 *sen* cheaper. The market for Formosas is quite lifeless, no sales or arrivals taking place. White refined commands rather higher rates.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.20 to 5.25
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.40
Brown Daitong	4.10 to 4.20
Brown Canton	5.90 to 5.60
White Java and Penang	6.80 to 7 00
White Refined	7 95 to 8 85

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Some business has been done both for Europe and America, but at slightly lower prices. Holders at the close showed a disposition to resist any further decline.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	$900
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	90 to 910
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	845 to 855
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	830 to 840
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	820 to 830
Filatures—No. 2, 13/18 deniers	870
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 13/16 den.	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 13/17 den.	840 to 845
Re-reels—No. 2, 13/18 deniers	805 to 815
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	780
Re-reels—No. 3, 20/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	850
Kakedas—No. 1	815 to 825
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	780
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is weakening and prices are easier. The settlements since Nov. 2nd have been 4,050 piculs. The present stock is 9,760 piculs.

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QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	67½ to 70
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Bushu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi—Joshu, Good	55 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	50 to 55
Kibiso—Filature, Best	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	75 to 80
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

The business has been small, and only in common leaf, the prices for which have ruled steady. The stock is reduced to 6,000 piculs, chiefly of low qualities. Prices for choicest and choice qualities are only nominal, the stock being exhausted.

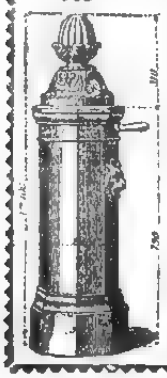
QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal.
Choice	Nominal.
Finest	$29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Silver from London ⅛ higher without affecting rates.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0¼
— — Bills on demand	2/0 15/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 13/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 13/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 11/16
On Paris—Bank sight	255½ to 6
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	260
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49¾
— Private 4 months' sight	50¼ to ⅜
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07
— Private 4 months' sight	2.11
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3 1/8% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4 1/8% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	74⅜ to 5
— Private 10 days' sight	75⅛ to 6
On India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	155
On Silver (London) on 5th inst.	28



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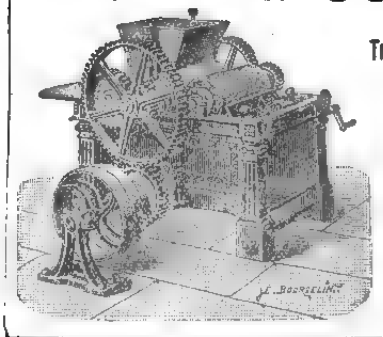

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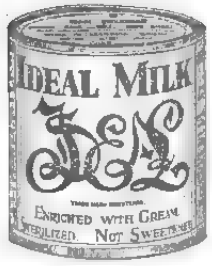

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 22.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, NOVEMBER 26TH, 1898. 明治三十五年十一月廿六日 VOL. XXX.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, NOV. 26TH, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

PRINCESS HENRY OF PRUSSIA is proceeding to China to join her husband.

THE *Formidable*, the largest battleship now afloat, has been launched at Portsmouth.

THEIR Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Germany are returning by way of Messina.

THE *Times'* Capetown correspondent telegraphs the appearance of the plague at Delagoa Bay.

THE construction of the Sanyo Railway has been completed, and it is now open for traffic.

IT is expected that the Cabinet will have no support from the political parties in the House.

A TELEGRAM from Mitajiri announces that the consort of Prince Mori recently gave birth to a daughter.

IT is believed in legal circles in Paris that the Court of Cassation will shortly order the return of Dreyfus.

As the result of the preliminary enquiry in the alleged forgery case, Colonel Picquart is to be court-martialled.

IT is reported that the Cabinet has decided to introduce a Bill increasing the Land Tax in the coming session.

THE deaths of distinguished Englishmen this week include the Earl of Lathom and Sir George Baden-Powell.

H.I.M. the Emperor is slightly indisposed, having caught cold during the recent manœuvres around Osaka.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, speaking at Manchester, has made an important speech dealing with Far Eastern affairs.

THE German flagship *Kaiser* ran on a rock in Shamsah Bay, near Foochow, last week and had to be beached.

ON the 17th at 2.10 a.m., fire broke out at Saruwakacho, Asakusa, Tokyo, and destroyed 10 houses and damaged four.

DURING his visit to the Senfu kwan, Osaka, His Majesty the Emperor gave *yen* 5,000 in aid of the public works of the city.

A SCOTCH Missionary attached to the China Inland Mission has been murdered in Western China along with a native assistant.

THE Karatsu Railway Company between Myokenzan and Homma was completed on the 15th inst., and it will shortly be opened.

A TELEGRAM from China reports that the Japanese authorities in Peking have arranged to lease 200,000 *tsubo* of land at Foochow for Naval Barracks.

THE first grand concert of Herr Junker's Choral and Orchestral Society was given in the Public Hall on Friday evening and proved an unqualified success.

THE Philippine question has reached another phase, the United States offering Spain a substantial compensation—20,000,000 dollars—in exchange for the islands.

THE Governor-General of Formosa has ordered the temporary opening of the High Court in Taishu Prefecture to examine the rebels captured in Taichu and Tainan.

LORD LANSDOWNE has issued an order for the enrolment of a battalion consisting of one thousand Chinese for service at Wei hai wei under British officers.

THE Yokohama Ladies' Hockey Club opened its winter season on Thursday, but owing to the scanty attendance of members the game proved dull and uninteresting.

THANKSGIVING DAY was duly observed by the American communities of Tokyo and Yokohama on Thursday. The special services at the Churches were all well attended.

IT is reported that some politicians of the North-East intend to organise an independent political party. Messrs. Okubo and Sato are said to be devoting their energies to the matter.

TWO robbers entered the house of a tobacconist at Komme-machi, Honjo, Tokyo, the other night, and, after threatening the inmates with a large stick and knife, made off with *yen* 3.80.

THE *Nippon Maru*, the pioneer steamer of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, having passed most satisfactory trials in Yokohama Bay—attaining a speed of 17½ knots—was thrown open to inspection on Saturday.

A ROYAL warrant sanctions the formation of a special service section of Militia for service abroad with the Regulars, subject to certain conditions.

THE French Government has adopted a scheme of a state guaranteed loan of two hundred million francs for the construction of a railway system in Indo-China.

IT is believed that the French rapprochement with Italy will be the first result of the recasting of her foreign policy in consequence of the Fashoda affair.

AT the general meeting of the Joso Railway Company it was decided to wind up the concern. Messrs. Tomura, Go, and Ono were chosen as liquidators.

LAST Spring, the Japanese Government accepted £2,000 000 of Chinese Government loan bonds, which it is now endeavouring to sell. £100,000 worth have been disposed of.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD has been advocating an alliance between Japan, Great Britain, Germany and the United States, in a speech delivered before the China Association at Shanghai.

A PLAGUE riot has broken out at Seringapatam. A mob, numbering over 10,000, attacked the fort and endeavoured to rescue the prisoners. Police and troops fired on them, killing several, and arresting 134.

MESSRS. KABURAKI and Ezawa have been granted Government permission to establish a fishery association. It is reported that the promoters will engage in whale, seal, and sea-otter fishery off Oshima and Hokkaido. The capital of the Association is *yen* 50,000.

MR. KANG YU-WEI, the Chinese refugee, on the 19th inst. paid a visit to Count Katsu, and explained the present state of affairs in China, asking the Count's advice as to the best course to pursue. The Count gave him his own experiences in the restoration of the *Meiji*.

VICEROY LI HUNG CHANG, who had been appointed to superintend the construction of the embankment of the Yellow River, asked permission to retire from duty in consequence of old age. Permission, however, has not been granted, and he will shortly start for the Yellow River.

A KOREAN despatch reports that the order of Korean Court for foreign residents to retire from Pyongyang has given rise to a protest on the part of the foreign representatives. The Ministers of Japan, Great Britain, and the United States have urged the opening of the city. The Korean Court has not yet replied.

THE Chinese steamer *Kairyo* took fire after leaving Tamsui on the 25th ult. for Amoy. Fanned by the strong wind, the flames spread rapidly, and did great damage to the vessel and the cargo. Two of the passengers were killed, and three injured. The fire was caused by a Chinese passenger dropping opium sparks among the cargo.

THE import market, as far as yarns and textiles are concerned, is still inactive, and little is doing in metals. A fair business is passing in sugar, and the kerosine market is steady. Dullness characterises the raw and waste silk markets, and in tea there is very little movement, what business there is being in the common grades.

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POLITICAL.

Nov. 21st.

The state of affairs in political circles is almost comical. From Osaka comes news that Marquis Yamagata and Marquis Saigo have had a meeting with Count Itagaki, Mr. Hoshi, and Mr. Kataoka at Otsu, and that Marquis Ito is about to hold a conference with them all in Kobe. Those incidents are interpreted by people in Tokyo as evidence that some understanding is likely to be effected between the Liberals and the Cabinet, which prospect is exceedingly unwelcome to the occupants of the Progressist camp. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* denounces the Liberals as renegades and apostates, and seeks to prove that they have forfeited all title to national confidence. The *Hochi*, too, which used to be a comparatively neutral organ, has rushed into the fray with not a little sound and smoke. It wants to know what Marquis Yamagata means by promising to step aside and make room for the Liberals three months hence, provided that they lend their aid now to pass the Budget and other essential projects of law. Such an engagement, cries the *Hochi*, is utterly unconstitutional, since it rests with the Emperor alone to decide who shall organize or have seats in the Cabinet. An interesting argument that, in the mouth of a politician who contends, at the same time, that Cabinets should take their mandate from the Lower House of the Diet, not from the Throne. However, the *Hochi* does not think that its arguments will have much effect. Its tone is darkly desponding. It compares the Liberals to a stone that has been set rolling from the top of a mountain and can not stop till it reaches the bottom. They are on the decline, and will fall finally into the Yamagata valley. *Quantum mutati ab illis*! laments the *Hochi*. How unlike the Liberals of twenty years ago. How sad to think that such a miserable finale should have befallen a party which, during two decades, flaunted before the nation's eyes a banner inscribed with the device "liberty and equality."

We can not wonder at these recriminations. It is true that they are extremely shallow, but they are also very natural. The Liberals seem to be displaying a great deal of astuteness. They seem to have recognised that what the nation wants now is legislation, not squabbling; and to have also recognised that what they themselves want to make their Party competent is the affiliation of certain senior statesmen. Both needs can be satisfied by a little forbearance and practical patriotism at the present juncture. It looks as if the Liberal leaders were acting upon that conviction. But what about their followers? Is the tail about to wag the dog? It is curious that on the very day succeeding the alleged conference of the two Marquises with the Liberal leaders in Otsu, the section of the Liberal Party called the Doshi Club addressed to all their fellow-members a vehement circular, declaring that a Cabinet not having a party basis must be opposed *in toto*, and that a vote of want of confidence at the commencement of the session was the only appropriate step. The Doshi Club does not comprise any members of the Diet, it is an extra-parliamentary association. In fact, the situation is this, that while the parliamentary representatives of the Liberal Party abstain from committing themselves to anything, their non-parliamentary associates are all clanging the tocsin with might and main.

Nov. 22nd.

Various reports are published about meetings said to have taken place between Cabinet Ministers and the Liberal leaders in Osaka. It is difficult to sift the true from the false in these tales, but there is no room for doubt that *pourparlers* have taken place between the Ministry and the Liberals, and that the leaders of the latter are strongly disposed to adopted a moderate attitude. One of the principal journals publishes a most circumstantial statement to the effect that, at a conclave between Marquis Yamagata, Marquis Saigo, and Viscount Katsura, on the one hand, and Count Itagaki, Mr. Hoshi Toru, and Mr. Kataoka, on the other, the Liberals declared that they could not consent to support the Cabinet's financial and legislative projects except on one of two conditions—either that one half of the Ministerial portfolios be given to them at once, or that the administration be handed over to them after the end of the Diet's session. When these terms were propounded, Marquis Yamagata is said to have risen and left the room without making any reply. Marquis Saigo and Viscount Katsura followed him, however, and after the three had consulted in an adjoining chamber for about an hour, Marquis Saigo returned to the Liberal leaders, and told them that an answer could not be given without taking the opinions of the rest of the Cabinet Ministers. Apparently the matter was not carried any further at that time. Subsequently, in a speech delivered by Count Itagaki to an audience of about 300 persons in the Kabuki Theatre, the Liberal leaders made it quite clear that there was no idea of introducing a vote of want of confidence at the beginning of the session. He unequivocally denounced as extravagant the contention of the non-parliamentary members of the Party that such a vote should be proposed, and he declared that the duty of the Party was to support all measures with which it agreed. At the same time he threw a sop to the extremists by predicting that it would not be possible to support all the measures of the Cabinet.

Nov. 23rd.

There is nothing special to report today in the sphere of Japanese politics. It appears pretty certain that no definite understanding has been arrived at between the Liberals and the Cabinet. *Pourparlers* have taken place, but their result will not mature until after the reassembly of all the Cabinet Ministers in Tokyo. Meanwhile the *Yomiuri Shimbun* (Progressist organ) continues its efforts to stir up discontent in the ranks of the Liberals against the moderate policy of their leaders. It declares that the Party is sacrificing the principles for which it fought during twenty years, and that its character has been vitiated by the recent affiliation of members not really in sympathy with its aims. The evident allusion is to Baron Suyematsu and Mr. Inouye Kakugoro. Another pro-Progressist organ endeavours to prove that Marquis Ito must be hostile to the present Cabinet since he is antipathetic to the holder of the portfolio of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Hatoyama, acting as a delegate from the Progressists, has had an interview with Marquis Ito in Kobe, but the result is said to have been unsatisfactory from the point of view of the Progressists. There is therefore talk of Count Okuma's going south to meet the Marquis. Of course the efforts of the two parties to obtain the cöoperation of Marquis Ito are severely criticised in some quarters. The *Nippon*, for example, remarks that, for all their talk of party cabinets, both the Liberals and the Progressists evidently recognise that their chief hope of success lies in obtaining the alliance of certain clan statesmen.

It is stated that the official opening of the Diet will take place on the 28th instant. On the 29th, therefore, the public will know definitely whether a vote of want of confidence is to be introduced. Probably there will be no necessity to wait so long. Indeed, it seems to us tolerably certain that, even though an understanding be not reached between the Cabinet and the Liberals, the latter will confine their opposition to the Ministry's measures instead of precipitating a crisis by means of a want-of-confidence vote. It must be noted, however, that there is obviously a difference of opinion within the ranks of the Party. One section, led by Count Itagaki, is for a moderate attitude; the other, led by Mr. Matsuda, advocates uncompromising war. Certainly this collision of views will not be suffered to shatter the cohesion of the Party, though it may have the effect of preventing a working coalition with the Ministry.

The non-parliamentary adherents of the Liberals are naturally offended at finding that Count Itagaki denounces their proposal for a vote of want of confidence. They sent a deputation to the Count to demand an explanation. The deputies found him most outspoken and uncompromising. He declared that the composition of a Cabinet did not matter in the least; its measures alone should be considered. The deputation then proceeded to Baron Suyematsu, but were apparently unable to elicit from him any assurance except that he was endeavouring to prevent serious friction within the ranks of the Party. In Mr. Matsuda, however, whom they next visited, they found a sympathiser: he promised to use his influence for the purpose of changing Count Itagaki's views. It would seem that the Liberals have not yet learned the value of discipline. That is a pity, for until they show they can govern themselves, it is not to be supposed that they will be thought capable of governing the country.

On the 22nd, the Doshi Club met and proceeded to discuss a measure which virtually amounted to a vote of want of confidence in Count Itagaki. Our readers probably remember that the Doshi Club consists of Liberals who are without seats in the Diet, and that, at a recent meeting, it unanimously adopted a resolution that the present Cabinet, not being organised on a party basis, must be opposed uncompromisingly. Count Itagaki having denounced that idea in his recent speech at Osaka, the Club re-assembled, as above stated, and a proposal was submitted that since Count Itagaki's views were found to be opposed to those of the other Party leaders and of the Party at large, they must be regarded as his individual opinions. A hot discussion ensued, in the

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course of which an amendment was submitted in favour of appointing a committee to investigate the question. The amendment was lost, however, and, after a further animated debate, the original proposition also was rejected. We presume from that that the incident may be regarded as the inauguration of an era of calmer counsels.

Meanwhile the newspaper situation is this: some of the leading Progressist organs preserve silence, or at least refrain rom any sweeping declarations of hostility to the Ministry. They evidently regard it as a work of supererogation to stir up a spirit which already exists. One of them, however—the *Yomiuri Shimbun*—maintains an unceasing attack on the Liberals, and endeavours, by every conceivable device, to spur them into crossing swords with the Cabinet from the very outset of the session. In this the *Yomiuri* is assisted by the *Hochi*, which has completely abandoned its comparatively independent rôle; and is now an uncompromising advocate of the Progressist cause. Strange to say, too, the Liberal organ itself, the *Jimmin*, is as bitter as either the *Yomiuri* or the *Hochi* in its condemnation of any half-hearted policy. While the Liberal leaders are declaring in favour of moderation, and advocating an attitude based on measures not on party principles, the Liberal organ is sparing no effort to propagate a contrary view in the Party. Of course the conclusion to which outsiders are forced is that the Liberal Party is very far from being qualified to take over the Administration. If it can not govern itself, how can it be trusted to govern the country. "By obedience learn to command; by discipline learn to organise." These are white-haired precepts which the experience of all ages has endorsed. But the Liberals do not seem to appreciate their value. A political party in England which behaved as they are behaving, would be considered in a state of disintegration. On the other side, four of the leading independent journals, the *Jiji*, the *Nichi Nichi*, the *Kokumin*, and the *Nippon*, strongly urge the Liberals to place the interests of the country before all other questions, and to assist in passing financial and legislative measures which can no longer be delayed without the gravest national inconvenience.

Nov. 24th.

According to present appearances the Cabinet will find itself almost entirely without supporters in the House of Representatives. On the 23rd instant, Mr. Hoshi Toru, addressing an assembly of the Kwanto Club, presented a statement as to what had passed at Osaka. He said that Marquis Yamagata had made several overtures pointing to a conference with the Liberal leaders, and that finally a meeting had taken place, the Ministry being represented by Marquis Yamagata, Marquis Saigo, Viscount Katsura, and Count Matsukata, and the Liberal Party by Count Itagaki, Mr. Hoshi, and Mr. Kataoka. Marquis Yamagata had stated that nothing could be more erroneous than to suppose that he and his fellow-Ministers were indifferent to considerations of party. Their earnest desire, on the contrary, was to work in harmony with whatever party shared their political opinions. A long conversation then ensued about legislative and financial measures, and the party broke up on most amicable terms. The following day, Viscount Katsura visited Count Itagaki, and informed him that the Cabinet, being desirous of establishing working relations with the Liberals, desired to know whether that were possible, and, if so, what steps should be taken for compassing it. Count Itagaki replied in the affirmative to the first question—the possibility of establishing relations—, and, with regard to the second, submitted certain conditions which Mr. Hoshi did not feel justified in making known to his hearers. Marquis Yamagata, on being informed of these conditions, said that it would be necessary to consult his colleagues before giving a definite answer, and that, consequently, the matter must remain unsettled until his return to Tokyo. "So you see," said Mr. Hoshi in conclusion, "that although our terms can not be said to have been rejected, nothing is yet determined."

The next chapter of the story is that on the evening of the 23rd instant, Mr. Hoshi waited upon the Prime Minister to learn his views, and found them irreconcilable with the terms which the Party was willing to accept. He therefore retired without further parley, and at 2.30 p.m. on the 24th instant, convened a meeting of the parliamentary members of the Constitutional Party at the Party's head-quarters, when the following resolutions were passed by a large majority:—

1. Our Party will oppose the present Cabinet.

2. With regard to the steps to be taken for carrying out the above resolution, they shall be left in the discretion of the General Business Committee.

One point can scarcely fail to strike our readers. It is that Mr. Hoshi's method of telling the story of the negotiations seems to have been inspired by a desire for their failure. He represents the Prime Minister and his colleagues as having assumed an almost suppliant attitude towards the Party. All the overtures, according to Mr. Hoshi, came from their side, and the Party, thus approached, formulated its terms, to be taken or left as the Cabinet pleased. Now it was of course inevitable that the initiative should come from one side or the other. We are surprised, indeed, that some provision could not be made of a middleman sufficiently tactful to hide "the step which costs." Failing that very essential assistance, however, a more or less overt approach had to take place, from one direction, and it thenceforth became the plan duty of the passive side not to make open capital out of the fact that it had been approached, unless, indeed, it entertained no intention of coming to an understanding. After the publication of Mr. Hoshi's version, the position became very difficult for the Cabinet. Marquis Yamagata was shown to the world as having virtually thrown himself on the mercy of the Liberals, and asked them to say what they would be content to take in return for their parliamentary support. The incident reminds us of the action taken by the Progressist delegates who waited upon Count Matsukata a year ago; submitted certain conditions for his acceptance as the price of the Party's continued support, and then published the conditions before the Premier had made any answer. Mr. Hoshi did not go quite so far as that. He refrained from stating the terms formulated by Count Itagaki, but he pictured the Cabinet on its knees and the Liberals standing finely indifferent. Nothing could less conduce to an understanding. We do not suppose that the situation is yet hopeless, but the element of hope that it contained prior to Mr. Hoshi's speech to the Kwanto Club has been greatly diminished. If the weary fight in the Lower House is to be resumed, with its resulting paralysis of legislation and financial adjustment, Japan may step down from her pedestal, and reconcile herself as best she can to international effacement.

CONSANGUINEOUS MARRIAGES & PHYSICAL DEFORMITIES.

Collateral relatives by blood up to the third degree inclusive are forbidden by law to intermarry. That is the principle adopted by European legislators and it is also the principle adopted by the framers of the new Japanese Civil Code. The arithmetic of this matter is not familiar to everybody. Yet it is very simple. Write down the names of the persons whose degree of affinity has to be determined, and also the names of the links between them. If three names complete the list, the marriage is illegal, being within the third degree. But if four names are necessary, the fourth degree is reached and intermarriage is permitted. Thus a man may not marry his niece, but he may marry his first cousin. Dr. Kanasugi Yeigoro, a very well known Japanese physician, who has a hospital in Tokyo for diseases of the ear, nose and throat (*Jibi-inko-ka no Iin*) concludes that the law is much too lenient in this matter. His investigations show that among 226 deaf, dumb, and blind children in the Tokyo *Moa Gakko*, 50, or 22 per cent., are the off-spring of parents collaterally related to each other. The relationships are, uncle and niece, 2; first cousins, 33; second cousins, 7; first cousins once removed, 6; more distant relations, 2. In his own hospital there are 184 sufferers from these defects, and 35 of them were born in consanguineous wedlock. Thus, uncle and niece, 3; first cousins, 24; second cousins, 4; more distant relatives, 4. Naturally the lesson taught by these statistics is that intermarriages between persons having any collateral relationship whatever should be forbidden. But there is the other question, the necessity of racial preservation. Dr. Kanasugi thinks that the situation would be met by doubling the legal restriction: in other words, by making the law read:—"Lineal relatives by blood, or collateral relatives by blood up to the sixth degree inclusive, can not intermarry." That would exclude second cousins, so that a man could not marry his grandparent's brother's grandchild. In Europe and America, the teaching of experience has long operated to extend the restrictions of the law: intermarriages between first cousins are virtually tabooed in the great majority of families, and the intercourse of lads and lasses thus related to each other becomes a very picturesque affair, tinged with the romance of borderland and enjoying a wide franchise of familiarity. If the law drew a written circle not only around first cousins but also around second, the physique of humanity might gain but its morality would be lost.

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AMERICA, ENGLAND, AND SPAIN.

It is suggested by a vernacular contemporary (the *Kokumin Shimbun*) that England's warlike preparations were inspired by the prospect of the crisis which has now occurred between America and Spain. The United States demands the Philippines. Spain will not surrender them. Yet Spain is helpless to retain them: she is wholly exhausted and can not renew the fight. Therefore she evidently looks for foreign aid. That aid can come only from France, Russia, and Germany. But England is determined that America shall have the Philippines. Hence a very ugly complication is in sight, and Great Britain, foreseeing it, began to get ready two months ago.

That is a theory which occurred to us immediately on receipt of the news that, despite the evacuation of Fashoda, Great Britain's warlike preparations continued. But we dismissed the idea as plainly untenable in the face of the fact that the United States was disarming. If there had been any apprehension of such a complication, America would have shown quite as much activity as England in preparing for it.

Concerning the difficulty about the Philippines, it is only what might have been expected. The Protocol of the Peace Conference, as we pointed out long ago, left the final disposal of the Philippines an open question. Spain, under that Protocol, entered the Conference with precisely the same right as America possessed to discuss the fate of the islands. Both parties were given an equal voice. That was not the case with regard to Cuba and the other places mentioned in the Protocol. In their case Spain's position was narrowly limited. But in the case of the Philippines, she and America were given the same consultative status, with the sole proviso that, until a settlement was effected, the United States should continue to occupy Manila. It might, indeed, be argued with considerable show of reason, that since the evacuation of a place is a contingency evidently included in a position making its tenure conditional, therefore the Protocol constructively suggests the evacuation of Manila by the United States and the retention of the Philippines by Spain. Without carrying the discussion to that length, however, we can not deny that if the drafters of the Protocol intended it to imply the surrender of the Philippines, they managed most successfully to avoid conveying their meaning. Spain, very naturally, is taking advantage of the blunder, or accident, whichever it be called. But neither party has any idea of renewing the fight. Spain can not get into the arena again. America virtually possesses the Philippines already, and it is not conceivable that Spain would be so demented as to attempt to drive her out. Of course some trouble could be still given in Cuba, but it would be a frivolous fiasco. It is a question of money. America will have to pay for her State Department's defective drafting or her officials' uncertainty—probably the latter. That will not hurt her, however. Forty or fifty millions of dollars have no perceptible weight in her purse, and we shall all be glad to see one galleon at any rate saved from the wreck of Spain's fortunes.

KOREAN TROUBLES.

The Korean capital is evidently in a very disturbed condition. The broad outlines of the situation seem to be these. For a considerable period the Independence Club, being the only organized political association in Korea, grew steadily in strength and influence. At first it pursued a moderate line and refrained from all active interference in administrative affairs. By and by, however, it began to present memorials which the court found embarrassing, and to organise demonstrations which, though not actually of a threatening character, might easily lead to violence. The Emperor, confronted by the dilemma of having to inaugurate a system of genuine reform, in accordance with the suggestions of the Club, or to defy the pressure which seemed likely to be exerted, had recourse to the device of encouraging the formation of an opposition party. There thus came into existence an organization calling itself the Imperialist Club. It was under the leadership of Cho Pyensik, and it took steps to draw into its ranks the members of the celebrated Peddlers' Guild, and even the Tonghaks. A struggle ensued which appeared likely at one time to assume serious proportions, but victory at last seemed to declare for the Independents. They carried their main point, namely, that the Privy Council should be re-organized on a partially popular basis. The *Government Gazette* of Nov. 3rd contained an announcement in that sense, the principle laid down being that one half of the members of the Council should be elected by the Independence Club. An official intimation was conveyed to the Club, desiring it to choose the necessary number of representatives as soon as possible, and to submit their names to the Cabinet. The Club fixed Nov. 5th as the day for the election, and concluded, doubtless, that it had scored a signal success. But the Imperialists played an unexpected card at this juncture. They submitted to the Emperor a placard—apparently forged—which went to show that the ultimate object of the Independents was to convert Korea into a republic. The Sovereign believed the story—perhaps he wanted to believe it,—and the Independence Club, instead of assembling triumphantly to carry out the election, learned at day-break on the 5th that eighteen of its most prominent members had been arrested and thrown into prison. The surprise was complete, for, on the preceding day, the Emperor had summoned to the Palace Mr. Yun, the leader of the Independents; had received him with every mark of favour, and had asked him various questions about the pending election. If His Majesty did not already know that there would not be any election, and that the men whose business it was to organise the affair would find themselves in jail instead of choosing Privy Councillors, he must have been singularly ignorant of the *coup* which his friends had arranged. When the storm broke, next day, Yun managed to escape before the police could lay hands on him, and his enemy Cho was appointed Vice-President of the Council of State, holding at the same time the portfolios of Law and Home Affairs. Two of Cho's supporters, Min Chongmook and Nam Jungchul, were nominated Councillors, so that the party which had risen to power at the beginning of the year through the influence of Kim Hongniuk, the notorious interpreter of the Russian Legation, found itself again paramount. As soon as this news became known in the city, the Independents and their sympathisers resorted to the peculiarly Korean device of opposing the inertia of a stolid crowd to the mandates of the Authorities. Hundreds of people gathered in front of the police station, asking that they too might be imprisoned, since they claimed to be equally guilty with the men lying in durance. As the hours passed the multitude grew in density, and prepared to pit its importunity against the will of the Government. On the 6th, Cho and his friends in office had a spasm of courage: they proposed to disperse the crowd by force. But the project was abandoned in face of a threat on the people's part that they would set fire to the whole city. Next day (7th), the eighteen prisoners were removed to the Supreme Court, and thither the multitude flocked, clamouring for a public trial. Six long days and nights the crowd obstinately held its vigil, contributions of clothing, food, money, and fuel pouring in meanwhile from sympathisers. Only one memorial was presented, a memorial praying that the person who had submitted to the Emperor the anonymous placard advocating a republic, and had ascribed its authorship to the Independents, should be handed over to the legal authorities. The Emperor, in his reply, told the people that he held them entirely innocent of the placard, and that it had not been the cause of the arrests. His Majesty also bade them disperse. But they took no notice of the order. Truly a well behaved but invincibly obdurate crowd, which declines to melt away and keeps its place stolidly and solidly in the street day and night with absolute indifference to the passage of time, is an exceedingly difficult factor to deal with. If it can neither be intimidated nor coerced, it is bound to carry its point. At 8 p.m. on the 10th instant the eighteen prisoners were released. The people had won the day, so far as the safety of their leaders was concerned. But they wanted something more. They wanted to have the Sovereign's public endorsement of a charter of six articles presented some time previously by the Independents; they wanted to have Cho Pyengsik and his friends expelled from the Palace, and they wanted to have the Independence Club re-established. Thus the final struggle between the Independents and the Imperialists was precipitated. Apparently a further siege of six days by the crowd was required before the Palace capitulated. On the 16th instant, it was announced that Cho Pyengsik, Min Chongmook, and the other Imperialist leaders would be punished. There remained, however, the questions of the charter and of the Independence Club. Hence the crowd, strengthened by success, merely shifted its ground to the front of the Palace, and resumed its stolid attitude of resolve. The next step was taken by the Imperialists. They doubtless saw that the persistence of the multitude must win all along the line unless some change was effected. On the night of the 17th, a mob of Imperialist roughs, headed, it is said, by Cho Pyongsik himself, made a raid upon the office of the Independence Club and attacked the gathering of Independents before the palace. These assaults do not seem to have been delivered with much *vim*, for the police, who count for very

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little in Söul, managed to quell the disturbance without bloodshed. But the Imperialists now mustered a stronger force. Assisted by the Peddlers' Guild, they organized an opposition crowd of about a thousand strong, and demanded the re-arrest of the Independent leaders. At the same time, the Cabinet resigned *en bloc* by way of protest against the impeachment of Cho Pyengsik and friends. Things now looked very black for the Independents, and some of their most prominent men thought it time to effect their escape. The main body, however, held its ground obstinately before the Palace. Of course, under such circumstances, a collision could not be long deferred. It took place during the night of the 20th. The assailants were the Peddlers' Guild, the Imperialists, and a party of Tonghaks. Victory rested with the attacking party: the Independents were driven off, with a loss of several killed and wounded. They took up a new position, and on the following day the conflict was renewed. This time the Imperialists were defeated. Twenty-three lives were sacrificed, the residences of Cho Pyensik and Yu Kui-whom, Minister of War, were invaded, and the Emperor, not only asked the Independents to make peace but also believing himself in danger, had recourse to the stereotyped expedient of applying to the Japanese Legation for protection. There our information stops. It is presumably a matter for congratulation that the Independents have won the day, since they represent progress and reform. But we can scarcely hope that their victory is permanent. At any rate, Korea is becoming a species of pestilence.

RADICALISM.

One of the neutral newspapers of Tokyo has been saying that there is no such thing in Japan as a political party competent to assume the duty of administering the affairs of State, for competence means the possession of three qualifications, the confidence of the Emperor, a majority in the House of Peers and a majority in the House of Representatives. That declaration elicits a very indignant rejoinder from the Liberal organ. Are we to appear as suppliants for our rights or as claimants of them, it asks? How on earth is the support of the House of Peers to be obtained? To wait for that means a delay of perhaps a hundred years. There is a better plan: the plan that Gladstone threatened to adopt when the Peers hindered legislation for Ireland. "What concern have we with these long-sleeved creatures of ease and luxury?" That is pretty thick radicalism. It makes one stop to think. Does the Liberal organ really fail to appreciate the difference between a hereditary chamber and an elective? Only an insignificant fraction of the Japanese House of Peers—37 members out of 286—is hereditary. In short, according to all the principles of Constitutional Government, the Japanese Upper House has very nearly as valid a title to legislate as the Lower has. Hence the impression produced upon outsiders by the writing of the *Jiumin* is that the independent journal which it attacks dropped out one item from its list of essential qualifications lacking in Japanese political parties at present, namely, an elementary notion of what constitutional government means.

A SWEEPING INDICTMENT.

Tuesday, Nov. 22.

We have seldom read such a sweeping indictment as the *Mainichi Shimbun* prefers against its own nationals. The English, it says, are accustomed to speak of the Russians as Tartars with a veneer of civilization—that is a French saying, we may note, not an English one—but the *Mainichi* declares that the saying applies to the Japanese if for "Tartars" we substate "barbarians" (*yabanjin*). The Japanese are now inflated with conceit. They have lost all sense of humility. They regard Japan as the country of the gods. They think that the Japanese spirit (*Yamato-damashii*) is unparallelled in the world. They persuade themselves that there is but one Fujiyama in creation. They imagine that no other national art can compare with theirs. They credit every idle compliment paid to them by a light-headed tourist. The progress made by them in the past twenty years was the result of being humble and working earnestly to supply their deficiencies. With the loss of humility and the development of a conceited mood, progress has ceased. As a matter of fact, boastfulness is conclusive evidence that the boaster does not possess the quality he claims. A tobacconist in Ginza uses this advertisement:—"Don't be astonished. We pay a tax of 300,000 *yen* on our tobacco." He could not choose any plainer method of informing the public that he pays nothing of the kind. The grand claims advanced by the Japanese are precisely similar sign-boards of self-conviction. Look at the social customs of the time. There are balls and garden-parties in accordance with Western fashion, but the spectacle they present is as that of a monkey in a "bell-topper." Men with muddy boots stand on the chairs. They think nothing of smoking in the presence of ladies. Their conduct in the supper-room makes it a veritable *shura-jo* (one of the Buddhist hells filled with fighting and slaughter). They struggle for food as though they were famished ghouls (*gakki*). They stuff cakes into their pockets. They run about brandishing knives and forks. The noise of their eating is like the "snoodling" of a pig. As for their costumes, they are full of incongruities, and some of them do not even take the trouble to brush their hair. They talk loud and big, proclaiming themselves political heroes. There are even women who boast that their husbands have mistresses. The list of their offences against common sense and intelligence is inexhaustible. And if we turn to the moral side, we find an unhappy absence of sincerity. A French writer has said that the Japanese are the most untrustworthy people in the world. He is right. Many a Japanese of position and repute does not shrink from deceiving a foreigner. It is true that there are foreigners who deceive Japanese, but they are low fellows of no standing. Japanese have been known to export rape-seed under pretence that it was silk-worm's eggs. They have so loaded their silks with sizing that American haberdashers have been compelled to advertise, not that they sold Japanese silks, but that nothing of the kind was among their goods. There have been men who, obtaining funds under pretence of founding a Christian school, have applied them to setting up a tobacco store. A Japanese has palmed himself off as a prince, and a very

succeeded in swindling a London widow out of her money. Students have returned from Europe and pretended to be the possessors of degrees which they never obtained. Others have obtained foreign university degrees under false pretences. Insincerity like a canker undermines Japan's chances of success.

For a sweeping condemnation, the above is a record. It is a little marred by exaggeration, but neutral tints are never startling. A bold dash of vivid colour is needed to attract general attention. The *Mainichi Shimbun* probably proceeds on that principle. Of course its catalogue of social solecisms was partly compiled at the last Birth-day Ball. That was an evening of episodes. Guests clambered on the backs of the sofas to catch sight of the quadrilles. Others balanced themselves by pairs on the flower-pots for the same purpose. There were men in frock coats. There were men in shooting jackets. There were ladies in carpet slippers. There were ladies in bath-slippers. There were ladies in bare feet. There were men—not Japanese—who wore their hats at supper. There were men—many men—who seemed to have come solely for the purpose of eating. But what is the inference? Did such solecisms mean that Japanese manners have deteriorated and in some cases disappeared? That is not our view. They simply meant that when the Japanese are taken entirely out of their element, when they are removed out of sight of their own landmarks, and are asked to observe canons of which they have no knowledge, they go astray. There are multitudes of Japanese who have not the most shadowy conception of foreign social etiquette, just as there are multitudes of foreigners similarly ignorant of Japanese etiquette. Formerly such Japanese were never invited to balls or garden-parties in foreign style. They are invited now, and the result is decidedly ugly. Their only title to any consideration is that they are politicians. They belong to the rabble which forms the queue of political parties. They are as much out of place in a ball room as they are in the profession they have chosen. But there is a good deal of levelling down in Japan's progress.

Thursday, Nov. 24.

The *Mainichi Shimbun* continues its indictment of modern Japanese civilization in terms which, though sometimes too strong to be convincing, are, on the whole, just and well deserved. It complains that the people are still imbued with an absurdly exaggerated respect for everything official. The pettiest official travelling in the provinces receives a degree of respect and attention never accorded to a private person, whatever his title to consideration. Then there is the common and most unsightly failure to recognise the obligation that devolves on the strong *vis-à-vis* the weak. It seldom occurs to a man to make way for a woman, or to offer her his seat in a tramcar or a train. On the contrary, a strong fellow will force his way through women and children, and make himself comfortable at their expense by sheer exercise of muscle. The women, on their side, are not always a credit to the country. The vast majority of those that go abroad, do so with the deliberate intention of leading a life of shame, thus bringing disgrace on Japan. Many of the men, also, who cross the seas, are low adventurers; they make the name "Japanese" a by word. "It may be called unpatrio-

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tic," says the editor of the *Mainichi*, "to expose these failings. Critics may say that we do not love our country because we publish her shortcomings. It is precisely because we do love her that her people's lapses from a high standard pain us so acutely."

"JINRIKISHA" FARES.

The schedule of *jinrikisha* fares recently published by order of the Kanagawa Prefectural Authorities does not give universal satisfaction. There is a complaint preferred journalistically that five *sen* fares have disappeared altogether. Formerly, one could ride from the English Hatoba to the Grand Hotel for five *sen*, but now the journey is to cost eight *sen*. That is a very serious matter. A service hitherto purchasable for something less than a penny farthing will henceforth cost two pence. It is wisely suggested, too, that as people seldom carry farthing pieces upon their persons, they may often be betrayed into paying two-pence-half-penny for the service in question, since they will give a silver piece of the latter value "rather than go to the trouble of procuring the right amount." It is of course very wrong that people should be exposed to the temptation of behaving with such reckless carelessness. A foreign community which values its farthings so lightly that it can be betrayed into squandering two of them simultaneously rather than go to the trouble of changing a two-penny-half-penny silver bit, ought to be legislated for with more paternal consideration by the Japanese Authorities. Some of the fares, too, have been assessed on such an extravagant basis that their result, accurately calculated, is to ensure to the *jinrikisha* man a farthing for every minute that he runs. Thus, for a fifteen minutes' job, in other words, for dragging a heavy load at high speed through a distance of over a mile, the pampered coolie will actually receive three-pence-three-farthings. No moderate fortune could stand a strain so severe. Perhaps the most iniquitous feature of the whole schedule is that fifty per cent. is to be added to the fares in wet or stormy weather. That, as a newspaper correspondent justly notes, "is the crown of this master-piece of a tariff." Most monstrous! "To the correspondent's knowledge," and he is obviously a very well-informed person, "the coolie has no extra expense in rainy weather, and the only reason that can be seen for this stipulation is his desire to get paid for getting wet, and to obtain as much money as possible from the foreigners, who, specially in rainy weather, are forced to make use of his vehicle." For the sake of any little shred of reputation remaining to the *jinrikisha* coolie we trust that these explanations of his motives are not correct, but we fear that the case looks black for him. Plainly the duty devolves upon the Prefectural Authorities of taking measures to improve the moral tone of the coolie. Considering that his affluent circumstances enable him to possess many changes of costume, and that he can always go home and don a dry suit when he gets wet, thus escaping the misery of waiting in drenched and scanty garments for another fare, it is wanton perversity on his part to raise any question about working in rain. And considering, too, that the labour of dragging a load at high speed under rain or against a storm is not more that double the labour of dragging it in fine weather, the idea of demanding additional pay at the rate of 50 per cent. when the additional labour is only a hundred per cent., is an obvious conspiracy to fleece the unfortunate foreigner, who is constitutionally unable to endure getting wet, and, having no change of raiment, must necessarily ride in a *jinrikisha* when the weather is inclement. These coolies are a truculent, extortionate race, and the Authorities must look to it. We observe, indeed, that the newspaper correspondent from whom we have quoted, throws doubts on the integrity even of the Prefectural Authorities themselves. He suggests that "the coolies made the tariff and the Authorities simply acknowledged it." We can not lightly entertain such a grave suspicion. The coolies perform the work and it would consequently be quite unfair that they should have any voice in fixing the remuneration to be paid for it. Why, we shall be told next that these pestilent fellows are complaining of being embarrassed by the increased cost of living, and assigning that as a reason for the larger fares now scheduled. The correspondent who has drawn attention to these iniquitous facts has done a public service, and we trust that Governor Asada will give the matter his earnest attention.

"WHY DON'T THE AUTHORITIES?"

Whenever anything untoward occurs in the streets of Yokohama, people are always found to write to the newspapers and inquire "why don't the Authorities do this or that." It is really very wonderful that Englishmen who pride themselves on being eminently self-helpful should be so ready to attribute every accident or inconvenience to some sin of omission on the part of officialdom. A lady cyclist recently came into collision with a carriage and was badly hurt. It appears that the lady steered to the left, which was contrary to the rule of the road in her own country, she being an American, and the driver of the carriage, a Japanese, steered to the right, which was contrary to the rule of the road in his master's country, England. Both were unhappily wrong, and there was a collision. But if both had been right from their several points of view, there would have been a collision also. Thereupon, we have letters addressed to the local newspapers asking why the Japanese Authorities do not make and enforce a rule of the road. It does not occur to these correspondents that the Japanese Authorities are not in a position to enforce any such rule. They might enact a rule, but how could they carry it into effect? Each foreign resident, and each servant of each foreign resident would be free to observe the rule or to ignore it according to his own sweet will. The Consuls could not impose a penalty for its infraction, or sign warrants for the arrest of their nationals' Japanese servants if the latter infringed it. At the moment it would seem that nothing can be done except by the foreign residents themselves. If all were agreed as to a rule of the road, they might instruct their Japanese servants to observe it, and could insist more effectually upon its observation than the Japanese police could.

A SHARP TURN.

It is certainly a little unexpected to find the *Nippon* advocating the principle that a political party should support a Cabinet without regard to the latter's composition or system of organization but with regard only to its measures. That is a fine wholesome political principle, which unfortunately does not receive much practical recognition anywhere. We don't mean to suggest that because it is fine and wholesome its advocacy by the *Nippon* is incongruous. What we mean is that the *Nippon* has always been a vehement advocate of party government, and, in that character, it takes a sharp turn when it contends that a political party should consider the measures only of a Cabinet even though the latter be organized on an absolutely non-party basis. However, the *Nippon* is more like itself when it notes that though measures are a very fine topic of conversation, the question now appears to be not measures but portfolios. The Liberals are willing to support the Cabinet provided that they get a promise of a reversionary interest in the administration or receive a number of seats forthwith. There is a plain inconsistency between such conditions and Count Itagaki's declaration that measures alone should be the object of support or opposition. But the *Nippon* prefers to believe Count Itagaki's words rather than to draw unpleasant inferences from the acts attributed to him.

"THE OKUMA CABINET AND EDUCATION."

Professor Toyama has published a Romanized version of the celebrated speech delivered by him on the 3rd of last August at the meeting of the *Tokyo Meikei kai*. It is a terribly pungent oration, and if anyone wants to get an idea of the kind of rhetorical thrusts that can be delivered by a very skilled user of the Japanese language, we recommend him to peruse this pamphlet. It has another value also; a value for foreign students of Japanese. A better exercise than the study of such a brochure from cover to cover we can scarcely conceive, for it contains a multitude of the terms and forms of expression which have been added to the language in recent times, but are not to be found in any of the books ordinarily accessible to the learner. At the end there is a page and a half of comments on the suspension of the *Futsu Kyoiku*, which suffered for reproducing a political speech in a non-political magazine. Professor Toyama does not deny that, as the Press Law now stands, the *Futsu Kyoiku* laid itself open to punishment. But he maintains that when the letter of a law has fallen behind the spirit of the time, its enforcement ceases to be an administrative duty. A rather perilous doctrine, surely?

A CHARGE OF CORRUPTION.

It is stated that a charge of corruption has been preferred against Judge Sasaki Koki, of the Taira District Court, in Fukushima Prefecture. In collusion with a clerk of the Court, Fukuda Yasuharu, and a relative of his own named Sasaki Sataro, he received a bribe of a thousand *yen* from Yeijiro Shōjiro, who was undergoing trial on a charge of forgery. The Judge and his accomplices were arrested on the 14th instant, according to the *Chuo Shimbun*.

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THE SOCIAL EVIL.

Saitama and Gumma Prefectures are said to offer object lessons which repay the study of persons opposed to the licensing of prostitution. They are the only parts of Japan where the *kōshō* system is not carried out, and their condition is conspicuously unwholesome both morally and physically. The new Governor of Gumma— Mr. Kusakari, a Liberal politician—seems to have concluded that his duty demanded a resolute attitude towards this question. He has therefore enacted and announced the introduction of the licensing system, in the face of vehement opposition from the Prefectural Assembly, the Secretary and Councillor of the Prefecture, and the Chief of Police. The Secretary, Mr. Mitsuhashi, proceeded to Tokyo for the purpose of appealing to the Home Office, and it is stated that the latter conveyed instructions to the Governor to hold his hand. But Mr. Kusakari had gone too far—or, at any rate, supposed that he had gone too far—to suspend the project, and his enactment was duly promulgated. The Chief of Police and the Councillor of the Prefecture are reported to have handed in their resignations, and the other principal officials of the Local Government are expected to follow their example. On general grounds we entirely sympathise with Mr. Kusakari and applaud his courage, but there is no occasion to repeat the opinions we have often expressed on this subject. It would appear, however, that Mr. Kusakari's action is strongly disapproved by the Authorities, for an opinion is universally expressed that he will be removed from office as a disciplinary measure. The towns where he has authorized the introduction of the licensing system are Mayebashi, Takahashi, Ichinomiya, Murata, Kiriu and Tatebayashi. It is alleged that his proceedings has been largely instigated by Mr. Miyabe Jo, and by Mr. Nakaye Tokusuke, a gentleman of considerable notoriety, who proclaims himself a modern Rousseau, and who was reported to have secured his return to the Diet by carrying favour with the Yeta of Osaka—as if that were a reproach! These statements, together with vague inuendoes that disgraceful motives have been at work, are circulated by journals hostile to the licensing system. That is not surprising, but it will be somewhat surprising if Mr. Kusakari is cashiered on the ground that the Home Department condemns the licensing system, for such condemnation could not be reconciled with the fact that the system is practised with official sanction in all other parts of Japan. It may be, however, that the Governor has acted *ultra vires*.

Mr. Kusakari Shimmei, Governor of Gumma Prefecture, has resigned by invitation. He has not been removed from office, but has been recommended to resign. There are three methods of quitting office in Japan. There is the *igwan menkan*, or purely voluntary resignation; there is the *yūshi menkan*, or resignation at the instance of one's superiors; and there is the *chōkai menkan*, or disciplinary removal. The second method has been resorted to in the case of Mr. Kusakari, and Mr. Furusho Kamon is appointed to succeed him. Mr. Furusho is a National Unionist. He was Governor of Gumma Prefecture some years ago during the agitation which ended in the abolition of the system of licensed prostitution so far as that prefecture was concerned. For a very animated and protracted agitation did take place, involving several collisions between the Prefectural Assembly and the Governor, and making Gumma the cynosure of public attention for a time. The strange feature of Governor Kusakari's action in restoring the system is that no one makes the slightest attempt to explain his motives. He must have had some motives, and they must have been respectable motives, ostensibly at any rate. But absolute silence is observed with regard to them. The *Mainichi Shimbun* says that they were corrupt. It declares that Mr. Kusakari had been successfully approached by speculators who bought up the sites of the projected brothels in Mayebashi, Takasaki, Ichinomiya, Numata, Kiriu, and Tatebayashi, and that, in view of the expected profits, they paid the Governor's private debts and placed him in a financially sound position. We have very great respect for the *Mainichi's* views, and, although we differ from it on the subject of licensed prostitution, we do not underestimate the force of the arguments on which it relies. But we think that it damages its cause by thus lightly crediting and publishing grossly libellous tales about a high official's acts. Mr. Kusakari may be all that the *Mainichi* accuses him of being, but impartial people want to hear his statement of the facts before they condemn him as an unprincipled reprobate, and it would have better become his journalistic accusers had they made some presentation of his side. The public would like to know, too, why he was required to send in his resignation. If there was a word of truth in the accusations ventilated by the *Mainichi*, dismissal in disgrace, not resignation by suggestion, should have been his fate. If, on the other hand, he merely exceeded his competence, there must have been strong reasons prompting him, and it is strange that no one sets them forth.

THE GLYPTIC SOCIETY.

The thirteenth exhibition of the Glyptic Society (*Chōkoku Kyōshinkai*) of Japan is fixed to take place from December 1st to December 15th in the gallery of the Fine Arts Society at Sakura-ga-oka in Uyeno Park. The range of objects to be exhibited is as usual, namely, carvings in wood, bamboo, ivory, bone, horn, metal of all kinds, tortoise-shell, or lacquer; modelling in clay or plaster-of-Paris; inlaying and cloisonné enamel. This Society is under the presidency of Viscount Yenomoto, and its exhibitions are always of the highest interest.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

His Majesty the King of the Belgians has presented the Order of Leopold to His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan. The Belgian Minister, His Excellency Baron d'Anethan, proceeded to the Akasaka Palace on the 18th instant as bearer of the decoration, and was subsequently entertained by the Prince at luncheon with a number of distinguished guests, among when were their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Komatsu, His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Viscountess Aoki, Baron and Baroness Sannomiya &c.

THE TOKIO TRAM COMPANY.

The citizens of Tokyo are probably powerless to resist the action of the Tram Company, which, while paying magnificent dividends, and having its shares quoted at a premium of over three hundred per cent., announces that its fares will henceforth be raised by twenty-five per cent. In justification of this step the Company explains that the Authorities have reduced the maximum limit of third-class passengers carried in a single tram-car from 36 to 27. The reduction is 25 per cent., and the increased rate of fare is 25 per cent.—*i.e.* a charge of 2½ *sen* instead of 2 *sen*. Considered superficially the arrangement seems fair enough. But it is by no means fair. If the trams uniformly obtained their maximum complement of passengers, a general increase of rate in view of a general restriction of passengers would be proper. But of course the cars are not always loaded up to 36 passengers. Only on very rare occasions do they carry more than 30. We doubt whether the average is much over twenty. The fact is, thus, that in consequence of a limitation which does not men more than, perhaps, a loss of five per cent. in fares, they are about to levy an additional twenty-five per cent. from the public. The sum in question is only half a farthing, and will not greatly matter even to the impecunious folks that ride in the third class of a tram-car. Still, we are astonished that in sanctioning an increase of rates the Municipal Authorities did not consider the plain arithmetic of the question. However, what is incomparably more important is the behaviour of the Tram Company with regard to the repair of the streets. Wherever the tram lines are laid, there mud and ruts may be found. It is not too much to say that the comfort and convenience of all public traffic, with the exception of the small fraction of it carried by the tram-cars, are sacrificed on the altar of a private company's profits. If we could reduce to *yen* and *sen* the losses caused by wear and tear of vehicles and by the additional toil which these bad roads entail on the labouring classes, it would be found that for every hundred *yen* which the Company shrinks from expending on its legitimate duty of road repair, the citizens are mulcted to the tune of many thousands. Yet this Company, which already pays to its shareholders a dividend of 30 per cent., and which conducts its business in such a way as to impose a maximum of inconvenience upon the citizens in general, is now to be allowed to increase its third-class fares by 25 per cent.

ATMOSPHERIC STREET RAILWAYS IN TOKYO.

The Tokyo Municipality has again submitted an application for permission to construct atmospheric street railways. Our readers have been kept informed, from time to time, about the various projects mooted by private companies for establishing inter-street communication in the capital. Some were for over-head lines; some for a system of ordinary railways; some for electric trams, and some for electric railways. After endless efforts on the part of the rival companies, the Municipal Authorities came to the conclusion that such a profitable enterprise ought to be made a source of public revenue. They accordingly resolved to

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take it up themselves, and in the summer of this year, an application for permission to build atmospheric lines was presented to the Home Department. It failed to receive sanction, the particulars furnished not being in accord with prescribed requirements, and the City Council incurred a good deal of ridicule for not knowing how to draft an application. We read in vernacular newspapers that the application has now been re-submitted and that it will doubtless be approved. The system of lines, as now mapped out, is confined to the most populous parts of the city proper, but the Municipality asks to be guaranteed the privilege of extending its sphere of operations so as to embrace even the suburbs, should such a course prove expedient. The estimated cost is six million *yen*, which will be raised by floating municipal railway bonds carrying 7 per cent. interest. As for the business prospects of the undertaking, the probable income is set down at 1,778,790 *yen*, and the expenditure at 828,275 *yen*. The figures actually given are carried to *sen* and *rin*, according to the quaint custom of Japanese calculators, but we omit these decimals. It appears, therefore, that after paying the interest on the construction fund, the Municipality counts on a profit of 530,515 *yen*. Ten years is the time set down for carrying out the work; an extraordinarily long interval, it seems to us. We presume that the idea is to open the system in sections, but even on that hypothesis the time contemplated is immense. Tokyo is determined to maintain its unprogressive reputation apparently.

THE SHINAGAWA TRAM COMPANY.

The Shinagawa Tram Company came into existence last year. It is another of those concerns which has obtained permission from the Tokyo Municipality and the Home Department to destroy a long stretch of road once fairly passable. There appears now to be some serious friction among its employés. What the cause of the dispute may be we can not discover, but two factions confront each other, a reform party and a conservative party. On the night of the 21st sixty or seventy of the conservatives enticed one of the leaders of the other section, Mr. Niisato, into the compound of the concern, shut the gates, and proceeded to subject him to a process of castigation known as *fukuro tataki*, the gist of which is that the enemies of the man to be pounded dispose themselves in Bulls-of-Bashan order, and hammer him alternately. Niisato escaped with his life, which was the sum of his achievement, and now the usual Japanese sequel is in preparation, a compromise.

The drivers and bettos of the Shinagawa Tram Company have gone on strike. What their grievance is we have not yet discovered. The Tokyo newspapers say, in a general, off-hand kind of way, that they object to the present Manager, and add, as an apparently insignificant detail, that the men are "likely to make it rain blood just now." Count Goto is one of principal directors of the Company. He seems to be taking a prominent part in the affair, and, unless Count Goto's reputation greatly belies him, his interference is not calculated to restore matters to a Parliamentary basis. The trams have ceased running, of course, which is doubtless a heavy loss to the Company. It would be a matter of rejoicing to the general public, however, if only the inaction of the cars could be accompanied by the removal of the rails, so that one of Tokyo's few moderately good roads might be restored to its former respectability.

THE RULE OF THE ROAD.

Some questions have been addressed to us with reference to a statement contained in the *Japan Times* to the effect that Street Traffic Regulations were promulgated in 1886, and that they included a "rule of the road" based on the English principle, namely, that vehicles or foot-passengers should pass each other on the left—*i.e.*, right hand to right hand,—and that troops are always to be allowed to keep their own right of the road. We are asked whether such regulations are now in force and whether they apply to Yokohama. Undoubtedly they are in force. They were promulgated by Ordinance No. 7 of the Home Department, dated June 14th, 1886, and a full translation of them was published in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of July 3rd of that year. They comprised 208 articles, divided under 4 headings, and the Ordinance was addressed to "The Hokkaido Administration Office, the Metropolitan Police Office, and to Cities and Prefectures." In other words, the rules became operative throughout the whole empire, wherever Japanese jurisdiction ran, and each locality was required to prepare regulations on the basis of the Ordinance, and to put them into force after receiving the sanction of the Department of Home Affairs. The 42nd Article Sect. IV (Street Traffic) runs thus:

> When carriages, horses or foot-passengers meet, they should pass each other on the left, and when meeting a company of soldiers, artillery carts, or commissariat waggons, they should pass these on the right.

Reference has frequently been made to the above Ordinance in these columns, but, as we have more than once remarked, the rules are virtually useless for the regulation of traffic in the foreign settlements, since the Japanese authorities are not competent to enforce them there. That fact seem to be difficult of comprehension in certain quarters, but surely it is plain enough. Suppose, for example, that a citizen or subject of some country where the rule of the road is precisely the opposite of that quoted above—and such countries are in a very large majority—suppose that such a person declines to follow the Japanese regulation and adheres to the custom of his own country, who is to coerce or punish him? The Japanese can not touch him, nor can his own Consul. The limits of a Consul's authority are not very clearly defined. Some Consuls are willing to recognise Japanese laws; others are not. But we have never heard that any foreign Consul is competent to enforce Japanese municipal regulations, and it will be observed that although the standard rules relating to street traffic were promulgated by the Central Government, their enforcement in each locality was dependent on the compilation and issue of corresponding regulations by local authorities; in other words, municipal regulations. The police have never, to our knowledge, made the slightest attempt to enforce the regulations in the case of foreigners or foreigners' servants. They know perfectly well that they would be exceeding their powers if they did so.

OUTRAGES ON CHRISTIANS AT SHIRAKAWA.

The Metropolitan papers are so absorbed in party politics and all its petty issues that they sometimes do not take the trouble to report incidents of considerable interest and importance occurring in distant provincial towns. It seems rather late to record in the middle of November something that occurred in the middle of September. But we have had to wait for the issue of a monthly magazine in order to obtain a reliable account of the persecution to which certain Greek-church converts were subjected in Shirakawa two months ago.

The following are the facts of the case, as stated by the *Seikyō Shimpō*. On September 9th the festival of the war-god Kashima was held in Shirakawa. It was a grand affair, with triumphal cars, dancing girls, and what not, and the whole town was excited over it. The Greek Christians residing in Shirakawa had been asked to subscribe to this festival, but had refused. This seems to have got abroad and to have given great umbrage; for on the night of the 11th, the house of a Christian called Kumata was broken into and his shop smashed to pieces. The same night, stones weighing 8lbs. or 9lbs. were thrown against the door of a Christian called Hashimoto, an entrance was thus effected and his property was wrecked. On the night of the 13th at 7 p.m., the house of a Christian called Kono was stoned. On the 18th at sunset, the house of another convert named Suzuki was attacked. Suzuki and his wife were dragged into the road and cruelly beaten with sticks and stones. When examined by the doctor, it was found that in addition to being wounded, or bruised, in over 10 places, Suzuki had received a fearful gash in the head over a foot in length, which penetrated the periosteum. The wife was dragged through the street by the hair of her head and beaten unmercifully. The police were appealed to in the early stages of the disturbances, but are reported not to have taken prompt action of any kind. Although the perpetrators of these outrages are said to have been known to the police, they took no steps to punish them. Under these circumstances the Christians naturally appealed to head-quarters. Mr. Yamazaki, the pastor in charge of the Church, in an interview with the Governor of Fukushima, informed him of all that had happened, and a deputation from the church set out for Tokyo to report the whole matter to Bishop Nicolai, who at once despatched one of his leading Christians to Shirakawa to inquire into the affair.

According to the *Seikyō Shimpō*, the local police practically sided with the rioters. They were informed of all the various assaults, and yet they took no steps to protect the Christians and it is said that even when the assaults were going on they did not hasten to the spot. We do not believe that. It is also said that the Provincial Police force is very much undermanned; that there are only just enough men to keep guard at the Police boxes, and that it takes a great deal to make a policeman leave his box, even though there may be serious disturbance in the neighbourhood.

We learn from Shanghai papers that small-pox has broken out on board H M S. *Iphigenia* now lying at anchor off Kungkungtao. Seven of her crew are in the hospital at Chefoo.

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TOKYO CITY GOVERNMENT.

Referring to our comments in a recent issue on the management of Tokyo municipal affairs, a correspondent writes:—"There is certainly one steam-roller in Tokyo, if not more. It used to be kept in a shed opposite the old Tokyo City Offices, in the place where the carriages and *kurumæ* of members of the present Tokyo Club wait for their owners. I never saw it used, and the reason given was that the bridges were not strong enough to carry it." That reminds us of Dr. Johnson's logician who denounced the incorrectness of saying that an orchard bore no fruit when in reality it had one pear and two apples. The point is that steam-rollers are not employed for purposes of road-making in Tokyo. Whether one or more are stored away somewhere, doesn't matter a jot. Rollers are not employed at all, hand-rollers or steam-rollers. At least, we have never seen them employed. Round pebbles are dumped upon the road and left there to make it or mar it as chance directs. A more expensive and unscientific method could not be conceived. It was recently remarked with much truth—not by an Irishman, we should premise—that the roads in Tokyo are never good except when they are impassable. Why, talking of Ireland, the roads in the wild west of Ireland, where one may walk for two or three hours without meeting a pedestrian, and for half a day without encountering a vehicle, would put to shame any street in Japan's metropolis, except the avenue immediately encircling the inner moat of the Palace. Want of broken stone is, of course, the root of the difficulty. But that is a trouble easily overcome. Steam-crushers would solve it. As to the bridge question, considering that blocks of granite twenty feet long, three feet wide and two feet deep, and other huge rocks for garden-making purposes, are dragged from end to end of the city without any thought of over-loading the bridges, we do not see why a steam-roller should prove intractable. At all events, the only bridges of any length are those crossing the Sumida, and we presume that it would not be impossible to have one roller for the district on the east of the river and another for the district on the West. There is nothing to excuse the condition of the streets in Tokyo. They represent a degree of material civilization far below the standard that the intelligence and enterprise of the Japanese people justify one in expecting.

BALANCE OF POWER AND OFFICE-HUNTING FEVER.

During the four months of the Constitutional Party's tenure of office the "floor" was permanently held by two occupants, the balance of power between Liberals and Progressists and office-hunting fever. With the accession of Marquis Yamagata's Cabinet these unsightly factors disappeared. At all events, the public sees nothing of them, and is charmed with the respite. But the *Mainichi Shimbun* denies that there is any real respite. It declares that the only change is one of persons: instead of Liberals and Progressists, Satsuma and Choshu have now to be balanced; and instead of party aspirants for office, the men who claim to have contributed to the fall of the Okuma Cabinet are now knocking at the door. Among these men our contemporary mentions Mr. Miura, Viscount Torio, Mr. Furusawa, Mr. Yasuba, Mr. Oki Morikata, and so on. It constructs an adroit indictment, for it says that, whereas the man who has never held office nor tasted its sweets can be easily placated, the man who has had the pleasant experience, can not rest from efforts to renew it, and thus becomes a political intriguer. The *Mainichi* may be right, but ignorance is bliss. We do think that the dignified calm which has succeeded the ugly storm lately raging is a most happy transformation.

THE "SAKE" BREWERS.

The *Sake* brewers continue to record their protest against the increased taxation which is likely to be imposed on them. Some 90 representatives of the 1,015,000 breweries in the Empire held a meeting in the Kinkikan, Tokyo, on the 20th and discussed the prospect. A bill was introduced declaring the following rates to be the maxima that the industry could bear:—

	per *koku*.
1. Refined *Sake*, white *Sake*, and sweet *Sake*	10 *yen*
2. Unrefined *Sake*	9 "
3. Alcohol	12 "
4. Mixed *Sake* (made from Alcohol)	15 "

This bill was opposed by the brewers of Saitama and others, and after an animated discussion continuing until the afternoon, a division resulted in an equal number of "ayes" and "noes." It was consequently decided that a Committee should be appointed to consult with the delegates of the brewers. The rates tabulated above would give an increased revenue of about 18 million *yen*.

THE PHILIPPINES PROBLEM.

Nothing could be less equivocal than the views of the *Jiji Shimpo* about the acquisition of the Philippines by the United States. The *Jiji* has always been a staunch admirer of America. It does not now show any sign of diminished partiality. The war with Spain is regarded by it as infinitely honourable to America, since she waged it solely in the interests of humanity and without a particle of selfishly aggressive ambition. That she should remain in possession of the Philippines after a war so conclusive of her supremacy, is only right and natural. Spain's retention of the islands would be a constant factor of unrest in the Orient, for her inability to defend them could not fail to tempt the aggression of the great European Powers. But no one will think of ousting America. On the other hand, America's foreign policy is eminently one of peaceful progress. Her presence in the East will be a guarantee for the preservation of tranquillity.

THE AUSTRO HUNGARIAN REVISED TREATY.

The Revised Treaty with Austria-Hungary seems to be at last within sight of ratification. It has passed the Committee the Reichsrath, and will soon be laid before the Houses, where it can count on a favourable reception. The Treaty has already passed the Hungarian Reichstag, as our readers are doubtless aware, so its endorsement by the Austrian Reichsrath will terminate the vicissitudes of its somewhat chequered career.

THE HIGH COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND COMMERCE.

A short time ago, the High Council on Agriculture, Commerce, and Industry held a meeting in Tokyo, and discussed various topics many of which had great interest for foreigners. Epitomised accounts of the Council's proceedings were published by the vernacular press and reproduced in our columns. Now, however, we have received an official copy of the proceedings, accompanied by a suggestion that, as the newspaper accounts had been very misleading, we should translate and publish the proceedings in their entirety. It is a task of some magnitude, but, on looking over the report, we have no hesitation in adopting the suggestion of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, for every part of the proceedings possesses interest for our readers, and the impression conveyed by what has hitherto been written is distinctly erroneous. It will be remembered that the public was betrayed into considerable error by the statements of the vernacular press with regard to the proceedings of another important body, the High Council on Education. The significance of the Council's vote as to the share which foreigners should be permitted to take in Japanese education was misinterpreted, and no reference was made to speeches which dispelled the cloud of illiberality apparently enveloping the proceedings. It is a pity that the official records were not published in the case of the Education Council also. Elsewhere will be found the first part of the proceedings of the Council of Agriculture, Commerce, and Industry.

"LA VIE JAPONAISE."

In the routine of his daily duties a newspaper editor receives various publications which he is expected to review, and among them there are always some which he puts aside from day to day, disliking to abuse them and unable conscientiously to applaud them. Mr. G. Bigot's "La Vie Japonaise" belongs to that category of editorial *bêtes noirs* in our case. He is a clever draughtsman and some of his conceptions are bright and amusing, but all his pictures of Japanese are disfigured by a strong subjective element of aversion and contempt. It is not merely that he makes the people, men and women alike, revoltingly ugly, and that never by any chance does he concede to them a grace of any kind. What offends us is that his Japanese are almost bestial and that he evidently intends them to appear so. A caricature must not be malignant or it ceases to be amusing. Besides, this No. 8 of *La Vie Japonaise* is disgusting. Some of the pictures are not merely indecent but also horribly gross. The best we can say is that when Mr. Bigot gets outside the range of Japanese subjects he scores distinct success, as in *Commences d'abord s.v.p.* and *Suite du Voyage en Palestine.*

According to Raseri, cited in the *British Medical Journal*, the maximum number of births occur in the early morning, and the minimum number in the early afternoon, while the maximum number of deaths occur in the early afternoon, and the minimum number in the hours just before midnight. It is pointed out that the period of maximum mortality is the same as that of maximum rate of pulse and and degree of temperature in health, and when general feverishness in disease.

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MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S SPEECH.

THE speech made by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN at Manchester on the 16th instant is particularly interesting and important from a Japanese point of view, as it contains the first reference made publicly by a Minister of the Crown to the possibility of an *entente* between Japan and Great Britain for the preservation of the open-door policy in China. Japan has the capacity to be a useful ally in the Far East. For while England, without unduly straining her resources, can place in these waters a squadron strong enough to face any coalition, neither she nor any European Power could send a large military force to the East-Asiatic Continent without troublesome and costly effort. Great Britain, indeed, is, after Japan, incomparably the best qualified of all the Powers for such an enterprise, since she could not only draw upon her Indian Army for sixty or seventy thousand men, but also block the route for the transports of any other Western State. But between India as a basis of operations for a campaign in East Asia and Japan as a basis, there is, of course, no comparison, to say nothing of the fact that Japan could easily put into the field a force, not of sixty or seventy thousand, but of twice or even thrice the latter number. Besides, Japan's harbours and coal stations would be of great value to an ally. On the other hand, this country labours under the disadvantages of being in a politically inchoate condition and having its finances disordered. European statesmen can not feel much disposition to rely on a nation which is so absorbed in the throes of a constitutional struggle that its Cabinets are eminently unstable and its views of foreign affairs superficial and immature. Within the past two years, Japan, owing to the intemperance and unpatriotic self-seeking of her political agitators, has lost much of the fine position to which the astute efforts of the *Meiji* statesmen and the successful issue of the War with China raised her. Fortune, however, continues to be exceptionally kind to her. A rôle now offers which she can play in such a manner as to win the respect and confidence of the leading Powers of the West, and to repair the losses that her reputation has suffered at the hands of party politicians. It will probably be no small satisfaction to her to find Germany included in the phalanx of Powers having interests identical with her own in the Far East, for though Germany's action with regard to Liaotung greatly alienated Japan's good will it did not completely sever the bonds of friendship cemented in 1885-6. We must frankly say that Germany's Far-Eastern policy gains nothing from the impetuously masterful element imported into it during the past four years. Her brusque endeavour to thrust her hand between the bark and the tree in the Liaotung affair effected nothing as against her enemies and greatly startled her friends. The Kiao-chou *coup* shocked even those that sympathised with its object. Her proceedings at the Philippines provoked the resentment of the American nation and thus closed an avenue to the colonial expansion which she justly desires. We ourselves have never believed in a serious estrangement between England and Germany: the two nations have so much in common that mutual friendship and cöoperation, not enmity and opposition, should be their natural aim. Moreover, the first article of our political creed for the past twenty-five years has been an alliance between the two main branches of the Anglo-Saxon race, and the identity of their interests with Japan's in the Far East. If, then, we saw with profound satisfaction that events were gradually drawing together America, Japan, and England, we observed with corresponding regret that Germany seemed to be passing beyond the pale of possible union. At Liaotung she alienated Japan. At the Philippines she estranged America. At Kiao-chou she shocked all believers in the ethics of international intercourse. But the temporary freaks of German politicians—if we may use the term without offence—do not represent the heart of the German people, whose growth and prosperity are distinct gains to the human race. Germany is not powerful in the Far East. But her voice carries paramount weight in the councils of Continental Europe and she thus possesses a means of largely influencing the success or failure of any coalition in which Western Powers are interested. For these various reasons nothing is more welcome than the *entente* recently established between her and Great Britain. On the other hand, we have to ask ourselves, what is the scope of that *entente?* The answer is probably furnished by a fact which constitutes the "bed rock" of Germany's foreign policy, her determination not to raise her hand against Russia. Infinite and honest pains have been taken to show that the recently concluded "Anglo-German agreement" had its sphere carefully limited to South Africa, and involved on Germany's part nothing more than a strictly neutral attitude in the event of serious complications between England and another Power with regard to African affairs. There was not the least suspicion of an anti-Russian *arrière pensee*. In the Far East, however, the chief opponents of the open-door policy are Russia and France, so that if Germany joined the coalition spoken of by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, she would abandon her attitude of forbearance towards Russia. It is not easy to credit such a departure from her stereotyped line of policy. Yet Mr. CHAMBERLAIN suggests an "exercise of the collective influence of the four Powers," Germany, the United States, Japan, and England, to ensure the observation of the open-door principle. If his words may be construed as anything more than an expression of England's desires, they embody a very momentous announcement.

A NEW RAILWAY.

On the 18th instant the Kwansei Tetsudo was opened for traffic. It is a line from Nagoya to Osaka, *viâ* Kuwana, Yokkaichi, Kameyama, and Nara—a line, in short, which instead of travelling northward and westward to Lake Biwa, and thence southward to Otsu, Kyoto, and Osaka, as the Tokaido Railway does, takes a southerly and westerly direction from Nagoya, and, passing through the provinces of Ise and Yamato, reaches Osaka direct. By changing to this new line at Nagoya the distance to Osaka is considerably shortened. Moreover, the company announces that, until the 17th of December, it will sell tickets at half rates; namely, 1.83 *yen* first class; 90½ *sen* second class, and 61 *sen* third class.

SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

It seems to be impossible for the vernacular newspapers to extend their range of discussion at present beyond party politics and foreign affairs. When they do not take their text from the doings of the Liberals or the Progressists, they turn to the Far-Eastern question. The *Jiji* directs its attention to both matters. It writes with remarkable shrewdness about the much-talked-of alliance between Japan and England. When Mr. Chamberlain spoke, last May, of the necessity that England should seek the alliance of a strong military Power, it was hastily and gladly concluded that he referred to Japan. But events have shown that Germany was in his mind. Japan's satisfaction was all moonshine (*ichiji no sora-yorokobi*). It is true that journalistic comments since the war with China imply the propriety of classing Japan among the strong Powers. She has not gained such a high place as she supposes, however. Alliances are based on an interchange of benefits. If a country wants to have allies, she must have something to offer them. It will not do merely to think of what they can offer. England, if the occasion presented itself, would not shrink from facing the whole world. Therefore she can always command alliances. People that discuss foreign politics are wont to speak of Japan as the strongest country east of the Suez Canal. That is true, but what does she count for westward of the Canal? Whatever her military strength, she can not offer it in pledge of a British alliance. Such strength could be serviceable only on the Asiatic continent, and even there it would be useless without a powerful navy. But when Japan's fleet it contrasted with the squadrons of European Powers in these waters, it is plain that she has little reason to be proud. Meanwhile it is evident that the Far East is to be the arena of a terrible struggle between the Great Occidental Powers, and the time is close at hand when Japan will have to determine finally where she shall throw in her lot. That will be the day when the question of an alliance must enter the domain

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of practical discussion. Nay, already the necessity of making a choice presses. Japan as she is now, however, can not find an ally even if she wanted one. She must radically change her mood. She must give up her family quarrels and gather her strength for the time of crisis.

* * *

The progress of the world and its vicissitudes, says the *Jimmin*, do not wait upon Japanese convenience. It depends upon ourselves whether we keep abreast of the time. But our foreign policy begins with purposelessness and ends with purposelessness. It may be true that Japan is the strongest Power eastward of Suez and that she is in a position to play a bold rôle in Korea, in the Philippines, in China. But has the Yamagata Cabinet any definite foreign policy? The Paris Peace Conference seems likely to prove abortive, and in that event grave complications may occur. Count Okuma used to boast that the American Government had regarded it as extremely friendly on Japan's part that she kept silence with regard to the Philippines. No doubt. It is always pleasant not to be disturbed in carrying out one's plans of aggrandisement. But Japan has a profound interest in the fate of the Philippines. Will Viscount Aoki vindicate her right to be heard? What is his policy about Korea? If it be deemed advisable to form an alliance with England, let it be formed at once; if with Russia, why then with Russia. It will not do merely to stand idle and indifferent.

* * *

In another article the Liberal organ suggests that England is making preparations to found a second huge empire for herself in the Yangtsze Valley. The Japanese now-a-days seem to regard with complaisance everything that Great Britain does, and to distrust every act of Russia's. Their foreign policy is one of sentiment. Yet, in truth, there is no longer any time to discuss an Anglo-American-Japanese alliance, or a Russo-Japanese *entente*. The partition of China is in sight. Lord Charles Beresford's project of 2,000 Chinese troops officered by Englishmen invites the keenest watchfulness. We do not swallow the pretext that this scheme is merely destined for the protection of China. We do not forget that the despatch of a distinguished naval officer on an ostensible commercial mission is peculiar. These is an astute and far-reaching design at the bottom of it all. These two thousand men are probably the nucleus of a large force, and the Yangtsze Valley is to be a second India. Are the Japanese satisfied that England will be a bulwark for China against Russian aggression? The Yangtsze Valley represents a third of the Chinese Empire. It is incomparably the richest part of the country and it has a population of over a hundred millions. Suppose that it is converted into a second India, a new British empire, how much of China will remain to be preserved? The partition of China is in sight. Russia from the north, Germany from the East, England from the centre, France from the south—all advance to cut her up. What place is there for Japan? Her foreign policy is objectless. Was her big navy acquired and her large army organized merely for self-protection? Truly her conduct is like that of the rustic waiting for the river to flow by.

The political centre of gravity is not fixed. It shifts with the times and with events. Wherever enterprise and strength are conspicuous, there the centre is to be found. Since the *coup d'etat* in China the political centre has shifted to Europe. China is to be partitioned. Lord Charles Beresford has virtually told her so. After China herself, no Power is so deeply interested in that event as Japan. Tokyo ought to be the centre of gravity. But Japan is powerless. She is a mere cipher. Even in Korea she achieves nothing. The truth is that her statesmen are incompetent. The country must rouse itself and inspire them with courage and a sense of their responsibilities.—(*Tokyo Asahi.*)

* * *

With regard to domestic politics, a great deal is written, but most of it is stale and uninteresting. The *Jiji* contends that it would be wholly unreasonable to introduce a vote of want of confidence before the Cabinet's financial and legislative policy has become known. Any such procedure on the side of the parties would be childish. Yet if the Cabinet imagines that while standing aloof altogether from the parties, it can nevertheless command their support, it is decidedly mistaken. At all events the matter resolves itself into this, that the Cabinet must appeal to the country if it thinks that the latter does not endorse the Diet's opposition; and that if a new Diet still proves intractable, choice must be made between suspending the Constitution and the final abolition of Clan Cabinets.

* * *

The *Mainichi* has a poor opinion of political morality in Japan. Men recognise no responsibility in connexion with their utterances. They say one thing when out of office, and practise another when in power. Hence the nation has ceased to take them seriously, and their utterances produce no effect. Itagaki used to be all for the rights of the individual, but, without word of apology, he changed right over to nationalist views. Yamagata was formerly the most pronounced advocate of Independent Cabinets, and he is now bidding for the support of political parties. The men who used to beat the drum of liberty and equality have become slaves of the Clan Statesmen. Furusawa, who drafted the petition for popular representation, has been metamorphosed into an advocate of absolute monarchical principles. Matsuda, who, when out of office, agitated for the State purchase of private railways, carefully shunned the topic when he held the portfolio of finance, and on losing office has now reverted to the old platform for the sake of winning over the speculators on 'change. Why do the people trust such men? A society where no responsibility attaches to a man's declarations is a society where double dealing, corruption, insincerity and moral darkness prevail, and where right has no existence. Would that these shameless fellows (*harenchikan*) were driven from the field.

* * *

Dr. Hatoyama has gone to meet Marquis Ito at Shimonoseki. Messrs. Hoshi Toru and Inouye Kakugoro have accompanied Count Yamagata to Kobe for the same purpose. It is not particularly creditable that both of the great political parties should turn to the same Marquis Ito in their difficulties. Apparently neither of them can organize a Cabinet without the aid of Ito the clansman. What right, then, have they to overthrow Yamagata merely because he is a clansman?—(*Yomiuri Shimbun.*)

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

There exists in Tōkyō a Society known as the 土俗會, *Dozoku-kai*, whose object is to collect information bearing on local customs and superstitions and to publish folk lore and the like. At the sixth meeting of the Society held a short time ago Professor Tsuboi Shōgorō read a paper of considerable interest, on "Superstitions and Popular Traditions," an epitome of which we furnish below.

The origin of superstitions it is often extremely difficult to trace, and we often find that the most rational explanations of them are by no means the true ones. Many superstitions seems to be absolutely irrational in their origin. Take the idea that the parings of nails when cast into the fire make the former owner of the nails a lunatic. How parts of the body that have been severed from it can affect the mind it is difficult to see. As regards those popular notions, called in Japanese 俗傳 *sokuden*, in the first instance many of them only consisted of commands, which gradually grew sacred and were universally observed. Such no doubt was the notion that a foot-measure is not to be passed from hand to hand by young children. The line between superstition and popular usage is not always easy to draw, and there are some practices that have both elements. In collecting material on this subject it is desirable to keep as far as possible to superstitions and traditions that are known to the majority of the people residing in a given district or province. In order to give some idea of the kind of matter it should be our object to collect, I here furnish some notes I have made on Tōkyō superstitions and popular notions, which, for convenience of reference, I have arranged under various heads.

I.—SAYINGS AND NOTIONS HAVING REFERENCE TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE BODY.—Such are the following:—"Where the crown on the head (*tsumuji*) is not in the centre of the head the temper is crooked."* "Those who have a double whirl are clever." "Those who have long eyebrows live to old age." "A woman whose right and left eyebrows are near each other will be married to a near neighbour." "A mole above the eye is a sign of rank and prosperity, but a mole below the eye is called the 'weeping mole' and is a sign of bad luck." "Long-eyelashes are a sign of intelligence." "Where the tongue (when put out) reaches the jawbone, its owner will become a great robber." "A good row of teeth is a sign of honesty." "Good fortune is in store for those whose ear-lobes are thick and broad and shaped so as to carry a grain of rice."† "Persons whose finger-tips are small are sure to be skilful." "Hang-nails (*sasakure*) are a sign of lack of filial piety." "Persons whose second toes are long will become more noted than their parents." "Itching inside the ears is a sign that one will hear something good." "Where there

* The part referred is the little circular space at the back part of the top of the head called a whirl or a crown, in English. The word crown in this sense is used by Chaucer in "Pierce Ploughman."

† *Mimi-tabu no atsuku, hiroku, kome-tsubu no ugu mono wa kōfuku de aru.*

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are white spots on the nails, clothes will be plentiful." "A child that is not ticklish either in the side or under the chin was born out of wedlock (literally was be gotten by a paramour.")‡

II. SAYINGS HAVING REFERENCE TO POSTURE, MANNERS, FEASTS, &C.—"If when before sitting down behind another at a feast a person raps the mat three times, it is a sign that he will slander somebody." "Nails cut off from the fingers or toes when thrown into the fire cause lunacy." "When the master leaves the house, those who see him off should not enter the house till he has crossed his first bridge."

III. SAYINGS REFERRING TO TOOLS AND UTENSILS.—"The foot-measure should not be passed from hand to hand." "A child that has lost its way will find it again by passing a foot-measure from one hand to another." "To throw away a pillow is to give oneself a headache." "If the foot-gear of a guest be turned upside down, that guest will return to the house before long." "Never pick up a comb dropped by another." (Refers to the combs used by women for their hair.)

IV. SAYINGS REFERRING TO CLOTHES, FOOD, AND HOUSES.—"If a man eat persimmons and drink tea he will become cowardly." "If red rice (made red by being mixed with red beans) be eaten with tea poured on it, the wedding night will be rainy." If you retire to rest immediately after eating you will become an ox.§" "Those who buy salt at night will have a fire in the house." "If you are forced to buy salt at night, then don't use the ordinary word for salt (*shiwo*) but ask for *nami no hana*."‖

V. SAYINGS REFERRING TO SEASONS.—There is on New Year's Day an aversion to monkeys and to sweeping rooms. The name for monkey, *saru*, reminds the Japanese of another *saru*, 去, to depart, and leads him to think that his happiness will depart. The reason for not sweeping rooms is for fear of sweeping out the good luck that the New Year has brought. "If it rains at a man's wedding, it will rain at his funeral."

VI. SAYINGS REFERRING TO ANIMALS AND PLANTS.—"A cat must not be placed close to a dead man's pillow." "If you put dried beetles known as *tamamushi* in your chests of drawers, your clothes will be plentiful." "Never kill the day-spider (because be brings good luck); but the night-spider always slay" (He is supposed to be a fiend). "If you plant the Snake gourd (*Luffa Petola*) in your garden, you will become poor."

Professor Tsuboi points out that the origin of these sayings, where traceable, is very various and in some cases is to be found in a word of harmless meaning suggesting one of ill-omen. Thus it is unlucky to pick up a comb, because the term *Kushi* may be written 苦死, and then means suffering and death. An exhaustive collection of these sayings throughout the provinces and their classification under various heads would furnish to the psychologist, educationist, and anthropologist most valuable material, concludes Professor Tsuboi.

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The *Tōyōtetsugaku* publishes a report of a lecture delivered at the Tetsugakkan by Professor Tsubouchi Yūzō on "The Peculiarities of the Two Kinds of Poets." The following is the gist of the Professor's remarks on this subject:—There is the greatest difference in the literary nervous organisation of what are called the subjective and objective poets. The poetry of the former is concentrative, that of the latter is diffusive; the writings of the former are stiff and rigid, those of the latter are pliant and flexible. The subjective poet moves of himself. The objective poet waits to be moved by outside influences. To the subjective poet his own mind is the standard of all things. He is decided in his opinions and rejects all theories that do not accord with his convictions. He has few if any doubts. He is dogmatic, prejudiced, unfair to his opponents. His view of life may be deep, but it certainly is not broad. However extensive his studies, he makes use of no knowledge that does not support and justify his own opinions, and he is averse to following up his disquisitions with a qualifying or an adversative "but." He becomes a pronounced egoist. Of this kind have been the authors of some of the best lyric poems. From this class have come great reformers and the originators of great enterprises. The objective poet draws his inspiration from without. He has no fixed theory or principle to be applied to all the various phases of life and to be used to control his selection of material for embodiment in his poems. To him all nature seems beautiful and he endeavours to describe things as they are. As your enemy there is nothing to fear in him and as your friend nothing to gratify you. He is broad-minded and entirely without selfish interests. He may not reach to sublime heights, but he ranges over an extensive area and embodies in his poems a very large number of diverse theories. The writers of the best epic poems were men of this kind. He aims at being logical and hence has to be sparing in his use of language. His language is sterner and more strictly in accordance with fact than that of the subjective poet. The natures of these two kinds of poets are quite different. The subjective poet is sociable, and congenial. His views are usually optimistic, the cheerfulness of his own mind is reflected in the nature which he portrays. The objective poet describes nature as it actually is and easily drifts into pessimism. The subjective poet can be known by his writings. Who that has read Shelley's poems could fail to perceive what manner of man he was. But Scott's poetry, on the other's hand, gives no clue to the character of the poet. His writings were purely objective. The greatness of one class of poets (subjective) consists in the heights to which they soar, that of the other in the extent of the area over which they range. Only two poets, in my opinion, have in a conspicuous manner combined height with breadth, have been at once subjective and objective. They were Shakespeare and Goëthe, the first more so than the second, probably on account of his freedom from those nineteenth century influences that moulded the mind of Goëthe.

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The 中外時論 *Chūgai Jiron* has changed its name to *Jiron* (The Contemporary?) This is a political magazine, but, unlike so many Japanese political organs, it aims at obtaining material for publication from original sources. Recognising the fact that the Chinese question is one of immense importance to Japan at the present time, it is taking steps to employ correspondents in various parts of China, who will be expected to describe the actual condition of affairs in the provinces where they reside. In order to keep its readers informed as to Russian influence and doings in Manchuria and as to the progress of the Siberian railway, it has despatched correspondents to these places. This is a new departure as regards magazines and, if sustained, ought to yield good results.

* * *

The *Dai Nihon* is a magazine that aspires to become the "Review of Reviews" of Japan. Its editor is the well-known Dr. Matsumoto Kumpei. It is in general character more political than literary, but it publishes a large amount of matter bearing on social questions. In the number that lies before us appears a letter addressed to Count Okuma recommending him to adopt some definite policy, which, however, is of little interest now. Mr. Fukuchi Genichirō contributes a lengthy essay on "State Socialism." Mr. Shimada Saburō writes on "A view of the World in which we live." There are lives of Gladstone and Bismarck and a notice of Dr. Tomii's "Code Civil de l'Empire du Japon." This translation, says the *Dai Nihon*, has attracted the attention of the French Academy, having been introduced to their notice by M. Arthur Desjardins, who spoke in the highest terms of the progress made by Japan in the improvement of her laws. Dr. Tomii, continues the organ we are quoting, is the author of another French work entitled "Transformations politiques du Japon," published in Paris last year. The political changes through which Japan has passed during the *Meiji* era were the subject of a paper read by Dr. Tomii to the members of the Oriental Congress held in Paris in 1896. The monologue now given to the public in a permanent form is based on that paper. Dr. Tomii contends that the transformations which have taken place during the past thirty years were the result of the previous history of the nation, and are not to be attributed to accidental causes.

* * *

The *Tōyōtetsugaku* announces the founding of a society called the Tōyō-gengo-gakkai, The Oriental Language Society. Its meetings are held in the Nikkwadō (日華堂), 19 Nishikata-machi, Hongō, Tōkyō. It seems to be of the nature of a school, for it offers to provide instruction in Chinese, Sanscrit, Pali, Mongolian, &c. The hours of study are stated to be from 4 p.m. to 8 p. m. every day. It is stated that later on lessons in Ainu, Korean, Loochoo, and other langu will be given. What we are not told is how the society is going to obtain instructors in these various tongues. Is one enterprising scholar going to undertake the task? This is the question that readers of the *Tōyō-tetsugaku's* grand advertisement have begun to ask.

* * *

The 旧幕記事 *Kaikyū Kiji* (Reminisences of Former Times) records the views and experiences of Marshal Yamagata in his younger days. The work, which consists of 5 volumes, and sells at 1 *yen* 75 *sen* per copy (Maruya), was compiled by Mr. Akizuki Shintarō, the

‡ *Wakino shita, ago no shita no kusuguttakunai mono wa musuko no ko de aru.*

§ It is only cattle that lie down immediately after taking food.

‖ Lit. The flower of the waves of the sea, poetic name for salt.

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material being supplied to him by the Marshal himself in a series of interviews. The state of Chōshū prior to the Meiji era and the sequence of events that led up to the revolution are said to be well described in this book.

* * *

The Japanese residents of San Francisco have decided to have a newspaper of their own and have already procured an editor, type, and other necessaries in Japan. Mr. Kawasaki Minotarō, hitherto closely connected with the *Tenchijin*, is to be the editor of the new organ, which will be called the *Hokubei Nippō* (The North American Japanese News) and will be issued daily. Mr. Kawasaki left Yokohama for his new post on September 20th, so that it will not be long before the first number of the new journal makes its appearance. The Japanese traders in San Francisco are evidently men of means, for they are bearing the whole expense of starting the new enterprise. One of the chief aims of the *Hokubei Nippō* will be to raise the tone of Japanese society in San Francisco.

* * *

In the *Sekai-no-Nihon* appears an article entitled "How to become a journalist," in which Mr. Inukai Ki is represented as specifying three qualities as necessary for success in journalism; (1) Physical strength; (2) The absence of learning; (3) Brazen-facedness. This no doubt applied to Japanese journalists of ten or fifteen years ago, says the *Sekai-no-Nihon*, but at the present time only the first of the characteristics holds good. It is more necessary than ever that the man who aspires to be a journalist should be capable of very hard mental work from week's end to week's end. For the idle, the sickly, and the desultory journalism is no field. Success is the result of sustained effort. Though the journalist should be well educated, rather than know one subject very thoroughly, it would be better for him to know a great variety of subjects imperfectly. Breadth even with shallowness is to be preferred to depth that is confined to one subject. A Japanese journalist should have read extensively on constitutional government and should make good use of all the works published on this subject in Japan, with the exception of Dr. Hatoyama's one-sided treatise advocating a species of despotism. Works on administrative Government and political economy ought to receive special attention from newspaper writers. It is needless to add, says the writer we are noting, that Japanese and Chinese history first and afterwards European history should be earnestly studied.

* * *

The *Eibun jiret* is an unpretentious little book compiled by Mr. Takahashi, editor of the *Japan Times*. It consists of a number of English prose quotations, which have been chosen with the object of teaching the reader how to converse in English. The *Taiyō* says that it needs to be 4 or 5 times the size of the present volume in order to enable the learner to attain the object the compiler has in view. The price of the book is 45 *sen* per copy.

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The *Kyōiku Kōhō* (No. 216) contains a statement of Marquis Itō's views on education and the future of China, which has a ring of genuineness about it. One cannot but feel, the Marquis is represented as saying, that China is like a traveller belated when far from home. It is late in the day to attempt to save her from what seems to be her impending fate. None of the slow methods pursued in countries where the exigencies of the situation are less pressing can be followed there. The most urgent of her needs in the line of education is a number of schools where special subjects shall be taught, such as industry, military tactics, navigation, and the like. The state needs a supply of trained servants who shall devote their lives to her interests. Even in Japan there is too much reliance on general education and too little on special training. Our system of education to-day may be said to have mental exercise and development as its aim rather than the acquirement of special knowledge. All the talk about yamato-damashii, patriotism and nationalism, the exhortations of the Motoori school of writers on the need of studying native literature more are useless and undesirable. It is quite superfluous to preach patriotism to such a nation as this. It is not on these things that our attention must be centred. We are no longer isolated. We have entered the arena of progressive nations and must study closely the spirit of the age and the course of events and so mould our policy that we shall not be left behind in the race. It must be recognised that there is a great difference between the education of men as individuals and the education of men as members of the state. In the education of the individual the aim must be to develop a spirit of independence, force of will, and those special mental faculties with which each one finds himself endowed. But to qualify a man to be of service to the state in a time of need he must have received instruction in numerous subjects that have no bearing whatever on his individual character. It is no time to be talking about general education in China. The state needs men versed in special branches of knowledge and cannot afford to wait long for them. The only way to obtain these men is to establish schools that shall be devoted to the teaching of special subjects. Both in China and Japan education is too much narrowed down to mere psychological development, without any regard to the urgent needs of the state as a competitor for power and prestige among the great nations of the world.

* * *

A new fine art magazine has appeared called the *Nihon Bijutsu*. It was started by the *Nihon Bijutsu-in*, Hatsume-chō, Yanaka, Tōkyō, which held an exhibition of paintings a short time ago. The first number of the magazine contains 30 lithographed reproductions of these paintings. The new organ is to be published monthly and will introduce to the notice of the public the most noted paintings of modern artists and discuss a number of subjects connected with art, such as house decoration, industry, and the like. The theory which the promoters of the *Nihon Bijutsu* hold, as stated in the opening columns of the magazine, is that the development of Japanese art was arrested midway a long time ago, but that it is desirable to make the greatest possible use of the proficiency in certain lines of art which Japanese artists have obtained.

* * *

A new magazine has been born called the *Tōkyō*, whose object it will be to collect and publish information bearing on everything that goes on in Tōkyō. It promises to discuss municipal government, law, religion, literature, commerce, industry and many other subjects. It sells at 7 *sen* per copy at Nakano Machi, a suburb of Tōkyō.

* * *

The *Nungen Shakwai* is a translation of an English work by Hamilton entitled *Human Intercourse*. The translator is Mr. Urabe Hyakutarō. The work gives a good idea of the social intercourse of the West, and the translation is said to be very carefully done. The book sells at 30 *sen* per copy at the Kaitakusha, Yazaemon-chō, Kyōbashi, Tokyo.

* * *

The 國防政策, *Kokubō Seisaku*, by Mr. Nakao Komanosuke, is an important work on "Methods of National Defence," and has been issued at an opportune moment. Mr. Nakao was formerly on the staff of the *Jiji Shimpō*. He left the paper in order to give his undivided attention to the preparation of his treatise. He has spared no pains in the collection of material and his work covers 400 pages and seems to leave nothing to be desired in the matter of arrangement and the choice of subjects. The policy that Japan should adopt in regard to foreign intercourse, military expansion, and national finance is thoroughly discussed. After the introduction the position of England, Russia, and France in the Far East is fully treated. Japan's position is then considered (1) as regards her means of defence, which are pronounced to be formidable, (2) as an aggressive power, where she is said to be weak. Under the heading of "foreign relations" the alliance of England, America, and Japan is advocated. To the European alliance of France and Russia the author does not attach much importance, and thinks that a triple alliance in the Far East of Russia, France, and Germany is much more to be feared, and that in order to preserve the balance of power, Japan should do her utmost to ally herself to England and America. The policy that Japan should adopt in reference to her army and navy is discussed in detail. The slow increase of the navy, the insufficiency of dockyards, the lack of maritime enterprise, and the best way of remedying these defects form the subject of the concluding pages of the book. The work sells at 50 *sen* per copy at Uyedaya, Honkoku-chō, Nihonbashi, Tōkyō.

* * *

The *Shakai Zasshi* has an article on the sources of prevailing corrupt customs. There are no worse places than big cities for corrupting morals, and Tōkyō holds a high rank in this respect, says the *Shakai Zasshi*. The deterioration in morals of which we hear so much to-day may be traced to Tokugawa times, when during a part of the year *daimyō* and their retainers came up to Edo to pay their respects to the Shōgun, continues this organ. Men who lived moral lives in their native provinces ran loose in the capital, and as for the *samurai* who were left in charge of the *daimyōs'* mansions in Edo during the absence of their masters, their lives were usually very profligate. The *Shakai Zasshi* quotes Count Okuma's remarks on the evil influence of Edo over the minds of men whose conduct in the provinces was most strict at the beginning of the *Meiji* era. The Count is represented as saying that he himself in his younger days, though a lad of some strength of will, felt quite unable to resist the fascina-

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tions of the metropolis. Another cause of deterioration noticed by the organ we are quoting is the increased knowledge of law as separate from morality in modern times. When men were unable to distinguish between what was *morally* right and what was *legally* right, and when the law was administered by men like Ooka Tadasuke, who preached morality from the bench and never drew distinctions between moral laws and natural laws, the morals of the people were far better than they are now, when the tendency is to go the whole length that the law allows when inclination prompts. The old restraint exercised by religion has been removed by the withdrawal of the government support that religion was wont to enjoy and by the undermining of the authority formerly wielded by religion by scientific writers and learned critics. Thus one curb after another has been taken away, and the natural result is that men give the reins to their desires. Then, as regards, the provinces there is no denying that the introduction of Western civilisation and methods has a demoralising effect. For a provincial to find out that he has been doing a score of things the wrong way, that his methods are defective and behind the age conduces to lessen his self-respect and self-confidence. The step from the feeling that we are wrong in a great many things to the conviction that we are wrong in everything is a short one. And so it has happened that, along with a number of other standards, many a provincial has condemned his moral standard and come to think that even in deciding on right and wrong the nations that have invented so much are probably far better qualified to lead him than his native moralists.

The remedies for the existing evil the *Shakai Zasshi* thinks to be increased attention to the education of women and family management and control. The masses can only be changed by more care being given to the training of individuals.

* * *

In the place of the *Gwaikoku Gogaku Zasshi*, and designed to a certain extent to take its place, the Hakubunkan has started a periodical called the *Chūgaku Sekai*, which sells at 8 *sen* per copy, and is printed mostly in Japanese, with a few English articles interspersed. It is specially designed for the perusal of students of middle class schools. No. 4 contains an article in English by Professors Kanda on "Conversation," and the first of a series of articles on "Obstacles to Rapid Progress in the Acquirement of Foreign Tongues," by Mr. Walter Dening.

* * *

Dr. de Forest, of Sendai, has published a little pamphlet on "Mixed Residence," which, as the only expression in Japanese of foreign opinion on the subject that, as far as we are aware, has appeared, has attracted some attention in the newspapers. Dr. de Forest has stated in a very fair and impartial manner the feelings with which the average foreigner regards the prospect of mixed residence. He first deals with the inconveniences of the present passport system, and contrasts the restraints put upon foreigners in this country with the freedom enjoyed by Japanese in Western lands. He then passes on to the subject of extraterritoriality and maintains that its existence is necessary to the progress of the world, in that it draws a distinction between high and low types of civilisation. The Japanese are sufficiently alive to its importance in both China and Korea, where they insist on its maintenance. That foreigners should regard with some anxiety the near approach of mixed residence is only natural. They are descended from ancestors that purchased liberty by shedding their life-blood, and most of them are not sufficiently acquainted with Japanese laws, customs, courts of justice, and prisons to be sure that they will be dealt with as fairly here as they would in their own countries. Then they cannot but recognise that many dissensions must arise owing to differences of custom. Dr. de Forest urges the importance of more restraint being put on the tongues of schoolboys when they meet foreigners. In reference to the Christian religion, he asks that it be investigated in a thorough and unprejudiced manner. He asserts that it is the foundation of Occidental International Law and observes that persons who are quite ignorant of its teaching cannot possibly understand foreign ways and Western thought. Dr. de Forest concludes with the expression of the desire that the international law of both the East and the West may be developed and rendered more effective, and that thus the peace and happiness of the whole world may be promoted.

CESSION OF NEWCHWANG.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 14th instant says:—We learn on good authority that all the representations made by the China Association and the Press as to the necessity, especially to the commerce of Great Britain and the United States, for the independence of Newchwang and its preservation as an open ports have been in vain, and that our Foreign Office has signed an agreement with Russia, undertaking that Great Britain will recognise Newchwang as being within Russia's "sphere of influence." It is understood that this was done by Mr. A. J. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury, while he was in temporary charge of the Foreign Office during Lord Salisbury's absence on the Continent, and it perhaps helps to account for the ill-temper in which the Foreign Minister is reported to have returned to London. It is added, to soothe the indignation which we must naturally feel, that we on our side receive certain assurances as to our so-called rights. It was not then a slip of the pen when the Empress-Dowager recently described Shanhaikuan as being on the frontier of China.

We confess to not being very much surprised at the news, as we had lost faith for some time in the firmness of the Foreign Office, nor was a philosopher like Mr. Balfour to be expected to take very much interest in such distant outposts of British commerce as Newchwang. It will be of interest to know, by-and-by, what are the assurances as to so-called rights for which Mr. Balfour stipulated, and what we are actually to gain by the Yangtze Valley being considered our "sphere of influence." Our London correspondent has told us in his recent letters that an agreement in reference to affairs in China was in process of conclusion between Great Britain and Russia. The basis of agreement is, we now know, the permanent closing of the open door in Manchuria. It is not a brilliant result for us of the removal of the discussion from the heated atmosphere of Peking to the cooler air of St. Petersburg, but, after all, our experience of the statesmanship of the present Government led us to expect that we should enjoy most of the cooler air.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. AND MRS. GEO. C. NEEDHAM.

As a testimonial of the excellent and successful services of Dr. Geo. C. and Mrs. Needham in the Schools and Churches in Yokohama, as well as elsewhere in Japan during the five months and more of incessant evangelistic labours since their arrival in this country, we, the undersigned Committee of Arrangements, and Principals of Mission Schools, take the greatest pleasure in presenting this tribute of appreciation of these earnest labours, which have resulted, we trust, in the conversion of a large number of our pupils and others, as well as the strengthening of the faith and the quickening of the zeal of many of the Missionaries, and Japanese pastors, and Christian workers.

We recognise in these Evangelists, consecrated instruments through whom the Lord Jesus Christ has wrought among us, "in the manifestation of the Spirit" unto salvation of many, and we deeply regret their stay cannot be prolonged.

We are especially gratified that in their teaching stress has been laid upon the importance of Bible study, and the calm and forceful presentation of those great truths on which we all agree, but which need especial emphasis in Japan.

We reverently and earnestly thank God for having sent them among us to accomplish his purposes of salvation here, and pray that the blessing of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost will go with them, and that they may be spared yet many years to render service unto God.

Signed.
Committee of Arrangements. { H. Loomis. / John L. Dearing. / Jas. H. Ballagh.

Principals of Schools in Yokohama. { Eugene S. Booth. / Mrs. L. H. Pierson. / Mrs. Caroline Van Petten. / Carolyne V. Dorsey. / Clara A. Converse. / Margaret M. Kuhn.

Yokohama, Nov. 21st, 1889.

THIS PICTURE—AND THAT.

From Shanghai, the mother of bunders, came over the wires to us a few days ago an exciting story. M. Pavloff and the Russian Admiral had intended to take 40 Russian sailors from Tientsin to Peking. The Chinese officials had objected, and tried to start the train without them. Thereupon M. Pavloff and the Admiral took up their position before the train, and dared the drivers to proceed. A thrill of excitement went through the reader as he pictured M. Pavloff standing there defiant, in an Adelphi drama attitude, with folded arms and a smile of scorn curling his finely chiselled lips, and saying, in most approved melodramatic tones, "Villains, over my corpse first." The charm of the picture is destroyed by a more circumstantial account now to hand. It seems that matters had been very slow at the Russian Legation at Peking, and the Minister wanted some music. The "40 Russian sailors" of the Shanghai telegram were a harmless brass band. An objection was made by the Chinese authorities, who imagined that the sack of Peking was in contemplation; and M. Pavloff and the Admiral made remonstrances of the necessary vigour. M. Pavloff did even stand in the permanent way before the engine for a minute or two, but as it was not going to start for four hours the likelihood of the wheels passing over the mangled corpse of a hero was somewhat remote. It took some hours to convince the Chinese officials, but time is not of much consequence in China, and the people who had most to complain of were the other passengers who were detained by the dispute. We shall have to erase from the tablets of imagination that pale determined figure of the stately Pavloff braving the engine-buffers and a horrid death for the sake of Russia, fame, and beauty.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

"IJIN BAKA" AND THE IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your review of 'A History of Protestant Missions in Japan" (*Japan Daily Mail*, November 12th) you say:—"Professor Inouye's work has been accepted by practically all the elementary school-teachers as an infallible interpretation of the spirit of the Rescript, and we never hear a little child call out *Ijin baka* or *Tōjin chikusho* without feeling that the inspiration came originally from the Imperial University."

Without wishing to deny the truth of the former half of this sentence or to minimise "the harm done by that brochure," I think it only fair to protest against the inference contained in the latter half of the above abstract, as though the common bad behaviour of "children, students and common people has its origin and last cause in Professor Inouye's agitation. The fact is that such manifestations of anti-foreign feeling in Japan are much older than the publication of the Professor's book in 1891. I have heard them frequently in the streets of Tokyo, when Dr. Inouye was still engaged as teacher of Japanese in the Oriental Seminary of Berlin University. That no recent inspiration in this direction was required, one may learn from an observation made by Captain Saris in his account of his journey from Hakata to Yedo in 1613. He writes:—

"The place exceedingly peopled, very civil and courteous, only that at our landing and being here in Hakata, and so through the whole country, withersoever we came, the boys, children, and worser (!) sort of idle people, would gather about and follow along after us, crying *Kora kora, Kokoro waru**...wondering, hooping, hollowing, and making such a noise about us, that we could scarcely hear one another speak; sometimes throwing stones at us (but that not in many towns); yet the clamour and crying after us was everywhere alike, none reproving them for it."

The gallant Captain adds: "The best advice that I can give those who hereafter shall arrive there, is that they pass on without regarding those *idle rablements*, and in so doing, they shall find their ears only troubled with the noise."

I am inclined to believe that the Imperial University has nothing to do with the recent unpleasant experiences of foreigners in Japan; my reason being, as Schiller puts it:

"Weil was ein Professor spricht
Nicht gleich zu Allen dringet!"

I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

A Foreign Professor in the Imperial University of Tokyo.

PRAYER WHEELS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I have occasionally seen notices of prayer wheels in the *Japan Mail*, but never saw one until recently while travelling in Miyagi-ken. Having seen one I saw many, in connection with one temple I counted nine. They are very simply constructed. The wheel is sawed out of a board and is usually 7 8ths. of an inch think. The size varies. This wheel is set into a post which is prepared with six faces. These faces are covered with Buddhist inscriptions which none of my Japanese companions understood. The wheel also has inscriptions on its periphery. The axle of the wheel is made long enough to carry a small basket on either end. These baskets are full of small stones put in by worshippers. The wheels are used only in praying for dead children, to get them out of the Buddhist hell. The Japanese name for these wheels is *Jizoguruma*. It would be interesting to know if their use extends widely over other parts of Japan.

Yours, A. D. WOODWORTH.

* I correct his spelling of Japanese.

HIGH AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL.

The following enquiries were recently submitted for the consideration of the High Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Council:—

1. The necessity of introducing foreign capital and the method to be adopted in reference thereto.

2 The effect produced upon foreign commerce in consequence of alterations in the coinage system of Japan.

3. Preparations to be made for the enforcement of the new treaties in relation to agriculture, commerce, and industry.

4. Establishment of Workshop Regulations.

5. Institution of a Central Industrial Inspection Office.

6. Rules to be established for granting aids from the Treasury in connection with the organization of local Industrial Inspection Offices.

7. Establishment of regulations for the exact classification of land.

8. The opening of the 5th Domestic Exhibition.

9 Necessary arrangements in regard to the utilization of Japanese settlements in the new open ports in China.

10. Agricultural and commercial statistics.

11 Policy to be adopted in regard to native emigrants to places abroad.

12 Institution of Fishing Regulations.

The conclusions of the Council have been published as follows:—

1. The necessity of introducing foreign capital and the method to be adopted in reference thereto.

Resolved:—That whereas it is a natural economic law that capital should flow into those places where it can be most safely and profitably invested, and whereas it is considered that there is an urgent need for the alteration or abolition of laws and regulations calculated to obstruct the free working of such economic law, measures should be promptly taken by the Government to alter or abolish the laws and regulations in question. As to the concrete question of the special introduction of foreign capital, instructions should be given to the Council to make special enquiries.

2. The effect produced upon foreign commerce in consequence of alterations in the coinage system of Japan.

Resolved:—That in order to give a proper reply to this question the circumstances connected with the enforcement of the revised system of coinage in the country must be traced and briefly commented upon. In the alteration of the coinage system of any country the utmost discretion should be exercised in regard to one point of the greatest importance, namely, the effect the revision may produce upon the prices of commodities in the interior and upon the rights and duties involved in the various treaties or contracts, its influence upon foreign commerce being comparatively insignificant. The revision of the coinage system of Japan may be said to have been undertaken at the most favourable period in so far as its effect upon commodities and in regard to treaties and contracts is concerned, while there were other circumstances which considerably facilitated the change. Japan had originally adopted gold monometallism, but afterwards changed to the bimetallic system. She always possessed gold, but it was not actually in circulation for a long time. Paper tokens convertible into silver were alone in use. Japan was, in fact, a silver country, but, in spite of this, the silver in circulation, with the exception of what was retained in the Central Bank as a reserve for exchange, was very insignificant. This is one reason why the revision of the coinage system could be carried out with facility. Japan abounds in gold and silver mines, but, the output having decreased considerably of late, she has virtually lost all title to be regarded as a gold or silver producing country. That is another reason for a change. Specie and bullion were almost entirely absorbed in the Central Bank, a very small amount being retained by individuals throughout the Empire. This is a third reason. Lastly, the insignificance or smallness of foreign capital invested in domestic enterprises was a principal factor in the alteration of the system. The conditions are in no way identical with those prevailing in India or America. The market value of silver, suffering from depreciation, was liable to extraordinary fluctuations, but those fluctuations had apparently reached a point at which no further great variation was probable at the time of the revision of the coinage system. According to the quotations at that time, one *yen* of old gold was almost equal to two *yen* of silver, and it may therefore be taken that the revised system has fixed the value of the *yen* as one half that of the old gold coin. The monetary standard, indeed, was changed from silver to gold, but the standard value of the coins remained exactly the same as before. Since Japan enjoyed, as remarked above, a unique opportunity for the alteration of her monetary standard, the measure she so resolutely adopted has had no effect upon prices of commodities and on contracts. Thus everything went on smoothly, and the trouble which was feared by foreign nations was effectually avoided. In this matter, then, Japan scored a signal success. To ascertain the effect which the revision may have produced upon foreign commerce is another important point. Gold monometallism has now been adopted by nearly all the great nations in the world. Consequently, of the total volume of Japan's foreign commerce, about two-thirds is with gold and one-third with silver countries. The revision of the coinage system in Japan has considerably decreased the risks of transactions with gold countries, and afforded no small convenience for trade. It is evident that Japan, under these circumstances, has largely profited by the change. Although in competition between Japanese products and those of silver countries, trade interests may still be affected by fluctuations, yet, as the competition in silk, the staple export of our country, is chiefly with Italy, the occasional fluctuations above noted are not of great consequence. As regards Chinese silk, the purchasers of it fortunately differ from those competing for this country's productions. The public seems inclined to imagine that the decline of trade with China since last year is attributable to the revision of the coinage system in Japan. Such a notion, however, is simply the outcome of ignorance of the true condition of China. The vicissitudes in regard to exports depend chiefly upon the internal condition of the importing country. China, after the late war, was beset with financial disorganization and moreover troubled by failure in agricultural and silk crops and her internal trade has suffered accordingly a serious depression. A general diminution of her imports, was an inevitable result, and the shrinkage in exports of Japanese cotton yarns is not to be regarded as a solitary effect, other countries suffering in proportion to China's misfortunes. Exports of matches and coal, which among other productions have secured a large demand among the natives of the Orient, have never decreased, and it may confidently be asserted that on the restoration of tradal prosperity in the interior of China, the sales of Japanese yarns and other products will be as great as before. Last year Japanese yarns were quoted at 130 *yen*, subject to slight fluctuations at intervals, but the value has now fallen to 75 *yen*, and this is ascribed by some persons to the alteration in the coinage system. The idea, however, is simply due to failure to investigate the actual facts involved. The value of raw cotton fell in America last year from 23 *yen* to 15 or 16 *yen*, in consequence of an extraordinarily plentiful crop. This depreciation of 20 or 30 per cent in materials could scarcely fail to affect the value of the manufactured products, especially as the annual output has considerably increased with the increase of machinery, and thus tended to bring about a glut in the market. In short, not only Japan, but her keen competitor India, has suffered a diminution in demand and a fall in prices. India is now not a silver country, as she adopted a peculiar system which may be regarded as an artificial gold standard. There

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can be no cause for anxiety as to the difference of coinage system in connection with rivalry between the two countries.

As stated above, the revised monetary standard of Japan has brought about considerable advantages in foreign commerce, and no injurious effects seem to have been induced sufficiently serious to call for special comment. The countries chiefly abounding in capital are those of Europe and America, whose the gold system has been almost universally adopted. The revision of the monetary standard of Japan has brought her into a sphere of competence to utilize the world's capital, and she can reasonably expect to enjoy considerable advantages in future in this respect. Her resolute step was certainly beneficial to foreign commerce, far from being injurious to it. Such being the case, it is hardly necessary at present to discuss precautionary measures for maintaining interests already secured, or for saving the country from unexpected losses.

3. Preparations to be made on the enforcement of the new treaties in regard to agricultural, commercial, and industrial enterprises.

Resolved :—That no apparent necessity exists for placing restrictions upon foreigners in regard to agricultural, commercial, and industrial undertakings, in connection with the operation of the new treaties.

4. Establishment of workshop regulations :—

With respect to the above, the following rules have been decided upon as the basis of legislation :—

CHAPTER I.—WORKSHOPS.

Art. I.—Any person desiring to construct, alter, or extend workshops must report the fact to the local Governor. A similar procedure is required with regard to existing buildings to be appropriated for workshops. In case the workshops referred to are used for any branch of industry other than that previously undertaken, or in case the process adopted for the industry has been changed, a separate report must be presented.

Art. II.—On the local Governor receiving the above reports, measures must be taken by him to inspect the works contemplated. No industrial operations are to be carried on at workshops disqualified by examination.

Art. III.—Necessary arrangements must be made at each workshop for the prevention of danger to employés, the preservation of health and personal morality, and the avoidance of injury to the public good.

Art. IV.—In case the arrangements are considered defective, the local Governor may take the following steps :—

1. Orders to make proper arrangements within a fixed period.

2. Suspension of the work wholly or in part. If the master fails to make necessary arrangements within a fixed period in cases falling within the purview of the 1st clause of the preceding Article, the local Governor may take the necessary steps, and cause the said master to bear the expenses incurred.

Art. V.—The provisions of the foregoing Article shall apply exclusively to the following workshops :—

1. Workshops where steam, water, electricity, gas, or other elements are employed as a motive force.

2 Workshops not included in the category above specified, but the works undertaken by which present cause for apprehension of danger, or prove injurious to sanitation or to public good. In this case, however, the classification of workshops shall be previously determined by an Imperial Ordinance.

Art. VI.—With respect to boarding houses and hospitals (*byoshitsu*) belonging to workshops, the penal rules connected with them shall apply.

Art. VII.—Any person desiring to install a steam engine in his workshop shall report the fact to the local governor, and if the engine is found unsuitable at the examination above specified, or at any other inspection, ordinary or special, the use of the same shall be discontinued.

Art. VIII.—The rules with regard to the institution of boarding houses and hospitals in connection with workshops, and to the inspection of steam engines, shall be established by the local governor, subject to the sanction of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

CHAPTER II.—OPERATIVES AND APPRENTICES.

Art. IX.—The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce may issue a Department Ordinance embodying regulations in regard to the employment of operatives and apprentices in workshops, provided that he shall not exceed the limits specified below :—

1. Prohibition or restriction as to the employment of children under ten years of age.

2. Restriction as to work, the working period not to exceed twelve hours a day, in the case of women or other operatives and apprentices under the age of fourteen.

3. Giving two days of rest in each month to operatives and apprentices, and allowing an hour's rest to them in cases where they are at work for more than ten hours a day.

Art. X.—The owner or master of an industrial institution is required to impart proper education to the operatives and apprentices under the age of fourteen, who are living in the boarding houses attached to the workshop, and to support or nurture the same in case of their illness except when they are taken away by some other person for treatment.

Art. XI.—In the event of any artisan being killed or injured while at work, the owner or master of an industrial institution shall take, at least, the following steps. [Note.—This provision shall not apply to cases in which injury is ascribable to the voluntary action of the injured man himself or of others, or to natural catastrophe, or to the violation of prohibitory rules specially established for the avoidance of disasters.]

1. Paying half wages to an artisan while temporarily disabled by injury.

2. Disbursing the actual expenses for medical treatment in such case or providing means of treatment.

3 Presenting two years' wages to an artisan in case he is permanently disabled, the amount to be calculated at the rate of his earnings at the time of the accident.

4 In case of artisans injured but still able to do light work wages shall be paid at rates corresponding to the reduction in severity of labour necessitated by the injury.

5. Making a donation to relatives of thirty days' pay in the case of an operative's death from injury sustained.

6. Granting one year's pay at the above rate to a family, if any, supported by the deceased artisan, the maximum amount to be given in the cases mentioned in Clauses 3 and 4 being fixed at 250 *yen*, and in the case of Clause VI. at 150 *yen*.

The provisions of the foregoing Article are applicable to apprentices in general.

Art. XII.—The master of an industrial institution shall establish rules for the control of operatives and apprentices, and report the same to the local Governor. A similar procedure is necessary in case of alterations being introduced in such regulations. The above provision is also applicable to rules established for the control of boarding houses, &c.

Art. XIII.—The rules with regard to operatives and apprentices must contain the following provisions :—

1. Provisions relating to contracts on service and for apprenticeship.

2. Provisions bearing upon holidays, working hours, and hours of rest.

3. Provisions connected with rewards and penalties.

4. Provisions relating to wages and special allowances.

5. Provisions relating to redress.

6. Provisions concerning reserve funds, if any.

7. Prohibitory rules, if any, specially established for the avoidance of danger or injury, the rules with regard to operatives and apprentices applying to the master of an industrial institution as well as to the operatives and apprentices.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

JAPANESE WOMEN.

REPORT ON THEIR CONDITION AND PROGRESS DURING THE PAST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS.

INDUSTRY.

The yearly report of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce gives us an idea of the part women have in the productive occupations and industries. Of the labouring classes it is reported that in agriculture there are males 11,400,008, females 10,948,053; in different industries, males 1,017,200, females 940,649; in trade, males 2,113,634, females 1,878,098. It is impossible to tell, however, what is the actual share of the work done by women, but it has been said that almost two-thirds of the industrial products of Japan come from their hands. Silk, one of the chief exports, is almost entirely the result of women's work. Tea is often picked and dried by them; the ricefields are thronged in the season with women, who by the side of the men work preparing the muddy soil for the seed, or else in separating and transplanting the green shoots when they first appear above the soil. In the raising of grains, vegetables, and the chief articles of food, and in all other branches of agriculture, women's work as much as men's has produced the results. It is no uncommon sight to see in the fields men and women both doing the same heavy work bearing the heat and the burden of the day. In order to partially account for this, we must explain the poverty of the lower classes. Industry and trade have been but poorly developed. Until the present time, the farmers have had but little education or training, so that they could intelligently make the most of their resources; the Government has not favoured agricultural and industrial development, and Japan, never a rich country, has had severe drains on her resources in the establishment of the present government, and in the opening of her ports to the world. Heavy taxes and few opportunities for bettering his lot have caused the Japanese labourer to struggle for a bare existence, and thus it is that even at the present day, woman, the weaker vessel, has not only entered those branches of industry suited to her, but has had to share in even the harder toil of her husband. Although there are no records to tell us to what extent women have taken part in the industries of the past, yet it is undoubtedly true that they had as large share of the work as at the present time. Tokugawa Iyeyasu, the reorganizer of the country after its long protracted civil wars in 1603, and the founder of the long line of the Tokugawa Shoguns, did much to encourage farming, and one of his proclamations in 1649 speaks of the necessity of men and women working mutually together, the man in farming, the woman in weaving and spinning. There are also other notices by which it is stated that girls must be taught to spin flax, and do all kinds of work. A very interesting notice of one of the feudal lords mentions that a registry at the temple of the family must be made of the amount of work each women is supposed to be able to do. This shows us that women had a full share in the industries of the time. The whole of Tokugawa period of 270 years was one of peace, following revolutions and wars, and the labouring classes were in a comparatively prosperous condition, so it is probable that all the industries made considerable advances.

The opening of Japan to the world's trade has given a powerful stimulus to all industries and there has been specially an increase in women's work. The most important of these is silk reeling and weaving. The delicate work of raising silk worms is one especially suited to women. After the period of hatching and rearing, there is much patient toil and labour needed in the spinning of the thread and the weaving of it into various fabrics. In this country, there are few large manufactories or plants for the carrying on of such work. It is almost all of it done in country homes, with rude implements, not in any large buildings

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but often in the smallest and poorest of homes. The work is hard and requires much care and the pay is but scanty, but by this industry, thousands of women support not only themselves but help to care for their families also. It is considered that the average earnings of such women is from fifteen to forty cents per day. It is impossible to estimate the number of women engaged in this branch of industry. The picking and preparing of tea is comparatively pleasant and easy work, and thousands of women and girls may be seen in the tea plantations early in May and June, gathering leaves, which will soon be dried and made ready for use. In the forest districts where timber is cut or charcoal made, the hardy women of the interior, with their admirable physique, share in the laborious work of the men. Near the city of Kyoto, there is a village in the mountains, Yasé by name, celebrated for its strong women, and these women are often employed as burden carriers up the steep mountain roads. Again, in other parts of the country, in the Province of Echigo and Dewa, they may be seen doing the work of ordinary labourers. In the fishing districts, women as men have a large share in the industries. The preparation of sea weeds for food, the manufacture of salt, the drying and salting of fish, are nearly all in women's hand. In some places, there are famous women divers, whose skill has so surpassed the men, that in certain places they have monopolized the industry. These intrepid women risk their lives in the most perilous undertakings on the rough seas, battling with the waves in dangerous places to get the precious sea weed growing beyond the reach of ordinary gatherers. Exceedingly high wages are obtained in this way by the women, estimated to be as much as five *yen* a day at favourable times in the season.

In addition to the above, many other industries employ women. They are the best workers in the manufacture of paper and they share in the weaving of mats, making boxes, bamboo work, manufacture of umbrellas, torp, combs, and many other miscellaneous articles. The recently opened paper and lacquer manufactories, dyeing, and silk weaving establishments employ women. In the Province of Shinano, there are already forty silk factories with several hundred female workers. In Tokyo, too, there has been established a lace factory where many girls are employed.

Though few stores are owned by women, yet they have more or less connection with trade, and in all the smaller stores the wives and daughters of the storekeepers are engaged in selling.

Passing to the higher industries requiring more than mere mechanical labour, the silk industries, including embroidery, painting of flowers on silk, weaving, etc., afford the widest field of labour. The production of porcelain, gold, silver and lacquer work, copper and bronze casting are all shared by the women, often the wives and daughters of the master workman, who in the seclusion of his low thatched home, with only his few assistants, works months, sometimes years, on one piece of art, perfecting it to his satisfaction, until it is ready to be sent away to the great markets.

A famous woman, Kame-jo, of Nagasakis was well known in the past days for skill in metal work. Her father, lacking male heirs, taught the secret of smelting to his daughter. She not only followed in his footsteps, but herself was a rare producer of most delicate work in copper, and, strange indeed for those days, her name became known far and wide. In the early part of the sixteenth century, another woman's name appears. The widow of a Chinese potter, a Japanese woman, learning from her husband the manufacture of delicate pottery, carried on an extensive business and made much famous ware, which was known as "ama yaki," meaning the nun's pottery, the woman having on the death of her husband taken a nun's vows.

It is very interesting to note that the introduction of foreign inventions and machinery has led to the employment of women. At the central telephone office are employed a number of these. There are many shorthand writers, and a few have served as telegraph operators. In the government Bureau of Printing, from whence all national notes are issued, five hundred women are daily employed in the different departments of the work; some of the best workers have responsible positions and get excellent wages.

The opening of industrial employments for women is as yet in its beginning. As may be seen from the above account, women are employed in many occupations in which physical strength is needed, and for which they are entirely unfitted. Their wages are necessarily far below those of the men. It is most probable, though no positive statement can be made, that even for the same quality of work, women's wages are far below those of the men in almost every branch of industry. The further opening of trade, and the widening of industrial productions, the employment of women in industries and art fitted to them, the increasing of facilities for better and more rapid production which will come in with perfected machinery and appliances, are the pressing needs of the day. Skill with the fingers in doing delicate work, taste and artistic ability, power to originate and carry out, have been shown to be possessed by the Japanese women equally with the men. Opportunities for engaging in various occupations are numerous for the lower classes in the different branches which have been mentioned, but for the intelligent middle class woman who would earn her own living the openings are few, yet it is this class of women who would be best fitted for carrying on the higher branches of industrial occupation.

PHILANTHROPHY AND CHARITY: MORAL AND SOCIAL REFORM

The present age, as may be imagined from what has already been said, is the first to see woman take an active part in any matters concerning the welfare of human beings as a whole, but, short as the time has been since the sphere of women has widened out beyond the domestic circle, a number of important results has already been accomplished in charity and social reform. It is of course not to be expected that such movements have been easy to plan, or carry out. The leaders themselves are often without experience; they meet with difficulties and opposition very different from those in other countries, for Japan has prejudices and ideas peculiarly her own, but, as a whole, the success and progress of such movements have been undoubtedly encouraging. Most of the principal undertakings have been in Tokyo, and not a few have had the help and patronage of Her Imperial Majesty, the Empress, who, in addition to all that she has done for the education of women, has always given liberal help in good works undertaken by her sex. Her example has so stimulated the wives of the nobility and the officials that many illustrious names of women are found in the lists that head charitable undertakings. An example of how far this influence has extended was seen in 1887, when the Tokyo Charity Hospital now under the patronage of the Empress was about to be established, and a Ladies' Charity Bazaar was held in order to raise a fund for it under the charge of a number of high class ladies. It was indeed a strange sight for Japan when the noble daimiyos' wives whose faces it was never permitted to the common citizen to see twenty years before, stood openly behind their stalls and for charity's sake sold specimens of their handiwork to any one who could pay the trifling entrance fee. This was the more incongruous when we remember that buying and selling, and the handling of money, were considered under the old system the lowest occupations possible, a tradesman's rank being below that of the artizan or farmer and the Charity Bazaar for this hospital, though held more than once, has not yet made the fact a less striking one each time and proved more than once how radical the change has been in the hearts and minds of the people since the wave of western thought reached us.

The first work that interested Japanese women as a whole in public charity was the care of the sick. The founding of hospitals and schools for nurses has especially appealed to Japanese women, without distinction of rank or religion. Hence the first public work of any note was the establishment of the Tokyo Charity Hospital under the "Tokyo Charity Hospital Association" headed by the Empress, at the founding of which the Charity Bazaar above mentioned was held in 1887. It is managed by a president and ten directresses, a chief physician in charge, an assistant chief, and fourteen resident and visiting physicians. The directresses are all appointed by the Empress herself and are all of them ladies of high rank and influence.

The members of the association number 225 and they give a donation of from one to five dollars monthly. There were in the year from April, 1891 to April 1892, 1,255 persons treated free of expense, and 471 patients in the hospital beds. The training school for nurses in connection has sent out thirty-eight trained nurses, and twenty-eight are now in training in the hospital. The expenses of the hospital for the year 1892 was 9,600 *yen*.

At the time of the establishment of the hospital, His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor, gave a donation of 20,000 *yen* toward the expenses, and the Empress and Empress-Dowager each an annuity of 600 *yen*. Their examples were followed by many of the nobles until the present site was procured and permanent buildings were put up. The Empress also gives special donations and her gift for last year amounted to 1,200 *yen*. The hospital has a fund of 119,015 *yen*.

At the time of the Saigo rebellion in Japan in 1878, two men, Sano Tsunetami and Ogio Tsune, started a benevolent society called Hakuai-sha to aid the wounded in the battlefield, and when in May, 1888, the Government entered the league of the Red Cross Association started in Geneva, Switzerland, the Hakuai-sha changed its name and constitution and became the Red Cross Society of Japan, with its regular members including the women and a hospital and corps of functionaries. In June of the same year, a Ladies' Voluntary Nurses' Association was formed by Princess Arisugawa and twenty-eight ladies of the nobility. The plan of this association is to meet twice a month, to practically learn by lectures from the best surgeons and physicians the principles of nursing, and in this way to encourage medical knowledge among women, and also to fit themselves for nursing the wounded if such times of necessity should come. The head directress is Princess Arisugawa, the assistant directresses Princess Fushimi and Princess Kita-shirakawa.

The Fukuden Society was founded upon the Buddhist doctrine of benevolence in 1879, by a number of noble ladies of this sect, and is a very well-known association. It has in special charge a prosperous Orphanage where orphan children are given an elementary school education and are also trained in some branch of industry. At fifteen years of age, they are put out to work in some suitable position.

The Iku-ji society is an association which looks after and nurses sick children who are orphans or in want. The society numbers over 2,000 members. They all contribute any fixed amount monthly (supposed to be the savings of household expenses for this purpose) to a fund, which is used to take charge of sick children, who are either placed in the University Hospital, or are treated there at the charge of the association.

There are also many small charitable undertakings by Christian workers and in many Churches. One of the most notable of the kind is an orphanage at Okayama where there are more than three hundred children being cared for under Christian influence. It is supported entirely by voluntary contributions from different churches and individuals.

The fact that so much has been done in charities, and that women of high rank are interested in works of this kind, is due without doubt to the fact that a most gracious and enlightened woman is their leader. This is no other than Her Majesty the Empress, whose

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love toward her country and people shows itself in a thousand ways, and is known all over the land. There is no charity or good work that does not appeal to her heart. She, whose presence was in the past so sacred that the highest in the land dare not approach her except in the most lowly attitude, now stoops beside the bedside of the sick and suffering ones of the poorest of the land. In the sacred interior of the palace, she has prepared with her own hands, lint and bandages for the wounded soldiers in a late rebellion. In the frequent visits to the Red Cross Hospital, she witnesses what many might without shame shrunk from, the sight of suffering and sickness, nor does she hesitate to pass by the poorest wards of the Charity Hospital, where sin and suffering have brought the dregs of society to the only place they could be cared for, and to the sick children there gathered, she has with her own hands given toys. She personally takes an interest in every part of the institution and inspects all the departments. It would be possible to give many charming stories of her goodness and kindness. Such a gracious example must leave a most lasting impression, and do infinite good for the future of Japanese women.

In the department of social and moral reform almost the only work done hitherto has been by Christian women. They have established temperance associations in Japan and have worked for the improvement of social morals and manners and for the abolition of licensed prostitution. Nearly every church has women's societies for charity, good works, or temperance, and many of the students of the Christian schools for girls belong to the order of "The King's Daughters." The Christian women of Tokyo and Yokohama meet twice a year for a general prayer meeting, and one of their most important works was to present H.I.M. the Empress with a copy of the Bible at the time when the whole Bible had been finally translated into Japanese. In 1890 was first established an Anti-licensed prostitution society, of which there are now twenty-five branches. Women have greatly aided in the work of endeavouring to influence public opinion in this matter.

The most important society for social reform, is the Fujin Kyo Kwai, established in 1886 by Mrs. Kaji Yajima and thirty Christian ladies. The origin of this was the visit of Mrs. Mary C. Leavitt, of the Women's Christian Temperance Union a short while previous. The sister association in Japan under its present name was established and formally opened Dec., 1886. Under its able leader, Mr. Yajima, it has strengthened and grown in influence, and at present numbers 500 members, almost without exception Christian women. The annual fees amount to about 400 *yen*, and a monthly magazine is published for the spread of the influence of the society and for the dissemination of its morality and justice.

The objects of this society are to improve public morality and eradicate social evils, especially wine drinking and smoking, to work for social purity and to change customs and manners for the better.

The members pledge themselves to total abstinence, and each one helps in one of the several departments of work. These departments are; I. Missionary Dept; II Educational Dept.; III. Sanitary Dept.; IV. Dept. of Manners and Customs; V. Charity Work Dept.; VI. Publication Dept.; VI. Publication Dept.

This society has always given aid in times of public troubles, contributing liberally for the relief of the distressed and suffering. Its able management and the energy of its members are much to be commended.

CIVIL LAWS AND GOVERNMENT.

As may be well imagined in an age when woman had sunk from her position of respect and honour, and had ceased to exert any influence beyond the home, when religious thought, so wide spread in the age of the Hojo and Ashikaga dynasties, (fourth century)* had been eclipsed by the colder Chinese philosophy, the laws and government of the day had little regard for woman. Laws concerning her are rarely to be found, merely because she was a factor hardly worth considering. During these four hundred years the customs, which largely took the place of law, had far less consideration for women than in the preceding age. The reasons for this have been already mentioned. Physical strength was prized above all other qualities. Wars and revolutions had tended to break up the home, and the rude and rough warriors, finding the excitement of the battle-field more agreeable than the quieter pleasures of the home, held the wives in less estimation and considered them the playthings of their idler hours. Under the feudal system, which grew out of the wars, prominence was given to the family as a whole, rather than to individual members. All things existed for the family, and hence for the man who represented the family as its head. Woman who could never on any account take this headship, sank rapidly in public estimation in feudal times. She was bound all her life to be a subordinate member of the household, either as daughter, wife, or widow-mother, and to obey the head of the family whose power over the individual members was unlimited.

The predominance of the family idea led to pride in long descent. The extinction of a name was thought to be a great misfortune. Lineal descent has always been prized in Japan, Woman was therefore valued as an instrument in the transmission of the family line, but she was not considered to be more than an instrument, for like many ancient nations, relationship was never counted in the female line. The mother was only the nurse and rearer of the true seed, and even now the proverb exist, "The mother's body is only a borrowed abiding place." To bear no children was held a shame, and divorce could be obtained for no greater cause than this. Should no son be born, and only daughters, the line was felt to be broken even though the name was held by adopted sons. From these few statements the general attitude of those times towards women can easily be understood. Yet we have abundant proof that women did not sink altogether under this system. Woman's tact and wit have never ceased to have their influence and she has never been a mere passive instrument in man's hand. History and tradition bear ample record of this. Though in theory a child's ancestry on the mother's side was not counted, in practice it has had the fullest weight. Divorce, so lightly obtained, was no slight offence when it concerned the daughter of a powerful noble family, enmity with whom might mean life or death in those warlike times. A marriage alliance has been the means, as in all countries, of cementing the closest ties between two families, and to be the grandfather of an Emperor on the mother's side was the highest ambition of the most powerful nobles. What a factor woman has been in Japanese history will be more and more appreciated when the motive power and the hidden cause are sought for as well as the record of an actual deed. There are examples, too, not lacking of actual participation in feats usually considered the practice of men. Women have at times ridden on horseback, fenced, and displayed a military spirit quite in contrast to the teaching of the day. In 1614, when the army of Iyeyasu attacked Osaka castle, defended by the son of Hideyoshi, a struggle so momentous for the future of Japan, the widow of Hideyoshi, Lady Yodogimi, gathered her women together, marshalling them as soldiers, herself put on armour, rode a horse, and commanded them to do their best for their lord, in defence of the castle. And so these intrepid women had their share in defending the castle which, alas, was so soon to fall. Such examples showing the part played by women in political affairs are numerous, but space forbids us to mention but one more instance, that is, the power exercised by court ladies. Each feudal lord had about him at his palace numbers of woman attendants. These were of good family, and held most honourable positions. In the formal ceremonious households of those days, the etiquette of which was no light thing to master, these women were perfect mistresses of all the arts and accomplishments. To them, as well as to the men retainers, was entrusted the responsibility of the palace, the settling of delicate questions of etiquette, and the training and education of the noble children. But, outside of this acknowledged power, there was an under current of influence held by the women, the stronger that it could not be met by open opposition. The most powerful of these court attendants were the maids-of-honour at the court of the Shogun, who in his castle at Yedo held sway over the Empire with imperial splendour. The women surrounding him, his concubines, and the head attendants in the palace, were none of low rank—indeed, many of them were from noble families. These with woman's tact and cunning often gained a sway over the Shogun and managed to have him hear, if not win him over to, plans and plots for which they had been asked to use their influence. Sometimes this would be done for the sake of relatives, oftener for a mere mercenary motive, for bribes sometimes passed into the hands of these powerful ladies. Even the father or brother of higher attendants possessed influence, in that they could be bearers of messages within the gates of the castle even to its innermost recesses. This view of woman's power is very different from the ones that the study of the customs of the times gives us concerning women of the middle and lower classes. In the same age one finds many striking contrasts. The difference between the theory of woman's degradation and low position, and the actual practice, is again a very marked one.

As all matters pertaining to women were left in the hands of the father or husband, and as the laws of the different provinces rarely concerned her, it will be necessary to mention further a few of the customs of the times, as by these the condition of woman can alone be judged.

Divorce was granted according to the precepts of Confucius for the seven following reasons: I.—If she be disobedient. II.—If she have no children. III.—If she be licentious. IV.—If she be jealous. V.—If she has contagious disease. VI.—If she steals. VII.—If she talks too much.

It is needless to add that divorce on the part of the wife was unheard of.

In case of divorce, the children belonged to the father, the mother having no right to them, and it was only by his consent, in exceptional circumstances, a woman could take a child with her back to her father's home.

No property was held by a woman and she was not expected to bring anything but her trousseau with her on marriage. Whatever she had was, however, all in her husband's name, and in case of divorce she had no claim upon it, though it has been the custom to return it to her family.

No woman could be the head of the household. The descent went only in the male line, and in case of no sons by birth, then sons by adoption inherited the name.

In the regulations of the Shogunate Government issued in the 2nd year of Kampo (1741) there is one which says:—

Any woman running away with a man, or living with any man not her husband as his wife, shall be sent for life to the Yoshiwara (houses of prostitution).

Thus we see that the penalty for sin was only inflicted on the woman.

Among the first changes following the revolution of 1868 were the laws concerning prostitution and the buying and selling of young girls. The old customs of holding prostitutes and dancing women as property for life or a term of years was strictly prohibited.

There had been laws under the government of the Shogun, but they had not sufficed to eradicate this evil custom. In the first year of Shotoku (1711) was issued this proclamation: "The selling of persons is strictly prohibited." Again, in the year of Genroku (about 1690), "The buying and selling of

* The Hojo and Ashikaga families held in turn the reigning power of Japan though in name only nobles holding high office.

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women is finally and strictly forbidden." The words "finally" and "strictly" point out that there had been previous regulations about it. Again there were laws concerning prostitution, and though a man's power over his wife even as to her life or death was unlimited, he could in no case sell her as a prostitute without being liable to heavy punishment.

In the fifth year of Meiji (1872) was sent out this proclamation from the government: "The buying and selling of women, and the brutal treatment of them according to whim of the owner for their whole life, or during a term of years, are against moral laws. From henceforth these practices are forbidden, and all prostitutes and dancing women bound for a term of year are to be hereby freed." The slavery of these low women was thus abolished, and, thereafter, they could be only hired out, not owned, and they could make their own terms and engagements.

Two years before, in 1871, the social disabilities of the two lowest classes of the people, the *eta* and *hinin*, the pariah class of Japan, were removed and intermarriage between all classes was permitted.

Matters concerning marriage and divorce have been left to custom in lack of civil codes on such matters. Marriage is a civil contract, according to the will of the two parties, and it is only necessary to make it legal by removing the registry of the woman from her father's household to that of her husband's family. Divorce was left to the husband, and when it was unreasonable there was no recourse to law. Public opinion and the influence of relations were the only checks. When the husband was unfaithful or cruel, the wife could not in former time obtain any redress, but in May of the sixth year of Meiji (1873), the following proclamation was made by the Government:

"In case of disagreement between husband and wife, and the wife desires a divorce refused by the husband, the case may be taken to court by the father or relatives of the wife." This was a great advance for the rights of the woman, but in December of the eighth year of Meiji (1875), the 209th article of the proclamation of the Government read as follows:—

"In case of divorce desired by either party, divorce will not be legal until it is so recorded in the registry of both husband and wife." So until the husband permits the registry to be changed, and the matter lies entirely in his hand, a separation may take place, but the divorce can not be legal. Great inconvenience has naturally resulted from this.

There has been, however, a gradual advance in public opinion and in the laws defending women's rights. In the early part of Meiji, *sho* (concubine) was recognized by law, and ranked as a relative of the second degree next to the wife,* but at present in the public laws there is no recognized concubine. A woman now may hold property in her own name, and can be the legal head of a household (*ko shu*).

In the 22nd year of Meiji (1889) was carried into effect a law concerning the election of members to the local council which permits a woman to vote in all townships, villages, and cities, if she be one of the three highest taxpayers of that district.

In the draft of the Civil Code which has been drawn up to be promulgated in the 32nd year of Meiji (1899), but which still awaits passage in the two Houses of Parliament, there are articles concerning marriage, divorce, separation and the property of the wife, founded on similar codes of civilized nations. We see at once from this, the progress that woman has made in public opinion, since now her rights are thus recognized. When these laws are promulgated Japanese women will have made a tremendous advance and there will be little to complain of as far as the laws are concerned. One article of injustice, however, is that the punishment for adultery is severer for the woman than for the man. It is to be noted also that women are forbidden to be lawyers, to attend political meetings, to make political speeches, or to edict a political paper. Exactly what the laws are, and how they may be modified before they are finally passed, we can not say yet, but that they will be a great advance on the present loose practises is certain. The women of Japan are not merely passive lookers-on in the question of justice in their cause. The Women's Christian Temperance Union has already sent in a petition several times under the signatures of more than a thousand women, asking the same justice for men as for women in the law concerning social purity.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

* In the old times a man's relatives were all ranked in certain degrees of relationship to him, the father, mother, brothers, and sisters being of the first degree. In the customs regarding etiquette to relatives, or the period of mourning for their death, all rules depended on the degree of relationship in which they stood to him.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

His Majesty the Emperor took cold at the Grand Manœuvres, and will not be present at the Court for a few days.

The Japanese Standing Squadron arrived at Yokohama Harbour on Thursday morning, and anchored. The *Rossia* (12,130 tons, 28 guns) with Prince Cyril on board, also arrived early on Thursday morning.

The *Hongkong Daily Press* hears that Mr. Thos. Cowen, a well-known journalist in the Far East, has been shot in the back, in Manila. Mr. Cowen intends going to Hongkong for treatment.

The new Japanese warship *Shikishima* (tonnage 15,000) under construction at the Thames Iron Works, was launched on the 1st instant. Captain Miyoshi and 14 officers are appointed to bring her home, and are to leave for London on the 26th inst. by the steamer *Mikawa Maru*.

A large Japanese junk, the *Tenjin Maru*, collided with the French mail steamer *Melbourne* on the 21st near Uraga, and was sunk. The crew of four were brought to Yokohama by the *Melbourne*. A claim of 2,850 *yen* will be made by the junk owner.

The *Rosetta* will have to undergo considerable repairs, and her place will be taken in next week's sailing by the *Ceylon*, which will leave Yokohama on the 29th at daylight and proceed via Kobe to Shanghai direct, omitting Nagasaki. She will connect at Shanghai with the *Ballarat* instead of at Hongkong.

A fire occurred on the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's unlucky steamer *Kinshiu Maru* on the 17th at 6 p.m., but it was put out without much difficulty. The cargo of about 150 tons from Hongkong escaped damage. That steamer was seriously damaged in a collision with the *Hokushiu Maru* during the voyage to America, went ashore near Seattle, and afterwards collided with and sank the steamer *Miyagawa Maru* in the Inland Sea.

On the 18th at 3 p.m., several hundred thousand cartridges exploded at the premises of the Asahi Electric Manufacturing Firm, Matsushita-cho, Kanda, Tokyo. Seven persons were seriously wounded and the building was injured. It is said that these cartridges, which were to have been used on the work in the tunnel between Kobotage and Sasago mountains, were under examination on the day of the explosion. The cause of the latter is unknown.

As an outcome of the recent International Zoological Conference, Lord Salisbury will shortly, by request, communicate to the Dutch Government the sense entertained by the meeting of the importance to science of continuing the geological excavations in Java. They have already been the means of bringing to light fossil remains of a creature nearer to what is popularly known as the "missing link" than anything yet discovered; and the scientific world believes that further search in the same region would probably be productive of more finds of the greatest interest in relation to the doctrine of the descent of man.

CHINESE NEWS.

The surveys for the Lu-Han railway are being prosecuted vigorously, says the *Echo de Chine*, and as soon as possible work will be found for some 10,000 or 15,000 victims of the great fire at Hankow.

Reports received in Shanghai from Taningfu, Chihli, state that the reactionary decrees of the Empress-Dowager are doing their work slowly but surely in stirring up an anti-foreign spirit throughout the Empire, and that a good deal of anti-Christian feeling is growing in the prefecture in question.

The arsenal at Foochow, according to the French journal in Shanghai, has a very extended programme in course of execution. Two cruisers are being built, and the Government has approved of the commencement shortly of work on an armoured coast defence ship of about 3,000 tons, and four torpedo-boats. This is only a beginning; M. Doyère is also about to take in hand the construction of a second coast defence ship of the same size, another of about 6,000 tons, and eighteen torpedo-boats.

The Empress Dowager has found it necessary to remind all the literary examiners and chancellors throughout the Empire that they are to follow "carefully and reverentially all the old methods formerly appertaining, according to law, to the examinations of literary candidates for degrees, in order that the graduates thereof may all be of the uniform orthodox type of old." Modern schools within certain limits will be allowed to open, however.

The *Ilis* monument in Shanghai is said to be a remarkably artistic work in bronze. It represents a broken mast stepped in a square of granite on a four-step pedestal, the whole height being something over twenty-five feet. A flag and a wreath, also in bronze, are lying at the foot of the mast.

Li Hung-chang is advancing in grace. The Empress-Dowager now permits him to ride within the precincts of the Western Palace Gate in a two-bearer sedan chair.

The *Shên Pao* says that the native physician Ch'ên Lienfang attends upon the Emperor daily from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and that the bulletins issued are submitted for the consideration and decision of the Six Boards and Nine Courts. Ch'ên is awarded $5 a day for his services, though he earns far more by his ordinary practice in Shanghai.

The Coroner's inquest held at Shanghai into the cause of death of Augustus Flew, A.B., of H.M.S. *Waterwitch*, who was found dead in the bedroom of a Shanghai grog-shop, has come to the conclusion, after hearing medical testimony "that the deceased died from alcoholic poisoning acting on a heart already weakened by disease; and we are of opinion that the marks of violence on his person are in no way connected with his death." The Coroner ordered the release from custody of the seaman with whom the unfortunate deceased was stated to have been fighting a few hours before the death.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 12th inst. says that the Tientsin magistrate has ordered the destruction of all Kang Yu-wei's writings. It is a crime now at Peking for a Chinese to be able to speak English, and the officials take great care in talking of State affairs; and it is also admitted there that the new Emperor is to be enthroned on the first day of the Chinese New Year.

The following telegram has been received by the Shanghai Taotai from the Viceroy Liu of Nanking:—"Great Britain and the United States have requested an extension of the Anglo-American Settlements of Shanghai, and the Central Government at Peking has acceded to the said request, with instructions that I should appoint the Taotai of Shanghai to act in conjunction with the Consuls-General of Great

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Britain and the United States for the settlement of the said extension. As I am, however, now engaged in settling the Ningpo Cemetery Riot affairs with the French Consul-General, you are hereby instructed to make an arrangement with the first-named Consuls-General as to a postponement of the extension question until I shall have settled matters with the French Consul-General, when the other subject will be at once taken in hand."

Telegrams received on Nov. 16th from Peking by the Shanghai mandarins state that the Empress-Dowager is determined to reinstate Li Hung-chang in the Tsung-li Yamên and that Russia has given consent to the reappointment.

The *Echo de Chine* mentions the appointment of General Brault as Chief of the French General Staff, probably replacing General Renouard. He was recently in command of the Eleventh *Corps d'Armée* at Nantes.

The standard of admittance into the new brigade of Guards for the Empress Dowager is said to be ability to lift a weight of eighty catties and to bend an "eight-strength" bow, one "strength" being equal to ten catties strength of the arms."

According to reports from Canton the Hakka, or Fukien immigrants in Kuangtung, who settled three or four centuries ago in the districts of Kaoming and Hoshan, have recently been showing considerable restlessness and have purchased large quantities of gunpowder and 1,500 muzzle-loaders of the "Brown Bess" type. In consequence of this, peaceable families belonging to the two districts have already begun to move to larger cities at a distance, owing to the reputation of Hakkas for ferocity and bloodthirstiness in the clan fights they used to have with the *punti* or natives of the place.

Tientsin reports that Yuan Shih kai, commanding the drilled troops at Hsiaochan, has received instructions to add 300,000 more men to his force of 12,000, making 15,000 in all. The new men will, it is further stated, be recruited from Shantung, Honan, and North Kiangsu.

Prince Henry of Prussia is staying at Shanghai for the present. Lord Charles Beresford is also there. His Lordship has been making several speeches at various functions in the model settlement.

TELEGRAMS.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S SPEECH.

(From our Shanghai Correspondent.)

November 21.

Mr. Chamberlain, in the course of a speech delivered by him at Manchester on the 16th instant, defending the Chinese policy of Great Britain, stated that an agreement with Russia was desirable, *if possible*, and that there existed a community of interests between England, Japan, Germany, and the United States to ensure the success of the open-door policy in China. Consequently, he advocated friendly relations with those three Powers with a view to exercising, if necessary, the collective influence of the four Powers in question, which influence would be irresistible. England never sought an alliance with any Power in order to defend her own exclusive interests. When, however, other Powers had common interests with herself, as was the case in China, she had a right to expect their co-operation. He referred to the relations of cordial friendship so happily existing between Japan and England; and remarked that Japan would soon become a force which could not be neglected in any Eastern combination. He also declared it to be a matter for congratulation that relations between England and Germany had recently improved, and that the same could be said even more emphatically as regarded England and the United States of America.

THE EMPEROR AT KOBE.

PRESENTATION OF AN ADDRESS BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

(From our Correspondent.)

Kobe, Nov. 20, 10.55 p.m.

The Emperor's visit to the foreign settlement has passed off most successfully. His Majesty arrived at the Kobe station at about 8 a.m., and gave an audience to the foreign Consuls. Afterwards Mr. Hall, as President of the Municipal Council, presented an address. The Emperor then proceeded to the Bund, and at 9 o'clock embarked in the *Fuji* amid a thunder of salutes from the warships. Naval manœuvres followed, lasting until noon, when the ship anchored for lunch. At half-past one His Majesty landed at the new camber, and drove through the Settlement in an open carriage, bowing continuously to the foreigners, who were present in great numbers. The Settlement was beautifully decorated; and at night the brilliant illuminations were greatly admired. Thousands of Japanese visited the Settlement during the day. The weather was superb, and everything passed off without hitch.

(From the "Japan Times.")

COLONEL PICQUART COURT-MARTIALED.

London, Nov. 23.

As the result of the preliminary enquiry in the alleged forgery case, Colonel Picquart is to be court-martialled.

FRENCH RAILWAY SYSTEM IN INDO-CHINA.

The French Government has adopted a scheme of a state guaranteed loan of two hundred million francs for the construction of a railway system in Indo-China.

BRITISH MILITIA FOR SPECIAL FOREIGN SERVICE.

A Royal warrant sanctions the formation of a special service section of Militia for service abroad with the Regulars, subject to certain conditions.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR AND EMPRESS.

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Germany are returning by way of Messina.

PRINCESS HENRY PROCEEDING TO CHINA.

Princess Henry is proceeding to China to join her husband.

EARL LATHOM DEAD.

Earl Lathom (E. Bootle Wilbraham, G.C.B., born 1837) is dead.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

PHILIPPINE QUESTION TO RESOLVE INTO ONE OF COMPENSATION.

London, Nov. 24.

It is now believed in Washington that Spain would consent to the cession of the Philippines against a compensation of twenty-five to thirty million dollars.

Later.

The Americans have offered twenty million dollars for the Philippines, besides proposing mutual renunciation of both the Spanish and American indemnity claims on Cuba. The offer has also been made to Spain to admit goods into the Philippines for a term of years, subject to the conditions in vogue up to the present.* Americans declare that the policy of the United States is to maintain an open door in the Philippines.

*[This part of the message was somewhat ambiguously worded. We have therefore given to it the most probable interpretation.—Ed. *J.T.*]

Still Later.

America is seeking to include in the final bargain the acquisition of Kusai, one of the Caroline islands, as a naval station.

THE PLAGUE IN EAST AFRICA.

The *Times'* Capetown correspondent telegraphs the appearance of the plague at Delagoa Bay.

FRANCE AND ITALY.

A commercial *modus vivendi* between France and Italy has been concluded on the basis of the most favoured nation clause. There are also marks of improved political relations between the two countries.

Later.

France and Italy have agreed upon the delimitation of boundaries in Raheita territory on the Red Sea, which lately caused a dispute between two countries.

It is believed that the French rapprochement with Italy will be the first result of the recasting of her foreign policy in consequence of the Fashoda affair.

PLAGUE RIOT IN INDIA.

A plague riot has broken out at Seringapatam. A mob, numbering over 10,000, attacked the fort and endeavoured to rescue the prisoners. Police and troops fired on them, killing several, and arresting 134.

DEATH OF SIR GEO. BADEN-POWELL.

The death is announced of Sir George Baden-Powell.

(From the "North-China Daily News.")

MURDER OF A MISSIONARY.

Chungking, Nov. 17.

Mr. W. S Fleming, a China Inland missionary, and a native evangelist were murdered on the fourth instant at Panghai in Kueichou prefecture.

The Kueifu mission, Szechuan, was all burnt down two days after the new Viceroy passed.

ACCIDENT TO A GERMAN MAN-OF WAR.

Foochow, Nov. 16.

It is reported that the German man-of-war *Kaiser* has met with a mishap in bad weather, obliging her captain to beach her in Samsah Bay.

Foochow, Nov. 17.

Few details of the accident to the German flagship are obtainable. On Tuesday morning, the 15th, she ran on a rock, three holes being made in her bottom. She is beached in Lat. N. 26.37, to the south of the Samsah Inlet. Two Chinese gunboats and the Indo-China steamer *Wosang* have gone to her assistance.

[The *Kaiser* is an armoured cruiser of 7,531 tons displacement and 5,700 horse-power, built at Poplar on the Thames in 1874.—Ed.]

FURTHER DETAILS.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha supplied the *Shanghai Mercury* with confirmation of the above, their Foochow agent telegraphing as follows:—"November 17, 2.58 p.m. The *Sendai Maru* not arrived. The German man-of-war *Kaiser* is wrecked at Samsah. It is probable that the *Sendai Maru* has gone to her assistance."

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Peking, Nov. 18.

Under the advice of Mr. Yano, the Japanese Minister, Her Majesty the Empress-Dowager has promulgated an Imperial edict stating that in military, agricultural, industrial, and commercial matters progressive methods will be

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Peking, Nov. 23.

Viceroy Li Hung-chang, who had been appointed to superintend the construction of the embankment of the Yellow River, has asked permission to retire from duty in consequence of old age. Permission, however, has not been granted, and he shortly start for the Yellow River.

Tientsin, Nov. 23.

A part of Shing Hwong To has been opened as a trading post.

SPEECH BY LORD CHARLES BERESFORD.

Shanghai, Nov. 22.

Lord Charles Beresford, in a speech, yesterday, at the dinner of the Japan and China Union Association spoke of the advisability of an alliance between Japan, Great Britain, the United States, Germany, and China.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

Sōul, Nov. 21.

Over 1,000 itinerant merchants attacked the People's Union to-day in the road before the Palace. Many of the latter were killed and wounded. The shops throughout the streets were closed.

Later.

The members of the People's Union are now encamping in the Choro Road.

Sōul, Nov. 21.

In the disturbance at the Western Gate of the Palace 23 itinerant merchants were killed and the houses of Cho Pyong-sik and Li Ki-tung destroyed. It is expected that a general massacre will follow to-night. The Korean Court has asked the Japanese Acting Minister to assist with a military force.

Nov. 22.

The Korean Court has requested the foreign Representatives to open a conference to consult as to the best means of putting down the present tumults. The Court hopes for foreign intervention.

The Imperial Palace is under the protection of the military. The itinerant merchants are staying in front of the Palace, and the People's Union men are again gathering in force at Whan Castle, after dispersing for a time. A part of the crowd of itinerant merchants has been dispersed by advice of the Japanese police authorities.

This morning the Representatives of the Powers proceeded to the Palace to have an audience of His Majesty and to lay before him the following representations:—

(1).—The Peddlers to be withdrawn from the Capital.

(2).—The administration to be carried on lines acceptable to public opinion.

(3).—Peace and order to be maintained.

Later.

Mr. Min Yin Hwang has been appointed a Cabinet Councillor. The foreign Representatives intend to summon marines to protect the Legations.

Sōul, Nov. 23.

Mr. Yun Chiho, President of the Independence Club, who had been acquitted of all charges, was to-day appointed Vice-President of the Privy Council.

On the impeachment of the People's Union, Mr. Yu Ki-hwang, the ex-Minister to Japan, Messrs Cho Pyong-sik, Min Sumuk, Li Kitung and another, and Messrs. Kichishung, Pak Yinching, and another ringleader of the Peddlers have been sentenced to transportation.

Yesterday the Peddlers and the People's Union fought at Mapo.

Sōul, Nov. 24.

Mr. Yin Chiho is said to have been appointed Governor of Sōul; Mr. Ka Yin Kong, President of the People's Union, Superintendent of the Central Police Station; and Mr. Min Yi Hwang, Minister of the Army.

Mr. Yin Chiho, acting on behalf of His Majesty, proceeded to the assembly of the People's Union yesterday, at 5 p.m. He requested them to expel the Peddlers within two days, re-establish the Independence Club, and again secure peace and order. The whole of the Union, excepting 300 representatives, dispersed at 8 o'clock.

CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at Wright's Hotel on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 395.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to R 8	1—Kt takes Q
2—B to R 8	2—K takes R
3—B to Kt sq mate	if 2—B takes R
3—B to K 6 mate	if 2—B takes B
3—R to K 5 mate	
	1—B takes Q
2—R takes P ch	2—K takes B (must)
4—Kt to Kt 6 mate!!!	
	1—B takes B
2—R takes P ch	2—K takes B (must)
3—Q to K 4 mate	
	1—Kt to Q 2
2—Q to K 8	2—Kt takes Kt
3—R takes P mate	if 2—B takes B
3—R takes P mate	if 2—Kt takes B
3—Q takes Kt mate	if 2—K takes R
3—B to Kt sq mate	if 2—B to K 3
3—Q to Kt 6 mate	if 2—B takes R
3—Q to K 6 mate	
	1—K takes R
2—B to Kt sq ch	2—K takes B (must)
3—Q to R sq mate	
	1—B takes R
2—B to K 6 ch	2—K takes B (K 5)
3—Q to R sq mate	

Correct solution received from W.H.S.

"A Good Try" is pointed out by W.H.S., as follows:—

1—P to Q 7	1—K takes R
2—B to Kt sq ch	2—K takes B
3—Q to R sq mate	
	1—B takes R
2—B to K 6 ch	2—K takes B (K 5)
3—Q to R sq mate	

The proper reply being .....1—B to B 2, which appears at first sight to have no object, yet is the only defence which prevents the mate in 3 Any move of the Knight admits of mate in 2 by Q to K Kt 6.

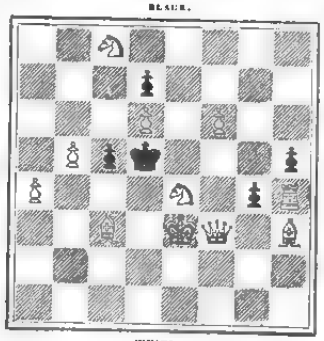
Two other apparently good Key-moves were sent in by solvers:—Q to Kt 7 and B to R 8. The reply to both of these is Kt to Q 2.

PROBLEM No. 398.

By Rev. JESPERSEN.

First Prize, *Brighton Society* Tournament.

Each of the three judges—Messrs. Laws, Hume and Traveller—working alone, awarded the problem 100 points. This beats, we believe, all previous records.



BLACK.

WHITE.

White mates in two moves.

GAME No. 457.

The following pretty off-hand game was played recently at Simpson's, between Burn and another well-known expert:—

KING'S GAMBIT.

White—Mr. X.		Black—Mr. A. Burn.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	14 Q Q-q	Kt B3
2 P KB4	P×P	15 Kt B3(e)	Kt KKt5!
3 Kt KB3	P KKt4	16 K Kt2	Kt B7!
4 B B4	B Kt2	17 Q K2	B R6ch
5 Castles	P Q3	18 K B3(f)	Kt K4ch
6 P KKt3(a)	P Kt5(b)	19 K B4	R KKtsq!
7 Kt R4	P B6	20 B×B	Kt×Bch
8 P Q4	B B3	21 K B5	Castles
9 Kt×P(c)	P×Kt	22 Kt Q5	QR K-q
10 Q×P	B×Pch	23 P B3	Kt B3!
11 K R-q	Q B3(d)	24 Q B-q	Kt B7!
12 Q R5!	Q×Rch	25 P×B(g)	Kt×Pch
13 B×Q	Kt KB3	26 K B4	R×P mate

NOTES.

(a) Somewhat premature, P to Q 4 should at least come first.

(b) If P takes P, the continuation would be 7—B takes P ch, K takes B, 8—Kt to K 5 dis. ch, &c.

(c) Rash and unsound.

(d) This move necessitates the sacrifice of the Queen for a Rook, which was not really necessary. Black could have played 11.. ... Q to K 2; 12—B takes P ch, K to Q sq; with a safe game.

(e) Very much better was 15—B to Q Kt 5.

(f) If 18—K to Kt sq, Black should at least draw by Kt to Kt 5 dis. ch.

(g) This loses at once, but it is doubtful whether White can now save the game. White suggested, instead of the text move, 25—B to B 4, but Mr. Burn pointed out that in that case he would play R to B 3; and if 25—P takes B, then R to B 3 ch; 26—Kt takes R, Kt to K 2 mate!—*Hereford Times.*

GAME No. 458.

A BRILLIANCY PRIZE WINNER.

This is one of the two games which have been awarded Baron Albert Rothschild's brilliancy prizes in connection with the last Berlin tournament:—

FOUR KNIGHTS GAME.

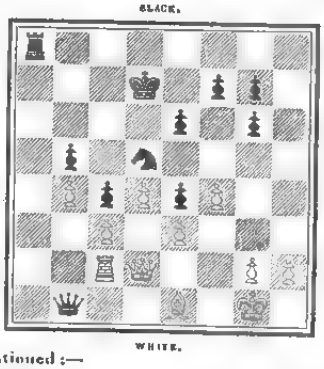
White—A. Zinkl. Black—J. Metger.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	14 P×P	R×R
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	15 P×Kt	P Kt3
3 B Kt5	Kt B3	16 Q Q2	Q Kt3ch
4 Kt B3	B Kt5	17 K R2	Q Q5
5 Castles	Castles	18 P Kt3	R×B
6 P Q3	B×Kt	19 Q×R	Q K4
7 P×B	P Q3	20 Q K3	P B4
8 B×Kt	P×B	21 P R4	B Q2
9 R Ktsq	B Kt5	22 Kt R3	Q K3
10 P KR3	B K3	23 R B5	K R-q
11 P B4	Q B-q	24 Q R6	R KKtsq
12 Kt Kt5	Q R3	25 Kt Kt5	Resigns
13 P B4	QR Ktsq		

END GAME.

A fine example of the play of Dr. Tarrasch:—Having forced a breach on the Q R file (the doctor plays the Queen's side game to perfection), the Black Q, R, and Kt are manœuvred with such effect that White's already limited scope becomes more and more circumscribed, until finally his pieces are all forced off and his opponent is left a Rook ahead.

Position after Black's 30th move—Q (R 8) to Kt 8 (threatening.....Kt takes K P as well as..... R to R 8).



BLACK.

WHITE.

Continued:—

White—Trenchard.		Black—Tarrasch.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
31 R B q	Q Q6	37 R Q2	R R8ch
32 Q×Q	BP×Q	38 B K-q	Kt B5(h)
33 B Q2	R R7	39 K B2	Kt×R
34 R Q-q	Kt Kt3	40 B×Kt	R Q8!(c)
35 B Ksq(a)	Kt B5	41 Resigns.	
36 B B2	Kt Kt7		

NOTES.

(a) If 35—K to B 2, Kt to B 5; 36—K to K sq, Kt takes K P! 37—B takes Kt, R to K 7 ch and wins.

(b) Most players would continue simply..... B takes B ch; 39—K to B 2, R to Q Kt 8, but this is not good enough for a Tarrasch.

(c) White's helplessness is remarkable. If B to K sq, P to Q 7! of course.—*Birmingham Post.*

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, Edward Porter, 18th November,—Hongkong 10th November, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, N Ohno, 18th November.—Shanghai via ports, 12th November, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tai Sang, British steamer, 1,544, W. E. Sawer,

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18th November,—Iloilo, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Merionethshire, British steamer, 1,950, D. Davies, 19th November,—London via ports, and Kobe 17th Nov., General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, C. H. Butler, 20th Nov.,—Portland, Oregon, 28th October, Mails and General.—Dodwell Carlill & Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, J. T. Smith, 21st November,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 20th Nov., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Melbourne, French steamer, 2,033, Piquier, 21st Nov.,—Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 20th Nov., Mails and General.—M.M. S.S. Co.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Panton, 21st Nov.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 3rd Nov., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

George R. Skolfield, American ship, 1,645, Dunning, 22nd Nov.,—New York, 12th June, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Hohenzollern, German steamer, 1,900, E. Woltersdorff, 22nd Nov., —Hongkong, 16th Nov., Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, J. C. Williamson, 23rd November,—New York via ports, Kobe, 21st Nov., General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Kongisberg, German steamer, 3,135, Christiansen, 22nd Nov.,—Hamberg via ports Hongkong, 15th Nov., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Orestes, British steamer, 2,992, Joseph Pulford, 22 Nov.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe Nov. 20, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Peiyang, German steamer, 951, R. Kohler, 22nd Nov.,—Hongkong, Sugar.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Glenartney, British steamer, 1,943, Frake, 23rd November,—Vladivostock, 19th Nov., Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Rossia (28), Russia Cruiser, 12,130, Captain Domujroff, 23rd November,—Vladivostock, 20th November.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 23rd November,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe 22nd November, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Columbia, British steamer, 1,689, A. Gow, 24th November,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 22nd Nov., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 24th November,—Vancouver, B.C., 10th November, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Chausang, British steamer, 1,540, E. J. Buller, 24th Nov.,—Hongkong, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Frankistan, British ship, 1,900, Shepherd, 25th November,—New York, 21st June, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

DEPARTURES.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 18th November,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Tennick, 19th November,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Montgomeryshire, British ship, 1,401, Edwards, 21st November,—Port Angeles, Puget Sound, Ballast.—Carl Rhode & Co.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, C. H. Butler, 22 Nov.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Strathmore, British steamer, 2,292, Cunningham, 22nd Nov.,—Batavia, Java, Ballast.—C. Illies & Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, J. T. Smith, 22nd Nov.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Braemar, British steamer, Edward Porter, 2,316, 23rd November,—New York via ports and Suez Canal, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Melbourne, French steamer, 2,033, Piquier, 23rd Nov.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, N. Ohno, 23rd Nov.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Panton, 23rd November,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 24th Nov.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Merionethshire, British steamer, 1,950, D. Davies, 25th November,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports :—Mr. Judball, Mr. and Mrs. Houghton, Mr. and Mrs. Junkins, Masters Junkins (2), Mr. Hongkong ..... Digitized by Google

Albert Leigh, and Mr. A. Woolley, in cabin; 3 in deck.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, B.C. :—Miss Adams, Mr. Wm. E Aitken, Miss Blair, Miss Birmingle, Mr. Burden, Mrs. Burden, Miss Brevoort, Mr. R. W. Butcher, Mrs. Butcher and child, Mr. Debill, Dr. Depotter, Miss Dale, Mr. Fenn, Mrs. Fenn, Mrs. Fitch, Miss Fitch, Master Fitch, Mr. C. Holman, Mr. Jno. E. Hayes, Mr. Hutchison, Mrs. Hutchison, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Hazelton, Mrs. Hammond, Capt. F. W. Hammond, R.N., Mr. Montagu Hill, Major Hallowes, Mrs. Hallowes, Mrs. Lauman, Mr. J. Meldrum, Mr. T. Monoyaki, Mr. Musiyama, Miss Moyer, Miss McComb, Mr. L. M. McCormack, Miss Mills, Mr. H. Nakayama, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. A. K. Rhoden, Miss Ratton, Mrs. Sewell and child, Miss Williams, and Mr. Dick Douglas, in cabin; 21 in second class; 517 in steerage.

Per American steamer *Victoria*, from Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C. :—Mr. L. Ottofy and child, Mr. W. C. Vaughn, Mr. W. T. Cox, and Miss Annie L. Brown, in cabin; 9 Japanese, and 173 Chinese, in steerage.

Per French steamer *Melbourne*, from Marseilles via ports :—Mr. Voisin, Mr. and Mrs. Rivers, child and 2 servants, Mr. and Mrs. H. Matsutani and servant, Mr. A. Groener, Mr. T. W. Forster, Mrs. Finch, Mr. Merecki, Mr. B. Finch, Mr. H. MacArthur, Miss Hilda, Miss H. Meier, Mr. Chong Chung Wan, and Mr. Edrei, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Doric*, for Hongkong via ports :—Mr. Ad. Garneau, Mr. J. Orange, Mrs. S. D. Hepburn, Mr. G. H. Dann, Mr. J. W. Copmann, Mr. J. C. Zimmerman, Mrs. P. A. Fiske, Miss Fisk, Mr. Tseng Chuck Hin, Mr. W. S. K. Wetmore, Mr. Robert Borthwick, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee, the Count of Turin, Count Carpewito, Miss J. O. Paine, Miss Fannie Hinds, Mrs. A. McLeod, Rev. J. A. Shipley, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Fearon, Miss Fearon, Mr. E. U. Smith, Mrs. Ruth Decker, Miss Decker, Miss Gussie Munn, Miss E. M. Glenk, Miss Isabel Longstreet, Rev. H. F. Rowe, Mrs. Rowe and infant, Rev. R. E. E. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Rennie, Mr. Geo. E. Wolff, Mrs. E. B. Rodgers, Mrs. A. M. Lossius, Miss M. Potters, Mrs. I. Patterson, Mrs. C. E Noster, Mrs. F. W. Haynes, Mrs. L. H. Knapp, Mrs. W. W. Reinhart, junr., and Mr. and Mrs. Hong Quan and children in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Hongkong via ports :—Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Wills, Mrs. Will's maid, Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Evans, Mr., Mrs., and Miss E. W. Hutchins, Mr. S. Knapp, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Aldrich, Messrs. Chas. F. and F. Aldrich, Miss G. E. Simonds, Mr. J. R. Michall, Mr. C. Smith, Mr. E. J. Hartley, Mr. W. A. Behrens, Mrs. and Miss Delaplaine, Mr. I. Komor and native servant, Mr. B. Roth and native servant, Mr. E. H. Tuska, Capt. W. H. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lindsley, Mr. A. R. Brown, Mrs. E. H. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Loose, Mr. F. Strahler, Mr. F. B. Abenheim, Mrs. Y. Yat Cheong and infant, Mrs. Y. Yu Hoon and infant, Capt. J. W. Lee, and Mr. R. George, in cabin.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 1	Su. Nov. 27
America	P. M. Co.	C. R. Janeiro 2	Tu. Nov. 29
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons 3	W. Nov. 30
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. Dec. 1
America	P. M Co.	Astec 4	F. Dec. 2
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Dec. 5
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic 5	Th. Dec. 8
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Th. Dec. 8
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Dec. 19
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Dec. 21

1 Left Nagasaki on the 23rd inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 10th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 22nd inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 15th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 19th Nov.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	F. Nov 25
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Tu. Nov. 29
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Nov. 30
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Nov. 30
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	C. R. Janeiro	W. Nov. 30
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Dec. 2
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons	W. Dec. 7
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	F. Dec. 9
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. Dec. 10
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Dec. 19

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS

The market is still in an unsatisfactory state. There are enquiries for some lines, but no signs yet of a general revival. Last week's prices are still quoted.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.55 to 2.85
Grey Shirtings—9 lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7 lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches,.	1.60 to 2.30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches,.	2.00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 40 yards	0.28 to 0.40
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15½ to 0.24½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches ...	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Unions, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5 lb, per lb	0.55 to 0.67½
	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches,.	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0 lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4 lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16, 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	41.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	64.00 to 65.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	76.00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.25 —
Chinese	18.25 —

METALS.

Little business is doing at nominally last week's prices.

	per picul.
Round and square ¼ inch, and upward.	4.00 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.65
Sheet Iron	5.00 to 5.20
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.25 to 10.00
Wire Nails, assorted	6.05 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.20 to 6.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

Market steady at last week's rates.

Americas	$2.18 to 2.20
Russian	2.12 to 2.15
Langkat	1.95

SUGAR.

The prices quoted last week practically hold good to-day.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$5.20 to 5.25
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.40
Brown Daitong	4.10 to 4.20
Brown Canton	3.90 to 5.60
White Java and Penang	6.80 to 7.00
White Refined	7.95 to 9.85

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The American market is dull and little business has been doing. Holders have a large stock.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den.	$900
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	845 to 855
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	830 to 840
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	820 to 830
Filatures—No. 2, 13/18 deniers	870
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	840 to 845
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	805 to 815
Re-reels—No. 2½, 13/18 deniers	780
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	850
Kakedas—No. 1	815 to 825
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	780
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

Very little has been doing during the past week, and in view of the large stock holders will probably have to submit to a decline before a movement can be effected.

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QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	67½ to 70
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Bushu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi—Joshu, Good	55 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	50 to 55
Kibiso—Filature, Best	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	75 to ■
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to ■
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

Very little business is doing, and only in common grades of leaf. Of these there is a stock of 335,000 lbs.

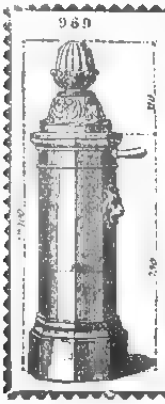
QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal.
Choice	Nominal.
Finest	Nominal.
Fine	Nominal.
Good Medium	$25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Rates continue without change, silver from London being ⅛ lower, but no alteration in the sterling quotations from China.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0¼
— — Bills on demand	2/0 9/16
— — 4 months' sight	2 0 11/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2 0 13/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 15/16
On Paris—Bank sight	255⅛ to 6
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	260
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49¾
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅜ to ⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07
— Private 4 months' sight	2.11½
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3 1/16 dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4 1/16 dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	74⅜ to 5
— Private 10 days' sight	75⅜ to 6
On India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	155
On Silver (London) on 5th inst.	27⅞



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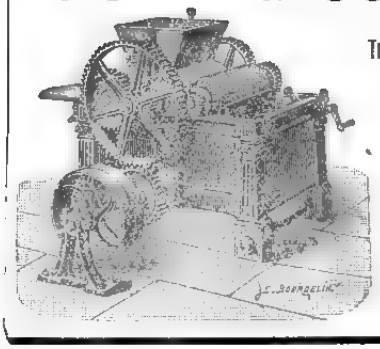

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 23.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, DECEMBER 3RD, 1898. 明治三十五年十二月三日 Vol.. XXX.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCH QUE DOIS : ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, DEC. 3RD, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

BARON AOYAMA, a member of the House of Peers, has just died.

THE appointment of Prince George of Greece as Commissioner for Crete is confirmed.

MR. AMANO, Secretary of the Legation at Vienna, left by the last American mail.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY was celebrated in Yokohama by a most enjoyable Ball at the Public Hall.

SPAIN has conceded the Philippines and the Sulu Archipelago to the United States, receiving an indemnity of twenty million gold dollars.

The question of the Carolines is still under discussion.

THE first detachment of the American army of occupation has landed in the province of Havana.

THE *Ukiyo Shimbun*, Osaka, was suspended on the 22nd ult. for inserting articles offensive to decency.

THE Hon. Russell Alger, American Secretary for War, recommends the increase of the Army to 100,000 men.

MR. INOUCHI, President of the Hozan Local Court, died on the 27th ult. He had been suffering from consumption.

THE Plague has been reported from South Africa and Madagascar. Formosa has been declared free from the disease.

THE British expedition in Uganda is advancing northwards. Posts have been established at Wadelai, Dufileh, Fajao, and Fatiko.

MR. HAY, American Secretary of State, denies the authenticity of the announcement regarding the "open door" in the Philippines.

MR. KASHIWADA, Vice-Minister of Education, who belongs to the Progressist Party, will continue in office and retire from the Party.

FURTHER outrages against missionaries are reported from China. They involve the lives of a French, an English, and a German Missionary.

IT is said that H.I.M. the Emperor will not be present at the formal opening of the Diet this morning, the effects of his recent cold not having passed away.

COL. LEWIS, R.E., who was specially sent out to inspect and report upon Wei-hai-wei, declares it to be one of the finest harbours that Great Britain possesses.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD has decided to visit Japan, and it is expected that he will be dined and wined by the China Association branches at Kobe and Yokohama.

THE Italian budget gives a gloomy prospect. The financial year closed with a deficit of one million lire and the estimated deficit for 1899 is fourteen millions.

THE French naval estimates include a formidable sum for the construction of 108 ships, comprising seven battleships, thirteen armoured, and eight other cruisers.

A WOMAN named Ko, wife of a priest of the Buddhist Temple Joho, Kosagi-mura, Nishitama-gori, Tokyo, was, on the 28th ult., arrested by the police on a charge of incendiarism.

IT is stated that the warship *Hiyei* will leave next Spring for Singapore and the Southern Seas, and will afterwards cruise off the North Eastern coast of South America.

THE *Kasagi Kan*, which was built by the Cramps for Japan, has been in collision with a bridge at Newcastle-on-Tyne, where she had gone to receive her armament.

THE Kwansei Railway Company were very unlucky last week. A collision occurred between two trains on their new line, while a landship near Kasagi wrecked part of another. No lives, fortunately, were lost.

AT a meeting of the Sesshu Cotton Spinning Company held at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Tanaka Shozo, the Liquidator, reported that a call of 33 *sen* per share (*yen* 35 paid up) would be required after the winding up of the concern.

THE new two steamers, the *Futami Maru* and *Yahata Maru*, of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha are almost completed, and will be brought out from England at the end of December.

THE Washington Commission has drafted a bill for Congress, providing a Government for Hawaii with an American Governor and legislature, Japanese and Chinese being excluded from the franchise.

A TELEGRAM dated the 23rd ult. from Formosa states that Taipeh and the vicinity are peaceful since the recent wholesale arrest of rebels. Over 20 rebels were arrested in one day owing to secret information.

CHRIST Church, Yokohama, which has been used for religious services since 1862, has been condemned as unsafe and for the present the congregation will meet for worship at the Public Hall.

MARQUIS YAMAGATA has the aid of the Constitutional party, with certain reservations, and the political situation thus becomes clearer. It is expected that the Land Tax will prove a thorny question and lead to dissolution.

GENERAL ZURLINDEN'S decision to court-martial Colonel Picquart while the Court of Cassation is deliberating, is hotly criticized and is rekindling the antagonism between the civil and military elements.

A BURGLAR who entered a godown belonging to Viscount Itakura and also committed several thefts from temples was on the 26th ult. sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment with hard labour. The brokers Nishiyama and Nonomura, who purchased the goods, were sentenced to 6 months.

IT is stated that the competition between the Kwansei Steamship Companies and the Sanyo Railway Company will shortly cease. Committees of both companies have held a meeting to discuss the matter. The Steamship Companies are said to have accepted the proposals of the Railway Company.

MARQUIS YOJO TAKEURA is dead from apoplexy. He was of the rank of Lieut.-General and was Commander-in Chief successively of the Sendai, Osaka, and Nagoya Army Divisions, and afterwards Councillor of the Genro In. When the Imperial Diet was established he was raised to the House of Peers and the first grade of merit was conferred on him.

THE import market, as regards textiles, is still in an apathetic state, business being much less active than might have been expected in view of the approaching new Tariff. There is some demand for yarns, but in shirtings, fancy cottons, and woollens there are no signs of improvement. There is some enquiry for metals, but at offers which, in view of the high prices prevailing in producing centres, allow of little or no profit. Wire nails and galvanised iron are in demand. In kerosene there is an upward tendency, but no actual rise will probably take place until the stocks in the hands of retailers are cleared. The sugar market presents no change except that the higher grades of Manilas have advanced 20 *sen* per picul. In raw silk there is a fairly good demand, but trade is checked by holders requiring an advance of 10 to 15 *yen* per picul. The raw silk market is almost completely inactive. In tea, purchases have been made in medium grades, for which prices rule firm. The supplies are nearly exhausted.

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POLITICAL SITUATION.

Nov. 26th.

The newspaper epitome of Mr. Hoshi's speech to the Kwanto Club prior to the failure of the negotiations between the Liberals and the Cabinet ascribed to him language which was not calculated to promote an amicable understanding, since he represented the overtures as coming entirely from the Ministry. But we are disposed to think that the epitome did not do him justice, for nothing could have been more moderate or tactful than his subsequent account of the negotiations and their abortive issue, as submitted to the meeting of Parliamentary members of the Party on the 24th instant. He explained, at that meeting, that both sides had been animated by an equal desire to find some method of cöoperation, since the interests of the Empire were deeply concerned in the successful enactment of certain legislative and financial measures. Meetings had accordingly been held in Osaka, and Count Itagaki, on behalf of the Liberals, had formulated terms which the Prime Minister promised to accept or reject after his return to Tokyo. What the terms were Mr. Hoshi carefully refrained from stating in deference to an agreement that they should be kept secret. On the 23rd instant, by which time the Cabinet Ministers had all re-assembled in Tokyo, Viscount Katsura, who seems to have taken a prominent part in the negotiations, visited Count Itagaki, and informed him that the *pourparlers* which had been held at Osaka must be regarded as fruitless: the Cabinet could not accept the terms proposed by the Liberals. Under the circumstances, nothing remained for the latter except to assume an attitude of opposition, and they did so with regret. Such was the gist of Mr. Hoshi's speech. It was quiet and even conciliatory, indicating very distinctly that the Liberal leaders would have been pleased to find a *modus vivendi*, and that they were very reluctant to be the means of bringing about once more the old legislative and financial *impasse*.

Mr. Hoshi's studied reticence renders it difficult to ascertain what terms were really formulated by the Liberals. Moreover, he was at some pains to condemn as incorrect the statements made by the press on this subject. Without knowing the terms, it is impossible to determine whether the acts of the Liberals were as Mr. Hoshi's language suggests. In the *Jiji Shimpo*—which usually has accurate information on such subjects—it is asserted, very confidently, that two alternative propositions were submitted to the Cabinet for its choice: first, that four portfolios should be at once given to members of the Liberal Party; secondly that, in return for the Liberals' support throughout the session, and the consequent passage of the necessary legislative and financial measures, the Cabinet should pledge itself to hand over the reins of power to the Liberals, without reservation, at the close of the session. If these were in truth the terms, their failure was inevitable. The Cabinet has only just been appointed. Very few days have passed since the Ministers received their commission from the hand of the Emperor. The removal of four of their number in favour of four Liberals at this early stage would bring the Sovereign's mandate into contempt. Even supposing that the Prime Minister and his colleagues were induced to endorse such an idea, it is plain that the Emperor's sanction could not be expected. The alternative proposition is equally impracticable. Marquis Yamagata might pledge himself to recommend to the Throne that the task of organizing a new Ministry should be entrusted to Count Itagaki, but he could of course give no manner of assurance as to the Emperor's attitude towards the recommendation. It is the Emperor's habit to call a council of the Elder Statesmen when a Ministerial crisis occurs, and among the Elder Statesmen Marquis Ito, Count Inouye, and Count Kuroda stand prominent. Unless they promised to support the recommendation, its favourable reception by the Sovereign would be quite uncertain. The *Jiji Shimpo* notes that point, and illustrates it by comparing Marquis Yamagata and his colleagues to the directors of a business association in which Marquis Ito, Count Inouye, and others are large shareholders. No undertaking entered into by the directors could be sure of consummation without the cöoperation of the big shareholders. What Marquis Yamagata might engage to do, if he had the consent of his colleagues, is to create a certain number of vacancies in the Cabinet three months hence, or four months hence, and to recommend that they be filled by Liberals, making his own continued tenure of office conditional on the Emperor's endorsement of the recommendation. But with that the Liberals would not be satisfied, we presume. The plain fact is that if the support of the Liberals was deemed necessary, they should have been admitted to the Ministry at the outset. After the organization and appointment of the Cabinet, it becomes exceedingly difficult to devise any means of coalition. The view taken by the Emperor, at the time of the crisis, unless we are mistaken, was that the administration had been entrusted to the Constitutionalists in their combined character; that is to say, in their character of a combination of Liberals and Progressists; that it could not have been entrusted to either Party independently, and that consequently, so soon as they fell apart, both became *de facto* ineligible for the task. It was a strictly impartial view, just such as might have been expected from the Emperor, and its logical sequence was that, should a share in the administration be given to either Party, it must be a subordinate share. There would thus have been no inconsistency or serious difficulty in allotting three or even four portfolios to the Liberals at the time of the Cabinet's organization. Perhaps, indeed, the Emperor considered it fair to deny any preference to either Party, and was therefore disposed to prolong the period of probation for both alike. We can not tell how that may have been, but we can easily see that after the opportunity had been lost which presented itself at the time of the Cabinet's formation, an almost irretrievable situation resulted.

It is very justly remarked by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that neither of the great Parties can be said to possess a certain majority in the Diet. The Liberals, by the aid of members who are not enrolled in their ranks, managed to elect their candidate for the Presidency of the Lower House by a vote of 153. Up to that time the general supposition had been that the Progressists were in the majority. Indeed, after the resignation of the Liberal members of the Cabinet, the claim of the Progressists to remain in power under Count Okuma was based chiefly on the hypothesis that their adherents constituted a plurality of the Lower House. That hypothesis did not survive the test of practice, and no one can pretend to think that the plurality of three now apparently possessed by the Liberals and their allies is a working majority. Hence, even though one of the Parties were entrusted with the task of carrying on the administration, the dissolution of the House and an appeal to the constituencies could not be avoided. In short, the conditions essential to successful party government do not yet exist in Japan.

The question of practical interest now is, what will the parties do and what will the cabinet do? Some vernacular journals suggest the resignation of the Cabinet *en bloc*. A surprising suggestion, surely. The Cabinet's mandate from the Emperor is not conditional on its securing the cöoperation of the Liberals or any other political party. There is no course for the Cabinet except to hold on its way steadily, present its Budget and projects of law to the Diet, and await the latter's action. The Liberals will probably refrain from introducing a motion of want of confidence. That task will be undertaken by the Progressists, it is said. But inasmuch as the extremists among the Liberals, if not the whole part, will support the motion, its adoption becomes a foregone conclusion. And even though it be rejected, there does not seem to be the faintest prospect of the Houses passing a Budget based on an increase of the Land Tax. So there will be a deadlock, and the Cabinet must either resign or dissolve the House. Dissolution under the circumstances assumes a singular complexion. Would it be a punitory measure or an appeal to the constituencies. Hardly the latter, seeing that no machinery exists for recording a favourable result of the appeal. If a Cabinet wants to take the verdict of the country, it must have parliamentary candidates whom the constituencies can either return or reject. The present Cabinet has no such candidates. It is opposed by both the great Parties, and since the constituencies must vote for the representatives of one Party or the other, they will have to pronounce against the Cabinet, however they cast their ballots. From a logical point of view, dissolution would have to be regarded as a punitory measure.

Granting that dissolution is resorted to for punitory purposes, and granting that it produces the desired effect, namely, bring one or other of the Parties to a submissive mood, would the situation be saved? Would it be possible to adjust the finances? An affirmative answer is given by some. They argue thus:—Suppose that the sentence of dissolution went out during the present month. The law requires that, after dissolution, the Imperial Ordinance fixing the date of the extraordinary election shall be issued at least 30 days beforehand. Thirty days' notice would place the elections precisely at the New Year, which, of course, is out of the question. But they might easily be held on the 10th of January. All the returns would be in by the 15th, and since forty days must then

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elapse before the meeting of the Diet, the new House might be in session on the 24th of January. Thus a full month would be available for discussing the Budget before the commencement (April 1st) of the fiscal year. We regard such calculations as quite superfluous. The Budget could not be passed in a month, and the Cabinet is not at all likely to base its plans on any such chimera. If the Lower House is dissolved, the full constitutional period of five months, or nearly the full period, will be allowed to elapse before the extraordinary session, which would thus take place in the second half of April.

Our readers would doubtless like to hear something about the attitude of the vernacular journals at this most interesting crisis of Japan's constitutional history. There is not much to be said. The *Fiji Shimpo* thinks that the failure of the negotiations was inevitable, since neither of the proposals advanced by the Liberals could possibly be entertained by the Cabinet. It sees no exit now from the situation except the resignation of the Ministry *en bloc* or the dissolution of the House. The *Nichi Nichi*, having demonstrated that dissolution would be necessary even though the Administration were handed over to one of the Parties, since neither of them possesses a majority in the Lower House, urges the Cabinet to have no hesitation in advising His Majesty to dissolve. The finances can easily be managed by presenting a Supplementary Budget in the Diet's special session. The *Chiuo* pronounces loudly in favour of a bill for increasing the Land Tax. That measure it declares to be absolutely essential, and it invites the Cabinet to resort to any and every means for bringing it about. The *Yomiuri* thinks that there never was any real prospect of cöoperation between the Liberals and the Cabinet, and that they have only been playing with one another. The other party organs are conspicuously reticent. One is almost tempted to construe their silence as an indication that they do not consider the situation wholly irretrievable.

Nov. 28th.

It was suggested in our issue of Saturday morning that, although a final rupture of the negotiations between the Cabinet and the Liberals had been formally announced to the latter's parliamentary representatives in full conclave, and although the representatives had passed resolutions declaring a policy of opposition to the Ministry, there were nevertheless some indications that all hope of an *entente* had not been abandoned. Subsequently these indications became more pronounced. After the meeting of the Liberal representatives, Baron Suyematsu and Messrs. Hoshi and Matsuda proceeded to Count Itagaki's residence, where they found Messrs. Hayashi and Ebara, and, having conferred for a time, these five politicians paid a visit to Marquis Yamagata. We are speaking now not from our own knowledge, but on the strength of the virtually unanimous information furnished by vernacular newspapers. The *Jimmin* (Liberal organ), indeed, writes as though renewed overtures had come from the side of the Cabinet, but the heavy balance of testimony is that the Liberal leaders considered it due to the Ministry—which had approached them in a conciliatory spirit—to submit an exact statement of the steps they had felt themselves compelled to adopt in view of the Cabinet's obduracy, and that advantage was taken of their visit to re-open negotiations. As to the nature of the negotiations, however, nothing had transpired up to Saturday evening. Rumour then pointed persistently to the reconstruction of the Cabinet. It was alleged that a somewhat accentuated difference of opinion had developed among the Ministers, the Satsuma section being in favour of large concessions for the sake of securing the cöoperation of the Liberals, and the Choshiu section having no such conciliatory disposition. This conflict of views threatened to eventuate in a rupture which would involve the resignation of the Cabinet *en bloc*, and its reconstruction under the presidency of Marquis Saigo, with three or four Liberals among the portfolio-holders. That would mean the exclusion of Marquis Yamagata and Viscount Katsura, according to our vernacular contemporaries, though why the brunt of failure should fall on Viscount Katsura's shoulders we can not perceive, seeing that he has been active throughout in seeking to bring about an *entente*. On the side of the Liberals, also, there was said to be a divergence of sentiments, the moderates being strongly in favour of legislating quietly without regard to the question of party Cabinets, and the extremists being disposed to make no concessions which were not reciprocated.

The bulletin of news for the 27th inst. comprises still more interesting details, some apocryphal, some authentic. In the latter category may be placed the fact that on Saturday morning Marquis Yamagata proceeded by an early train to Oiso for the purpose of consulting with Marquis Ito, and that he came back on the evening of the same day. There appears to be very little doubt that Marquis Ito advised him strongly to make whatever concessions might be necessary, within reasonable limits, to secure the cöoperation of the Liberals. More than that, however, we are not in a position to affirm with confidence. Rumour talks of a reconstruction of the Cabinet, and even of the retirement of Marquis Yamagata in favour of Marquis Ito. The *Asahi Shimbun* is very explicit on that point. It quotes an important official, who has close relations with Marquis Yamagata, as saying that the Marquis had not from the outset any intention of remaining long in office; that he considered himself merely a *locum tenens*, as Prince Sanjo was after the fall of the Kuroda Cabinet in 1889; that he was nevertheless persuaded by his colleagues to try to make arrangements for tiding over the session of the Diet, and that, having failed in that effort, he now desires to revert to his original intention and step aside altogether. On the other hand, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* denies emphatically that any reconstruction of the Cabinet is within the range of apparent probabilities. It is persuaded, however, that since the Liberals and the Ministry have frankly expressed to each other their solicitude about the injury resulting to the country from this political deadlock, some arrangement between them is tolerably certain to be reached.

Turning to the *Jimmin*, which, being the organ of the Liberals, should be able to give some trustworthy intelligence, we find an interesting account of the interview between Marquis Yamagata and the Liberal leaders who visited him on the evening of the 25th instant. The Marquis, according to this authority, declared that, in accepting the post of Premier, he had not been influenced in any degree by personal ambition. There was no reputation to be gained, nor could he desire any higher honours than the Sovereign had already bestowed on him. His unique motive, therefore, had been to do his duty to the country at a crisis demanding the earnest services of every loyal subject. He therefore felt entitled to accept the support of all patriotic persons, and he urged the Liberals to reconsider their decision. To that the Liberal leaders made an astute reply. They did not in the least desire portfolios, they said, for the sake of holding office. If they asked for positions in the Administration, it was solely because without that visible evidence that their policy was endorsed by the Ministry, the public would certainly misconstrue any support they might give to the Government. They had now only one suggestion to offer. It was this:—Marquis Yamagata, on behalf of the Cabinet, assserted that in the main his policy was identical with that of the Liberals, and, further, that nothing was more remote from his thoughts than to belittle political parties. Why, then, should not the Cabinet Ministers, with the exception of those holding commissions in the Army and Navy, enrol themselves in the ranks of the Liberal Party? The difficulty would then be solved at once. What answer the Premier made to that proposition the *Jimmin* does not say, but it denies that there will be any reconstruction of the Cabinet. It thinks that Marquis Yamagata will simply go his way, dissolving the House of Representatives if it proves obdurate, and thereafter taking whatever measures the situation may seem to demand.

We need scarcely say that the organs of the Progressists endeavour to prevent an *entente* between the Liberals and the Cabinet. That is natural. Their methods differ conspicuously, however. The *Mainichi Shimbun* avoids recourse to any insincere or contemptible devices. It merely says that the Cabinet has now weakened, that the Liberals will take advantage of its weakness to impose harder conditions, and that an understanding is therefore most improbable. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* is less conscientious. It pretends to believe that among the terms formulated by the Liberals, there is a demand that the Government should contribute to the expenses of movements for increasing the strength of the Party. Of course the *Yomiuri* knows very well that no such propositions could have been advanced. The *Hochi Shimbun* makes capital out of Marquis Yamagata's trip to Oiso. It says that he is trying to shift his responsibility to Marquis Ito's shoulders: having failed signally to achieve the project which he had in view when he organized the Cabinet, he can think of nothing now except to ask Marquis Ito to step into the breach.

We have been careful to publish the details of this political crisis from point to point because we regard it as the most important that has occurred in Japan since the inauguration of Constitutional Government. The country has arrived at the crossing, and its manner of making the crossing will be an epoch in Japanese

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history. The Liberals, it must be confessed, are coming out of the ordeal excellently. They are showing a degree of moderation and unselfish patriotism which greatly improve the prospects for successful party government in Japan.

Nov. 29th.

An understanding has at length been effected between the Cabinet and the Liberals. We presume that Marquis Ito's advice was more or less instrumental in bringing about that result. Such, at any rate, is the inference reasonably deducible from the fact that, immediately after the rupture of the preceding negotiations, the Prime Minister journeyed to Oiso to consult Marquis Ito, and immediately after his return to the capital, conferred with his colleagues, and obtained their assent to a plan which subsequently received the endorsement of the Liberals. Reducing these incidents to dates, they stand thus. On the 23rd instant, Viscount Katsura, acting as the mouthpiece of the Cabinet, informed Count Itagaki that no prospect presented itself of constructing an acceptable basis of agreement out of the proposals hitherto considered. The following day, a meeting of Liberal members of the Lower House was convened, and, Mr. Hoshi Toru having reported the failure of the negotiations, it was unanimously resolved that the Party must assume an attitude of hostility to the Cabinet. Five of the Party's leaders subsequently proceeded to the Prime Minister's residence, and informed him of the decision taken by the Liberal representatives in conclave. The same night, Marquis Yamagata received a deputation of business men who urged him, in the strongest terms, to come to some understanding with the Liberals. Early on the 25th (Friday), he started for Oiso, returning to Tokyo late in the evening. The 26th and part of the 27th were devoted to *pourparlers*, which seem to have been managed chiefly by Baron Ito Miyoji and Baron Suyematsu Kencho, and by 3 p.m. on the 28th the bases of an agreement having been arranged by the intermediaries, Marquis Yamagata was able to send a message to the head-quarters of the Liberals, inviting their presence at his official residence. Mr. Hoshi Toru responded to the invitation, and an understanding was then concluded—or perhaps it would be more correct to say that the understanding already agreed to by each side privately was now formally ratified by both in conclave. That evening at 7 o'clock, the members of the Liberal Party's General Committee and others of its leaders held a meeting, and endorsed the compact, which will be submitted to a general meeting of the Parliamentary members with delay.

Of course every one will be curious to know the terms of the understanding, but there is much reticence about them, and, although more than one of the principal vernacular journals publish versions, it is plain that no certainty exists. The most confidently advanced statement is that Marquis Yamagata, in return for a promise of parliamentary support from the Liberals, has agreed to three points: first, that the Cabinet shall be declared to be not independent; secondly, that it shall adopt the political programme of the Liberals, and, thirdly, that it shall share the Liberals' fortunes. It is difficult to belive that the Cabinet has gone so far. In the first place, what has hitherto prevented the Cabinet and the Liberals from finally falling asunder is the assurance that their political programmes are identical, so far as the great questions of the time are concerned. It can not be necessary, therefore, that the Cabinet should now announce its intention of adopting the Liberals' policy. If any statement be made on the subject, it will doubtless take the form a declaration that uniformity of view has been found to exist. Neither is it conceivable that the Cabinet should speak of "sharing the Liberal fortunes." That would be absurd, unless the Ministers intended to enrol themselves definitely in the Liberal ranks. Probably the sum and substance of the matter is that the Prime Minister will openly repudiate any idea of administering the affairs of the State without the assistance of a political party. He will have an opportunity of speaking in that sense when he entertains the leading members of the Liberals and the National Unionists at an afternoon party. It does not, at first sight, seem that the Cabinet makes a very large concession in return for the support of the Liberals, but a little reflection will show that an open declaration of such a kind coming from the Prime Minister of a Cabinet organized as the present Cabinet has been, is, in effect, a public admission that the principle of party government has been recognised. If the Liberals have obtained that condition, they may reasonably congratulate themselves. There will naturally be a suspicion that some pledge has been given as to the transfer of administrative power to the Liberals at a fixed date. They can not reasonably be expected to devote their strength to maintaining other men in positions which they have a right to desire for themselves. But that feature of the agreement, if there be such a feature, is very carefully concealed.

Nov. 30th.

There are no further clear indications of the terms of the arrangement between the Government and the Constitutional Party. The organ of the Party repeats the conditions already mentioned; namely, that the Cabinet shall declare its abandonment of the *chosen* (independent) principle; that it shall announce the conformity of its platform with that of the Party, and that it shall identify its interests with those of the Party. We remain perplexed about the last condition. To a Japanese the words employed mean that the Cabinet shall share the vicissitudes of the Party; a promise which can have no practical import except that the present Ministers are to be regarded as non-affiliated members of the *Kensei-to*. But of course no pledge of that kind has been given. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* (Opposition) contends that, since the policy of the Liberals is identical with the policy of the Progressists, there is no reason why the Cabinet should court the support of the former and eschew that of the latter. Hence our contemporary infers that there must be a secret understanding over and above the conditions which have been allowed to leak out, and that the understanding is an engagement on the part of the Cabinet to step aside in favour of the Liberals at the close of the session.

There is already a difficulty in sight; namely, the question of increasing the Land Tax. Messrs. Hoshi, Ebara, and Hayashi having been asked for an explanation of that point, have replied that it is excluded from the agreement entered into with the Government. In fact it is pretty certain that the Liberals, as a Party, could not be induced to vote for increasing the Land Tax. Whatever may be their real views with regard to the merits of the measure, and the necessity of resorting to it if the finances are to be placed on a sound basis, they shrink from a step which might alienate the support of the agricultural constituencies. The Cabinet, on the other hand, is understood to be fixed in its resolve to introduce a bill for increasing the Land Tax. Hence a collision will become inevitable in connexion with the most important business that the Diet has to transact, the passing of the Budget. We presume, however, that the Government will not court disaster by thrusting forward a measure doomed to defeat. That would be most unstatesmanlike, for the right of decision rests with the House in such matters, and there would not be the least sense in challenging a foregone conclusion. It will not be impossible to ascertain the chances of obtaining a majority in favour of the bill, and when that information has been acquired, the wisdom of bringing forward the scheme or quietly laying it aside for the present can be determined.

The bills which the Cabinet is said to have pledged itself to introduce, in connexion with its recognition of the Liberal policy, are, first, a bill for amending the Law of Election in the sense proposed by the Ito Cabinet; secondly, a bill for amending the system of local government, in the sense of abolishing the Districts (*gun*) and maintaining the Divisions (*son*) and Prefectures only; and thirdly, bills for transferring the prison expenditures to the charges of the Treasury, and introducing the other reforms mapped out by Count Itagaki when he held the portfolio of Home Affairs.

Dec. 1st.

The last page of the interesting chapter which has just been added to Japan's political history is now before us. We shall lay it before our readers as briefly as possible.

On the 29th ultimo a general meeting of the parliamentary members of the Liberal Party was held, Baron Suyematsu in the chair. Mr. Hoshi Toru reported the progress of events since the previous meeting on the 24th ultimo, when it had been unanimously decided that the Party must oppose the Cabinet. In company with other members of the General Committee he had proceeded, he said, to Marquis Yamagata's official residence and informed him of the meeting's decision. The Prime Minister failed to see why there should be any insuperable difficulty in coming to an understanding when both sides were willing, and Mr. Hoshi said that if the Cabinet was really ready to endorse the policy and platform of the Liberals, the latter would not insist upon being admitted to the Ministry, but would be quite content if all the members of the Cabinet—excepting, of course, those to whose case legal vetoes applied—would enrol themselves in the ranks of the Party. The Liberals did not want office; they merely wanted to have their political principles carried out and the system of party cabinets established. The easiest and most emphatic method of taking down the *Chosen-naikaku* (independent cabinet) sign-board

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was for the Cabinet Ministers to become party men. Marquis Yamagata replied that in his own case he was unable, as a soldier, to join in any political party, and as for his colleagues he could neither answer for them nor coerce them in such a matter. He would consult them, however, and reply in due course. On the 27th, Mr. Hoshi was again summoned to the Prime Minister's residence, and informed that the proposal for the enrolment of the Cabinet Ministers could not be entertained. On the other hand, the Government recognised that without the assistance of the Party it could not manage the affairs of the State satisfactorily. The Cabinet had therefore decided to endorse the policy and platform of the Liberals, and to make a public declaration in that sense, which declaration the Premier showed to Mr. Hoshi in writing. Mr. Hoshi asked permission to carry away the declaration. He submitted it to Count Itagaki and other leaders of the Party, and after due consultation they decided that the Liberals ought to give their support to the Ministry.

Having made the above report, Mr. Hoshi moved the following resolution :—

The present Cabinet having accepted our Party's policy and declared its wish to obtain our support, it is hereby resolved that we combine with the Cabinet for the smooth conduct of the country's domestic and foreign affairs and the successful operation of the Constitution.

A question was asked as to whether any arrangement had been made about the problem of increasing the Land Tax, and Mr. Hoshi having replied in the negative, it was suggested that, in view of the great importance of the matter, some definite understanding should be arrived at before the Party pledged itself to support the Cabinet. Mr. Hoshi pointed out, however, that any delay for such a purpose would prevent the carrying out of the Government's project as to making its public declaration on the following day.

Count Itagaki then addressed the meeting at some length, but it will be sufficient to say that he dwelt upon the great injury which the national interests must suffer if the conduct of foreign affairs and the adoption of certain essential measures of legislation and finance were interrupted by dissensions between the Cabinet and the political parties. He concluded his speech by saying:—"I invite you to place confidence at this juncture in the members of your General Committee whom you have yourselves elected, and in me who, as the founder of the Party, have a more affectionate interest than any one else in its welfare."

The resolution was then put to the vote and adopted with absolute unanimity.

On the following day (30th), at 3 p.m., the Prime Minister, in pursuance of the programme, threw his house open for a social gathering of the Liberals. About 250 attended, and after all had been accommodated, Marquis Yamagata addressed them as follows :—

Gentlemen :—I have to thank you for attending here to-day, and to crave your attention while I say a few words. Invited to undertake the task of advising the Sovereign to the best of my humble abilities at a time of exceptional activity in domestic and foreign affairs, I could not but reflect that if the able statesmen who preceded me had failed, despite of their sagacious measures, to prevent some interruption of the national business, there was little prospect that a mere soldier like myself could do better as their successor. The weight indeed is heavy and the road long. I am well aware that my strength does not suffice to deal with such a situation. On the other hand, the country could not be left for however short a time without persons to discharge the duty of assisting His Majesty. Precluded, therefore, from lightly declining the trust reposed in me at such a crisis, I felt that I must discard all petty considerations of self, and unhesitatingly offer to my country what little strength remains in my aged body, as a temporary expedient to meet the needs of the time.

Since the war three years ago, extraordinary changes have taken place in the world, and in the Far East especially we are confronted by a most disturbed state of affairs. We have to think, first, of maintaining the rights and interests of our country in competition with other nations, and of not falling behind in the race of general progress. At a time when such a multitude of undertakings call urgently for our attention, the fact that you have come forward to cöoperate with the Government, and to aid and assist it in carrying out the progressive policy of the Sovereign, so that all the measures essential to the policy of the State may be carried to a fair completion, redounds greatly to the credit of the sentiments by which you are constantly animated. In accepting this great trust, it is my duty to carry on the undertakings transmitted by my predecessors, and, by securing friendly cöoperation between the various branches of the Government, to prevent any obstruction of public business. Hence, from the moment of accepting office, I felt that I must endeavour to enlist the aid of men who shared my legislative views and would work with me for their consummation, and it seemed to me that your Constitutional Party was best fitted for that purpose, not merely because you command a majority in the Lower House of the Diet, but chiefly because of your policy and your history. Therefore during my visit to O-saka I had the pleasure of meeting Count Itagaki and Messrs. Hoshi and Katauka, and on my return to the capital I again saw Count Itagaki as well as Messrs. Hoshi, Hayashi, Matsuda and Suyematsu. We conversed with absolute frankness and told each other what was in our heart, I, on my side, explaining my views and my policy, and, they, on theirs, laying before me exactly what objects the Constitutional Party desired to compass. I have thus come to know with profound satisfaction, that you, Gentlemen, and I entertain the same views as to the measures which should be adopted at the present juncture for carrying out the Sovereign's intentions and assisting the progress of the country. After consultation with my colleagues, I have therefore resolved to seek your cöoperation, so that by your support the *post-bellum* undertakings may be carried to completion and the nation propelled along the path of the world's advance. It was for that purpose, Gentlemen, that I solicited your presence to-day, and also that I might take the opportunity of declaring to you the policy of the present Cabinet. It gives the Cabinet much pleasure to find that we are entirely in accord with you as to placing the public revenue on a secure basis and carrying to completion the *post bellum* undertakings. We agree also with your constantly expressed views about administrative reform, and in other respects our general policy is identical with yours, so that my colleagues and I will work with you, each in our respective spheres, to aid and assist one another in reverently guarding the Constitution and endeavouring to give effect to the broad progressive policy of the Empire.

Holding thus the same political views, and uniting to foster and extend the country's progress, I am persuaded that we do not look to accomplish our aim by any temporary cöperation. For my part, I am actuated by a thoroughly sincere resolve to go forward boldly, and, shrinking from no difficulties, to walk uniquely in the path of the Empire's progress, in union and company with my fellow-thinkers. Gentlemen and fellow countrymen, I ask you to appreciate my sentiments. By your cöoperation I hope, in this season of great difficulty, to discharge my heavy responsibilities as His Majesty's assistant. Let me express my profound desire that, acting together, we may, through the virtue and puissance of the Sovereign, succeed in obeying His Majesty's large and far-reaching purpose, thereby achieving the fair results of Constitutional Government, and enhancing the Empire's prestige at home and abroad.

It will be observed that the above speech comprises the three conditions previously stated by the Liberal organ; namely, that the Cabinet denies its independence of political parties; that it declares its policy to be identical with that of the *Kensei-to*, and that it identifies its fortunes with those of the Party. The last condition still remains, indeed, a little obscure, but if the opening sentences of the last paragraph of Marquis Yamagata's speech be read carefully, it will be seen that they contain what is practically a promise of permanent association with the Liberals. In short, the members of the present Cabinet, through the medium of the Minister President, appear to have pledged themselves not to cöoperate officially with any political party which is opposed to the Liberals.

There is another explanation given of the last point, an explanation which we find scarcely credible, though the *Tokyo Asahi* and the *Nippon* both profess to believe it. Their theory is that the Cabinet will introduce a measure for increasing the Land Tax, and that, in the event of its rejection, the Lower House will be dissolved, and the Cabinet, remaining in power, will render to the Liberals all possible assistance, within legitimate limits, at the ensuing elections. The *Hochi Shimbun* goes so far as to allege that beyond all doubt an arrangement has been effected about the Land Tax; that the rate will be raised from 2½ per cent. to 4 per cent.; that the additional revenue thus realized is estimated at 20 million *yen* approximately, out of which 3¾ millions will be deducted on account of lands calling for re-assessment. Of course when we say that the above explanation is difficult to believe, we do not refer to the mere question of a measure for increasing the Land Tax, but to the idea that the Government has given any pledge about a contingent dissolution and the resulting election. In the face of Mr. Hoshi Toru's explicit denial that any conference had taken place with reference to the Land Tax, it is not to be supposed that any elaborate programme of the kind has been mapped out.

To conclude the story, we may add that the National Unionists have also decided to support the Cabinet, and that they are to be received at the Premier's house to-day as the Liberals were yesterday. As to the comments of the Opposition press, they are not weighty, and our readers will perhaps be as well pleased to take them for granted as to have them set forth. Indeed this whole history has made very large demands upon our space, but we have felt ourselves under an obligation to give a connected account of incidents so important to the country.

Dec. 2.

The second of the series of "political tea-parties" took place at the Premier's official residence on the 1st instant, the National Unionists being the guests. Marquis Yamagata addressed them in much briefer terms than those of his speech to the Liberals on the preceding day. He made no special declaration of policy, nor attempted to find any justification for cöoperation between the Cabinet and the Party, but devoted himself chiefly to applauding the loyalty constantly shown by the National Unionists in assisting the Government to carry out measures essential to the country's welfare.

On the 2nd instant, the Premier gives a similar entertainment to the Independent members of the Lower House, and on the 3rd His Excellency is to receive the members of the House of Peers. Thus the Government may now be said to be sailing in smooth waters with a fair wind. There is, however, a rock ahead—the bill for increasing the Land

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Tax. That the Government is resolved to introduce such a Bill, we entertain no doubt whatever, and of course its adoption or rejection will determine the equilibrium of the Budget. Will the Liberals oppose it? Not as a party, we imagine. The members will be left free to vote according to their individual convictions. On the other hand, the Progressists have resolved to treat the measure as a party question. Several of them—notably the section led by Mr. Shimada Saburo—are known to be in favour of increasing the tax, and it is the habit at present to assume that these men will vote for the bill when it comes up for discussion. We do not think they will. By not voting at all they can easily find an exit from the dilemma in which loyalty to their party and obedience to their conscience place them. If thus, they leave the field free to the opponents of the Bill, it will surely be thrown out. But the Cabinet is understood to be persuaded that without increasing the Land Tax the finances can not be placed on a sound footing. It will, therefore, be more or less incumbent on the Ministry to dissolve the Lower House if they find themselves in a minority on this question. What will be the attitude of the Liberals towards the Land Tax after dissolution? They may exclude the problem from their party schedule for the purposes of the Diet, but they can not possibly treat it in that casual way when they present themselves to their constituencies, where no other question possesses comparable interest. Many of these same Liberals obtained the suffrages of the electorates nine years ago as the declared advocates of Land-Tax reduction. It was for that above all things that they agitated when they entered the Diet. Can they now offer themselves for re-election as advocates of Land-Tax increase? It would be a "sharp turn"; too sharp, we imagine. The Land Tax is going to prove a stiff ordeal.

ATTITUDE OF POLITICAL PARTIES SHOULD BE CHANGED.

"Hitherto the political parties have uniformly opposed every measure emanating from the Government, and the Government, on its part, has treated the parties as students or *soshi*. The dissolutions of the Lower House have borne the character of punitory measures rather than of appeals to the country, and to fight for party cabinets has been a species of crime. But the time has borne its fruit. The day of party cabinets has finally come. The onset has ceased to be necessary; the resistance has become fruitless. The chief duty now devolving on the political parties is to prepare themselves for taking over the administration. They must abandon their irresponsible attitude, and adopt a definite policy towards the various important problems of the time. Finance, military and naval armaments, foreign affairs—all these great questions now demand distinct and unequivocal treatment. The Liberals should have no sort of hesitation about uniting with the present Cabinet provided that they can get their policy carried out. As for the Progressists, they may be assured that their turn will come next. They have only to wait and be circumspect. They need not resort to any such precipitate measure as the introduction of a vote of want of confidence at the outset of the session. The Cabinet will fall of itself in due season without their raising hands to pull it down."—*Jiji Shimpo.*

BUSINESS MEN AND THE SITUATION.

The "business men" appear to have concluded that the political situation threatens to be very detrimental to their interests. They have just surmounted their point of greatest pressure. The money market has greatly recovered its tone; that bugbear, the balance of trade, promises to become less formidable than it was some time ago, and a fine rice crop is in sight. If now, just as they are emerging from the slough of despond, the political horizon is to be again overclouded and the prospect of financial adjustment indefinitely postponed, all the old troubles will have to be faced again. Hence the business men are most anxious to see some agreement effected between the Liberals and the Cabinet. So soon as they learned that the negotiations had been broken off, they called a meeting, and sent a deputation of influential merchants and manufacturers to visit the Premier. The deputies did not reach Marquis Yamagata's house until a late hour on the 24th. The Marquis had already retired to rest, but he got up to receive them, and listened to their vehement remonstrance against the idea of another dissolution of the Lower House, which, they declared, would have a disastrous effect on business. Marquis Yamagata said that he shared their views. He was fully sensible of the responsibility devolving on him. He declined to admit, however, that all hope of cöoperation between the Cabinet and the Liberals was at an end. It was not improbable that an opportunity for arrangement would still present itself.

It must be ascribed, we presume, to the partial survival of feudal ideas that the industrial and commercial classes take so little active interest in politics in Japan. It is true that they are somewhat handicapped, for the system of representation is not fair to them, the rural constituencies being enfranchised on a scale decidedly partial. A strenuous effort to amend that fault was made during Marquis Ito's last tenure of power. The Ministry introduced a bill which, had it become law, would have largely increased the representation of the cities; but the Lower House, being composed chiefly of men returned by agricultural constituencies, mutilated the measure so that it became abortive so far as its main purpose was concerned. The noteworthy point, however, is that the merchants and manufacturers do not seem at all troubled about their want of political influence. They are quite strong enough to become a very appreciable factor in the equation of power, but they make no effort to assert their strength. The *Kokumin* justly points out that they number 9¾ millions, or 24 per cent. of the total population; that they possess certainly one half of the wealth, and that they are far above the average in the matter of intelligence. Yet one can not truly say that there is a merchants' party or a manufacturers' party. After the first dissolution of the House of Representatives, when the Matsukata Cabinet attempted to organise a party of its own, there came into existence, with considerable flourish of trumpets, an association calling itself *Jitsugyo-ka Dantai*, or the league of business men. It proved almost a fiasco. There are, indeed, a few "business men" in the Lower House, and they maintain a semblance of organization, but they are remarkable for nothing except self-effacement, and a limpet-like tendency to attach themselves to the Government of the hour, no matter what it may be. We do not wonder that they receive little respect and wield no influence.

THE ARMY.

The Japanese Army is not in good odour at present. It appears that the billeting system pursued at the autumn manœuvres gives rise to abuses bitterly complained of by the people. The sum allowed for feeding and lodging a soldier is 20 *sen* per day. In consideration of that payment he receives a bed and two meals, one in the evening and one in the morning. It is not easy to see how such a pittance could suffice. Certainly it can not unless the soldier himself is prepared to be content with very frugal fare. But, according to the complainants, he is not at all disposed to be content. He expects his outing to be a kind of holiday, and if his hosts do not furnish good rice and palatable condiments, together with a modicum of *sake*, he wants to know the reason why. The result is that a house where soldiers are billeted has to expend some 30 *sen* a head over and above the allowance. A further grievance is that the soldier insists on taking the housemaid out for a walk in the evening, and likes to have the *samisen* played for him by the daughter of the family before he retires for the night. In fact he is altogether a pampered Lothario, and neither the non-commissioned, nor the commissioned, officers turn a deaf ear to his most frivolous complaints. One vernacular newspaper makes a grievance of the fact that some 500 guests were entertained by the military authorities at the recent manœuvres. It calculates that each guest cost as much as ten soldiers, and thus, since the total number of troops employed was fifty thousand, ten per cent. of the outlay was incurred on account of the guests, from which fact the newspaper infers that the War Department is rolling in wealth while the people are oppressed by taxes. Silly talk of that kind throws discredit on the whole grievance, but it seems more than probable, for independent reasons, that the soldiers do not treat the people with proper consideration. The blame rests, of course, chiefly with the officers. It rests also with the system. A patent illustration of the latter point is the formation adopted by troops marching through the streets of Tokyo. They move in sections of fours with the non-commissioned officers on the flanks, and as the style of march is very loose, a front of five men occupies nearly as many yards. Add that the centre of the street rather than the side is regarded as the proper ground to take, and it will be seen that a battalion on the march becomes a most embarrassing obstruction to traffic. Thus the lesson taught to the men whenever they move from place to place is that everything must give way to them, and that the convenience of the citizen is as nothing compared with the dignity of the soldier. There is something of the feudal-time flavour about this system.

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LADIES OF THE CORPS DIPLOMATIQUE IN PEKING.

The situation in China may be saved, after all, by the ladies. It is said of the Empress Dowager that she has never yet failed to carry her point, but certainly she would not have such a fair record if it had been her fate to come into conflict with a party of European and American ladies upholding a point of social etiquette. Her afternoon party to the wives of the Foreign Ministers had to be put off once because of the rudeness or slight to which it threatened to subject her visitors, and now the telegraph says that it has been put off again because the ladies insist that the Empress-Dowager must take the initiative in greeting them. Such, at any rate, seems to be the purport of the telegram, but it does not lend itself to easy interpretation. It comes from a Japanese correspondent, and he describes the conduct of the foreign ladies as *waga mama* (exacting), his argument probably being that the ladies should be content with the method of Chinese etiquette, whatever that may be. It is not conceivable, however, that the ladies are asking the Empress-Dowager to depart in any degree from the usages of her own Court. Doubtless what they require is that they shall not be treated in a manner which would amount to a slight according to Chinese etiquette. We hope they will stick to their point. There is something quite refreshing in the situation. The Empress-Dowager may be supreme in planning and managing *coups d'état*, but she will find it a very different matter to manage a bevy of Western ladies. We should think that the tea party will be a rather constrained affair, if it ever does come off.

THE DOSHISHA QUESTION.

"The negotiations for the settlement of the Doshisha question have failed. Count Okuma and the American Minister lent their good offices as mediators, but were unable to accomplish anything. All hope of a friendly arrangement is at an end. It is most regrettable and most disgraceful. The motive of founding the Doshisha was to improve the moral character of the Japanese, but it has been the means of subjecting them to the reproach of violating an engagement and trampling good faith under foot. It was established chiefly by American assistance. Its name, 'community of sentiment,' explains its origin. It was supposed to be an indication that the citizens of the United States and the subjects of Japan were one at heart. But it has become a means of creating dissension between them. It has served as an instrument to make them forget their character as religionists and plunge into a legal dispute. The Americans are incensed about it. They declare that the behaviour of the Japanese connected with the institution has been absolutely dishonest, and they are led even to condemn the whole of the Japanese nation. Thus the question has come to have an influence on the reputation of the people at large, and, inasmuch as there is some justice in the American criticism, we are the more grievously distressed. To return evil for good is the most extreme form of human wickedness. What a terrible disgrace this is to our country!"—(*Kochi Shimbun.*)

SHANTOU OR CHÊNGTU.

Nov. 30.

The telegraphic news from China with regard to the murder of an English missionary at a place which we can not identify and the wounding of a German missionary in Shantung, says also that a French missionary has been burned to death at "Shantou." We have never heard of "Shantou," and are disposed to think the Chêngtu in Szechuan must be the place referred to. It is in Szechuan that Yu Man-tze has been defying the Authorities for several months and harrying Roman-Catholic converts. The latest detailed news from that place is contained in a letter from a correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, dated October 29th. We make the following extract:—

"To be or not to be," that is the question uppermost in many minds. Is there to be a rebellion in Szechuan? Are foreigners to be driven out or massacred? Is the new religion to be exterminated? Or is the great boaster who is now issuing his proclamations in defiance of the outside world and the Chinese officials to be or not to be? Yü Man-tze has made a name for himself. His name casts terror in every city. Good may come out of it. If Chinese parents have another Black Douglas to frighten their children the harmless foreigner may have a rest. The agitation is against the new state of things.

The principal sufferers thus far are Roman Catholic converts. Their houses have been torn down and their chapels destroyed. At one place 200 Roman Catholic converts are reported to have been killed. The feeling is strong that the priests had been too active in defending the converts, when the latter were guilty, by intimidating the officials. The Roman Catholic Bishop, who resides at Chêngtu, has been much agitated. A report of his interview with the acting Viceroy, if true, was not very complimentary. The Bishop asked why the French priest had not been liberated. The Viceroy replied that it was a difficult matter to settle, owing to the hostility everywhere against the French, that in many parts of the province there were English and Americans and they, the officials, had no trouble with them, but that wherever there was a Roman Catholic station they had constant worry and trouble. From Yunnan comes a report that a priest insulted a high official, the *Titai* (Provincial Commander-in-Chief), that the soldiers resented the affront, and that Yunnan is on the point of rebellion. True, many of these stories afloat are manufactured to stir up hatred against foreigners in general and the French in particular, yet where there is so much smoke there must be a fire somewhere.

Dec. 1.

A telegram from the *N.-C. Daily News'* correspondent in Chungking confirms the fact of Mr. Fleming's death, and adds that soldiers participated in the crime and that official connivance is clear. Perhaps it will be well to suspend judgment as to the last point, for it has become almost an invariable habit to accuse Chinese officials of countenancing, or at least taking no efficient steps to prevent, anti-foreign outrages. It is to be observed, however, that the telegram of the Shanghai journal's correspondent is dated Nov. 21st, whereas the *Fiji Shimpo's* Peking telegram is dated Nov. 28th. Does the latter refer to a second assassination? With regard to the French missionary who is said to have been burned to death, there can be little question that Szechuan was the scene of the occurrence, and that the "Shan-tou," or "Shen-tou," of the Japanese telegram should have been "Chêng-tu." It is probable, therefore, that the unhappy sufferer was M. Fleury, who was taken captive many months ago by Yu Man-tze. There are other French missionaries in Szechuan, especially in Chêng-tu; but people well acquainted with the locality say that Yu could not carry his raids as far as Chêngtu itself, and the murder probably occurred in the interior of the province. How long are these brutalities to be endured, we wonder?

THE RULE OF THE ROAD

"The police have never, to our knowledge, made the slightest attempt to enforce the regulations in the case of foreigners' servants. They know perfectly well that they would be exceeding their powers if they did so." To these words of ours a correspondent, "A Driver," takes exception. He interprets us as saying that the Japanese police have no legal competence to compel the observance of Japanese municipal regulations in the case of the Japanese servants of foreigners. So far as the servants are concerned, we did not refer to legal competence. We are aware that such persons do not enjoy any special immunity from the obligation of observing the laws and regulations of their country. We referred to the practical power of the police. We invite "A Driver" to descend to hard facts and think how the thing is to be done. Suppose that a Japanese policeman observed a violation of the rule of the road by a foreigner's coachman, could he stop the vehicle and take the driver's name for the purpose of summoning him? Would the foreigner consent to that? Some foreigners might, but others might not, and against the latter the police would be quite powerless—at least so it seems to us. Then, again; suppose that a coachman having violated the regulations and received a summons to attend the police court, took no notice of the summons. The police could not arrest him within his employer's compound without a consular warrant. Is a consul competent to endorse a warrant in respect of an offence against municipal regulations? "A Driver" can give an excellent opinion on these points and his views would be interesting. It appears to us that any attempt to enforce the regulations without the cõoperation of the foreign residents must prove of very doubtful validity, and their cõoperation could not be exacted: it would have to be voluntary. No Government can be expected to legislate for folks who have the option of observing or disregarding its laws at their own sweet will. "A Driver" has "not the least doubt that," if publicity were given to the regulations "they would be willingly and readily observed by foreigners." Perhaps they would. Perhaps they would not. It is just a little too much to expect the Japanese Authorities to display their regulations in the hope that foreigners will be so kind as to obey them. This is a very ancient question, this question of the municipal administration of Yokohama. It is one of the comedies resulting from the so-called "extraterritorial system." Sir Harry Parkes used to say that in order to have the foreign consuls invested with competence to enforce municipal regulations, special legislation by all the Treaty Powers would be necessary, and he thought that fifteen years of steady pressure and agitation might suffice to secure such legislation. We desire it to be clearly understood that we are not making any attempt to set up a claim of efficiency on behalf of the Japanese police, where their own nationals are concerned, in this matter of the rule of the road. Our experience is that nine *jin-*

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rikisha drawers out of every ten observe the rule, and we are certainly of the opinion that its observance is much more general in Tokyo to-day than it was ten years ago. But it is not a subject to which we have paid much attention, and we can only record our impressions.

MARQUIS ITO ON THE SITUATION.

It is stated that Mr. Hoshi Toru had a meeting with Marquis Ito in Kobe, when the Marquis expressed himself as follows:—"I am in the position of a defeated general. I can not enter the Cabinet. Even though His Majesty laid his command upon me, I should be obliged to decline. There is nothing for me but to take the part of an onlooker. But, in truth, no matter who undertakes to conduct the Administration at present, he can not make much of a success. At the same time, there is the fact that the Budget has failed again and again to come into existence. The Government is working with the Budget of two or three years back. That can not continue much longer. Foreign affairs, too, have assumed a very pressing character. It is impossible with these rapid changes of Ministry to prosecute any policy satisfactorily. I could say a great deal, but this is not the time to speak. It is my duty to try and help the Yamagata Cabinet to grapple with the difficulties confronting it. Your Party also should direct its attention carefully to the state of affairs that exists for the sake of the nation; you should put on the shelf all sentimental issues, and for the sake of the country lend your aid to bring the Budget into existence. I venture to declare with the utmost confidence that Yamagata has not the smallest feeling of contempt for political parties."

GREAT BRITAIN AT CHUSAN.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* publishes a telegram announcing that Great Britain has taken possession of Chusan. Is the story credible? England would not resort to such a measure except as a means of bringing pressure to bear upon China in connexion with some important negotiation. We have not heard that any negotiation of that character is on the *tapis*. It is true that, some few days ago, rumours were current to the effect that China had violated her agreement with regard to the Shanhaikwan-Newchwang Railway. Possibly that question has entered an acute phase, and England has been obliged to seize a guarantee. Conjectures, however, are of little value. The only thing we can be certain of is that, if Chusan has been occupied, the Peking Government has had ample warning.

THE RAILWAY LOAN.

In paragraphs recently published by vernacular newspapers and summarized in these columns, it was stated that the Barons Iwasaki had agreed to guarantee a loan of 15 million *yen* negotiated by the Sano and Kinshiu Railway Companies with a London Syndicate. We have had an opportunity of obtaining direct information on this subject, and are able to state that the Barons Iwasaki have never entertained such an idea. In fact, that item of the story is a pure *canard*.

SPAIN AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Spain has not assumed the attitude of dignified refusal that was predicted for her *vis-à-vis* the question of accepting a solatium from the United States for the surrender of the Philippines and the Sulu Archipelago. She has wisely subjected herself to a gentle pressure, and is twenty million dollars richer for being sensible. Japan received thirty million *yen* for abandoning her newly acquired rights in the Liaotung Peninsula, and Spain receives forty millions for giving up her last Far-Eastern possession. No, not her last. There remain the Carolines. Concerning them negotiations are still going on. But of course the Carolines will follow the Philippines: it would be absurd for Spain to cling to the former after she has lost the latter. This is an interesting incident, this payment of four millions sterling. When the protocol of the peace convention was published, we ventured to prophesy that the United States would have to pay for the Philippines. The document was drafted in such a manner that it plainly assigned an exactly equal status to the negotiating parties with regard to the Philippines and Spain's other possessions in the Pacific. Nothing would have been easier at that time than to obtain Spain's consent to a protocol waiving her title to the Philippines as well as to Cuba. But the fact is that the Government in Washington had not arrived at any definite decision about the Pacific islands, and it has had to pay four millions sterling for the luxury of irresolution. The money doesn't matter a row of brass pins to the United States, but the episode has been decidedly interesting. America has now to deal with Aguinaldo, and many other troublesome problems. We are heartily glad that she has come out of her Continental shell, and that a fresh and enormous accession of Anglo-Saxon grit will become operative for the progress of humanity. Nothing in history is more remarkable than this sudden expansion. Only yesterday America was sitting quietly at home with a face innocent of all notion of foreign enterprise, and to-day her arms are permanently stretched half across the globe. She will now become a great Naval Power and a great colonial Power, and these little additions to her career will be taken in her stride as natural parts of the day's work. It makes one smile now to remember how positive our American friends used to be about their self-contained policy and their stay-at-home purpose. Mark Twain says that the English are mentioned in the Bible where it says, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." He will now have to say to his own country *de te fabula*.

EXPANDING TELEGRAMS.

We recently published a tolerably full telegraphic *résumé* of Mr. Chamberlain's Manchester speech. The *Kobe Chronicle* charges us with having expanded it from a brief message published in Shanghai—charges us, in short, with expanding 57 words into 201. It is scarcely necessary to say that the charge is baseless. The telegram was published by us exactly as we received it.

WEI HAI-WEI.

Some time ago, very disparaging remarks were published in German journals about Wei-hai-wei. It was said to be not only a bad, shallow, anchorage, but also completely open to fire from the sea, so that ships lying inside the harbour would have no security against being cannonaded from without. We traversed those criticism when they appeared, and said that hey were not consistent with the experiences of the war in 1895. As to the water in the harbour, it was found deep enough to swallow up second-class iron-clads, and as to the security from sea-fire, the Chinese Peiyang squadron was able to lie for many days completely sheltered from the guns of the Japanese fleet. According to telegraphic news received yesterday in Tokyo, Colonel Lewis, who was sent by the British Government to report upon Wei-hai-wei, has declared it to be one of the finest naval stations that England possesses. That is not news to people out here, but it is nevertheless highly satisfactory.

A JAPANESE SUSPECT AT PORT ARTHUR.

Mr. Fukuwara has been at length released. He was arrested last summer by the Russian Authorities at Port Arthur, whither he had gone on commercial business. The suspicion was that he had come as a spy, and he seems to have had a great deal of difficulty in establishing his innocence, although diplomatic intervention was exercised on his behalf. An interesting point presents itself in connexion with the affair, namely, the right of the Russian Authorities to exercise jurisdiction over Mr. Fukuwara. It has been understood that Russia's lease of Port Arthur does not interfere with China's sovereignty in the Liaotung Peninsula, and, if that hypothesis were correct, a Japanese subject arrested there would be judiciable by a Japanese Consular tribunal only, for China has divested herself of judicial autonomy with regard to the subjects and citizens of the Powers having treaties with her. But Russia has apparently replaced Chinese sovereignty by her own. She showed no hesitation whatever about assuming jurisdiction over Mr. Fukuwara, and we gather that the Japanese Foreign Office refrained from raising the question of her right. China, of course, did not make any tangible protest. She is plastic clay in Russia's hands. So far as individuals are concerned, the matter is not of much importance. Foreigners visiting Talien or Port Arthur will fare no better or no worse than if they visited any other Russian port. It is true, indeed, that Mr. Fukuwara's judges were officers of the army. They were competent enough, no doubt, to try a suspected spy, but scarcely qualified to exercise jurisdiction in civil cases. It may be assumed, however, that if Russia intends to interpret her newly acquired privileges in such a light, she will establish proper tribunals. But will all Occidental Powers recognise her jurisdiction as placidly as Japan has done? Suppose that a British subject and a Chinese subject have a dispute within Russia's Liaotung sphere, will they carry their case to a Russian tribunal? And is the same theory to hold at Kiao-chou?

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THE TOKYO STREET RAILWAYS.

The project of the Tokyo Municipality with regard to the long-deferred street railways is to drive them by means of compressed air according to the new American system. The idea of a railway in which the pressure of air is used, directly or indirectly, as a substitute for steam, to propel carriages is not by any means new. Only men of nearly fourscore years can remember the first application of this system on the Vallance line at Brighton, where a carriage ran inside a wooden tube. Attached to the carriage was a diaphragm fitting the tube with approximately air-tight exactness, and, the air in front of the diaphragm having been exhausted, the carriage was driven forward by the pressure of the atmosphere behind. By and by Vallance's plan was supplanted by a system in which the carriages were kept outside the tube. A bar fixed beneath the leading carriage was attached to a piston which worked inside the tube and was driven forward by the pressure of the atmosphere, exactly after the fashion of the diaphragm in the Vallance invention. After the invention of this plan, several "atmospheric railways," as they were called, were constructed in the United Kingdom, the first being between Kingston and Dalkey in Ireland. Ultimately, however, the difficulty of managing the valve in the tube and of maintaining a vacuum, as well as the practically established fact that a stationary engine can never work a railway with anything like the economy or the convenience of a locomotive, led to the discontinuance of the system. Its last use was on the atmospheric railway at St. Germains some thirty-five years ago. But in recent times precisely the same system has come into vogue for the purpose of transmitting small parcels by "pneumatic despatch," a most successful innovation. The new American scheme of compressed air seems to be an admirable device. The locomotive has a reservoir filled with compressed air which serves to drive a piston precisely as steam does. The filling of the reservoir is effected, of course, by machinery at fixed points along the route, and nothing is required during the journey except a heating apparatus to counteract the great cold developed in the compression of air. Twenty miles an hour can be obtained easily with this system, and it has been demonstrated by subjecting tubes to excessive pressure that they never burst explosively but simply tear. It will be interesting if Tokyo, after all its sleepy conservatism and want of enterprise, equips itself finally with one of the latest resources of mechanical science.

THE LAND TAX.

It is stated that, on the 22nd instant, the Cabinet unanimously resolved to introduce a bill for increasing the Land Tax simultaneously with a measure for reassessing the taxable value of the land. Their idea is to raise the rate from 2½ per cent. to 4 per cent. The product of the Tax being 39½ millions at the former rate, it would be 61½ millions at the latter, and the revenue would benefit to the extent of 23 million *yen*. Count Inouye's project involved an increase of only 17½ millions. We can not regard this statement of the Government's intentions as strictly accurate, but it is probably a close approximation.

TRAM CAR FARES IN TOKYO.

The avarice of the Tokyo Tram-car folks has had a set back. They obtained the sanction of the Governor of the city to increase their third-class fares by 25 per cent., but the City Assembly has condemned the sanction. The grounds on which they based their proposal were arithmetically indefensible, and assumed a character of almost insolent extortion in view of the fact that the enterprise is already paying a dividend of over 30 per cent. The City Assembly did not content itself with recording a vote adverse to the projected increase. It also passed a resolution to the effect that the conduct of the Governor had shown much want of consideration for the interests of the citizens, and it ordered that the resolution should be set down in big ideographs in the archives of the Assembly. Of course the City Assembly is not competent to annul the Governor's action: it can only pass a protest. But it has appointed a Committee of seven to endeavour to give practical effect to its protest.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Two serious railway accidents are reported. The first occurred on the 25th instant on the newly opened Kwansei line; namely, the Nagoya-Ise-Osaka line. A goods train, consisting of an engine and 14 waggons, set out from Kamo at 7.17 a.m., and, having passed Okawara, was approaching Shimaga-hara when the locomotive failed to pull the train up an incline; a result which ought to have been anticipated, it is said, as 12 waggons was the limit of the locomotive's capacity. The driver backed the train, apparently hoping to reach a shunting before the arrival of another train, but he failed in his purpose, was overtaken by a passenger train which had left Okawara at 8.50, and a collision occurred, smashing a number of waggons, but fortunately not involving any injury to life or limb.

The second accident occurred on the same road. The 5.20 p.m. train from Osaka to Nagoya had proceeded about a mile beyond Kasagi when it encountered a land-slip, the result of a heavy downpour of rain. Rocks of considerable size fell upon the train; the engine was nearly buried under the débris, and about 40 persons were injured, none fatally, however, so far as we can judge.

THE "KASAGI-KAN."

The telegraph says that the new second-class cruiser *Kasagi* has collided against a bridge going up the river to Newcastle, and sustained severe damage. The *Kasagi* was built to Japan's order at Cramp's Yard in Philadelphia. She had to proceed to Lord Armstrong and Company's Works to take her armament on board, and it was on her way thither that the accident occurred. We are inclined to think that Reuter's agent has exaggerated its seriousness, for impact with a bridge in the case of a vessel moving slowly, as the *Kasagi* must have been, should not be particularly disastrous—by no means so disastrous as collision with another ship. No intelligence of the event had been received at the Naval Department in Tokyo up to the afternoon of the 1st inst., and we infer that the injury was not manifestly so bad as to justify a telegraphic report prior to docking and examination. Of course the Japanese officers in charge of the cruiser will be absolved from blame, as there must have been a fully qualified pilot on board. The cost of the repairs will doubtless fall on the Japanese Naval Department, the ship having been taken over before she left America.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERT.

November 26th.

Our local musical societies appeared on Friday evening under the direction of a paid professional conductor (instead of, as formerly, under the baton of irresponsible amateurs); and after abundant advertising, which raised expectation to a high pitch. We do not wish to be hypercritical upon a first appearance; but must confess to a feeling of disappointment, especially that the much-vaunted Orchestra and Chorus of 110 performers were not heard in combination. In fact, looking at the programme generally, we cannot see that it was any improvement on those of former seasons.

The first part of the concert was devoted to a disjointed *pasticcio* from Mendelssohn's Oratorio of "Elijah": the selections being peculiarly disarranged from their setting in the original work. They suffered also from the nature of the accompaniment: for a grand piano and a feeble harmonium (however, well played) are poor substitutes for Mendelssohn's orchestration. However, it served to display the well-known talent of our local singers. Among the soloists Mrs. James Walter bore the palm for an excellent rendering of the *arioso* "Woe to them": —the music being admirably suited to her voice and style. Mrs. Irwine was not so fortunate in the magnificent invocation "Hear ye, Israel!" She sang exquisitely the plaintive and pathetic strains of the gentle Berliner, but lacks the necessary force for his bolder flights in the major key. As to the gentlemen, they did well enough for beginners: but have much to learn before they become ideal representatives of *Obadiah* and *Elijah*. The Chorus-work was fairly good, but requires strengthening in the male voices. Their best efforts were manifest in "And then shall your light," while the Duet and Chorus "Lord, bow thine ear," was charmingly done. We missed the Orchestral prelude, so descriptive of famine and drought, which would have been a rare chance for utilising the band.

The second part was entirely instrumental, and served to show the mettle of the orchestra. Strings plentiful and good: but an almost total absence of wind, this department being reduced to a single clarinet and one euphonium — strong contrast to former times!

Ressiger's "Felsenmühle" overture was rattled off at racing speed: Miss Andrews played in a delicate and refined style the Andante from Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, but the accompaniment was not quite in accordance with the original score: German's two dances went but middling: and the concert closed with the familiar Wedding March, which sounded thin without the necessary wood-wind and brass instruments.

Altogether the concert was a success—popularly and financially. From an artistic point of view it left something to be desired; but this was the fault of the

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direction rather than of the component parts, and, while it is not given to every crack marksman, or worthy subaltern, to make a good Commander-in-chief, we have faith in Herr Junker. We feel that he will do better for us in the future; and look forward with confidence to the next Philharmonic concert.

With regard to the new departure in the book of words, we do not like it. The promiscuous mixture of Oratorio words, Bible references, and performer's names with whisky and other advertisements does not commend itself to us. But that is a matter of taste: and "*De gustibus non est disputandum.*"

November 28th.

Mrs. Gamp, describing her feelings under circumstances of an exciting character, observed "which my nerves was fiddlestrings." We are inclined to think that one or two of our local amateurs found themselves, on the day after the recent concert, in the condition of that worthy lady. They display something very like hysteria because the *Japan Mail* criticised their doings with just a little frankness. Well, the concert itself was a very beautiful affair, according to the verdict of all that had the pleasure of hearing it—the *Japan Mail's* critic not excepted—and Yokohama may fairly congratulate itself on such a success. But what a pity that the high art of the performance should be marred by a very inartistic after-math of recrimination! The truth is that the gentle zephyrs of tender criticism to which Yokohama has been accustomed are responsible for a very thin-skinned condition of a section of the community. Certain persons have actually learned to prefer the stereotyped *banalités* and shallow platitudes of conventional applause to the discriminating comments of a competent critic All that they expect is a variety of sugar-coated adjectives. That makes things very easy for the critic. A good thesaurus and a capacity for stringing words into pretty chaplets are his sole requirements. But is that really the mood of educated Yokohama? Is it truly well with the people of this Settlement provided only that their heads be buried in dry sands of flattery? A friend writes to us:—"What seems to excite Yokohama is the pointed suggestion that the short-comings of the performance were due to the incapacity of the conductor—and that in the face of universal congratulations on securing his services, and the manifest fact that they alone could have made possible this new era of music for Japan." Does, then, this conductor stand on a pedestal high above the breath of all disapprobation? Must we humbly offer at his feet the homage of reverent hosannahs? What we said of him was this:—

> Altogether the concert was a success—popularly and financially. From an artistic point of view it left something to be desired; but this was the fault of the direction rather than of the component parts, and, while it is not given to every crack marksman, or worthy subaltern, to make a good Commander-in-chief, we have faith in Herr Junker. We feel that he will do better for us in the future; and look forward with confidence to the next Philharmonic concert.

It Herr Junker and his friends can not endure criticisms so considerate and gentle as that, they must be very unfortunately constituted. We have already had occasion more than once to express our high appreciation of Herr Junker's musical abilities; but the special gifts of the first-class conductor and the talent of the individual performer differ in precisely the same manner as do the quality of scholarship and the capacity for pedagogism. We think that Herr Junker's success in both lines is not yet equally marked, but we think also, as we have said, that his next effort will probably disarm criticism. As for the amateurs who profited by his training and delighted the public by their performance, nothing would have been easier for us than to pile a Pelion of praise on an Ossa of adjectives. But there are higher standards to be reached, and we imagine that this community's moral fibre is not so limp as to be shattered by the lightest breeze of censorship, nor its palate so vitiated that it needs to be fed solely on treacle and molasses.

ORIGIN OF JAPANESE ROOTS.

The Chinese immigration of words into Japanese has not concealed the native roots from view. There was a struggle between Chinese words and native words a thousand years ago, but both retained their place in the speech of Japan. Roots can never disappear, because human wants and ideas continue the same from age to age. There is expansion but no annihilation. It may be securely maintained that on this account a true primeval root has never disappeared from any language. *Narabi* is usage, custom, but the *b* is dropped in modern pronunciation. *Narashi* is to practise, to drill. Drill, in the sense to bore, is traced by Skeat to the Welsh *rhigol*, to pierce. If this derivation is correct, drill is *drigol*; but we also know that *tar* is to bore. *Tar* may be reasonably identified with *nar*, for *narashi* means to drill, to train. We recollect, too, that *suesco* is to be accustomed to, and that *sut* is a root meaning accustomed to, so that we can identify *narashi* with *suesco*, because *n*, *r*, and *s* are interchangeable letters. I find a hundred reasons for concluding that such coincidences as this are real and reliable. I can find no reasons against it.

It may be asked what are the reasons which favour the identification of *narashi*, *narawasashi*, with the word accustom? To say that accustom is a shortened form, through the French, of *consuetudo*, *consuetus*, is what all good dictionaries tell us. A tax on goods passing a customs barrier was called *consuetudo*. To be accustomed to a thing is to do it constantly and habitually. *Manabu* is *narabu*. Both these words mean to practise. *Man* we have in *mansuetus*, tamed, accustomed. Such is the word *narai*. Since Darwin published the "Origin of Species" the argument for the unity of the human race has been immensely strengthened. There is no philosophical basis left now for any of those teachers who believe in separate origins either of races of mankind or of linguistic families.

When then we notice that the *rab* in *narabu*, to be accustomed to, and the 習, *sip*, practise, in Chinese, together with the syllable *nab* in the Japanese *okonabu*, to practise, *okonabi*, action, agree in part with *shib* in *oshieru*, to teach, to point to, we acquire a clearer notion than before of the origin of roots. *Nab*, *rab*, and *shib* are modified forms of *yubi*, one of the roots for pointing. *Nar* and *man*, with *kon*, are other roots meaning to point. Possibly *osh* is also a root denuded of its initial. In the sense practised we have in the Chinese language *tung*, *lien*, *dat*, *ngam*, *shok*, *kwan*.

Dat, is the same root as *nar*. *Kwan* is *kon*. *Lien* is *nar*.

A polysyllabic root is a compound made up by the apposition of two or more roots. The Japanese roots are identical with the Chinese and with our own. On this principle the Latin *mansuetus* is a compound of man, the Japanese *manabu*, and *suet* the Japanese *narabu*. So far we see our way, because the same sound is used for the same idea, and this constitutes identity. But *man*, as a root, is nearer to *nar* than it is to *suet*, because the change of *m* to *n* and of *n* to *r* are common phenomena. By learning the Japanese form of the roots we have a link between *man* and *suet*, which helps to show that originally the one may have been evolved from the other. Just as species are evolved one from another so with words. Language has existed long enough for roots to have been formed one from another in past ages by slight changes of sound and modifications of meaning.

The second root *nab* or *rab* in *manabi*, and *narabu* speaks for itself. *Mane* is to imitate. *Nare* is to be accustomed to. These two roots both exist in Latin as in *mansuetus*, *moneo*, to admonish, *disco*, learn (*d*=*n*=*l*, *s*=*r*). We examine the roots which are near in sound and find that they are identical. Thus *natura* is very like the Japanese *nari*, to be, beget, produce. I suppose *ner* in generate, and gender, to be the Japanese *nari* and Latin *natura*. *Gener* is usually called the crude form of *gen*. But every syllable would in the first instance be a separate word.

In the first ages polysyllable words had not been made. In those early ages roots changed their form by tongue-slipping. *Man* would become *nan*. *Nan* would become *nad* and *nar*. It was at that distant time that roots were multiplied by tongue-slipping till there were as many as about fifteen monosyllabic roots representing the same idea. A tree, or a house, for example may be represented by about fifteen roots monosyllabic in form in the languages of Asia. They would be formed one out of another by tongue-slipping. The roots were formed by evolution first. The grammars and all derived forms came into existence later on.

The Japanese sprang originally from the same forefathers as the rest of mankind. We find consequently that their language does not contain any new element in syntax or in vocabulary. All their words are Asiatic and ultimately the same with our own. It is a very good thing for the Japanese that it is so. It holds out to them a prospect for the future. They may have great authors in the time to come who may rival the Chinese. The ambition of the Japanese nation should rather be to benefit mankind morally and intellectually than to cultivate a fighting spirit. For they belong to the same race with ourselves, and if they adopt our morality, our religion, and our literary culture they may play a great and beneficial part in the history of the future.

JOSEPH EDKINS.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

The Governor of Osaka, Mr. Komatsubara Yeitaro, has been appointed Vice-Minister of Justice, and Mr. Matsuoka Keki, who was Vice-Minister of the Home Department some years ago, becomes Chief Judge of the Administrative Court *vice* Mr. Sufu, who retires.

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JAPAN AND CHINA.

IT must be admitted that the people of Japan are displaying a very laudable degree of energy in promoting relations of useful friendliness with the Chinese. We have neglected to report all the indications of this mood, but they have been numerous of late. For example, early in the present month, the *To-a Dobun-kai* was formed, an association suggested, as its name implies, by the fact that Japan and China have a common script. A little later, there was organized in Osaka the *Nisshin Kyowa-kai*, having for its object the mutual exchange of ideas between Chinese and Japanese with a view to assisting in the conservation of the Chinese Empire. Then, again, on the 7th instant a friendly *réunion*—the *Nisshin-riyo-kokujin Konshin-kai*—was got up at Mukojima, under the auspices of Viscount YENOMOTO. Apparently this affair was partly prompted by the presence of the Chinese officers who had come to Japan to witness the Autumn manœuvres. A number of civilian Chinese also were among the guests, and it is said that a very delightful time was spent, the chief amusement being the composing and interchanging of verselets. It is not given to every one to appreciate that kind of pastime, but the Chinese and the Japanese find it an elysium. Then, again, we hear of very liberal sums being subscribed by Japanese to assist in starting a journal called the *Seigi Nippon*, of which the projector is Mr. TSU KAN, of the Yokohama *Daidō-gakko*, and the editor was to be Mr. KANG YU-WEI: whether the latter part of the project was carried out or not we do not know. Finally, we have to record the organization of a society with a rather formidable name, the *Zenrin Yakusho-Kan*, or translation office for neighbourly improvement. This enterprise may be described as the aftermath of a scheme devised some time ago by the great Viceroy CHANG CHIH-TUNG, or CHO SHIDO, as the Japanese call him. CHANG recognised the importance of having Occidental works, scientific, political, and so forth, translated into Chinese, but he saw that it would be much easier to accomplish that object by having recourse to the translations already existing in Japan than by going direct to the European or American originals. Accordingly, at his suggestion an office called the *Daidō Yakusho-Kyoku*—literally, an office for translating books of general identity; that is to say, general identity between the languages into which they were translated—was organized with KANG YU-WEI for its chief. Of course the recent political earthquake in China involved the ruin of that organisation, and it is to replace it that the *Zenrin Yakusho-Kan* has been established. There are among its projectors quite a galaxy of Japanese famous for Chinese scholarship—Messrs. SHIGENO ANYEKI, INOUYE TETSUJIRO, NEMOTO TSUMEI (said to be more conversant with the "Book of Changes" than any other Japanese scholar of this generation), NAMURA TSUNANORI, KUMETANI SHOKEN, GAMO JUSHO, MISHIMA KI and others, names whose uncommon character our readers will at once recognise. These literati had a meeting in the Choda-tei, at Uyeno, on the 23rd November, and drew up for themselves a programme as well as rules of organization. Their plan is to re-translate into Chinese the most useful of the Occidental works already translated into Japanese. They propose to have a printing office in Shanghai, and they intend to apply to the Chinese Government for copyright and to the Japanese Government for assistance of a more direct nature. It seems to us that the interval at the disposal of the projectors is not long, as Japan will enter the International Copyright Union in a few years.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

THE Chinese seem determined that their country shall not preserve its integrity. They are adopting the most infallible means of compelling the armed interference of foreign Powers. Telegraphic news has reached Tokyo that no less than three outrages of the worst description had been perpetrated in different parts of the empire, foreign missionaries being in every case the victims. In Shantung a German missionary barely escaped with his life. Indeed, from the language of the telegram, brief as it is, his injuries seem to be of a fatal nature. At Cheng-tu a French missionary has been burned to death, and at another place which we can not identify in its transliterated form, an English missionary has been assassinated. It is not possible that European Governments will continue to treat such incidents diplomatically. Never once, so far as history shows, has the murder of a foreign missionary been expiated by a punishment such as would be likely to have a deterrent effect. Indemnities have been paid, and the nominal murderers have been executed in a few instances, but the experience of the Chinese in districts remote from the capital has been that the life of the foreigner may be taken without any risk of serious consequences. The Peking Government must be held responsible for the insecurity caused by that conviction. Whether the central administration be incompetent or indifferent foreign Powers can not pause inquire. The safety of the European or American, residing or travelling by treaty right in the interior of China, must be guaranteed, and it really seems as though the time has come when the uselessness of relying on the authorities of the country will have to be practically recognised, Occidental States themselves taking measures to protect the persons and properties of their subjects and citizens. The situation is aggravated at present by the connexion that appears to exist between these outrages and the recent usurpation of the EMPRESS DOWAGER. From the time when that remarkable old lady resumed her grasp upon the reins of authority, a conviction seems to have spread abroad among the Chinese that reaction was the order of the day. Evidences of a strong recrudescence of the anti-foreign spirit immediately began to make themselves apparent in the provinces, and were reported by foreigners residing there. And now come these outrages which, occurring almost simultaneously at different places, indicate that the anti-foreign feeling is active throughout a wide area. The patience of Western Governments has limits. Great Britain's temper has been specially tried of late. In addition to the preference given to Russian advice in matters where, as a mere question of treaty rights, England was entitled to be exempt from such interference, there has been the riot at the Lukon bridge, and we now hear of its extraordinary sequel, namely, the cancelling of HU YÜ-FEN'S appointment to the *Tsung-li Yamén*. HU, as Metropolitan Governor, had to represent the Administration at the investigation in the Lukon affair. He adopted the course recommended by the British Minister, thereby provoking the enmity of TUNG FU-HSIANG, general-in-chief of the Kansu troops, and TUNG, appealing direct to the EMPRESS-DOWAGER, obtained the cancellation of HU'S appointment to the *Tsung-li Yamén*, although it had been already announced by edict. Such conduct on the part of the EMPRESS-DOWAGER is well calculated to encourage outrages against foreigners, and to bring the British Minister into contempt. Then again in Szechuan we have the case of the bandit YU MAN-TZE. Months ago, he kidnapped a French priest and has held him ever since a prisoner. He capped that outrage by opening a crusade against Roman Catholic converts, destroying their houses, and, in one instance butchering 200 of them, it is said. But instead of receiving punishment, he was offered a sum of forty thousand taels and a button of the fourth rank if he would desist from harrying Christian converts and release M. FLEURY. He declined to become a law-abiding citizen or to give up his prisoner for a smaller consideration than a hundred thousand taels and a button of the first rank, and at the date (Oct. 29th) of latest advices, his proposal was under consideration. What is to be done with a country where government and the preservation of peace and good order are reduced to such a complete farce? Probably the answer to that question may be most easily found in one of Lord SALISBURY'S utterances at the Guildhall Banquet on the 9th of November:—

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"But what has been impressed upon us is that the subject matter of war is terribly prevalent on all sides. We see nations decaying, whose Government is so bad that it can neither maintain the power of self-defence nor retain the affection of its subjects; and when this occurs there are always neighbours, impelled by some motive—it may be the highest philanthropy or it may be the natural desire of empire—to contest as to who shall be heir to the falling nation; and that is the cause of war."

THE COTTON SPINNERS.

At a meeting of the Associated Cotton-spinning Companies held in Osaka on the 30th ultimo and reported by telegraph, it was decided to postpone any final action with regard to the proposal for suspending night work, as an expedient for reducing production, and to appoint a committee with instructions to investigate the subject fully and present a detailed report by next April. Two other resolutions were adopted: one that, from the 1st of January, the mills of the union shall be stopped for four days and four nights each month—in other words, there will be four full holidays for all shifts; the other, that a petition be presented to the Government, asking for an annual subsidy of half a million *yen*. On what grounds such an extraordinary request can be based, we have no conception. The spirit of industrial enterprise would become rather reckless if every manufacturing company, or association of companies, was entitled to thrust a hand into the public purse when the times were hard.

SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

It is scarcely necessary to say that domestic politics completely engross the attention of the journals. The only point of interest to be now recorded is that the independent newspapers strongly urge the Cabinet to make the utmost possible concessions in the interests of a *modus vivendi*. The *Jiji Shimpo* is notably outspoken in its advice. It sets forth, at considerable length, the inconvenience, amounting almost to disaster, that the country must suffer if another collision occurs between the Cabinet and the Diet, and it insists that the situation demands a display of unselfish magnaminity on the part of Marquis Yamagata. He must give three or four portfolios to the Liberals, and if that can not be effected without a complete reconstruction of the Cabinet, even reconstruction should not be shrunk from. It is somewhat remarkable that in its first article referring to the rupture of negotiations between the Ministry and the Cabinet, the *Jiji* seemed to consider it quite out of the question that any considerable changes should be made in the Ministry within three weeks of its organization. The *Kokumin Shimbun* takes precisely the same line as the *Jiji*. It hints that, in view of the Cabinet's obdurate mood, the negotiations with the Liberals were doomed to fail, and it declares that the time has now come for the Ministers to divest themselves of all petty prejudices, and make a high-minded sacrifice on the altar of public interest. "We do not say that the Constitutional Party is altogether free from responsibility for what has occurred, but we do say that the responsibility rests chiefly on the shoulders of the Government."

* * *

The organ of the Liberals—the *Jimmin*—insists that the Cabinet has been solely to blame. The Cabinet, it says, was not prepared to listen to any terms. It simply took the line that the national interests demanded the passage of various legislative and financial measures, and that the Liberals were constrained by their duty as patriotic men to assist in passing them. In fact, the Liberals were to give their cöoperation gratis. There was to be no *quid pro quo*. They were to sacrifice themselves unreservedly. Such a view of the situation was altogether behind the times. "Nothing now remains," the *Jimmin* proceeds, "except the resignation of the Cabinet *en masse*; or its reconstruction, or the dissolution of the House. We say nothing against dissolution. It has no terrors for us. On the contrary, we have reason to welcome it, for every dissolution hitherto ordered has merely had the effect of increasing the power of the people. But why do the people themselves remain quiescent at this juncture? Why, O! people, do you not send from your towns, from your villages, from your districts, from your cities, from your prefectures and from your political associations—, why do you not send representatives to the capital to hold monster meetings and pass resolutions declaring that you are opposed to every cabinet not organized on a party basis, and that you consider dissolution under these unreasonable circumstances to be a violation of the Constitution? Why do you not proclaim your conviction that the Yamagata Ministry is no longer competent to discharge its function of advising the Sovereign, and that it should resign *en bloc*? You have all kinds of weapons ready to hand, speeches, demonstrations, deputations. Nothing in the world is easier than to effect your purpose if you only use your strength."

THE FAR EASTERN QUESTION.

It is gratifying to know that thoughtful Japanese realise the gravity of the political situation in the Far East and see that it is quite impossible for Japan to treat with indifference the march of events in the neighbouring Continent. Still, the Japanese nation as a whole seems to evince little interest in Chinese affairs: it is too much engrossed with party politics. The information supplied to newspaper readers is frequently of a most meagre character. A writer on the staff of the *Jiji Shimpō*, Mr. Nakao Komanosuke, perceiving how great was the general listlessness in reference to a question which for months past had formed one of the chief topics of discussion throughout Europe, determined, a year and half ago, to devote his energies to the task of preparing a thoroughly up-to-date treatise on the Far Eastern question. Having collected all the chief modern English books and magazine articles bearing on the question, and having supplied himself with authoritative works on statistics, he retired to a country village near Tokyo, where, for 12 months, he devoted himself to the compilation of the *Kokubō Seisaku* (A National Defence Scheme), with the result that he has given to the world a volume far ahead of anything previously published in the Japanese language on the same subject. The appearance of the work was noticed and an indication of its general character given in our Literary Summary some days ago. But it seems to demand fuller criticism, for the subject is one of deep interest. Mr. Nakao's presentation of the facts is both lucid and exhaustive, and, having special reference to Japan's future policy, should command the attention of all students of Eastern politics. The book contains nearly 400 pages. We can not do more than state in the briefest manner the conclusions at which the author arrives.

Chap. I. deals with the Franco-Russian alliance in Europe and its bearing on the Eastern question. Mr. Nakao then goes on to consider the policy of Russia, France, and Germany in China, which is no other than the partition of China between them, in as far as other Powers permit the carrying out of that policy. It is to England's and Japan's permanent interests that this shall not take place, and they must combine to endeavour to prevent it, but should the partition eventually prove unavoidable, then both Powers should demand their slice of territory. But this agreement to partition should be a last resource, and should not be resorted to till every other conceivable *modus vivendi* has been tried.

Chap. II. discusses England's position in Europe and the East. The author is of opinion that the superiority of her Navy by no means makes up for the smallness of her Army. It would seem an impossibility for a great industrial country like England to maintain a large standing army. But it is quite certain that time and again she has been at a disadvantage when competing with other nations owing to her not possessing an Army large enough to hold its own against the great Continental Powers. In the Eastern question at the present moment the superiority of her Navy gives her preeminence, but as soon as the Siberian railway is completed and Russia's land connection with China thoroughly established England's weakness will certainly make itself felt.

Chap. III. deals with Russia. There is not the slightest doubt, says Mr. Nakao, that the completion of the railway will mean an immense increase in the population of Siberia and that the Russians will begin to swarm throughout Manchuria. At present Russia is powerless owing to the inefficiency of her Navy. The idea of her transporting a large army by sea to any distant port is out of the question as long as England rules the seas as she does now. Russia has not the means at her disposal to create and maintain a large navy. The country could not stand the strain that would be put on its resources.

In Chap. IV. France's position and prospects are discussed. Alone France is pronounced to be powerless in the East. By combining with Russia she might work considerable mischief. Situated as she now is in Europe, she would not venture to send a large army to the East. Her Navy is powerful and, combined with that of Russia, and supported by a large Russian land force, might cause considerable trouble. But France's wars carried on in distant parts of the world have been anything but successful. Her war

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with China single-handed was virtually a failure. Her future even in Europe is clouded. Her population does not increase. Her people are heavily taxed, the consequence of an even increasing expenditure that is quite unavoidable if is she is to keep her head above water. With the taxes increasing and the population stationary, the tension every year grows greater, and the country is not in a position to embark on any foreign costly, aggressive enterprise. At the time of the Franco-German war the population of France exceeded that of Japan by a million persons, but since that time Japan has gone ahead and her subjects now number four millions more than those of France.

Chap. V. is on the part played by Japan in the Eastern drama and her qualifications for making her voice heard in the council of the nations. Her position is very undefined and her policy hitherto has been anything but pronounced. She has at present no standard of attainment either as regards her Navy or her Army. England aims at making her Navy superior to that of France and Russia combined. France aims at making her Army superior to that of Germany. The European Triple Alliance aims at being ready to give battle to the Dual Alliance should the occasion come for trying issues. But Japan has no definite aim in view in increasing her forces. The Powers against which Japan is now arrayed may be classified thus. There is England with a superior navy but an inferior army. There is Russia with a superior army, but an inferior navy. And there are the two allies, Russia and France, which are equipped with a powerful navy and a powerful army. Thus situated, what course should Japan adopt? Two courses are open to her. She can either aim at keeping out of foreign complications and act on the defensive, or she can prepare herself to become aggressive should the occasion for such a policy arise. First the author inquires how far she is prepared to defend herself against possible foes. Suppose that she were confronted by England, her Navy would be quite inadequate to give her a chance of success. If Japan had her 120,000 tons of shipping England could send 150,000 against it. If Japan increased her tonnage to 150,000, England could without effort meet it with 200,000. Those aids to naval defence, strong forts, are in this country in a very backward state. The Tōkyō fort is not to be completed till the 44th year of Meiji, and not more than one-fourth of the work is finished now. It is said that the forts at Kii, Awaji, and Shimonoseki are to be completed 5 years hence, but not more than one-third of the work has been done. The forts at Naruto, Kure, between Aki and Iyo, and at Sasebō are in a still more backward condition. Though ordered to be finished in the 34th year of Meiji, not more than one tenth of the work has been done. And as for the forts at Nagasaki, Maizuru, and Hakodate, which it was originally intended to finish by the 34th year of Meiji, they have not yet been begun.* The forts as they stand to-day are insufficiently armed, and many of the guns are of an obsolete type. It is then quite plain that Japan is in no way ready to withstand an invasion from a strong naval Power like England, as regards sea defence. But in the matter of land defence there is no difficulty in showing that Japan could hold her own even against England. It has been said that during the sixty years that Queen Victoria has been on the throne England has engaged in no less than 28 wars, that she has spent 200 million pounds on these wars, that the number of foes she has slain is no less than 300,000, and that by these wars she has added 3 million square miles to her territory. This is true; but it must be borne in mind that with one or two exceptions all these wars were waged against uncivilised nations or tribes. A Russian Colonel belonging to the Headquarters Staff, who visited China and Japan on a tour of inspection some thirty years ago, is alleged to have sent the following report to his superior officer: "China and Japan are quite unlike each other. A foreign Power may dictate its own terms after taking Peking, but an army defending Tokyo might be cut in pieces without involving the surrender of the country. Every quarter of Japan would still have its band of warriors who could refuse to yield." For any European Power to attempt to subjugate a country that can put an army in the field consisting of at least 250,000 men, drilled in European fashion and equipped with modern weapons, would be next to madness. The defeat of one army in one battle would not mean the loss of the country. Japan's military forces are so distributed that a series of victories extending from Kyushu to Hokkaido would have to be won before she would be obliged to surrender. Mr. Nakao furnishes minute statistics bearing on the distribution of the six army corps of Japan, for which we have no space here. His design is to show how carefully possible invasion has been provided for. He concludes this part of his subject by asking what European Power could land 100,000 troops in Japan? As to an army of 50,000 or 60,000, it could effect nothing against an army that can be so easily mobilized as that of Japan.

The next subject discussed is the possibility of a successful Russian invasion. This question Mr. Nakao decides in the negative. The fear of Russia is based on ignorance. She has no navy competent to meet the Japanese Navy. Before Japan's War with China Russia's Navy did not exceed a tonnage of 24,000. By the most strenuous efforts she managed to work it up to 44,000, and subsequently brought the figure to 55,000. Even after her shipbuilding programme is completed, granting that she succeeds in finding the money to complete it, she will not be able to spare more than 100,000 tons of shipping for this part of the world. According to statistics, published in August, 1897, the tonnage of Japan's Navy was 61,327. To these figures must be added 16,070 tons for the ships taken from the Chinese, 29,766 tons for ships in course of construction in Japan and England, and 1,898 tons for 30 torpedo boats, which brings the total to 109,061 tons. It is said that Japan would be no match for Russia in naval warfare, but there is no proof of this assertion. The personnel of the Japanese Navy compares well with that of Russia. As for Russia's landing an army in Japan, that is out of the question under existing circumstances. She can do nothing with her army till after the Siberian Railway is completed. Mr. Nakao furnishes a table giving a minute account of all the Japanese men of war. There is no occasion to insert it here.

The only other contingency that Japan has to consider in connection with her self-defence is an attack from Russia and France combined. The tonnage of the fleets available for this purpose could not exceed 150,000; and as for the facilities for conveying troops from Europe, the two countries combined could not find the means at the disposal of Great Britain for carrying out such an enterprise. The conclusion is that Russia can not move against Japan till the Trans-Siberian Railway is finished. Before that time Japan's Army must be increased and she must be prepared to confront any force that Russia may put in the field. Here follow tables of statistics showing to what extent Japan intends to increase her Army and her Navy, and proving quite conclusively that she is fully alive to the danger to which she is exposed by the rapid extension of European power in the East, and is prepared to face the situation boldly. According to the figures given by Mr. Nakao, by the time the railway is finished Japan's naval and military power will be three times what it is now, speaking roughly. Hence, even though she should be threatened with an invasion from Russia and France combined, she could defend her shores with every prospect of success.

In the last pages of Chapter V., Mr. Nakao discusses Japanese ability to play the rôle of an aggressive Power. He confesses that, if confronted with an alliance of European Powers abroad, she would be compelled to give way. She is no match for France and Russia combined either in China or Korea. Nor does it seem possible that she should be able to qualify herself to take the lead in settling the Far Eastern question. The measures that have to be taken for her self-defence will strain her powers to the very utmost. Beyond self-defence she cannot go. Hence the maintenance of peace in the East is not a task that she can possibly attempt single-handed.

In Chapter VI., under the heading of "Our Foreign Policy," Mr. Nakao advocates in an earnest manner Japan's straining every nerve to bring about an Anglo-Japanese alliance. With this alliance effected her future would be secured and the clouds which now darken the horizon would give place to a clear sky. In the face of such an alliance even though Germany should join hands with France and Russia, China being on their side, England and Japan would have nothing to fear. For the future safety of Japan it is most important that Northern China should not fall into the hands of ambitious and aggressive foes. As things are going now, it would seem that the centres of Japanese and English influence will be in Central and Southern China. This aspect of affairs, ought to receive the special attention of our statesmen, says Mr. Nakao. From every point of view the only way to save the situation is for Japan to lose no time in seeking to unite herself to a Power whose policy in China corresponds with her own in every essential respect.

Chaps. VII. and VIII. deal in detail with

* This was probably correct when written. In the case of Hakodate, at any rate, the work has been begun, but it is going on at a very slow rate. —(Ed. *J.M.*)

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Japan's scheme of Army and Navy expansion and with the measures necessary to be taken to provide, funds for this object. Mr. Nakao is in favour of an increased land tax and condemns strongly the action of the politicians who, while clamouring for a stalwart foreign policy will not even vote the necessary funds for the country's self-defence. Japan has reached a critical moment in her history. She must either rise to the occasion by increasing her armaments so as to make herself absolutely safe against invasion and by taking steps to make her voice heard in the council of the nations that are deciding the fate of her wealthy neighbour, or she must sink to the level of Italy in Europe. Such is the conclusion which, after nearly 400 page of sober and business-like discussion, Mr. Nakao reaches. As is remarked by Messrs. Shimada, Kitashima, and Shiga, who have furnished prefaces, the *Kokubo Seisaku* is no mere Chauvinist display of Yamato fireworks. It is a scholarly and deeply thoughtful survey of the situation with which Japan finds herself confronted at the close of the Nineteenth Century. There is no straining after eloquence or effect in the work. It is a collection of carefully selected stubborn facts and a most thorough discussion of their significance. We welcome the fact that Japan has among her journalists men of sufficient mental calibre and scholarship to give to the world such an extremely up-to-date volume as the *Kokubo Seisaku*.

SÖUL.

Quiet has been restored in Söul, for the present at all events. The roughs employed by the conservatives, that is to say by the "Imperial Club," have dispersed, and victory rests completely with the Independents. The remarkable feature of this affair is that never before has a political crisis in Korea resulted in the success of the progressists. The advocates of old-time conditions have always hitherto proved the strongest. It would be too much to hope that tranquillity has now been permanently restored, but if the reform party manages to hold its own for even a few months, it may succeed in gaining such popularity that its final effacement will be impossible.

THE DIET.

The official opening of the Diet is gazetted to take place on the 3rd instant, and the legislative business of the session will consequently commence on Monday the 5th. It will naturally be supposed that the ceremony was postponed until an agreement of some sort could be concluded between the Cabinet and the Liberals. Probably that is to some extent true; but it is also certain that the Emperor contracted a cold during the Manœuvres, and that bronchial trouble set in, necessitating abstention from all duties involving exposure to the weather. We may mention here that the speech read by Marquis Yamagata to the Liberals on the 30th ultimo had been submitted to the Emperor, carefully perused by His Majesty, and fully approved on the evening of the 29th ultimo.

THE FRACAS OF LAST AUGUST.

The law courts have not hurried themselves to decide the case arising out of the disturbance which occurred on the evening of the 6th of August last at the *Kawabiraki* in Tokyo, when some officers of H.M.S. *Narcissus* got into trouble with the immates of a Japanese boat and were struck by some very hurtful missiles. On the 29th ultimo, judgment was delivered by the Tokyo Local Court. Two of the accused, Kasai Yozaburo and Watanabe Seisuke, were sentenced to 10 days' arrest, and the third, Kondo Masao, to 23 days' imprisonment with hard labour. All have appealed.

AMERICAN THANKSGIVING DAY IN TOKYO.

American Thanksgiving Day, falling this year on Thursday, November 24, was observed, for the first time in Tokyo, with appropriate services. The inspiration of this celebration came from H.E. Col. A. E. Buck, U.S. Minister, who recommended in a public proclamation that the day be observed by American residents in Japan in the same manner as in America. In acknowledgement of this recommendation, services were held in both Trinity Cathedral and the Union Church. At the former place, three services were conducted during the day: Communion at 7 a.m., Morning Prayer with sermon (by Rev. C. H. Evans) at 11. a.m., and Evening Prayer at 5 p m.

At the Union Church in Tsukiji the service at 11 o'clock was very inspiring and largely attended. The church was decorated for the occasion with flowers and flags; one flag, which covered the pulpit, had on one occasion protected Dr. McCartee from pirates in China. A choir led in the singing of the hymns and also sang an appropriate anthem. The service was conducted by Prof. J. O. Spencer, assisted by Revs. D. Thompson, D D., and C. H. D. Fisher. The address of the occasion was delivered by Prof. Spencer in his usual masterly style. In eloquent terms he portrayed the progress made by the American people since the landing from the *Mayflower*, and traced it all to the inspiration of that famous contract which closed with the words, "In the name of God, Amen." The religious element of the American civilization was constantly emphasized; and the moral responsibilities arising from the recent war were plainly set forth. The American educational system, as typified in "the little red school house" with its noble teacher and high moral instruction, received its due share of credit. The perils of the American nation were also pointed out; and it was made very clear that the only hope for the United States, under the new conditions, lay in maintaining high mental, moral and religious standards and ideals.

CHRIST CHURCH.

At the request of the Church Committee, Mr J. Conder, F.R.I.B.A., has inspected Christ Church, and has condemned the building. The history of the edifice as a place of public worship dates from 1862. A few years ago, to meet the increased requirements, an extra aisle was added, and this has always been a source of weakness, as it had the effect of throwing the building out of plumb. The committee meet next week to consider the scheme for a new Church, for which purpose about $15,000 have been subscribed, and a public meeting will probably be called soon. Meanwhile the Sunday services will be held at the Public Hall, while Holy Communion will be celebrated in the chancel so long as its condition permits.

The *Isla de Luson*, one of the Spanish vessels sunk at the battle of Manila, has been raised and placed on the slip.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

At 1 p.m. on the 25th November, the general meeting of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha was held at the Young Christians' Association Hall, in Mitoshiro-cho, Kanda, Tokyo. Immediately after the reports relating to accounts, properties, dividend (8 per cent. per annum), &c., had been read, President Kondo addressed the meeting as follows:—

During the term covered by the report, unexpected profits were realized in spite of general tradal depression and tightness in the money market. We are thus able to declare a dividend of 8 per cent., and the amount to be brought over to the next account is 587,000 *yen*. Such success is chiefly attributable to two facts, namely, that in view of the heavy import tariff to be enforced from January next, merchants arranged to have their goods shipped from abroad within the current year, thus creating an unusual demand for vessels; and secondly, that while, on the one hand, the rate of freight was raised by the Company, on the other, the utmost care was exercised by officials and employés on land and sea, with the view of decreasing expenditure. Some of the shareholders may be disposed to regard an 8 per cent. dividend as too small. But it must be remembered that the tradal depression in the provinces is not likely to pass away quickly, and also that a great part of the goods which, under normal circumstances, would be imported after January next, have been brought over during the present year, Hence a reduction to the extent of some 50 per cent. of the company's receipts during next year must reasonably be expected. It has to be noted, also, that large outlays may be required for the repair of vessels at the end of this year, which will involve a corresponding increase in the maintenance expenditures, and a considerable draft will thus have to be made on the profits for the 1st half of next year. Hence then is a absolute necessity to carry 580,000 *yen* to next year's account. The shareholders, it is to be hoped, will, in consideration of these circumstances, approve the report submitted to them. The latter half of next year may see the former prosperity of trade gradually restored.

An animated discussion ensued. Some of the shareholders insisted upon having the rate of dividend declared at 10 per cent., on the ground that the money market was likely to continue in an unsettled condition owing to the failure of negotiations between the Government and the Liberals, and that a suggestion had been made by certain high officials as to the suspension of the constitution.

Others declared that the necessity for carrying a large sum to the reserves was based on the uncertain prospect which the market offered for next year, and that as they regarded their shares in the light rather of hereditary property than of mere speculative investments and derived from them means of education and support for their families, they were much better satisfied with the proposed arrangement than they would be to receive a handsome dividend this year and none at all next year, as was the case last season. The report was ultimately passed without alteration. The election of certain officials was postponed until the next general meeting.

The meeting was then resolved into a special meeting, and in that capacity decided that the company's vessels might be insured with other offices. Below are the details of account:—

	YEN.
Sums brought over from the 1st half of last fiscal year	126,058
Profits for the present term	1 409.758
Total	1,535 816
DISBURSED FROM THE ABOVE.	
Reserve fund	70,487
Allowances to Directors and Overseers.	42,292
Dividend (8 per cent.)	836,000
Carried to next account	587,036
Total	1,535,816

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THE LATE MEXICAN CONSUL.

We regret to announce the death of Senor E. Plaza, the Mexican Consul-General, which took place at the Consulate, 73 Bluff, on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 24. Senor Plaza suffered from Bright's disease and an affection of the heart. He first experienced serious trouble about three weeks ago, when the disease assumed an aggravated form which left no chance of recovery. Senor Plaza, who was unmarried, came to Japan some three years ago as a Secretary in the Mexican Legation at Tokyo, and was appointed Consul-General at Yokohama in July, 1897. His previous appointments were as second Secretary to the Mexican Legation at Washington, and third Secretary to the Legation in Paris. His early death will be regretted by a wide circle.

The funeral took place on Saturday, Nov. 26, at the Cemetery. The cortége assembled at 73 Bluff, Consular and principal Kencho officials attending as a last token of respect. The coffin was covered by the Mexican flag, on which were placed the Consul General's sword and uniform hat. There was no religious ceremony, but the Doyen of the Consular Body, Dr. Ritter, Swiss Consul-General, gave a short address over the grave. Among those present were:—M. Wollheim, Mexican Minister, and staff; Count Orfini, Italian Minister, and staff; Dr. P. Ritter, and almost the whole of the Consular body in Yokohama; Senor Aspiroz, Secretary of the Mexican Legation; Mr. Y. Rinoye, Secretary of the Kanagawa Kencho; Rear-Admiral Mori, Capt. Hanano; Judge Watanabe, President of the Court, Mr. Kosaka, Chief Procurator, Mr. Yagui, Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. Sugiyama, Councillor of Kanagawa Kencho; Mr. Otani Kahei, President of the Yokohama Japanese Chamber of Commerce, &c.

ST. ANDREW'S BALL.

Scotland evidently stands where she did—or rather, after the Scots fashion the world over, she has advanced—in the estimation of the Yokohama community. St. Andrew's Ball is always one of the most popular functions of the season, and the Scots make the most ideal hosts. This year the Saint was favoured with very bad weather—or, at least what an English saint would consider bad. For a Scot—saint or otherwise—Wednesday night might only have been "a wee bit moist," but most people would have described it as thoroughly and most miserably wet. The wretched condition of things out of doors, however, had no effect on the attendance, for out of 500 invitations issued nearly that number were accepted, but, needless to say, those who partook of the thoroughgoing hospitality of the St. Andrew's Society were sufficiently rewarded for the discomfort of the journey.

The Public Hall had been really very prettily decorated, and its ugly interior was turned into quite a charming ball-room. The stage, which was arranged as the drawing room, was extremely tastefully adorned. A rustic house and shed looking on to a winding river which flowed at the foot of a pretty range of fir-clad hills, formed the background, and the space generally occupied by the stage was transformed into a perfect grove of cherry trees, pink with blossom, contrasting well with the dark green of the handsome pot plants and giant bamboos at the sides. Over the entrance to this retiring room was the motto "Auld Lang Syne" in gold letters on a bed of evergreen, and the red lion of Scotland was rampant everywhere. The body of the hall was equally prettily arranged. Lines of Japanese lanterns and flags of all nationalities and colours were hung from the walls to the chandelier in the centre of the ceiling, the lower part of the walls was hidden in greenery, and at intervals huge bamboos, with their ample foliage, showed out in bold relief. Numerous emblematic shields and coats of arms were displayed in different parts of the room, all of them having a particularly Caledonian savour. The same local colour was extended to the smallest details. The badges of the Committee were embroidered with thistles, and that same thorny favourite, intermingled with fragrant heather, found its way on to the supper tables, reminding one there of the story of Sydney Smith who, calling one day on an enthusiastic Scot and finding him sitting at a table garnished with thistles, said, "Excuse me for calling at an inconvenient time; I didn't know you were at lunch." Another feature smacking of "ayont the Tweed" (we trust there is no mistake) was the appearance in kilts of Messrs Fraser, Duff, McArthur, McVicar, Stewart, Stiven, Mair, Drummond, Philip, Macdonald, and Ure, whose tartans included those of the Fraser, Macdonald, Stewart, Gordon, Royal Stewart, Drummond and Duff clans.

Shortly after 9.30, the Ball began, the rooms then being crowded to their fullest capacity, but the floor was perfect and the most thorough good-humour prevailed, so that dancing was fairly enjoyable. The programme was as follows:

St. Andrew's Ball, 1898.

Clann nan Gael an Guailibhin a Chiele.

Dances.

MARCH.

1 Highland Schottische.....Port a Bhata
2 Waltz .....“Carmen”
3 Caledonians .....Benclutha
4 Waltz .....“Sirenenzauber”
5 Eightsome Reel .....Clachnacuddin
6 Waltz .....“Wein Weib und Gesang”
7 Lancers.....“Patience”
8 Reel ...Tulach Gorum Ruidhle Thulaichan
9 Waltz .....“Cloches de Corneville”

SUPPER.

10 Waltz .....“Wiener Blut”
11 Caledonians.....Fraoch Geal
12 Waltz.“Mein Lebens Lauf ist Lieb und Lust”
13 Eightsome ...Callum Crubach Cass Croum
14 Waltz .....“Im Dämmerlicht”
15 Lancers.....Eckert
16 Waltz .....“Morgenblätter”
17 Waltz .....“Boccaccio”
18 Country Dance .....Caberfeidh

The music for the reels was played by Mrs. Wheeler. These characteristic Scots dances went very well, and the introduction of the Eightsomes, as well as "the Gaelic" on the programmes were steps in advance highly to the liking of the guests. Towards midnight an adjournment was made for supper, served in the smaller hall. The *menu* was as follows:—

St. Andrew's Ball, Yokohama, 1898.

SCOTLAND YET!

Tir nam Beanne na Glaanne 's na Gaisgeach.

SUPPER.

Roastit Turkey wi' Ham.
Roastit Chicken.
A Hail Sheep Roastit,
Pheasant. Woodcock.
Wild Duck.
Ye Haggis.

"Weel are ye wordy o'a grace as lang's my airm" (*A Denal*).

Corned Beef. Spiced Beef.
Cold Beef. Corned Tongue.
Sucking Pig.
Wine and Plum Jellies,
Cream Cakes. Chocolate Cakes.
Scotch Cakes.
Ice Creams. Finger Biscuits.
Beef Tea.

And Noo Ye must Dance.

Dancing was then resumed and continued to the "wee sma' hours ayont the twal'"—and when the ladies had departed a second supper was served, which, with its after festivities, proved to be as enjoyable as any ever given in Yokohama.

The Committee consisted of the following: Mr. W. F. Mitchell, President; Mr. W. Gordon, Vice-President; Messrs. C. Murray Duff, T. S. Forrest, C. I. Fraser, W. G. MacVicar, H. R. Mair, R. B. McKinnell, Geo. Philip, R. M. Stirling, J. Stiven, C. W. Ure, J. Guthrie-Watson; Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. W. Weeler; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. McArthur. The Decorations Committee consisted of Messrs. Mair, MacVicar, and Forrest; the Supper Committe of Messrs. Gordon, Duff, and Ure; and Mr. C. I. Fraser supervised the musical arrangements. Mr. Mair, it should be noted, was responsible for the extremely pretty decoration of the drawing-room.

The Yokohama St. Andrew's Society telegraphed to Kobe, Shanghai, and Hongkong:—

Chieftain Mitchell and Brither Scots send greetings.

Kobe replied:—

Chieftain Abell and Brither Scots heartily reciprocate greetings.

Shanghai replied:—

Chief Dudgeon and Brithers return greetings.

Hongkong replied:—

Chief Bell-Irving and Hongkong Scots greet Yokohama Brither Scots. Forbes Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LATE CONCERT.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The concert on Friday seems to have been a source of great disappointment to your amiable critic, and I feel sure that the public of Yokohama, not to mention the performers themselves, regret that he should have exposed his refined musical temperament to such a trying ordeal. Your critic cannot see that there has been any improvement on the concerts of former seasons. I must therefore infer that he missed the great performance which closed the season of 1896-97, and perhaps he will alter his verdict when he hears about it.

On this occasion, the programme consisted entirely of selections from the music of Mendelssohn, under the baton of a talented local amateur whom I should certainly not dub "irresponsible." Wind instrument indeed were "plentiful," but the atrocious sounds which proceeded therefrom would have scared the "gentle Berliner" (a "paid professional conductor" himself) out of his senses. With the exception of the choral work, which was fair, considering the limited practice given to it, the first movement of the Meeresstille Overture, and the easy and familiar March from "Athalie," which were passable for amateurs, and saved the "concert" from ranking with a high class Chinese orchestra, representing the Inferno, no such medley of strident and discordant ghastliness has ever obtruded itself before a Yokohama audience. It is pleasant to record, however, that the musical critics of our dailies at that time tempered the wind to the shorn lamb, and did not seek to chastise the amateur musicians and the conductor, as no doubt they ought to have done. In this respect, indeed, there is now a "strong contrast to former times."

Your critic has disclaimed any wish to be "hypercritical." But what can one say of his statement that the wind parts were represented only by a single clarinet and euphonium, when he knew that those parts were filled in by the able musician who presided at the harmonium? What about the sneering reference to the "much vaunted orchestra," &c.? And who could expect to hear the "ideal" *Obadiah* and *Elijah* outside of the musical profession? It is my humble opinion that there are few, if any, places of the same size as Yokohama, where amateur singers could be found to undertake the solo work in such artistic form. Lastly, I would ask what reason there was for attributing all the artistic faults to the conductor? I am quite sure that our former conductor found that we did not give sufficient time to practice and rehearsal, in order to produce music free from artistic faults, and if your critic had ever attempted to conduct an amateur orchestra he would know that the conductor does not play

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the instruments. Whatever your critic may think, Herr Junker has won the esteem and confidence of the orchestra and chorus, who believe that he is eminently fitted to the work that he has undertaken, and that under his leadership they have a chance of rendering suitable music in a satisfactory manner.

Yours, etc., N. GORDON MUNRO.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Why on earth does a young man with such tender susceptibilities as Wm. Friedlander court public criticism by appearing on a stage before a paying audience?

The public will enjoy its right of criticism in spite of all that may be written in protest. Your critique on Saturday was a very able one, and personally I do not condemn it. It is, to me, refreshing to find a paper at last that will exercise its right of criticism so that the public will not be asked to pay, as we often have of late, to hear twaddle and so-called music.

"Vox populi," who champions Herr Junker in the *Japan Herald*, is entitled to his opinion, but really he should verify his statements before he rushes into print. No one individual has worked so hard or so faithfully for this musical community as Mr. Griffin. If the critique *alleged* to be by Mr. Griffin is an insult to the performers, "Vox Populi's" latter is equally insulting to Mr. Griffin and the Yokohama Choral Society. Herr Junker has no grievance against either; on the contrary, I am credibly informed that the Choral Society went into recess at Mr. Griffin's suggestion, and that if the minutes of the last general meeting were referred to, it would be found Mr. Griffin was not asked to "step back," but generously suggested that the Choral Society as a society should not oppose Herr Junker and regretted it (the Society) was not in a position to take over his services, and he invited the members individually to join Herr Junker's class.

In conclusion I respectfully suggest the impropriety of saddling Mr. Griffin with an unsigned critique. There are others than myself who do not believe that it emanated from Mr. Griffin at all. There are also others who with myself fully endorse every word that the *Mail* published. The community is large, and we are all entitled to our opinions. If we differ—well, we should not, like spoilt children, howl at a little wholesome criticism, but try and profit by it.

Yours faithfully, CHORUS.

A TERRIBLE STORM.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Did your "captious critic," when reporting on the late concert, realize for one moment the fearful storm he was about to raise, or was he, oh! so artfully! working in the interests of the new venture, and its promoters, in order to give it bold advertisement? Whether or no, he seems to have succeeded, and the daily recurring letters and comments published should be most heartily welcomed by Herr Junker and his supporters. Some of these, it is true, may appear slightly hysterical to calmer readers, but what of that if they serve to keep the ball rolling? Here we have a modest retiring young singer writhing under the biting criticism which ventured to suggest that he was scarcely an ideal representative of the title part! Well! how many, outside of a Santley, could be ever accused of being so endowed? Here is a worthy doctor using his hypodermic syringe to inject just a little "smarting matter" under the skin of a former conductor of the Choral Society. Well again! few will deny that we have had some fearful and wonderful performances in later years, and if then all concerned escaped with only a mild reproof, and even sometimes got patted on the back, it only goes to show how much so-called "critiques" are really worth! On the other hand be it said that the old Choral Society has over and over again produced work really creditable to a body of its size and general quality, and older residents especially will be found to endorse this. Then there is yet another correspondent, truly he does not pose as a competent critic, who, writing of Mr. Friedlander's essay remarks that, being a baritone, *he must have found it difficult to sing a tenor solo!* Another implies that because Herr Junker is a *professional*, by which the unenlightened generally understand that the gentleman pursues music for a livelihood, therefore he, in conducting, or what not, *must* necessarily be superior to anything that could be done in that way by a mere *amateur*. Why! certainly! It does not admit of argument.

Yet another veracious correspondent vows that Herr Junker has come to this community direct from Heaven, in so many words (I forget whether or not he said he met him there, it might have been somewhere else), but just fancy the condescension shown by the gentleman in deigning to stay for even a short period with such an out-of-the-way, and, it may be, ungrateful, community as poor Yokohama! But, to cap it all, here is now a letter, addressed to the conductor, being circulated for signature amongst the members of the Chorus and Orchestra. It is so naive, and expresses such tender gratitude, that I feel sure you will like to give it the benefit of a wider circulation in your columns. It reads thus:—

> "We, the members of your Choral and Orchestral Societies, desire to express to you our sincere regret at the *malicious attack* upon you and your societies which appeared in the *Mail* of Nov. 26th. *It expresses the feelings of the writer only, not of this community*, and should have no weight with you. We have thoroughly enjoyed our musical work under your direction, and trust that nothing will interfere with a long continuance of it." (Space for signatures.)

The italics are mine in every instance, and are perhaps scarcely needed to give point to the beauties of this delicious effort on somebody's part. But had not the unfortunate writer of your critique better get unto himself a pedestal right away? Just imagine the enormity of his offence, to be one only amongst so many! Oh! for the good old days of the pillory, rotten eggs, and such like! Even the soft persimmon might answer, if the Japanese supply of "new laid" eggs stowed in "Standard oil" boxes, ran short!

With apologies to you and your readers,
Faithfully yours, "FLANEUR."
Yokohama, 29th Nov., 1898.

AN UNSAVOURY SUBJECT.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I see by a late number of *The Mail* that you are strongly in favour of the policy of licensing prostitution. Will you be so obliging as to publish in *The Mail* at an early date the reasons, including such "facts and figures" as you rely upon for your opinion?

Yours truly, EDGAR LEAVITT.

32, Tankiji, Tokyo.
November 24th, 1898.

[We can not take up this subject. It has been amply discussed by others in places more suitable than the columns of a daily newspaper.—Ed *J.M.*]

THE RULE OF THE ROAD.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I am glad to see in your paper of today's date that you have drawn attention to the "Rule of the Road."

I regret that I cannot agree with you when you say that "the rules are virtually useless for the regulation of traffic in the foreign settlements, since the Japanese authorities are not competent to enforce them there," and when you add that the police know perfectly well that they would be exceeding their powers if they enforced the rules in the case of foreigners' servants.

Surely foreigners' servants (with the exception perhaps of the personal servants of the foreign representatives) are as subject to police regulations in the streets as any other Japanese, and I should be sorry to learn that the police have instructions to treat them differently.

But, whether this be so or not, by far the majority of the vehicles met with in the streets of Yokohama are public jinrikishas and dray carts and coolie carts, and if the police exercised proper control over these and gave proper publicity to the regulations by posting them in Japanese and English at all jinrikisha stands, I have not the least doubt that the "Rule of the Road" would be willingly and readily observed by foreigners.

The fact of the matter is, as any one frequenting the streets of Tokyo must be aware, as there the foreign traffic element need not be taken into consideration—that the fault lies entirely with the police. The people are for the most part ignorant of the regulations because proper publicity is not given to them, and the police absolutely ignore their enforcement.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
A. DRIVER.

Tokyo, Nov. 25th, 1898.

HIGH AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL.

Chapter III.—Supervision.

Art. XIV.—The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce may cause Inspectors to be despatched to examine workshops.

Art. XV.—Any person having cause to complain of administrative proceedings undertaken in conformity with these Regulations may institute an action in the Administrative Court, or present a complaint according to the law specially established for the purpose.

Chapter IV.—Penal Rules.

Art. XVI.—Any person failing to make reports as specified in Article I, and in Clause 1 of Article VII. as well as in Article XI, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*.

Art. XVII.—Offenders against Clause 6 of Articles II. and Clause 2 of Article VII. shall be punished with a not exceeding 200 *yen*.

Art. XVIII.—Any person acting as an intermediary in inducing operatives or apprentices under contract to enter into the service of another, or endeavouring to persuade their relatives, legal agents, or sureties to take steps of a similar nature, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 100 *yen*.

Art. XIX.—With regard to offenders against these Regulations, the section of the Penal Code which relates to concurrence in offences shall not be applicable.

Art. XX.—With respect to fines prescribed in these Regulations, Article No. 16 or 208, provided in law No. 14 of the 31st year of *Meiji*, embodying the rules of procedure bearing upon non-juridical matters, shall apply.

Art. XXI.—In case the agent of the master of an industrial institution, or his family, or employés have acted contrary to the provisions concerning the master of the institution, the latter shall not be absolved from responsibility on the plea of the illegal action being committed without his authority.

Appendix.

Art. XXII.—The above law shall go into operation from January 1st of the 33rd year of *Meiji*.

5. Establishment of Central Industries Inspection Offices.

With respect to the above subject the following resolutions were passed:—Since the machinery for inspection as indicated above is absolutely essential to the development of industry, the establishment of the same is earnestly to be recommended. It is advisable, however, that the project shall be carried out gradually, so as to secure a large degree of efficiency. Details bearing on the scheme under contemplation may be determined at the discretion of the authorities concerned, but it may be suggested that, in view of future extensions of enterprise, land ought to be secured as great

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an extent as the financial resources will allow, while the site should be selected which will guarantee facilities for transport or for the utilization of water, electricity, or gas.

6.—Rules to be established for granting aids from the Treasury towards the fund for the maintenance of the local Industrial Inspection Offices.

Resolved:—That no necessity exists for the establishment of such rules.

7.—Rules to be established for the reassessment of land properties. The main provisions in regard to the above were determined as follows:—

Art. I.—Steps for the reassessment of landed property may be taken in the cases enumerated below:—

1. When more than two-thirds of the owners of land in the section in question are in agreement, and when the amount of their possessions comprises more than two-thirds of the total area of land included in the section, and the aggregate value exceeds two-thirds of the value of the land for which reassessment is to be undertaken.

2. When a unanimous understanding exists among more than three-fourths of the owners of land in the section.

3. When the landowners agreed are in possession of more than three-fourths of the total area of land to be reassessed.

4. In the case of *Shi*, *Cho*, or *Son*, the entire dimensions of which constitute the section of reassessment, when the consent of more than three-fourths of the members of the municipal assembly has been obtained.

Art. II.—Provisions in regard to the substitution of land and compensation:—The holders of land in which the process of reassessment has been undertaken shall be furnished, as a substitute for such land, with other land which has already been reassessed, and whose value and classification is nearly equal to that of the land set apart for reassessment. If, however, a difference of value is inevitable compensation shall be made in money.

Art. III.—Provisions relating to the rights of third persons involved:—

1. The right of property, as well as the right of claim enjoyed by third persons in connection with the land submitted to reassessment shall be transferred from the previous land to the land substituted.

2. In the case of rented land being submitted to reassessment during the term of contract, the landlord may, by the issue of notice beforehand, withdraw a contract in regard to the whole or part of the rented land, at the time when operations for adjustment are actually undertaken, provided that the contract in question contains no specific provisions, or a separate contract does not exist in respect to the land referred to. No cognisance shall be taken of claims for damages based on the withdrawal of a contract as specified above. This provision, however, is not applicable to cases in which the use of manure, sowing, planting, or other works of improvement are involved.

Art. IV.—Provisions in regard to the committee appointed for the reassessment of landed property:—

1. The number of the committee shall be determined and elected by the owners of land, with the proviso that one of them shall necessarily consist of the Headman of the city, town, or village, to which the section of reassessment belongs.

2. The committee is required to make necessary arrangements for carrying on the operations of reassessment, to prepare draft rules in relation to their rights, payment of compensation, imposition or collection of expenses, the disposal of over-measured land, &c., and to obtain the sanction of the Government through the decision of the generally assembly of landowners. If necessity crises for the alteration of the rules established by the committee new sanction must be obtained from the Government.

3. The committee shall undertake the reassessment in accordance with the programme and rules specially provided for the purpose, and shall transact business in regard to the substitution of land, payment of compensation, disposal of over measured land, collection and disbursement of expenses, &c.

4. The committee shall represent the landowners in the section of reassessment in regard to legal proceedings connected with the enforcement of reassessment schemes.

Art. V.—The registration taxes prescribed in Article II. of the Registration Law shall be remitted in the case of a registration being withdrawn or altered in consequence of measures undertaken for reassessment of landed property.

Art. VI.—The expenses necessary to reassessment shall be borne by the owners of land involved. The money shall be collected at the requisition of the Committee in accordance with regulations adopted in *Shi*, *Cho*, or *Son*, for the collection of municipal taxes.

8.—The Fifth Domestic Exhibition. With respect to the above the following resolution has been passed:—

It seems advisable that the 5th Domestic Exhibition, which was originally fixed to open in the 32nd year of *Meiji*, should be postponed until the 35th year (1902). There is no objection to imparting the character of an international exhibition to the section of fine arts and art productions in the Domestic Exhibition. Nor is there any reason to condemn *per se* the idea entertained of securing for each section of the Exhibition contributions exclusively from neighbouring countries having close relations with Japan. The time, however, is too short to organise exhibitions of such a nature and it may be difficult to attain the results expected. The exhibition of the 35th year of *Meiji* should therefore be of a purely domestic character, with a section, if possible, devoted to commercial exhibits from abroad. An International Exhibition would be most conveniently opened by the 40th year of *Meiji* (1907).

9.—Necessary arrangements for the development of Japanese settlements in the open ports in China.

The fact that few Japanese have as yet been induced to open shops or stores in the Japanese settlements in the new open ports of China is an inevitable result of the present state of affairs. It is in the order of things that a thorough development of domestic resources must be undertaken before a nation can start business abroad. A moment's reflection will show that domestic enterprises of all descriptions require recourse to foreign capital, and that to inaugurate an enterprise abroad is a matter of considerable difficulty. If the government should ever attempt to induce people to contemplate foreign enterprises while this state of affairs exists, it would be simply an effort to bolster up trade by artificial means, and must certainly end in a failure. It is, however, the legitimate function of Government to take steps to investigate the actual condition of that country and others, to ascertain the topographical peculiarities and the general sentiment of the people, the extent of their demand for commodities, &c., in order that facilities may be afforded to merchants, who, having abundant means and interest, may endeavour to open business in the Japanese settlements in China. No urgent necessity exists for adopting any measures of encouragement beyond those suggested here.

10.—Agricultural and Commerce Statistics. The statistics that have hitherto been issued with regard to agriculture, commerce, and industry are far from being repositories of facts and their publication has generally been belated. That is chiefly due to the fact that by the method so far pursued the statistics had to pass through several Government offices, and thus failed to receive as speedy and diligent attention as they should have had. It is necessary that statistics shall hereafter be so classified as to be fit for the direct utilization of Chambers of Commerce, Agricultural and Marine Products Councils, and other similar bodies. The system adopted for the compilation of statistics in Japan is undoubtedly defective in organization. The investigation of the general condition of the country, which constitutes the foundation of statistics of all descriptions, requires considerable improvement. The permanent appointment of competent specialists to whom the work may be entrusted is absolutely indispensable.

11.—The policy to be pursued in regard to Japanese emigrants abroad.

The steady increase of the country's population produces a corresponding increase of emigrants abroad. Colonization, however, does not depend solely upon the increase of population; it requires capital. Permanent colonies can only be established by people competent to start business abroad by recourse to their native country's resources. Japan has not yet attained such a stage of development. She has, indeed, sent emigrants to Hawaii, Siberia, and Mexico, but the number of true colonists among them is very insignificant, the majority being mere contract labourers. They are radically different from the emigrants of Europe and America, the difference lying in the fact that the latter are possessed of funds sufficient to carry on their enterprises. The Government ought not to do anything towards the encouragement of emigration of the kind so far peculiar to Japan. Its function should be limited to protecting the rights and securing the welfare of free emigrants, and in no case should such a positive policy be pursued as encouraging the emigration by exercising interference with contract and free labourers. The utmost energy, however, should be directed to protection of their rights.

12.—Fishing regulations. The following are the proposed fishing Regulations:—

Art. I.—Any person engaged in fishing in any public waters (*kōyu suimen*) shall receive a license from the administrative authorities:—

1. Where fishing implements are provided at a fixed place and for a fixed period of time.

2. Where places are specially established for the gathering of marine products, animal or vegetable.

3. Where boundaries are marked on the surface of water, with bamboo, wood, or stone.

Other fishing enterprises for which licences are necessary shall be determined by special Ordinances.

Art. II.—Any space devoted to fishing, which by custom has been in the exclusive use of an individual or individuals, or of members of a corporation, shall be dealt with according to the custom in question.

Art. III.—In case of dispute arising in regard to the limits of the space specified in the above article, the same shall be decided by the local Governor on application by the fishermen concerned.

When the limits of a fishery or the operations of fishermen engaged on it overlap another fishery a conference shall be held with the local Governor of the district overlapped, and upon failure to arrive at an understanding the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce shall be applied to for a final decision.

Art. IV.—The administrative authorities may withdraw or suspend fishing licences in case it is deemed necessary for the protection of marine products or for other public ends. In case the fishing limits specified in Article II. fall within the purview of this Article, measures may be taken for suspension or restriction as the occasion requires.

Art. V.—Any persons to whom fishing licences have been refused or who have cause for complaint against the measures taken by the administrative authorities in accordance with Articles III. and IV. may enter a protest against them. Should such persons consider that the proceedings of the administrative authorities have been illegal they may institute an action in the Administrative Court.

Art. VI.—The administrative authorities may, if they deem it necessary, erect sign posts for the delimitation of fisheries, or direct the fishermen concerned to make such erections themselves. In cases to which the foregoing Article refers the regulations in regard to signs or marks for hydrographical survey, promulgated by Law No. 38 of the 23rd year of *Meiji*, are to be used. The expenses of the establishment and preservation of signs and marks shall be borne by the fishermen concerned.

Art. VII.—In case any licenced fisherman fails to engage in fishing for a period of two years, his licence shall become invalid.

Art. VIII.—In case it is decided that any embankments, flood gates, water mills, or other things whatsoever are constructed in such a manner as to obstruct the passage of fish, or prove injurious to the latter, the administrative authorities may issue an order to have special

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passages constructed for the fish. The expenses for the establishment and maintenance of such passages shall be borne by the persons using the fisheries.

Art. IX.—In case of anything injurious to marine products being thrown in the water the administrative authorities may adopt measures for the prohibition or restriction of such proceedings, or cause means of avoiding injury to the fish to be provided at the expense of the person concerned.

Art. X.—The administrative authorities may, with a view to multiplying or protecting marine products or exercising control over fishing, issue orders for the establishment of places where fishing shall be prohibited, or for restriction or prohibition of the gathering of marine products, or for restriction of fishing implements and modes of fishing.

Art. XI.—If any person is found to have acted contrary to the orders specified in the above Article, measures will be taken to confiscate the fishing implements, the articles used for fishing, and fish, and other things taken by him.

Art. XII.—The provisions of the last three Articles shall apply to private waters having direct connection with public waters, in cases where it is deemed necessary.

Art. XIII.—The fishermen in conference may, in order to multiply or protect marine products, or to promote mutual interests, propose rules for fixing the extent and limits of fisheries, and on obtaining the sanction of the administrative authorities to the same, may organise a fishing corporation. This provision, however, does not apply to cases where the administrative authorities consider it unnecessary to organise such a corporation. The administrative authorities may, if they deem it necessary, determine the extent of the district of a fishing corporation, or direct the same to be altered.

Art. XIV.—The expenses incurred in connection with a fishing corporation may be collected from the members of the corporation and from persons engaged in fishing in the section over which it has authority.

Art. XV.—The provisions of Regulations with regard to corporations of dealers in staples of export, promulgated by Law No. 47 of the 30th year of *Meiji*, shall apply to fishing corporations. The official authority appertaining to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce shall be exercised by the administrative official empowered to sanction the establishment of a fishing corporation.

Art. XVI.—Any person taking fish or other marine products by intrusion into a fishing place licensed to other persons, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 100 *yen*.

Art. XVII.—Any person who, without licence, engages in fishing for which a licence is necessary, shall be punished with a fine not exceeding 30 *yen*.

Art. XVIII.—Any person undertaking the sale of marine products the gathering of which has been restricted or prohibited in regard to classification, size, weight, or season shall be liable to a fine of more than 10 *yen* and to the confiscation of the proceeds of the sale.

Art. XIX.—These Regulations shall go into operation from the 1st of January in the 33rd year of *Meiji*.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

JAPANESE WOMEN.

REPORT ON THEIR CONDITION AND PROGRESS DURING THE PAST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS.

(CONCLUDED.)

RELIGION.

In the two principal religions of Japan, Shintoism and Buddhism, women have had little part or influence, except as earnest believers and devotees, unless we except the great Imperial Patronesses of Buddhism in ancient times like the Empress Suiko, who, as ruler of the country, built monasteries, protected the Buddhists, and did much to increase the spread of this religion, at that time a recent introduction.

Luther, it is said, believed firmly in the fact which Shinran, the so-called Luther of Buddhism in Japan, has also acknowledged, that no religion has a firm foundation, nor can have wide propagation, which does not have the help and faith of women, and through women, that subtle though most powerful influence over the infant minds of the next generation. So, far more than the Empress Suiko, and her successors in like works, among which are numbered the great Empresses Koken and Dan-rin, Buddhism owes its powerful influence and spread in Japan to the zeal of the women believers all over the land. But in the middle ages, from the fifteenth century onward, Chinese philosophy superseded to a great extent religious thought, so that there is little to tell of women in those times, except of the few famous nuns, whose names have come down to us out of hundreds and thousands of devout women who have given up the world, shaved their heads and retired to nunneries for prayer and meditation. Many women in old age, especially widows, though not entering a nunnery, yet took some of the vows and led holy lives, and thereby received a nun's name. Imperial Princesses have often become nuns, and spent their lives in seclusion.

Many famous nunneries existed in the old times with each its presiding nun and officers, and its devout women gathered together, having in charge some temple or holy spot. It is impossible to say how many nunneries there were in the whole country, but the number was probably several hundred. At the present day, very many have ceased to exist, and the number of inmates is fewer, for the present age is not one that favours monastic life.

Many of the Buddhist women have formed themselves into sisterhoods, some of which are very large, numbering several hundred members. Almost every temple has bands formed for its benefit. The sisterhoods have all certain objects for which they work, either for the propagation of some doctrine, or for the sake of some temple. Some of these sisterhoods are very influential and are successful in raising large sums of money. In imitation of the work of Christian women, there have been Buddhist societies for charity, philanthrophy and reform work. Though of only a recent growth, they have successfully imitated their Christian sisters and do much good. There are also societies of Buddhist women who meet and invite some distinguished men to speak to them on religious subjects.

Among the few names left to us of famous Buddhist women, most of whom are remembered only for their unusual devotion or self-abnegation and not for great deeds or influence, there is one remarkable woman of the seventeenth century, Kyo-nen, of the Zen sect. In early life, a maid of honour in the Imperial Household, the most beautiful woman of her age, and famous for her prose and poetical compositions, her life seems like a romantic tale. Beside her general learning, she was a profound Buddhist scholar and a zealous believer. Though once married, she finally separated from her husband to devote her life to her religion and became a nun, and when the great chief priest refused to see her, or to answer her questions saying that her beauty was too much for him, she burnt her face with heated iron and then went to him a second time asking to be made a disciple. A few lines of a poem written by her at the time of this self-sacrifice for religious knowledge, have become famous, and tell pathetically of the changes of her varying life. She afterwards devoted herself to good works and visited monasteries, travelling about as a poor pilgrim. She is famous as a learned and beautiful woman and a devout Buddhist worker.

An interesting remnant of a nun's work is a long life of Buddha written by a nun in the past century, which is one of the few productions left us from the hand of woman, but which is one of the proofs to show us that the nuns spent much time in study and were well versed in learning. Indeed, we have much evidence to show that there were many scholars among them.

Shintoism, the religion of the soil, if religion it may be called, employed virgins as priestesses, and many temples, especially the famous shrines of Isé, had Imperial princesses who gave their lives in service to the ancestral gods. It was the only lot they could choose, for marriage when it could only be with a subject, even though of noble family, was forbidden them as lowering to a woman of Imperial blood, while to become Sai-shu (chief priestess of ceremony to the gods) was to be a highly respected, and even a sacred, personage. There, in seclusion, with prayers and ceremonies, these sacred virgin priestesses spent their lives in the care of the great temples, daily making offerings and purifications, and burning incense and fulfilling their holy vows for many lonely years. From the common people also came virgin priestesses of the temple, but of their lives, too little is known. Young maidens took part in the sacred dances, and were supposed to serve the gods by dancing and music. These were chosen from the daughters of earnest believers among the people. Although many women have worked for the Shinto faith, we have no record of their work or influence, and their names are unknown.

The history of the introduction of Christianity into Japan by the Catholics is a deeply interesting one. The part the women have had, though often in secret, was by no means insignificant. Fifty-eight years before Columbus discovered America, Francis Xavier landed on the shores of Japan at Satsuma. The religion he brought had a wonderful spread and was received first by the nobles and retainers of that province, followed in the next two years by 3,500 converts in Bungo and Choshu. The Prime Minister, Nobunaga, accepted the faith and did much for its spread, while on the other hand, Hideyoshi began that bitter persecution that continued for over one hundred years, and later on, in the Tokugawa period, was supposed, but not with truth, to have entirely eradicated the faith. The reason that Christianity spread so rapidly, and that it endured such long and bitter persecution was surely due in part to the fact that women had embraced the faith in remarkable zeal and earnestness. It is stated as a fact that the first native missionaries who gave themselves to the work under Xavier were women.

The faith of the persecuted Christians, their wonderful endurance under all the tortures that human invention could contrive, and the unceasing vigilance and hatred of their oppressors, are well-known facts of history. Enrolled among these martyrs, and enduring the same persecution with equal faith and fortitude, are numberless women whose names are lost, but whose story will ever remain in history. Finally, after the bitter persecution of years, the religion was thought to be exterminated and it was unknown that a single believer was in existence. It is only within the last twenty-five years that many evidences have come to light to show that through these years, the religion has remained secretly in existence. It is thought that probably 30,000 Roman Catholic believers were in the neighbourhood of Nagasaki in the early part of this era. It is impossible here to go into these details, but it is interesting to think what a share the women, especially the mothers, had in the transmission, for over two hundred years, of this secret faith so prized and yet so bitterly persecuted. We can not tell how many deeds of bravery and endurance may have come from this hidden faith. We have one notable example of a Christian woman in the famous wife of Hosokawa Tadaoki, who, in the seige of Osaka Castle, set shame to men by her fearless meeting of death, preferring to die rather than fall a hostage to the enemy.

At the present time, when freedom of religion is permitted, it is hoped that we shall again see the same faith and endurance that won fame for the first Japanese Christians. The time since the first Protestant missionaries landed in Japan is a short one, and the work for women, and by women, is but in its beginning, yet Christian women have already taken a stand unprecedented in Japan. The first girls' schools

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were founded by American missionaries; the first woman's magazine was started by Japanese Christians. Our Christian women have engaged us no other women have, in charities and good works. Bible workers are doing work for women in endeavouring to spread a knowledge of Christianity, and there are three schools where they are trained for work. The number who have come from these schools is over one hundred and fifty.

It is interesting to note that even among those who oppose this faith, many are willing to acknowledge its good moral influence, especially for women; and parents, themselves unbelievers, will sent their daughters, though not their sons, to Christian schools, believing that the Christian teachings help to elevate and ennoble a woman's character.

Buddhism has always looked down upon woman. She is regarded as full of sin and impurity, a temptation and snare to men. She was not allowed to visit holy places, as she defiled them. Her hope of immortality was only by being reborn a man. In such a religion, we can not expect to see women take part or have any influence. Shintoism gives a better position to woman, but Shintoism has only a shadowy influence over the people. Christianity is doing and has done much for the elevation of women. It has taken the first steps to educate her, and to give her an honourable position by the side of men. In the future, even more than in the present, the Christian women will take up the work for women. Christianity will raise the Japanese woman socially, will exalt her home, will purify the social and moral evils that work against her, will give her a higher code of morals and an ideal of womanhood which, in the present age, is unknown. In closing this report, one word more may be said in regard to women's future in Japan. The old life with its prejudices and restrictions has, in a great measure, passed away, and the return of the old conditions is impossible. Year after year, with open protest in many cases, unknown and unseen in others, women's power and influence have grown almost each day. There have been unavoidable reactions which have come from too sudden measures, but the advances have been made in the face of conservatism, and from the experiences of the past we may hope for the future. With the women themselves as one force, Christianity and the foreign influences which pour into the country as another, there will be more and more men who will come to realize that if Japan is to take her stand side by side with the foremost nations of the earth, the homes of the land that are the foundations of society must be purified and elevated, and the home-makers, the wives and mothers of the nation, must be educated, uplifted, and given their equal rights with men.

JAPONICIZING CHRISTIANITY.

By Will Pattillo.

The question of Japonicizing Christianity is so often referred to by Japanese writers and speakers that the phrase is becoming a little hackneyed. It would be a relief to have some intelligent native Christian, or body of Christians, define what is meant by that term. The usual references to this purpose or plan are about as vague in language as the average political manifesto or platform is. If they mean that Christianity must be stripped of many of its Middle Age creeds and non-essentials before Japanese will accept it, then the opposition to the Japonicizing process will not be great. But if they mean that Christianity is to be transplanted here without uprooting any old customs or revolutionizing any methods of thought, then they do not yet understand the fundamental principles of Christianity, and of course they will have opposition, not only of the missionaries here, but of the Christian Church everywhere. It is the glory of Christianity that it has changed nations and peoples in its progress around the world. It changed Rome, and Germany, and France, and Scandinavia, and Britain. When missionaries went to the Fiji Islands they went with an unfaltering consciousness that they carried a power that could transform those cruel, ignorant cannibals into peace-loving, rational human beings, and to-day they form one of the happiest and most prosperous of Great Britain's small colonies.

Mr. Takahashi, editor of the *Japan Times*, thinks missionaries are wasting their time and energy in trying to convert Japanese to their churches in the way they convert people in the West. Perhaps Mr. Takahashi has fallen into the error of many other uninformed people on this subject, thinking that denominationalism, or the division of Christianity into sects, is the great curse of that faith. There are a few bigots in nearly all sects, it is true, who devote their energy to proselytising other sects, and on the other hand there are others who are constantly trying to unite all Christendom under one organization and name. I have no patience with either of these parties. Denominationalism has done more to keep the clergy from using the power of Christianity for selfish or tyrannical purposes than any other, or all other, human agencies. The difference between Roman Catholicism in the United States and in the Philippine Islands is the result of Protestantism in America.

But Mr. Takahashi says, "They [the Missionaries] have first to revolutionize our mode of thinking, and that is an impossible task." I take it as a matter of course that he refers to questions or principles of morality and religion and not to modes of grammar and rhetoric, when he speaks of "revolutionizing our mode of thinking." It does not matter in a man's religion whether he says Smith John Mr. or Mr. John Smith, or whether he reads from top to bottom or from left to right on a page. But it does matter a great deal what a man thinks about God, sin, salvation, and a future life. And if Mr Takahashi thinks it is an impossible task to change the Japanese mode of thinking on these or their allied subjects, I am afraid he has not properly read history and that he does not understand the deep currents that are moving and transforming Japan to-day. Christianity in its varied forms is revolutionizing the Japanese "mode of thinking" on a hundred—perhaps a thousand—vital questions to day. A few illustrations will prove the truth of my assertion.

Christ said:—"Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,"—*Sono ada wo aishi, nanjira wo nikumu mono wo yoku shi*. The spirit of the *Samurai* created this proverb:—*Kataki wo utasuni shinu no ga zannen desu*,—I regret to die without slaying my enemy. The Japanese "mode of thinking" on this subject has undergone a complete revolution during the present generation. That there are 455,000 enthusiastic members of the Red Cross Society of Japan is ample testimony to prove this to be true. The spirit of the *samurai* as regards his enemy has given place to the teachings of Christ, which in the form of the Red Cross Society is doing much to revolutionize the thoughts and ways of the Japanese.

I recently heard a Japanese relate the story of a *samurai's* daughter, who left her father's house and married against his will. He vowed she should never enter his house again. By and by her husband became cruel to her and turned her out of his home. She went back to her old home, but her father, true to his *samurai* spirit, would not allow her to enter. That spirit must be maintained even though his daughter perish, and the next morning she was found dead at his front gate. That was the mode of thinking of the *samurai* a generation ago. But is there no revolution of thought going on here? The beautiful parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15.11-32) has touched a tender chord in tens of thousands of hearts in this country, and is destined to revolutionize the Japanese mode of thinking in reference to the proper and rational love of the natural father and the Heavenly Father for their children.

Again, Christianity is gradually, though slowly, revolutionizing the Japanese mode of thinking about God, sin, salvation, and the world to come—the four great fundamental principles of religion. This is its sphere of operation in all ages, and Japan will not prove an exception. The Rev. Narayen Sheshadri, D.D., a Mahratta Brahman, who became a famous Christian preacher in India, did much for Christianity among the Hindoos. He once gave the following reasons why conscience and reason through the gracious influence of God's Spirit, induced him to forsake Hinduism and become a Christian:—

1. Hinduism furnishes no proper, consistent, intelligible account of God.
2. Hinduism gives erroneous and absolutely inadequate views of sin.
3. Hinduism reveals no satisfactory way of salvation by which men may find peace and rest.
4. Hinduism furnishes no rational account of the world to come.

The same indictment might be made against all religions in Japan. I recently visited a country school and was permitted to hear a teacher instructing a class of boys in Japanese history. He was dwelling in detail on the life and times of *Amaterasu Omikami!* That same afternoon I met some of the school boys on the street, and as they gathered around me I began to tell them my idea of God, what he is, does, and will do for those who trust and love him, whereupon one of the boys said, "That's *Amaterasu.*" He had theology and history somewhat confused. But the teacher was to blame and the school authorities were to blame because they had recommended the book and licensed the teacher. I could wish that the Japanese term *Kami* (神) had never been used to express the Christian idea of God. It is misleading and retards the revolutionizing process that must take place before the Japanese clearly understand what God is.

But reform is coming, the renovating process is already deeper than the casual observer believes. I learn from the *Japan Mail* (Nov. 19) that the *Bukkyo* is already advocating "radical reforms" in its own borders. It maintains that "Buddhism must adopt new principles, a new attitude, and new tactics." What is doing this wonderful change of mind but Christianity? A change of mind means a change in mode of thinking and that will be followed by a change of heart. Missionaries are not doing this except as they are the agents of Christian truth. And if the editor of the *Japan Times* thinks Christian missionaries have found an impossible task in attempting to revolutionize the Japanese mode of thinking on moral and religious questions he is quite behind the times and needs to observe what is going on in his country at the present time. Passing events are the strongest argument one can give to the falsity of his assertion.

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held at the Parish Buildings, No. 54, Tsukiji, on Wednesday, the 23rd November, the President of the Society, Sir Ernest Satow, being in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been taken as read, the Chairman called upon Dr. Riess to read his paper on the

History of the English Factory at Hirado.

Dr. Riess read the following lecture as a summary of his paper:—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The paper on the History of the English Factory at Hirado which I have prepared for this meeting is too long to be read here in its entirety. Instead of giving you abstracts from it, I prefer to lay before you the principal results of my investigation as briefly as possible, hoping that you will pardon my boldness in addressing you in a language foreign to me. For the sake of clearness and precision it seems to me the best plan in the beginning to formulate some questions and supply the answers, which are given at greater length in the seven chapters of my paper and its four appendices, and afterwards to give a more connected narrative.

By way of preliminary I may, however, be allowed to say a few words about the material used for this historical enquiry.

The books and papers of the English Factory at Hirado were brought home in the 17th century

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and deposited in the archives of the East India Company. What still remained of them, when the present India Office was founded, has been carefully preserved in the Registry and Records Department of that grand establishment at Whitehall. In the enormous collection of letters arranged chronologically in a series of huge volumes under the title of original correspondence, the Factory at Hirado is exceedingly well represented considering the short period of its existence. Some of the most interesting pieces of historical material brought home from Japan had, however, previously been taken out of the Library of the East India Company and never returned. Not all of these are lost to us. Some valuable letters found a new resting place among the Cotton Charters, and the diary of Richard Cocks, the head of the English Factory from its beginning to its dissolution, was purchased by the Trustees of the British Museum, and forms now two volumes of the additional manuscripts. On the whole one must say, seldom have the beginnings of an early commercial enterprise left so many traces in public archives as this otherwise so unfortunate establishment in Japan.

Nor has the advantage of being printed and published been denied to these materials brought home from Japan. Already in 1624 Samuel Purchas edited in his famous Collection of Travels entitled "Pilgrimages" an account of the first journey of an English ship to Japan, together with the observations of its Captain and some letters. He even gave a typographical facsimile of a Japanese writing, as far as I am aware, for the first time in Europe. I think, there is no copy of that valuable publication to be found in Japan; but I may show you here a Dutch translation of that portion relating to Japan; published as late as 1707, and embellished with fanciful engravings in the style of that period. The next publication is 250 years later than that of Purchas. In one of the first volumes of the Hakluyt Society Rundall published in 1850 from the originals in the possession of the East India Company six letters of William Adams, his contract with the East India Company, and his will, which no longer exists. Then appeared the admirable Calendar of State Papers relating to the East Indies, China, and Japan, edited by Sainsbury. You would be astonished to see how many of the entries in the first three volumes have reference to the short lived English Factory in Japan. Cocks' Diary found 15 years ago an exceptionally careful and experienced editor in the person of Edward Maunde Thompson, afterwards Principal Librarian of the British Museum. And this will not be the last publication of materials relating to the English Factory at Hirado. I have been told that the President of our Society is about to assist the Hakluyt Society with his scholarship, and his intimate acquaintance with Japanese life, in publishing a new volume based on the Records of the East India Company. For there is still plenty of interesting material which has never been published. I devoted about six weeks of my leave of absence in 1893 to its study, and intend to edit some abstracts from Saris' Journal and a few letters of Adams, etc. A great deal now lost to us in its original form has been rescued from oblivion by an unknown writer, who in 1824 collected materials supplementary to Bruce's Annals of the East India Company. This manuscript is kept in the India Office; it contains many abstracts from "Damaged Papers," "The Firando Ledger" and other "Books sent from India" no longer accessible to us.

The very scanty Japanese Materials relating to the English Factory of Hirado are all to be found in one volume compiled by a native of Hirado, Sugonoma Sadakaze and entitled History of the Trade of Japan," to which a "History of Hirado Harbour is attached. He died in 1889 at Manila at the early age of 26. The *Tōhōkyōkai* has done a great service for students of Japanese History by providing the funds for this publication.

I.—What induced the East India Company to send an expedition to Japan at so early a stage of its development?

You all know that the English East India Company received its Charter on the very last day of the 16th century, December 31st, 1600. The instructions for Captain John Saris to sail from London to Japan were dated more than 10 years later, April 19th, 1611. At the first glance such an interval of more than 10 years seems sufficient for an expansion of trade connection from India to Japan after the Portuguese had, more than half a century before, shown the way and set the example. But closer inspection shows that the English sent only seven expeditions eastward before the Japanese one; that they did not establish trade any further than Acheen and Bantam, their enterprises in the Moluccas being very unfortunate. While the Dutch Company pushed its trade vigorously and systematically to the Moluccas, Bantam, Siam, Cochin China, China, Japan,—the English made a sudden jump from Bantam to Japan. The motive for this rush to this country requires, therefore, an explanation.

Very short and simple indeed is the explanation suggested by Rundall, and repeated by Sainsbury. They state that William Adams' letter to his "unknown friends" written in Japan on the 11th of October, 1611 "led to the opening of commercial intercourse between England and Japan," two years afterwards. But already Hildreth, in his still valuable book, "Japan as it was and is," has pointed out the chronological impossibility of this view. For already six months before Adams' wrote that touching letter in Japan, Saris had set sail on his pioneer expedition to Hirado. The fact is, that the English East India Company was simply imitating the example of the Dutch United Company. When the news of the successful establishment of a Dutch Factory at Hirado became known in London, the English prepared at once a similar enterprise, taking it for granted that Adams, who had greatly assisted the Dutch, would do even more for his own countrymen. The Governor of the East India Company wrote at once to Adams, stating that in the following year a ship would be sent to Japan. The presence of William Adams in Japan certainly encouraged the Court of Directors to risk such a distant establishment. But no advice, or promise, had been received directly from Adams either in London or Bantam, when the first English expedition to Japan was despatched in 1611.

II.—Why was the little island of Hirado chosen as the seat of the English Factory, and not Nagasaki, with its better harbours and more important trade?

The answer is again, that in London the enterprise of the Dutch was taken as a model. For the Dutch there were good reasons to prefer Hirado. The Daimyo of this place, Matsuura Hoin, had offered an asylum to the two most prominent Dutchmen of the shipwrecked crew with which Adams had landed in Japan: the Captain Quaeokernaak and the Cape merchant Melchior van Santvoord. It was the Daimyo of Hirado who sent these two exiles in his own junk to Patani in 1605. This act of kindness was the reason that both seafaring nations considered the little island in the north-west of Kinshiu as the proper gate of entrance into Japan. We shall see how obstinately this conviction was adhered to by the first representative of the English East India Company in this country, Captain-General John Saris.

III.—Did not Adams advise his countrymen that Hirado was not the best place for a Factory?

The English pioneer ship for the Japanese trade had a very slow and bad passage round the Cape to Bantam. It did not arrive there until a year and a half after weighing anchor at the mouth of the Thames, viz., in October, 1512. At Bantam they stayed three months. The Factor of the East India Company there, Augustin Spalding, showed them Adams' letter, then 18 months old, and probably told them how disappointed he was that Adams had not answered his more definite questions regarding trade in Japan. It was in my opinion the first misfortune of the earliest English expedition to this country, that Adams had delayed answering those questions for about a year. What he then did write was of the greatest value. He told them what they ought to bring, and what they could hope to export. Things of European origin would yield little or no profit. Eastern wares such as pepper, Brazil wood, and Chinese goods would always find a ready market, so he strongly recommended them to get trade with China. There would be no customs duties to pay in Japan; only a present to the Emperor (*i.e.* Iyeyasu), the King (*i.e.* the Shogun Hidetada), and two or three secretaries would be required. "Now, once, (he adds), if a ship do come, let her come for the easterly part of Japan, . . . where the King's and the Emperor's Court is." "The city of Yedo lies in 36° and about this easterly part of the land there are the best harbours and a coast so clear as there is no shoals nor rocks ½ a mile from the main land. It is good also for sale of merchandise. . . etc." He also sent them a chart of the eastern coast of Japan.

Unquestionably it was good advice, and compliance with it would have secured the success of the new enterprise. But it came too late. Adams wrote his letter at Hirado on January 12th, 1613. Two days later the English ship, the *Clove*, weighed anchor to sail *via* the Moluccas to Japan. After some trouble with the Dutch in the spice islands the English pioneer expedition arrived in Hirado harbour on June 11th, 1613.

IV.—How is it that Adams did not use his influence with his Countrymen to persuade them to remove from Hirado to some better place?

We have the Report of General Saris himself about his doings in Japan. In the beginning there were only merriment and holiday-making on shore and on board, the old Daimyo and his courtiers being frequent visitors of the English ship. No business was done except renting a house and engaging servants, until Adams should arrive. Even the Royal letter to the Daimyo was not opened until then. The conversation was carried on by means of a Japanese, whom Saris had brought from Bantam. He translated into Malay, which language Saris, as former Resident of the Bantam factory, perfectly understood. In compliance with Adams' instructions left with his agent at Hirado, Sansaburo, a messenger, was at once despatched to Uraga to fetch him. Adams was then staying at Iyeyasu's court at Shizuoka. The messenger passed by that place, heard at Uraga from Adams' wife where her husband was, and hurried back to Shizuoka, where he found Adams. This journey to and fro took him a month. Adams at once went to Hirado, arriving there within 17 days. By the inadvertence of the messenger the English had to wait 48 days for their countryman. They may have found, however, some consolation in the fact that the stupid messenger was punished with banishment from Hirado.

Adams insisted on the necessity of proceeding at once to Shizuoka and Yedo, and selected suitable presents for the high personages whose favour they stood in need of. Within a week after his arrival he accompanied the General and his suite on their journey to the two courts at Shizuoka and Yedo (August 6th, 1613.)

But during this one week's stay in Hirado, Adams had already fallen considerably in the estimation of his countrymen.

Here we must interrupt our narrative for a moment in order to consider what kind of man William Adams, the first Englishman residing in Japan, really was. You may find him referred to in recent literature as "an unlettered pilot," or even "the English sailor Adams;" his behaviour is described as being "sailor fashion." Now is that a true estimate? I think not. We judge the social position of a man from four different data: 1. His accomplishments. Adams was certainly a well educated man, as his knowledge of mathematics, geography, Portuguese, and Spanish sufficiently prove. 2. The position of his friends at home. He mentions in his letter Thomas Best, who was at that time General of the 10th expedition of the East India Company; others of his old friends were advisers, or contractors, of that Company, for Adams was originally a shipwright by trade. 3. The post offered to him. Now the position for which Adams had been engaged by the Dutch was a most honourable one. He was pilot major of a fleet, *i.e.*, he had the entire navigation of the ships under his control. I need only mention that the famous explorer John Davys, after whom the Davys Straits are called, was not ashamed to accept the post of pilot on board a Dutch East Indiaman. 4. The style of living of his wife. Adams sent to his wife, after communication by ships between Japan and England had been established, £50 and even £60 a year. That was certainly an allowance sufficient for people of the better middle classes in those times and far in excess of the requirements of a sailor's wife. Mrs. Mary Adams was always treated with respect and consideration by the East India Company. We therefore come to the conclusion that William Adams' *milieu* was superior to that of the Englishmen he had to deal with in Japan. But, then, why did they so quickly lose their opinion of him? The answer is, that he was a man so much opposed to all ceremonies and solemn formalities, that he did not even keep up the usual appearances of decorum customary in those times. His familiarity with Spanish and Portuguese mariners, the tone of equality with which the Dutch merchants treated him, the shabby appearance of Adams' own establishment at Hirado, were sufficient indications for the English merchants that Adams was not a mighty personage and favourite at Court in the English sense, but a ready agent for all that would employ him. And they missed in their straightforward and easy-going countryman not only the dignified reserve of a substantial merchant, but also the exclusive patriotism they had expected of him. They still needed his advice and assistance on the journey to court; but they would not any more implicitly trust him.

At Shizuoka Iyeyasu showed himself most graciously disposed towards the newly arrived countrymen of his old favourite. He bade them write out themselves what privileges they wished for. A little critical investigation of this one point

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alone is required in order to distinguish what was asked, and what was granted, and what was afterwards published in England in English and Japanese as a true copy and translation of the privileges granted by the Emperor of Japan. I have been obliged to add a special appendix dealing with these "original privileges." Suffice it to say, that the English got really ampler privileges than any other nation, even the Dutch. Of special interest for us is the fact that the head of the Factory was granted exclusive jurisdiction over English criminals in Japan, and that Iyeyasu promised them ground to build their houses on if they would establish their factory at Yedo. We see from this how much Iyeyasu wished to attract the countrymen of Adams to the Eastern capital. But Saris was not inclined to listen to any argument in favour of a settlement nearer Yedo. In vain did Adams take him and his suite of 8 English and 9 Japanese to his own house at Uraga and show him by a careful survey what a splendid harbour there was.

When the party, after an absence of exactly three months, returned to Hirado on November 6th, 1613, Saris was quite satisfied with his success, and determined to carry out his original plans, while Adams was certainly not the man to conceal his disappointment about the choice of Hirado as the centre of English trade in Japan.

V.—Of what Persons did the English Factory at Hirado consist after Saris' Departure.

It is well known that William Adams complained to the East India Company of "divers injuries done against me; the which were things to me very strange and unlooked for." But he was too noble a character to set out his grievances, as he writes, "leaving it to others to make relation thereof." Some particulars of these misunderstandings between Adams and Saris you will find in my paper; I took them from unpublished entries in Saris' Journal. Here we pass them over and simply consider the terms of Adams' engagement for the East India Company. There can be no doubt that he received £100 a year for his services; but the question is what services were expected from him in return for that allowance. I think it was understood that he need not give all his time to the service of the Company, and that he was simply retained by them, in case there should be any business at Court or at sea for which he was wanted. He was therefore prevented from going to sea on his own account, or in the employ of others. But in Japan he could attend to his own business as long as he was not expressly charged with some affair of the Company. He could also serve the Court, and was even expected and encouraged to do so, as this might prove beneficial to the Company. While acting for the Company, he received also his travelling and other expenses. Adams was not so cheap a servant of the Company as the so-called contract makes it appear at the first glance.

Leaving Adams aside, we have still seven English merchants engaged in Japan. The foremost of them was the Cape merchant Richard Cocks, who with the mercantile management combined a kind of Consular jurisdiction. He was already of advanced age and had formerly been established in the City of London. A five years' residence at Bayonne had given him full command of the Spanish language. He was a most prolific correspondent and addressed not a few of his lengthy letters to such high personages as Sir Thomas Wilson and even the Lord Treasurer Salisbury. Some of his reports from Japan were laid before King James I., who "could not be induced to believe that the things written were true, but desired to speak with the writer when he comes home." Cocks was sometimes prone to believe stories told him by his friends, but he was also an assiduous and faithful recorder of his own observations. His letters, and especially his diary, are of the highest value.

Next in rank to the chief were the two senior merchants—Tempest Peacock and Richard Wickham. They received £40 a year, besides all their expenses of living. But only one-third of their salary was paid in Japan; the remainder was put to their credit in London. Wickham stayed 4 years in Japan; he was a clever but very excitable man, whose letters show his high spirit and strong individuality often in an unpleasant way. A specimen of them is given in the second appendix of my paper. Then followed the merchants William Eaton and Edmund Sayers, who, like their chief, served the factory from beginning to end. The two youngest merchants, Walter Carwarden and William Nelson, both died at an early age before their engagement for the Hirado Factory had expired. When Saris left Japan a large staff of seven English merchants, who received occasional assistance from Adams, were left behind to carry on business.

And now we must ask: were the prospects good enough, and the capital invested large enough, for such a large number of merchants?

It was certainly not a promising feature that the *Clove*, after a stay of six months, sailed from Japan under ballast. The only things brought home from Japan by the pioneer ship were ten screens given by Iyeyasu as a present to King James, and some curiosities and picture books. But Saris was not discouraged by such a poor beginning. On his journey home he wrote out a list of things suitable for the import and export trade with Japan. In the long list of profitable imports we find but few articles of English produce, those mentioned being only woollen cloth, lead, tin, iron, steel, and all sorts of glassware. Dutch linen, Spanish soap—the Japanese word (*shabon*) is of Spanish origin)—, Spanish leather, honey, wax for candles, and alum are other goods recommended in his list, that would have to be brought from Europe. Of things of a more æsthetic kind he enumerates "pictures, some lascivious, others of stories of wars by sea and land, the larger the better," "paintings for women's faces," large amber beads, and branch coral. That he also recommended copper as worth importing to Japan is rather astonishing. The most important articles in his list are, however, of Eastern origin: sugar, raw silk, silk stuffs, pepper, nutmeg, camphor, and Brazil wood. In return Japan would offer for exportation: rice, saltpetre, hemp, cotton wool, a blue dye almost as good as indigo, brimstone, "rich writing boxes, trunks, cups, and dishes of all sorts and of most excellent varnish," and "silver and gold in great abundance." He added, however, that gold was so dear in Japan that it would not be profitable to export it. You will notice that Saris' view about a direct exchange of goods between Japan and England was more optimistic than that of Adams.

The capital left with the English merchants in Japan was exceedingly small, amounting altogether to not more than £7,000 sterling. Nearly half of this money consisted of ryals coined for the East India Company in the Royal Mint in London. The then current trade dollar of the East was a Spanish coin, called ryal of eight, because eight of them made a peso. It was at that time calculated as equal to 5s. The present Mexican dollar and consequently the Japanese silver yen is nothing else but the equivalent of this ryal of eight. The other half of the *Clove's* cargo consisted principally of English broad cloth. This had been on its way for two years and two months. No wonder that it was moth-eaten and in bad condition, as the English had not yet learned from the Dutch the necessity of lining their boxes with lead. Then there were Indian cotton goods, pepper, Chinese gold procured at Bantam, elephants' teeth (one-sixth of the total value of the invoice) gunpowder, ordnance, and ammunition (about one-twelfth of the invoice of merchandize). How large must the profits be on this investment of £7,000 in order to cover the salaries and cost of living of seven Englishmen, and about ten Japanese interpreters and servants, Adam's allowance, and the cost of transportation!

VII.—The Organization of the English Trade in Japan.

The English factory did not follow the policy of their Dutch rivals, which was to do business as wholesale traders, selling to Japanese shopkeepers on a credit system. They wanted to sell directly to the consumer by means of branch offices and agencies. Two branch factories were started; one at Osaka under the charge of William Eaton, the other at Yedo under Richard Wickham. A third was established under Sayers at Tsushima for the trade with Korea, which was only of short duration. The Osaka branch had two subordinate agencies: one at Sakai, the other at Kioto. There were also two sub-agencies of the Yedo branch factory, one at Shizuoka, the other at Uraga, while the central factory at Hirado kept an agency at Nagasaki with a foreign merchant established there. The factors had to visit their agencies from time to time, staying with their Japanese representatives, who were selected from among the wealthier tradespeople. From this habit the sub-agents received the appellation of the Company's "hosts" at such and such a place. With the exception of their host at Sakai, Toyazemon, these persons were not found reliable and gave much trouble to the responsible chief at Hirado.

But, despite their many branches and agencies, the English found it very difficult to sell their wares. Their chief customer was none other than Iyeyasu, who bought the 5 pieces of English ordnance, and all the gunpowder offered to him, at good prices. The sales of the year 1614 amounted altogether to about £2,700 sterling, of which one half was effected by the Yedo factory alone. The prices realized were profitable enough, being twice and thrice the cost price of the invoices and even more; but the trouble was that a large percentage of the English and Indian wares could not be sold at all in Japan. The broad cloth, for instance, was bought by wealthy noblemen by the piece or by the *tatami* or mat (meaning a 2 yards length) for covering their saddles, armour cases, and scabbards. But while black, yellow, clove-colour, mouse-colour, cinnamon, and violet were favourite colours, they would not even look at a flame colour or Venice. Some of the Indian stuffs sold well, some at poor prices only, some with which the English Factory was most plentifully provided, such as blue Byrams, Dutties, and red Zelas, not at all. Wickham very soon noticed a peculiarity in the taste of the Japanese people. They liked for their garments blue or black grounds with white spots or stripes; if any red was introduced into the pattern, it would not sell. If one looks upon the dress of grown-up people in Japan at the present day, one may still observe the same rigid exclusion of any red tint.

In order to get rid of some of his unsaleable commodities Cocks sent in the spring of 1614 a Japanese junk, the *Raquan*, to Cochin China. Two of his merchants, Peacock and Carwarden, went in her with a cargo amounting in value to £740 cost price, *i.e.*, more than one-tenth of the whole capital of the Factory. One-third of this value was represented by elephants' teeth that were absolutely unsaleable in Japan; almost another third consisted of ready money, while Indian cotton stuffs formed the principal part of the remainder. This expedition was most unfortunate. Both English merchants were killed by Cochin China noblemen in revenge for some outrages committed by the Dutch. Their money and valuables were stolen by their host there, a Japanese called Mangosa, and his accomplices, and none of it was ever recovered. It was the second severe blow that fell on the Hirado Factory.

At Hirado in the meantime everything was prepared for receiving the cargo of the second English ship expected in June, 1614, with the southern monsoon. Cocks bought a house and built a godown; then, to secure it against fire, he bought the neighbouring houses on both sides and pulled them down, so that he could lay out a garden all round their buildings. Altogether he spent £560 on the immovable property of the Factory. But, owing to the mistaken notions of the sailing instructions about the seasons of the monsoons, no ship arrived in 1614. This was no loss for the trade; for their stock of English and Indian goods was by no means exhausted even by the end of that year. The Cape Merchant found it again necessary to find a market for some of his wares elsewhere and to procure merchandise yet better suited for the Japanese market. For this purpose Adams had to buy at Nagasaki a strong junk to which the name *Sea Adventure* was given and to take her to Siam with a cargo of £1250 in ryals, £100 in Indian stuffs, and about as much in Japanese weapons and arms, fans, and dressing boxes for women. The two English merchants on board, Wickham and Sayers, were instructed to buy in Siam Brazil-wood, deer skins, raw silk, China stuffs, and shark's-skins for handles of swords. But on this voyage the *Sea Adventure* did not reach her destination. After two days' sailing the vessel sprang a leak, which made it necessary to seek shelter at one of the Loochoo islands. In the port of Napa they repaired the junk and started again southwards after a month's detention. But near the coast of Annam the 58 Japanese sailors became so unruly that Adams sailed back to Japan, arriving at the Goto islands in the end of May, 1615. Thus the second expedition of the Hirado factory was again a failure.

But in the third and fourth years of its existence the English Factory at Hirado came at last into better connection with Bantam. No less than three English ships arrived in the 10 months from September 24th, 1615, to July 22nd, 1616, the *Hozeandor*, the *Advice*, and the *Thomas*. They brought, besides cloth and Indian cotton goods in accordance with Captain Saris' suggestions), a long list of unsaleable things, such as amber, Dutch and Silesian linen, thread, 11 looking glasses, 11 dozen glass bottles, 23 dozen knives, and, strangest of all, 23 dozen spectacles, bought in London at from 6 pence half-penny to a shilling apiece. Then there were pictures, but they had been spoiled by being packed face to face, and the maps sent for sale had also been ruined by cockroaches. The Company had been greatly misinformed. During Saris' times some medicine bottles worth 3d. in Europe had been sold in Japan for 6s.; but now nobody would

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give one mace, or 5 pence, for such a trifle. A more reasonable article was English steel; but it was only saleable at double its original price. Of raw silk the *Advice* had brought only 337 catties bought at Bantam for £42 and sold in Japan at £93 per picul of 100 catties. Of other very profitable articles such as China stuffs, Siam wood, deer skins, fish skins, wax, and pepper they had brought nothing. And with such miserable cargo as they had sent out, the Directors in London hoped to realize very great profits indeed; they hoped that the silver returned from Japan might enable them to drive a great trade in the East with a small stock and eventually even to import gold and silver into England, the export of these metals to India being very distasteful both to our "State and People."

Fortunately a second expedition of the *Sea Adventure*, with Adams as captain, returned just in time (September, 1616) to fill the coffers of the Factory with the much-needed silver of Japan. The Siam wood and deerskins brought by her and two chartered junks sold readily at far more than double the cost price, so that Cocks was enabled to spend £560 of his own earnings on trimming, provisioning, and freighting the ships sent to Bantam. The freight consisted of silver and copper for Bantam, some Japanese swords for India as presents, and a quantity of lacquered ware for England.

The first three years of the Factory at Hirado were certainly a very hard and trying beginning of an enterprise on a small scale. But they were not quite discouraging. Now, however, came a still longer period, during which one misfortune and humiliation after the other befell the English traders in Japan. The years 1617, 1618, and 1619 are grouped together in the 5th Chapter of my paper, the period of humiliation.

The first lowering of their position was caused by the death of Iyeyasu in May, 1616. When Cocks came to Yedo to pay his respects to the new ruler of Japan, he was told that the Charter of 1613 could not be renewed on the same terms. In order to make it impossible for the Jesuits and friars to continue their missionary work in the disguise of merchants, no foreigner was allowed any longer to live or trade in any place except Hirado or Nagasaki. The privileges of the English nation were therefore altered so as to allow them to trade only in these two places. In vain did Cocks and Adams make a second journey to Court in the following year (1617) to petition for a restoration of their old liberties, on the ground that the English had no other but commercial interests in Japan. They were told that the Shogun wished to secure the profit of distributing the imported wares in the Interior to his own subjects. The factories and agencies at Yedo, Shizuoka, Uraga, Kyoto, Osaka, and Sakai were therefore withdrawn in 1617, and Hirado and Nagasaki became the only seats of English trade in Japan.

The second change for the worse was that the Factory remained for more than three years without communication by ship with Bantam, namely from July, 1617, to August, 1620. It was the period of keen rivalry between the English and Dutch in the Malay Archipelago. The Presidency at Bantam had so weak a position in the south that it could not spare a single ship for a voyage to Japan. What could the poor isolated Factory at Hirado do? Very little indeed in a mercantile way. They could still and they did send expeditions to Siam and Cochin China, they could and did buy from Chinese importers or Dutch mariners and sell to other Chinese or to the Japanese; and lastly they could and did buy from Japanese sellers and resell to Japanese buyers. With their capital and local experience they carried on an intermediate trade in the produce of the countries of the Far East; that was all. The expenses of their establishment were so large that they could simply keep themselves above water. Many a time when the gun of a foreign ship was heard, they went with their rowing boats out to help to tow her in, hoping that they could at last salute their own St. George's flag. But every time it turned out to be a Dutch ship, so that they were in the end teased by their rivals for their unfailing kindness in always coming to see the Dutch ships safely brought in, without ever giving them a chance to return the compliment and assistance.

But the worst was still to come. On August 9th, 1618, the English ship the *Attendance* was brought by the Dutch as prize into Hirado harbour. Their rivals had the cruelty to bring her in, as Cocks writes, "in a bravado" and to call the attention of their Japanese friends to this scene of English humiliation. Adams, who had left the service of the Company, was at that time accompanying a Dutch embassy to the Shogun's Court. But Cocks and his merchants thought that with his help they might get redress from the Japanese Government. Cocks started again on a journey to Court, taking with him a long letter of complaint about this Dutch outrage in Hirado harbour. He had it nicely written by a calligrapher at Kyoto. The answer of the authorities in Yedo was that the Shogun would not meddle in an affair of piracy on the high seas, as he was only Lord of Japan, and not of the sea, nor of other Kingdoms.

So much were the Dutch encouraged by this reply that they even assaulted their English rivals in the streets and harbour of Hirado, when in the following year, having brought in two more English prizes, the *Solomon* and the *Swan*, three prisoners on board of the latter escaped to the English Factory. They proclaimed with sound of trumpet on board of their seven ships open war against the English nation both by sea and land with fire and sword, and announced their intention to take their ships and goods and destroy their persons to the uttermost of their power. They set a price of 50 Ryals on Richard Cocks's head, and one of 30 for each of the other merchants. In an encounter in the streets of Hirado one of the Dutch assailants was wounded. The Dutch sailors thereupon made three attempts in one day to storm the English factory; but Japanese swordsmen came to the rescue of the weaker party and remained as a kind of garrison in the English house. Again did Cocks lay his complaint before the Shogun, who was then staying in Kyoto. Orders were given to the Daimyo of Hirado to hear both parties and pass judgment. But he delayed the lawsuit until the whole situation had become again changed.

This change in the affairs of the Factory at Hirado was brought about by the diplomatic action of the English Government at the Hague. King James I was determined not only to put an end to "the insupportable wrongs and abuses lately done by the Hollanders unto his subjects in the East Indies," but also to amalgamate the chartered companies of both countries into one great concern "for the preservation and increase of navigation and traffic in the East Indies." A so-called "Treaty of Defence" was concluded on July 16th, 1619, according to which each Company had to keep twelve ships in a common "Fleet of Defence" in the Malay Archipelago and further East. At Javatra in Java a Council of Defence was constituted of both Presidencies. It sent at once ten ships (5 of each nation) on a cruise to Hirado with the following instructions: "If you meet Portuguese, Spaniards, or their adherents anywhere, assault and surprise them." The captured vessels with their crews and cargoes were to be taken to Hirado, there to be equally divided between Dutch and English. Chinese junks bound for Japan and Japanese vessels were to be left unmolested. Even in a port or on the coast of Japan Portuguese vessels were not safe, but were to be "forced from their anchorage under the land." It was a system of wholesale piracy for which both Companies had formed their so-called Fleets of Defence, and Hirado was to be the basis of their operations. For the Dutch the change was not so noticeable; but the English now ceased to be the victims and became the partners of their piratical rivals.

There were at that time only three Englishmen left in the Hirado Factory. Five of the eight Englishmen whom Saris had left behind only 6 years and a half before had died. Peacock and Carwarden, it will be remembered, had lost their lives in that unfortunate expedition to Cochin China in 1614. Wickham died at Bantam in 1617; and Nealson was carried off by consumption at Hirado in March, 1620. A most severe loss was Adams' death (May 16th, 1620); he died near the English factory and it was probably only his ashes that were transported to Hemimura, where his grave is now situated. Sayers had been banished from Hirado by order of the Daimyo, after a Japanese nobleman had been punished for assaulting him. Thus there remained on the little island only Cocks, Eaton, and a junior clerk Osterwick, who had been sent out in 1615. Eaton wrote in a letter to the Company that the Treaty Defence was "welcome news unto us that live here." Cocks was more emphatic: "God be praised for it (he wrote), and God grant the Dutch may as firmly follow the orders prescribed as I make no doubt the English will do."

The English Factory became simply an agency of the Fleet of Defence, and was kept very busy purveying everything required for the English ships, storing away the spoils that fell to the English share, and disposing of them at reasonable rates. The first expedition of the Fleet of Defence was not very successful. Only one ship was brought as a prize to Hirado. It was a Portuguese frigate, sailing from Manila via Macao to Japan with a Japanese Christian Joachim Diaz Hirayama as captain and four Spaniards, some Portuguese, and many Japanese merchants or passengers. The English ship *Elizabeth* of 800 tons had seized it in the Straits of Formosa. Whether this piratical act would be punished by the Japanese authorities became the question of a long lawsuit, in which the Dutch and English were victorious only because the captain and crew had committed the deadly crime of bringing two disguised missionary priests, a Spaniard and a Fleming, to Japan. After both would-be merchants had confessed their identity, the ship and some gold and silver on board became after two years' litigation the property of both companies. The unfortunate friars and the captain who had brought them to Japan were roasted to death. (August 22nd, 1622.)

In the meantime two other piratical expeditions had been undertaken by the combined fleet assembled at Hirado. They proved more profitable and brought about £5000 into the coffers of the English factory, 2 frigates and seven junks having been captured. But the alliance of the two Companies was again dissolved in 1622, because the English only sent their half of the stipulated number of ships and refused to contribute for the building of Batavia Hostilities recommenced between the Dutch and the English in the Malay Archipelago, culminating eventually in the notorious Amboyna massacre of February, 1623, for which two English Kings and the Commonwealth in vain demanded justice. In the whole Far East, i.e., all countries east of the Straits, the English East India Company withdrew in the 17th century before the more energetic Dutch Vereenigde Oostindische Companie.

In these difficult circumstances the far outlying and isolated factory at Hirado was quite useless and even a source of weakness. Until the trouble with the Dutch was settled, it was therefore necessary to withdraw from Japan as well. Already in 1622 orders had been sent to the Presidency at Javatra to see this effected. Cocks was ordered by the President and Council at that place to return with all the moveables of the Factory, and keep only the buildings for a happier future, leaving, if need be, young Osterwick as representative behind. Unfortunately the English merchants at Hirado did not see things in the same gloomy light, as they had lately sent home valuable cargoes, chiefly of silver. Nor were they in the habit of receiving orders from anybody but the Court of Directors in London. They did not obey at once, and some special officer had to be sent to see the dissolution of the Hirado factory carried out. Sorely was Cocks to suffer at Batavia for the disobedience, and for some shortcomings of his in the management of affairs during the latter half of his career in Japan. The outstanding debts in Japan amounted to £3,200; more than half of this sum was due from the captain of the Chinaman at Hirado, who had been allowed such a large credit in consideration of his alleged influence at the court of Peking and his promise to secure privileges of trade for the English directly from the Chinese Emperor. There can be no doubt that Cocks had been greatly humbugged by this man. The sentence against Cocks by the Court at Batavia in February, 1624, was that his his property was to be seized and he was sent home to be dealt with as the Court of Directors might think fit. But Cocks was not spared to see his native country again and receive final judgment there. He died on board ship on the 27 h March, 1624.

The English factory at Hirado was certainly no success, as it was dissolved only 10 years after its foundation. But whether it was so decided a failure as it is generally pronounced to have been may perhaps be justly doubted. That it caused a loss of £40,000 to the East India Company is certainly a great exaggeration. Everything sent to Japan in the whole time of its existence did not amount to so much; and these were, as we have seen, considerable returns. I think the origin of that statement goes back to the calculation of a clerk in the office of the East India Company in London, who knew that £4,000 in ready money had been sent to Japan in the beginning and that almost nothing had reached London from Japan. He probably multiplied this loss of the first year by the number of years the Hirado factory had existed, when Cocks' brother came to claim the confiscated property of the former Cape Merchant.

The real property of the English East India Company at Hirado was left in trust with the Daimyo of Hirado, but never reclaimed. We cannot even say where it was situated. The topographical appellation of "the English embankment" is still found in an old book on Hirado, but nobody can identify its position. The only trace left on the spot of the former English factory is a piece of masonry on a hill outside the town; it is part of the wall of the burying-place of the English factory and was built in 1621.

DISCUSSION.

The Chairman observed, in regard to the

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statement of the lecturer that the document given by Purchas was not the first Japanese text printed in Europe, that it had been preceded by the title-deed of a Buddhist temple granted to the Roman Catholic missionaries at Yamaguchi, of which a facsimile is given in the volume of letters printed at Naples in 1573, and again in the Cologne reprint of 1574, half a century before Purchas. He remarked that the lecturer had given a demonstration of the position of Adams, which entirely refuted the ordinary belief that he was a mere common seaman. In fact, he had owed his favour with Iyeyasu to his knowledge of ship-building, a fact that showed he was much more than a common seaman. The title pilot also implied a high position on board a ship, corresponding more nearly to that of sailing master in a man-of-war. The lecturer had also pointed out two other facts, namely the jurisdiction given to the English factor over his own countrymen, so that he combined with his duties as Cape-merchant something of the Consular office. A good deal had been said as to extra-territorial jurisdiction that was not quite justified. The grant of it was regarded at many periods of history as a matter of course. It appeared quite natural that individuals should be judged by their own law. The practice prevailed in the middle ages, and was adopted by Turkey. In Japan, where every baron had jurisdiction over his own people, it was a recognised institution, and its embodiment in the modern Treaties, the first of which was negotiated by Mr. Harris, the United States representative of the day, was perfectly in accord with Japanese ideas. The other fact was the power of negotiating with foreign countries which the Shogun had possessed in the 17th century. The Chairman believed, however, that some time in the 19th century it became a practice to communicate information on Foreign Affairs to the Imperial Court, and he had been told that the first instance was on the occasion of the Russian visit to the northern islands of the Japanese Empire. With regard to the sales of English goods, which the lecturer had stated were sometimes at the rate of double the cost price, that might not appear so very profitable when all the charges were added, if it were remembered that a voyage took a long time in those days, and that ships came up the China Sea with the south-west mousoon and returned with the north-eastern, so that the round voyage from Malacca and Bantam would take about twelve months. That would account for the sales, even at such apparently high prices, not leaving much margin of profit. It was interesting to learn that the *Clove* on her return voyage to England carried some Japanese sailors among her crew, and that they afterwards returned to this country. The mission sent to the Pope in 1582 by some of the Kirishitan *daimyos* was of course well-known, but Japanese had been in Europe even earlier. In one of Loyola's letters (26th July, 1554) there was mention of a Japanese Christian visiting Rome, and his arrival is spoken of in a letter of 21st March, 1555. Who this Japanese was the speaker had not been able to ascertain. The Japanese at that time went abroad a good deal. To say nothing of the presence of some Japanese at Amboyna in 1622 on the occasion of the famous massacre of the English, along with whom they were subjected to indescribable tortures, there was the first Japanese convert of Saint Francis Xavier, who met him in Malacca about 1540. But even before that it might be held that Japanese frequented that part of the world. In the account of the capture of Malacca by Albuquerque in 1511 mention is made of junks from Loochoo, but if the inhabitants of those islands were not more enterprising in those days than now it may be assumed that these so-called Loochooan junks really came from China.

The Chairman concluded his remarks by thanking Dr. Riess in the name of the Society for his valuable lecture.

The meeting then adjourned.

CHINESE NEWS.

Jung Lu, the present all-powerful factor behind the Chinese throne, estimates that 6 000,000 taels could be profitably spent on the walls of Peking. He thinks that were the ancient battlements restored to old-time usefulness the banditti that now invest the environs of the capital could be successfully held in check. Quite mediæval, isn't it?

Mr. Vaughan Robinson has been acquitted in the Hongkong Supreme Court of the charge of forging a telegram. The Jury stopped the case after the second day's hearing and returned a verdict without hearing either Counsel or Judge.

H.E. Li Hung-chang was expected to leave Peking for Tientsin on the 28th November, *en route* to examine the Yellow River. It is also alleged, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that Li's Private Secretary, Mr. N. J. Pethick, formerly U. S. Vice-Consul at Tientsin, will engage two foreign engineers for the Commission to advise Li as to what ought to be done for the conservation of the erratic river, but, so far, the names of the foreign engineers have not been made public.

A Swatow letter dated the 18th instant states (says the *N.-C. Daily News*) that "forty miles from that port, in the hill district of Haiyang, a gathering of malcontents is reported, the leaders of whom are a retired General and three returned Straits Chinese. Considerable quantities of arms and ammunition have also recently been landed on the coast, and it looks as if a determined rising were projected in the near future in that port of Kuangtung province. Details as to number of insurgents, organisation, etc., are, however, not obtainable at present."

An embryo riot against Christians at Kiukiang was fortunately stopped by the local authorities on the night of the 16th ultimo, remarks a Shanghai contemporary. A native preacher was expounding the Scriptures to a large audience in one of the chapels in the native city, when a literary licentiate entered the chapel apparently with the special object of arguing with the preacher and so raising a riot against the Christians in the place. Just as the preacher pronounced the name of Jesus the licentiate rose, interrupting him, and exclaiming, "Jesus! Jesus! Have you ever seen Him that you speak so confidently of Him?" The preacher, turning to the speaker, retorted: "You are a follower of Confucius. Have you seen him?" Ignoring the question the licentiate continued: "Not having seen Jesus and talking like this is so much humbug!" As usual on such occasions a wordy contest followed, ending in the licentiate and his supporters making a rush upon the preacher with the object of dragging him into the streets, while bricks and tiles began to be hurled into the chapel by a fresh mob from the streets, who increased the uproar by crying "Beat the Christians!" "Down with them!" Luckily the police *weiyuan* was just then making his evening round at the head of his soldiers, and he succeeded, after some difficulty, in arresting the licentiate, who now awaits trial in the Kiukiang magistrate's *yamên*, while the mob, seeing the police determined in their efforts in restoring order, dispersed as quickly as they had assembled.

Some years ago Kobe sent up to Yokohama a troupe of young men who gave a capital variety entertainment at the Public Hall, the memory of which still lingers. Among the various items of their programme were some plantation songs, but instead of the company appearing in regulation Christy Minstrel attire and sitting down in a semi-circle, the stage was arranged as a cotton field, and a splendid effect was attained. Shanghai seems to have taken a leaf out of Kobe's book, for at a recent A.D.C. matinée we learn that the first part of the programme was made up of a more or less orthodox nigger show, but the setting of the pictures was refreshingly novel. Instead of the hard and fast semicircle of dusky humanity, the audience had before them a pretty farm-yard scene full of life and colour, whilst the performers settled themselves about the stage very naturally. From the convenient vantage point of a seat in a hand-cart the Deacon of the village—a capital piece of making-up—presided over the gathering.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *Echo de Chine*, writing on the 18th November, said that it was announced that the Empress Dowager was to receive on her birthday the wives of the Foreign Ministers. He then proceeds—"What costume will their feminine Excellencies wear? Who will have the happiness of acting as interpreter between them and Her Majesty? Here are two grave questions for consideration. After this no one will be able to say that the Empress Dowager is a reactionary sovereign. True, she shuts up the schools, but she is very strong on etiquette. And when are we to expect the first ball at the palace?" As we knew last week, the tea-party did not come off.

A Hankow native bank has failed for over Tls. 400,000.

The Directors of the newly-formed Mining and Petroleum Exploitation Company of Szechuan, established by Imperial consent, held their first business meeting recently at Chungking, and to a banquet in the Kiangsu Guild which followed were invited the headman of the coal and charcoal guild of that city, to arrange amicably as to the sale to the latter of the output of the new Company. The guildmen, however, declared that the new Company would ruin their business, and on the succeeding day called a meeting of their trades to consider measures to oppose the new Company's works. Charcoal and coal hongs representing eight provinces were present.

The sailing ship *Iverna* that ran on the Block-house shoal while making the Shanghai river last month has been successfully towed off.

The Tai Koo-chuan Shipping Agency and Northern-Southern Produce Company, in the French Settlement, Shanghai, has failed for over two hundred thousand taels. The principal has absconded with his wife. It is feared that failures among native banks and sugar hongs will follow.

Taotai Tsai of Shanghai, who has fallen under the Empress-Dowager's ban and been ordered to relinquish his office, gave a most enjoyable ball to the Shanghai community the other day on the occasion of the Birth-day of the Empress-Dowager. The *Shanghai Mercury*, in concluding its account, says:—

The Taotai was the recipient of many warm compliments and expressions of thanks for his hospitality, and it is safe to write down the ball among the best that have been given in the Far East.

General Dumas, who is to serve with the French troops in Tonkin, sailed from Marseilles on the 15th Nov.

During a recent inspection by Prince Ching, in the Southern Hunting Park, of General Tung Fu-hsiang's Kansu *Corps d'Armée*, the Peking Field Force was also ordered to join in a grand field day, the combined forces numbering, according to the roll call, over 55,000 men of all ranks.

When Chang, the district magistrate of Polohsien (near Canton), received news of the murder of a French father by rioters last month, he at once committed suicide in order to escape all further consequences. A new magistrate was appointed with full instructions to settle the matter in a manner satisfactory to the aggrieved Christians.

Another anti-missionary rising is reported from an inland town of Hupeh province. The mob managed to burn down the chapel and injure two missionaries before the authorities could interfere.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

That everything in connection with H.M. ships in Hongkong harbour is in apple-pie order was made abundantly evident on Saturday forenoon, says the *Daily Press* of November 24th. A signal was made from Admiral Fitzgerald's flagship (*Barfleur*) to land detachments in full marching order with guns, ammunition, and provisions. Saturday is a busy day on board ship, and at the time the order was given the men were hard at work cleaning. The order could hardly have come at a more inopportune moment, and it is, therefore, exceedingly creditable to all concerned that within thirty minutes about 2,000 men, including marines and field-gun crews, had been put ashore, each man carrying 100 rounds of ammunition and two days' provisions. Six nine-pounders were also landed. The men formed up and, headed by the ships' bands, marched through the town, exciting the admiration of all beholders.

We are informed that Lieut.-Col. J. Altamira, military attaché to the Mexican Legation, will succeed the late Senor Plaza at the Consulate at Yokohama. The Minister, Mr. Wolheim, is going home shortly on leave of absence, and Mr. Aspiroz, secretary of Legation, will take charge of the Mexican Legation.

Early on Monday morning fire broke out in a house occupied by a man named Murakami, Sakuragi-cho, Koishikawa, Tokyo. Three houses were destroyed and six damaged.

It is reported that Mr. Suzuki Chorei, a famous poet, died on the 27th inst. He had been suffering from contusions resulting from the overturning of a jinrikisha some days ago.

A lighter, the *Urayoshi Maru*, sank in Yokohama harbour after taking 130 pieces of rail from the steamer *Lennox*. The *Urayoshi* was bound for Tokyo. The *Sendo* were rescued by a steam launch.

TELEGRAMS.

(From the "Japan Times.")

THE "OPEN DOOR" IN THE PHILIPPINES.

London, Nov. 25.

A Washington despatch states that the Hon. John Hay, Secretary of State, announces that the "open door" in the Philippines means the application of the American tariff to all countries alike, including America.

London, Nov. 26.

Mr. Hay, American Secretary of State, denies the authenticity of the announcement regarding the "open door" in the Philippines.

THE UGANDA EXPEDITION.

The British expedition to Uganda is advancing northwards. Posts have been established at Wadelai, Dufiteh, Fajao, and Fatiko.

THE CRETAN QUESTION.

The appointment of Prince George of Greece as Commissioner for Crete is hanging fire, pending final arrangements about the Turkish flag.

The appointment of Prince George of Greece as commissioner for Crete is formally announced.

ITALY'S FINANCES.

London, Nov. 25.

The Italian budget gives a gloomy prospect. The financial year closed with a deficit of one million lire and the estimated deficit for 1899 is fourteen millions.

THE GOVERNMENT OF HAWAII.

London, Nov. 26.

The Washington Commission has drafted a bill for Congress, providing a Government for Hawaii with an American Governor and legislature, Japanese and Chinese being excluded from the franchise.

THE POWERS AND CRETE.

The Powers have resolved to maintain the Turkish flag in Crete.

ANTI ANARCHIST CONFERENCE.

An anti-Anarchist Conference has been opened at Rome. The discussions are to be secret.

RUSSIA IN CHINA.

London, Nov. 25.

The semi-official *Journal de St. Petersbourg* formally denies the Russian occupation of Newchwang, likewise the alleged design to occupy the province of Pechili.

PURPOSE OF INDO-CHINA LOAN.

The Indo-China loan is specially intended to be used towards the carrying of railways into the interior of Yunnan province.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

MILITARY VERSUS CIVIL ELEMENT.

General Zurlinden's decision to court-martial Colonel Picquart while the Court of Cassation is deliberating, is hotly criticized and is re-kindling the antagonism between the civil and military elements.

AMERICANS AND CUBA.

The first detachment of the American army of occupation has landed in the province of Havana.

SPAIN YIELDS.

London, Nov. 29.

Spain has decided to sign the treaty of peace, yielding only to *force majeure*. She will probably refuse an indemnity for the Philippines in dignified terms.

THE FRENCH NAVY.

The French naval estimates include a formidable sum for the construction of 108 ships, comprising seven battleships, thirteen armoured, and eight other cruisers.

UNITED STATES ARMY INCREASE.

The Hon. Russell Alger, American Secretary for War, recommends the increase of the Army to 100,000 men.

London, Dec. 1,

JAPANESE-AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN TREATY.

PASSES THE REICHSRATH.

The Austrian Reichsrath passed the Japanese commercial treaty.

MR. BALFOUR AT BRISTOL.

FRENCH COLONIAL PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR FASHODA CONTROVERSY.

Mr. Balfour at the Bristol meeting said that the collective action of the Powers over Crete was a happy augury for peace; that the French colonial party alone was the cause of the Fashoda controversy; and that British interests were peaceful, but that people made a mistake if they thought that England would shrink from war if her interests were threatened.

BORNEO DINNER.

At the Borneo dinner, Mr. Cowie, the managing director, declared that the Government recognizes the strategic value of Borneo. Continuing, he said that the Mat Salleh rebellion was due to a misunderstanding. Sir Hugh Mitchell dwelt on the future of Borneo tobacco trade and its value to Labuan.

OFFICERS FOR CHINESE WEI-HAI-WEI REGIMENT.

Major Bruce and Capt. Watson, of the West Riding Regiment, three other officers, and five non-commissioned officers are to sail on the fifteenth of December to join Col. Bower in raising and training (the Chinese) regiment for service at Wei-hai-wei.

PLAGUE ON THE "TAMATAVE."

Several cases of plague were found on the *Tamatave*.

PEACE CONFERENCE.

SPAIN YIELDS UNDER PROTEST.

London, Nov. 30.

The Spanish commissioners have formally accepted the American terms of peace under protest, including the cession of the Philippines and Sulus for twenty million dollars. The treaty is to be signed in a few days. Meanwhile negotiations are proceeding for the cession of the Carolines.

THE CAPE ASSEMBLY.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL PASSED.

The Cape Assembly passed the Redistribution Bill, based on a compromise.

THE "KASAGI" IN COLLISION.

The (newly built) Japanese cruiser *Kasagi* collided against a bridge at Newcastle-on-Tyne, sustaining considerable damage.

WEI-HAI-WEI AS A NAVAL STATION.

In an interview with Reuter's representative, Colonel Lewis, R.E., who is commissioned to report on the possibilities of Wei-hai-wei, said that it will prove one of the best British naval stations extant.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Shanghai, Nov. 26.

It is stated that the British squadron has taken possession of the island of Chusan. The details are not yet known.

Peking, Nov. 28.

Recently Kang Yu-wei addressed by letter the foreign Representatives in Peking. In a letter to the German Minister he attacked the Empress Dowag r, and urged that the representatives should consult with their Governments as to abolishing the Regency of Her Majesty and replacing the Emperor on the Throne. It is said that the letters were distributed to the Legations before Kang Yu-wei left for Japan, but there is a doubt whether they are forged.

Peking, Nov. 23.

A British missionary has been murdered at Kă chung, a French missionary burnt to death at Shantou, and a German so barbarously treated in Shangtung that he is likely to die.

Peking, Nov. 27

In regard to the losses Japanese merchants have suffered in Su-chun Prefecture, Mr. Yuan Minister to Peking, has applied to the Tsung li Yamen for the dismissal of the officers responsible. He will afterwards claim money damages.

Tientsin, Nov. 27

The Japanese warship *Suma* left here to-day for home. The marines from this vessel who are in the capital to guard the Legation will stay there till next March.

Shanghai, Nov 30.

The rebels in Shabantze have again caused a disturbance. An uneasy feeling prevails.

LI HUNG CHANG.

Tientsin, Nov. 30.

Li Hung-chang arrived here to day, and is expected to leave for Shangtung on the 11th inst.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

Söul Nov. 24.

The Peddlars are agitating against the orders of the Government for their expulsion. They protest that the Government, having summoned them to the Capital, has no right to drive them back by force. Their numbers are gradually increasing.

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All the Cabinet Ministers have resigned. Mr. Yun Chiho has been appointed governor of the Capital.

Söul, Nov. 25.

Six British marines arrived here to protect the Legation.

Söul, Nov. 26.

Mr. Min Yin-hwang has been appointed Minister of Home Affairs and accredited to supervise military matters. Mr. Min Yin song is the new Minister of the Imperial Household, Mr. Pak Tei-yang a Cabinet Councillor, and Mr. Li Kung-ho Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police Bureau.

The Emperor at 1 p.m. to-day summoned the members of the People's Union, and at 4 p.m. to the gate of the palace, and laid on them his injunction to keep the peace. Most of the foreign Representatives were present. His Majesty promised that the Government would take steps for popular Government. The People's Union then dispersed.

The Russian Minister and the Military *attachés* of the Legation declined to be present.

Söul, Nov. 25.

The Japanese Representative has presented a note to the Government urging that a Cabinet of progressive ideas should be formed; that the Emperor should refrain from all interference in administrative affairs, that a programme of reform should be publicly announced, and that measures to make it a practical reality should be adopted.

Söul, Nov. 29.

Mr. Ming Yei-hwang has been appointed Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Pak Sei jung Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Li Tao-sei Minister for Education.

Messrs. Yui Ki-hwang and Li Ki-tung are still hiding from the police. His Majesty has sentenced them to ten years' transportation.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M Co.	Aztec 1	F. Dec. 2
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Dec. 5
America	O. & O. Co.	Belgic 2	Th. Dec. 8
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China 3	Th. Dec. 8
America	P. M. Co.	Shantung 4	M. Dec. 12
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	——	W. Dec. 14
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su. Dec. 18
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 5	Su. Dec. 18
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Dec. 19
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Dec. 21
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. Dec. 29

1 Left San Francisco on the 23th ult.
2 Left San Francisco on the 29th Nov.
3 Left Hongkong on the 30th ult.
4 Left San Francisco on the 23rd ult.
5 Left San Francisco on the 29th ult.

The English mail is on the *Miike Maru*, which left Hongkong Nov. 25th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Dec. 2
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons	W. Dec. 7
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Dec. 7
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	F. Dec. 9
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. Dec. 10
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Dec. 12
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Dec. 19
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. Dec. 20
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	M. Dec. 23

CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at Wright's Hotel on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 396.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Kt to K 2	1—B takes Kt
2—B takes P (Q 5) mate	
	1—Q to Kt 3
2—Q to Q 7 mate	
	1—Any other
1—Kt to Q 4 mate	

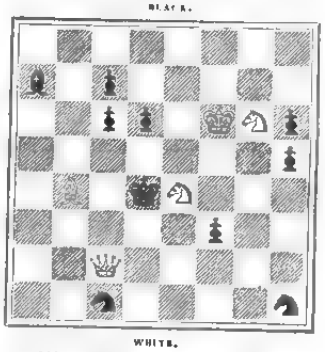
Correct solutions received from W. H. S., Mauco, D.D., and Voila.

Skak is also to be credited for correct solution of Problem No. 395.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SKAK:—Are waiting to see you on your return.
W.B.M.—Many thanks. Will do nicely.

PROBLEM No. 399
By KOHTZ and KOCKELHORN.



White mates in three moves.

GAME No. 459.

A game played by the first prize-winner at the Cologne Tournament.

RUY LOPEZ

White—D. Janowsky. Black—A. Burn.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	12 Q R5	Kt B3
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	13 Q R4	B K3(b)
3 B Kt5	Kt B3	14 R K1(c)	P KK3
4 Castles	Kt x P	15 Q R6	P Q5(d)
5 R K-q	Kt Q3	16 Kt Kt2	Kt K15
6 Kt x P	B K2	17 R x Kt	B x R
7 B Q3(a)	Kt x Kt	18 Kt x P	B K4
8 R x Kt	Castles	19 Kt B5(e)	B B3
9 Kt B3	P Q B3	20 Q R4	B x B
10 P Q Kt3	Kt K-sq	21 Kt K7ch	K Kt2
11 B Kt2	P Q4	Resigns(f)	

NOTES.

(a) This attack usually fizzles out after a few moves.

(b) White threatened R takes B, followed by Kt takes P, and B takes Kt.

(c) Q R to K sq was sounder play, but White obviously did not trouble himself about soundness. The trap, if it can be called such, was, however, very shallow. If Black had now replied with Kt to K 5, then 15—R takes P ch, K takes R; 16—Kt takes Kt dis. ch would have given White an advantage.

(d) A move like this knocks the bottom out of the romance, but all fireworks were not over yet.

(e) White deserves credit for losing in such brilliant fashion. Black cannot take either the Knight or Queen on pain of being mated.

(f) This is the kind of game which by an error on the part of Black might easily have been won by White, in which case it would have been described as a brilliant performance. What a difference success does make!

GAME No. 460.

The following appears in the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle*:—

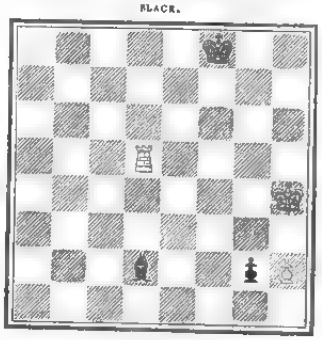
White—Rev. J. Owen. Black—Mr. A. Burn.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Kt B3	P Q4	11 P K4	B Q3
2 P Q4	B B4	12 B Kt2	R Q B-sq
3 P K3	P K3	13 Q Q4	Castles
4 Kt B3	Kt KB3	14 B x Kt	Q x B
5 P Q R3	P B4	15 Kt x P	Kt K-sq
6 B Kt5ch	Q Kt Q2	16 Kt B6ch	P x Kt
7 Kt K5	B Q3	17 R Kt-sqch	K R-sq
8 P K Kt4	B x Kt	18 Q x Pch	Kt x R
9 P x Q B	B Q3	19 B x Kt mate	
10 P x B P	B x B P		

END GAME.

Without doubt the finest composer of end games at the present day is Mr. Troitzky, whose charming compositions have appeared with amazing rapidity in the chess press, hardly a week going past without a new position embodying some brilliant and ingenious idea being published in one or another of our exchanges. The latest we have seen is the following pleasing position which has been published by the *Sunday Stale*, and which combines two lines of play, one leading to stalemate and the other to perpetual check. We are sure our readers will derive considerable pleasure from an examination of the play, which is extraordinarily neat.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and draw.

The above is a most instructive position. White avoids probable loss in the ending in the following ingenious manner:—

1—R to B 5 ch	1—K to K 2
2—R to K 5 ch	2—K moves
3—R to K sq!	3—B takes R ch
4—K to R 3	4—P to Kt 8 (Kt) ch
5—K to Kt 2 and will gain one of the pieces drawing.	

Of course, if Black makes a Bishop he cannot win, and if a Rook or Queen White is stalemated.

If Black plays 1.... K to Kt sq or Kt 2 White moves R to B 3, when, if 2—B to K 8 or Kt 4 ch, 3—K to R 3. P to Kt 8 Queens or Rook; 4—R to B 7 ch and will draw by perpetual check because if the Rook be taken White is stalemated. It may be pointed out that if in the variation White as his second move should play K to R 3 instead of R to B 3. Black can play P to Kt 8 becomes a Rook and Black may win.—*Rossendale Free Press.*

NOTES.

Janowski was to arrive in New York at the end of October. As all preliminaries had been arranged it was expected that the contest would commence on the date scheduled, November 1st.

Steinitz, says an exchange, returned to the United States last month and is again visiting his old haunts in New York.

The *Hereford Times* states that the alarming reports of Mr. Bird, which described him as lying helpless at his lodging paralyzed in both arms, have no truth in them. Mr. Bird, during July, was laid up for a few days with a severe cold and one of the periodical visitations of his ancient enemy, the gout; but he has been able to get about again, and is as youthful and agile as ever.

The promoters of the international tourney, to be held in England a few months hence, have succeeded in raising almost the entire sum needed for the purpose. They are in a state of perplexity, however, regarding the lines upon which the affair should be framed, as opinions differ as to the number of entries which should be allowed, as well as to the number of games to be played between each competitor.

The American Chess Magazine (September) publishes an interesting article as to the best books of instruction, which we condense: For beginners the most interesting books are:—"Chess Openings," "The Principles of Chess," and "The Art of Chess," by James Mason. This is a graded series, and fully covers the ground. The most elementary works, probably, especially designed for beginners are those of Gossip, Bird, Gunsberg, Chadwick, and Foster. After a person has mastered the principles and can do a little analysis the best study is the games by the masters, annotated by experts. Among the best are: "The Hastings Chess-Tournament Book." "Morphy's Games," "The Lasker-Steinitz Match Games," "Chess-Sparks," "Greenwell's Chess Exemplified."

Talk v. Play.—Bismarck is reported to have said that he never yet knew a glib talker who could play a sound game of chess or whist.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Orient, Austrian steamer, 1,820, A. Valentin, 25th November,—Batoum via ports, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 27th November,—Honkong via ports, Kobe, 26th Nov., Mails and Cargo.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

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Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 25th November,—Shanghai viâ ports, 19th November, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,321, M. Sakata, 26th Nov.,—Iloilo via Hongkong and Nagasaki, Sugar and General.—Hirama.

Benlawers, British steamer, 1,483, Webster, 26th Nov.,—London via ports, Kobe, 24th Nov., General.—Cornes & Co.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, W. Brady, 27th Nov.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 26th Nov., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bamberg, German steamer, 2,660, S. Voss, 29th November,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 22nd November, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,260, De Maubenge, 29th Nov.,—Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 28th November, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Eidsvold, Norwegian steamer, 2,296, Schlyder, 29th Nov.,—New York via ports, and Shanghai, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Kaisow, British steamer, 3,925, Maitland, 30th Nov.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 28th Nov., General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Eagle Crag, British barque, ——, Shimmin, 30th Nov.,—Bona, Algiers, 31st May, Phosphate.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,246, Wm. Ward, 30th Nov.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 10th Nov., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Saschsen, British steamer, 1,158, G. H. Pennefather, 1st Dec.,—Newchwang via Chefoo, 26th Nov., Beans and Bean Cake.—Butterfield and Swire.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,265, W. H. Cope, 1st Dec.,—London via ports, Kobe, 30th Dec., General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 1st December,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 30th Nov, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Columbia, American steamer, 1,689, A. Gow, 25th November,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Hohensollern, German steamer, 1,900, E. Wolfersdorff, 25th November,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co. Nachf.

Tai Sang, British steamer, 1,544, W. E. Sawer, 26th Nov.,—Moji, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Kawachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,781, J. S. Thompson, 26th Nov.,—Marseilles, London, and Antwerp via ports, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenartney, British steamer, 1,943 Frake, 26th Nov.,—New York via ports, and Suez Canal, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Najade, German ship, 1,691, Hasselmann, 26th November,—Portland, Oregon, Ballast.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Orestes, British steamer, 2,992, Joseph Pulford, 27th Nov.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kongisberg, German steamer, 3,135, Christiansen, 28th Nov.,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Chausang, British steamer, 1,540, E. J. Buller, 28th Nov.,—Kobe, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Ceylon, British steamer, 2,734, C. L. Daniel, 29th Nov.,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Peiyang, German steamer, 951, R. Kohler, 29th Nov.,—Moji, Ballast.—Simon Evers & Co.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, J. C. Williamson, 29th November,—Moji, Ballast.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, W. Brady, 29th November,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 29th November.—San Francisco, via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 30th November,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benlawers, British steamer, 1,483, Webster, 30th Nov.,—Moji, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,275, Wm. Ward, 1st Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kaisow, British steamer, 3,925, Maitland, 1st December,—Surabaya, Java, Ballast.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,872, F. R. Evans, 1st December,—Hongkong, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. C. S. Averill, Mr. J. M. James, Mr. J. W. Copmann, Mr. E. M. Barnby, Mr. R. W. Irwin, Mr. S. Hankin, and Mr. L. C. Putnam, in cabin; Mr. Kimkawa, Mr. D. Koven, Mr. C. Huttfeldt, and Mr. C. Uchida, in second class; twenty-two, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. H Horsey and infant, Mr. F. J. Hall, Mr. R. Borthwick, Miss Focke, Mrs. L. M. Farias, Mr. H. W. Arthur, Mrs. Tulelsky, Mr. J. R. Morse, Mr. T. K. Chang and servant, Mr. H. Dohrn, Mr. and Mrs. Wenyon, Mr. W. Droesmaer, and Mr. and Mrs. Ellwanger, 2 children and amah, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. S. S. Steele, Mr. H. Michaelovsky, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. White and infant, Miss Lai Ngon, Mr. Ng Chon, Mr. Wong Sun Ho, Mrs. Sen Sing, Master Quay Tan, Mr. G. Bernhard, Mr. H. Houston, Mr. Jow Ser, Mrs. Wong Hoy and infant, Mrs. Ng Sin Lan, Master Ng Yin Kow, Mr. H. Z. Cheung, Mr. Chong Ho, and Mrs. Chow Ho, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Paul Babier, Capt. and Mrs. Edge, Mr. Géa Rirdmer, Mrs. Fridue and servant, Miss Funossyeff, Mrs. and Miss Goberman, Mr. Berrick, Mr. Giraud, Mr. E. Zellie, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Olbest, Miss Andreeva Browaskeya, Mrs. Checknevoskaya, and Mrs. Fountaine, in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mrs. H. B. Johnson and three children, Mr. H. Volkman, Mr. Geo. M. Luckesh, Mr. F. Auginieu, Captain Geo. W. Coffin, Chev. Chs. de Waepenaert, Mr. A. E. Collbran, Mr. W. G. de Galigny, and Mrs. L. M. Todd, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. Jas. Edabrun, Mr. Robt. Kingsley, Mrs. Rose Krueger, Mr. R. A. Nimmenhuzen, Mr. R. M. Weston, Mrs. E. C. Hochapfel, Mr. R. S. Chamberlain, Mr. F. A. Blake, Jr., Major H. T. Hoyt, Mrs. S. Lawlor, Mr. Jas. Fitzsimmons, Mrs. C. E. Brown, Master Hochapfel, and Mr. J. R. Gilbert, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong via ports:—Capt. Biddle, Mr. W. C. Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Peasse, Miss Peasse, Mr. J. J. Collins, Mr. B. Roth, Mr. J. Sellis, Mr. T. W. Hellyer, Mr. E. H. Tuska, and Mr. Mc. D. Gardiner, in cabin. For Vancouver, B.C.:—Miss Myers, Mr. C. A. Harris, Col. J. Weir, Mr. N. Frazier, Mrs. B. Bevanda, Mr. F. Ayscough, and Capt. Kingsmill, R N., in cabin; 3 intermediate, and 216 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Hohensollern*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Geo. W. Lewis, Pilot and Mrs. Carrew, Consul von Flesch, Mr. M. Goldmann, Mr. H. Goldmann, Mr. L. Berrick, Mr. A. W. Upton, Count and Countess Koenigsmark, Mrs. A. Loy and children, Mr. A. Yong, Miss H. Krause, and Mr. Naukata Yamazaki, in cabin; 1 Chinese, 3 sailors and 2 Japanese, in steerage; 6 Chinese on deck.

Per Japanese steamer *Kawachi Maru*, for London via ports:—Capt. K. Miyoshi, I.J.N., Com. K. Ikenaka, I.J.N., Inspector of Mach. N. Akaniwa, I.J.N., Com. T. Kamiedsumi, Com. K. Sekino, Inspector Surgeon K. Asano, Inspector Paymaster S. Sagawa, Eng. R. Onuma, Lieut. A. Fujoli, Officer J. Katayama, Officer S. Ikoma, Officer K. Torii, Com. T. Kasama, Eng. M. Kuroiwa, Lieut. S. Mioshima (all the above I.J. Navy), Mr. Amano, Secretary of Legation, Mr. T. Kowno, M.D., Mrs. J. J. Howell, Miss M. J. Young, Mr. Paul Hagen, and Mr. N. Soma, President of Yokohama Specie Bank, in cabin; Mr. T. Yamada, Mr. S. Machida, Mr. K. Abe, Mr. A. Kiyoda (the above petty officer of I.J.N.), Mr. K. Kijima, Secretary of Consulate, Mr. K. Takayanagi, Pro. of Marine College, Mr. K. Kawamura, Mr. and Mrs. Higuchi and daughter, Miss K. Iwase, Mr. Charles Marth, and Mr. P. Lee, in second class; 15 Japanese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kinshiu Maru*, for Seattle, Wash. and Overland:—Commander I. Mori, Lieut.-Com. K. Takamatsu, Lieut.-Com. H. Sawazaki, Surgeon S. Tetsuka, Paymaster K. Yamazaki, Lieut. G. Katsuki, Lieut. U. Suzuki, Sub-Lieut. H. Yokoo, Sub Lieut. T. Tagiri, Eng. S. Okazaki, and Eng. I. Ikeda, (I.J.N.) in cabin; Petty officers T. Masaki, and K. Kawamura, in second class; 178 crews I.J. Navy, and Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Averill, Mr. G. Bernhard, Mr. Thomas Brown, Mr. Geo. B. Burnham, Mr. W. M. Chandler, Mr. M. Y. Cheung, Mr. Ng Chon, Mr. and Mrs. A. Spencer Clavin, Mr. A. H Frazier, Mr Geo. K. Funkuwa, Mr. Geo. Hautot, Mr. Geo. A. Hoene, Mr. H. Houston, Mr. Choy Ho, Mrs. Choy Ho, Mr. Wong Sun Ho, Mrs. K. Ikeda, two children and maid, Mr. Carl Kayser, Master Ng Yin Kow, Mrs. Ng Sui Lan, Mr. N. Michaelovsky, Mrs. Wong Moy and child, Mr. O. H. P. Noyes, Miss Lai Ngon, Mr. G. Claude Ross, Mrs. Jow See, Hon. S. S. Steele, Mrs. Sen Sing, Mrs. W. S. Stone, child and servant, Master D. O. Stone, Master Quay Tan, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Terry and child, Mr. K. Tsukakoshi, Mrs. M. B. Watsons, and Mr. and Mrs. H. W. White and child, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Ceylon*, for London via ports:—Capt. and Mrs. Mackenzie Grieve, Misses Mackenzie Grieve (2), Mr. Hallowes, Mrs. Hallowes, Mr. Joseph Wilson, Mr. C. Tudball, Mr. Forster, Mr. E. J. Hartley, Miss Birmstingle, Mrs. and Miss Walker, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Bullard, and Mr. Pender, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS

The tendency in gassed yarns is upward, but business is still not as active as might have been anticipated in view of the approach of the new Tariff. Nothing is doing in grey shirtings, fancy cottons and woollens, and no signs of improvement exist.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb., 38½ yds. 30 inches	$2.55 to 2.85
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches,	1.60 to 2.30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches,	2.00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 30 inches	per yard. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.28 to 0.40
Mousseline de Laine—Crepe, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15½ to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per lb	0.55 to 0.67½

	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 32-3 inches,	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

LACE AND YARNS.

	per picul.
Nos. 16, 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	44.50 to 45.50
Nos. 1/60, Plain	64.00 to 65.00
Nos. 1/80, Plain	76.00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 1/60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 1/80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.25 —
Chinese	18.25 —

METALS.

High prices ruling at home make trade difficult as buyers are only disposed to make offers which allow of little or no profit. Wire nails and galvanised iron are in good demand.

	per piece.
Round and square 4 inch. and upward	4.00 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.65
Sheet Iron	5.00 to 5.20
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.25 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	6.05 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.20 to 6.50
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The tendency is upwards, but it is not likely that prices will experience an actual rise until the stocks in the hands of retailers are cleared.

American	$2.18 to 2.20
Russian	2.15 to 2.17
Langhat	1.93

SUGAR.

The higher grades of Manila have advanced 20 *sen* per picul. Other classes of browns are unchanged, as is also White refined. There is nothing to report in Formosas.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$5.20 to 5.25
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.60
Brown Daitong	4.20 to 4.25
Brown Canton	3.90 to 5.60
White Java and Manang	6.80 to 7.00
White Refined	7.95 to 9.85

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EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

There is a fairly good general demand and holders want an advance of *yen* 10 to *yen* 15 per picul.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den	$900
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	845 to 855
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/13 deniers	830 to 840
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	820 to 830
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	870
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	840 to 845
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	805 to 815
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/20 deniers	780
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	850
Kakedas—No. 1 / Kakedas—No. 1½	810
Kakedas—No. 2 / Kakedas—No. 2½	770

WASTE SILK.

The market is very quiet, and a general weakness prevails in prices. The present stock consists of 10,000 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	67½ to 70
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Bushu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi—Joshu, Good	55 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	50 to 55
Kibiso—Filature, Best	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	75 to 80
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

Some purchases have been made in medium grades from 22 to 23 *yen*. Prices have ruled firm. The supply in the country is now almost exhausted, and the stock has been reduced to 4,500 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal.
Choice	Nominal.
Finest	$29 to 30
Fine	27 to [illegible]
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Silver ¼ lower from London has not affected quotations for sterling in China and rates close for the mail per steamer *Empress of India* as under.

On London—Bank T.T.	2/0¼
— — Bills on demand	2/0⅝
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅝
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0½
— — 6 months' sight	2/0½
On Paris—Bank sight	256
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	260
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅜ to ½
On Germany—Bank sight	1.07
— Private 4 months' sight	1.11½
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3⅛% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	5⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	75⅛
— Private 10 days' sight	76⅛
On India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	155
On Silver (London) on 5th inst.	27 9/16

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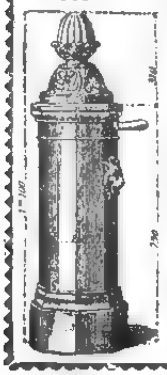

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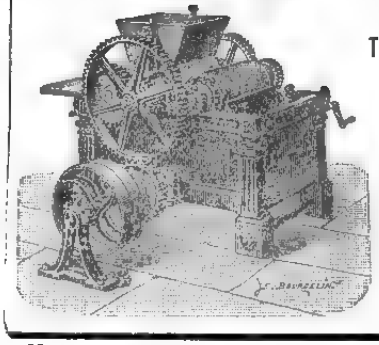

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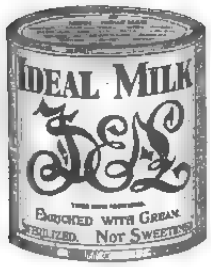

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS! ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, DEC. 10TH, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MARQUIS ITO and Count Inouye are both staying at Oiso.

IT is rumoured that Dr. Kumano is to be appointed Director of the Commercial Bureau.

MOST Excellent Companion Beatty has been installed M.E.Z. of Yokohama Chapter, H.R.A

DURING November exports from Yokohama amounted to *yen* 6,201,070 and imports to *yen* 2,376,542.

SURGEON William Maillord has received the Victoria Cross for gallantry in the Candia massacres.

MARQUIS YAMAGATA gave an outline of the Government's policy in a speech delivered in the House of Representatives on Thursday.

REAL ADMIRAL NOMURA, Commander-in-Chief of the Standing Squadron, has changed his flag to the *Takasago*.

H.I.H. THE EMPEROR has entirely recovered from the effects of the cold caught during the autumn manœuvres.

THE performance of "The Magistrate" by Yokohama amateurs last Tuesday evening was a pronounced success.

THE Tokyo Dramatic and Musical Society gave their opening performance for the season on Wednesday and provided a great treat.

MR. FUNADA TOSHIO, an ensign of the 10th Regiment at Himeji, committed suicide on the 28th ult. by hanging himself.

AN official telegram from Washington dated the 1st states that the Caroline Islands will probably be sold to Germany.

THE accident to the *Kasagi Kan* at Newcastle-on-Tyne turns out to be very slight—only a sponson being damaged.

PRINCESS HENRY of Prussia is a passenger for Hongkong by N. D. L. mail steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, due a fortnight before Christmas.

THE *Singapore Free Press* hears, on what it believes to be good authority, that the Sultan of Sulu has applied for American protection.

FIVE British jurymen were fined $50 each for absenting themselves from Court on Tuesday after being summoned to serve on the Leopold case.

THE Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club intend giving a dance in the Public Hall during Christmas week to raise funds for the new Pavilion.

H.I.H. the Crown Prince paid a visit to Count Okuma at his private residence at Waseda on the 4th. He afterwards visited the Colleges and Academy.

SIR HENRY BLAKE, the new Governor of Hongkong, arrived in the Colony on Nov. 25, and was immediately sworn in by Sir John Carrington, the Chief Justice.

ANOTHER of the sunken Spanish cruisers has been raised in Manila Bay. This time it is the *Don Juan de Austria*; and she has been placed on the slip at Cavite.

A MAN named Otani Sakichi (34), living at Ehina, near Fujisawa, has been murdered. His younger brother named Inosuke (29) is under arrest on suspicion

THE Akita Local Assembly, it is stated, will shortly be dissolved by an Edict of the Emperor. The Assembly passed a vote of want of confidence in the Governor, Mr. Iwao.

SANCTION was granted on the 2nd inst. to the scheme of the Sobu Railway Company for an elevated railway from Honjo Station to Shitaya Akiba-hara via Yokonami cho, Tokyo.

ON the 3rd inst. at 2 p.m., the Progressists held a meeting at the Nakamura ro. Mr. Kono in his address urged that the present action of the Cabinet and the Liberal party was a breach of the principles of the Imperial Constitution. A resolution to that effect was carried.

A DEPUTATION of sugar manufacturers waited on Count Itagaki on the 30th ult. and gave their views against the proposed increased tax on sugar. They asked him to oppose the scheme.

A BILL is to be presented to the Reichstag to increase the army by 15,000 men annually, until a force of 40,000 has been reached. It also provides for the addition of forty-eight new field batteries.

THE Minister President and the Minister of Finance had a quiet reception from the House of Representatives on Thursday when they delivered their statements of policy.

THE rice harvest in Formosa this year will be scanty, and prices are rising. Some localities are in a most distressed condition. The authorities are endeavouring to import rice from Shanghai.

THE French Senate has adopted a motion extending to military tribunals the abolition of secret examination. M. de Freycinet, Minister of War, opposed the amendment, excepting in cases of national danger.

PRINCE CYRIL proceeded to Niihama on the 4th inst. on a wild duck hunt in which he was accompanied by Viscount Tanaka, Minister of the Imperial Household, and other officials of the Imperial Hunting Bureau.

A DESPATCH dated the 3rd inst. from Taipeh states that the wells in some neighbourhoods have been poisoned, and the Government troops have been warned to make their own provision in regard to water.

THE Hon. Russel Alger, Secretary for War, recommends recruiting a portion of the new troops from the natives of the Antilles and the Philippines, and the building of a railway throughout Cuba at a cost of twenty million dollars.

Two charity bazaars have been given in the Public Hall, Yokohama, this week. The first was arranged by the young ladies at the Mission School 212 Bluff, the other was in aid of the funds of St. Hilda's medical mission.

THE case in which C. E. Leopold is being prosecuted for obtaining money on alleged fraudulent bills of lading and other documents, has been proceeding all the week in the British Court, Yokohama, before His Honour Judge Wilkinson and a jury.

THE Government intends increasing the Land Tax, raising the duty on alcohol to 250 per cent., and on cigars and cigarettes by 100 per cent.; altering the registration tax and the income-tax, so as to restore equilibrium in the country's finances.

SIR E. MONSON, British Ambassador to France, in a speech delivered before the British Chamber of Commerce, reminded his hearers that there was a limit to the patience of Great Britain. He advised France to abandon the policy of pin pricks

THE United States gun-boat *Ranger* is being fitted out at San Francisco and will soon sail for the purpose of surveying the route of the Pacific Cable between Hawaii, the Philippines, and Japan *via* the Caroline and Ladrone Islands. Rear Admiral John Irwin, a Director of the Pacific Cable Co., will accompany the expedition.

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TWENTY MILLIONS FOR THE EMPEROR.

December 5th.

The Political parties have sprung another surprise upon the country. On the 2nd instant, the National Unionists held a meeting, and passed a resolution that a Representation should be presented to the Government urging the advisability of appropriating 20 million *yen* for the Privy Purse. This resolution was immediately communicated to the Liberals, and they endorsed it *nem. con.* The Progressists were then approached. It was 3 p.m. and they happened to be in session. They "saw" their adversaries and went them one better, for they declared that the idea of such an appropriation had emanated from themselves; that had Count Okuma remained at the head of the Cabinet, he would have made a proposal in that sense to the Diet, and that, consequently, there was no occasion to seek their concurrence.

The reasons assigned for the proposal were two; first, that the victory over China would never have been won nor the Indemnity obtained had not the Emperor been the virtuous sagacious Sovereign that he is, and it is therefore only right that a portion of the Indemnity should be offered to him; secondly, that His Majesty is in need of money, the allowance granted by the State for the maintenance of the Imperial Household being insufficient, in view of the greatly enhanced prices of commodities and the large donations constantly made by His Majesty for charitable purposes.

If, as outsiders, we may be permitted to express a candid opinion with regard to this proposition, we have no hesitation in calling it altogether irrational. As to the first reason assigned, namely, that, the successes gained in the war having been due to His Majesty's virtues and sagacity, a portion of the Indemnity should go into the Privy Purse, the world will certainly ask how it happens that Japan has taken three years to discover its obligations to the Sovereign. If such an appropriation was His Majesty's due, it should have been in 1895, not in 1898. As to the second point, namely, that the yearly allowance now made by the State is insufficient, the natural and straightforward course is to increase the allowance. Were the country in a flourishing financial condition and were the Imperial Family entirely without domains, or independent property, one could appreciate a public wish to appropriate funds for the purchase of Crown estates. But neither of those conditions exists. The finances are in a disordered condition, and the great question of the day is how to re-establish equilibrium between the revenue and the expenditure. Large recourse must be had to increased taxation, and in the face of that fact it is proposed to hand over to the Imperial Family a sum of no less than 20 million *yen* out of monies the whole of which have already a clear destination in connexion with the expansion of the country's armaments. Again, the Emperor is by no means without independent property. Large areas of land belong to the Crown, together with mines and many million *yen* worth of shares in the Bank of Japan, the Specie Bank, and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. In truth Majesty is a multi-millionaire. The three million *yen* voted annually for the Privy Purse probably represent not much more than a moiety of its contents. The Imperial property is managed by two Bureaux in the Household Department, the Imperial Estates Bureau (*Goryo-Kyoku*) and the Treasury Bureau (*Kurariyo*), the former looking after the immovable property and the latter the movable. The Crown lands probably produce little revenue, though they might be made a source of large income, but it is certain that sales of moors and forests in recent years have furnished considerable sums for profitable investment. How can it be honestly said that there is any immediate occasion to add a great sum to the Crown property?

Two of the Tokyo journals distinguished themselves by courageous opposition to this project. They are the *Asahi Shimbun* and the *Yorozu Choho*. The latter prefaces its objections by asserting that the people's wealth is the Sovereign's wealth, the people's griefs are the Sovereign's griefs, which proposition, it says, may be found written in every page of Japanese history. We do not desire to weaken the force of an argument with which we agree in the main, but we must say that if a community of wealth between Sovereign and People be indicated in any chapter of Japanese records, we have read them very incorrectly. What opinion with regard to such a proposition would be expressed by the Fujiwara, the Taira, the Minamoto, the Hojo, or the Tokugawa? However, the *Yorozu* probably speaks theoretically, and on that ground its views are unassailable. It then goes on to point out that to ask the Emperor to receive a large gift from the nation at a moment when the people's voices are loudly raised against an inevitable increase of taxation, is to mistake altogether the relation in which His Majesty stands to his subjects. The *Asahi* takes a similar line. The Sovereign's great sources of anxiety at present, it says, are the unstable condition of the finances and the incomplete state of the national defences. If the political parties want to do something which would give His Majesty genuine satisfaction, let them place the finances on a stable basis and complete the *post-bellum* programme. The *Asahi* boldly declares that the main purpose of the parties in this matter is to ingratiate themselves with the Emperor, and it further hints that some speculative schemers are selfishly interested in contriving that a large sum shall come into the hands of the Imperial Treasury Bureau, since they could find profitable opportunities in connexion with the investment of the money.

THE LAND TAX.

Events are proving the truth of our forecast that the question of increasing the Land Tax is not unlikely to strain severely the bonds of alliance just drawn between the Cabinet and the Liberals. A strong section of the latter, estimated to command from 33 to 60 votes in the House of Representatives, has decided to agitate in opposition to the Tax. One of the Progressist journals—a newspaper conspicuous for its persistent attempts to discredit both the Liberals and the Cabinet and to disturb their union—professes to regard this agitation as a mere pretence, conceived for the purpose of throwing dust in the eyes of the constituencies. It alleges that when the bill comes up for discussion, the members now simulating bitter hostility will quietly cast their votes in its favour, having previously arranged to conceal their identity by recourse to unsigned ballots. To us, however, viewing the matter from the standpoint already explained in these columns, the agitation seems very real. The *Yorozu Choho*—a journal which the public has not learned to take very seriously, says that the agitators intend to include the whole country in the sphere of their operations, and that, in order to obtain funds for carrying on the campaign, they will call upon all land-owners and land-holders to contribute one half of the sum which would be annually levied on them as a result of the bill. That sum being 20 million *yen*, approximately, these modest politicians would be content with 10 millions. It is a sublime idea, seeing that no campaign of any kind is needed, for if 30 or 40 members of the Lower House are determined to vote against the bill, its fate is sealed. In fact, quite apart from the Land Tax, very delicate steering will be required to avoid a ministerial defeat at some period of the session, unless the Liberals and their allies prove much more amenable to discipline than they have hitherto shown themselves. Under the circumstances, it will be well worth the Cabinet's while to consider whether the bill ought not to be put on the shelf for the moment. If, under the existing Law of Election, an appeal is made to the country on such a question as the expediency of increasing the Land Tax, there can be no manner of doubt that the constituencies will answer in the negative. The agricultural interest is overwhelmingly strong in the lower House, and the farmers and land-owners will easily be persuaded to believe in the theory so persistently advocated by the *Jiji Shimpo*, namely, that no recourse to the Land Tax is necessary, the needed revenue being obtainable without trouble or hardship by doubling the impost on *saké*. The Cabinet doubtless believes—rightly as we think—that the Land Tax is the soundest foundation for a strong edifice of finance. But the most desirable can not always be achieved immediately. Of the two great political parties, one, the Progressist, is irrevocably pledged to oppose any increase of the Land Tax, for some years to come at any rate. The other, the Liberal, is in the main favourable to the increase. Hence the prudent course for the Cabinet is to avoid any step calculated to weaken the Liberals. Such a step would be to send them to the electorates on a platform having Land-Tax increase for a principal plank. They would lose a moiety of their seats, and return to the Diet a feeble remnant. If, unfortunately, the state of affairs is such that any resolute attempt to pass a bill for increasing the Land Tax must have the effect of postponing that measure for several years, then the obviously sensible and statesmanlike alternative is to refrain from the attempt, and to endeavour, on the other hand, to correct the adverse conditions now existing. How can that be done? Plainly by giving fuller representation to the mercantile and manufacturing interests; in other words, by amending the Law of Election. The Government can probably succeed in inducing the Liberals to pass a bill for redressing the present very lopsided state of the balance of representative power. If such a bill were passed, there need no longer be any hesitation about appealing to the country. It it can

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not be passed, and if the finances have to wait until the land-owners and land-holders see fit to shift to their own shoulders a burden which they have power to keep upon the shoulders of others, Japan had better draw in her ambitious horns and take a back seat among the nations.

In spite of all conjectures to the contrary, the Cabinet has held firm to its original purpose of asking the Diet to increase the Land Tax. Even on the morning of the day (8th instant) when the Minister of Finance made that announcement to the House of Representatives, the leading journals of Tokyo published stories of protracted discussions between the Ministry and its parliamentary supporters, and averred either that no decision had been arrived at with reference to the Land Tax, or that, if the Cabinet introduced the Bill for the sake of consistency, it would subsequently substitute some other source of revenue for the sake of its party relations. Both of those assertions appear to be contradicted emphatically by Count Matsukata's speech in the House of Representatives on the 8th instant, a remarkably clear and unequivocal exposition, to which we refer our readers for a succient idea of the broad outlines of the Government's financial scheme. Various figures are published by our Tokyô contemporaries, but as they are all more or less at variance with Count Matsukata's statements, to reproduce them here would only cause confusion. We can not detect any sign of a wavering or unstable purpose in the language of the Minister of Finance,

THE TAX ON BUSINESS CAPITAL.

From our report of the proceedings in the House of Representatives of the 8th instant, it will be seen that the Government has introduced a bill dealing with the question of levying the business tax on the capital of firms having establishments abroad as well as in Japan. The portion of the capital employed by the Japanese branch is to be estimated, and the tax will be levied on it. That disposes of the difficulty recently raised in connexion with foreign insurance companies doing business in Japan. Besides, as we have already pointed out, such companies can avoid all inconvenience by simply converting their Japanese branches into agencies, which do not pay any tax upon capital.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO.

The Government has been compelled—as we predicted two years ago—to draft a project of very drastic law with reference to foreign tobacco and foreign alcohol. Tobacco is to pay a duty of 100 per cent. *ad valorem*, and the import of leaf tobacco is to be forbidden altogether except in the hands of the State monopolists. Cigars and cigarettes of foreign manufacture will become very expensive luxuries if this change in the Tariff be effected, as it certainly will be. The *ad-valorem* duty on foreign alcohol is to be 250 per cent. In our opinion, the Government might very advantageously have placed foreign alcohol on the list of prohibited articles. It is vile stuff, and the mixed *saké* manufactured from it is responsible for much crime and misery.

JAPAN AND KOREA.

There are signs that the state of affairs in Korea is beginning to excite considerable impatience in Japan. Mr. Kato, the Japanese Representative in Sōul, who recently paid a visit to Japan, is stated to have said:—"Korea is steadily retrograding. Her so-called independence is an idle legend. She is absolutely without strength to be independent. Her finances are in disorder. Her domestic affairs are in a state of confusion and turmoil. Her foreign policy is cipher. Bandits swarm throughout the empire. She does not possess a single man-of-war. Her petty army is quite insignificant. How can she possibly defend herself, or lay claim to be independent?" We don't know whether Mr. Kato said all those things, but he might have said them with absolute truth. One thing is certain, as the *Jimmin* very justly remarks, that if the Great Powers of Europe seem for the moment to pay little attention to Korea and to leave her stewing in her own very unsavoury juice, it is because they are too much occupied with China to concern themselves about the comparatively petty peninsula. But they will turn their eyes towards Korea presently, and when they do it will be too late for Japan to accomplish anything. Did Korea occupy her old position towards China, and were Mr. Yuan Shi-hai now Chinese Resident in Sōul, the Pedlars and the Independents and the Imperialists would not be allowed to go on cutting each other's throats and keeping the country in a state of ferment. What is Japan going to do about it? She has incurred responsibilities towards Korea. Does she intend to recognise them? She has thrown away a great many opportunities in Korea. Does she intend to throw away the present opportunity also? We observe that the Liberal organ (*Jimmin*) is extremely outspoken on the subject. It calls the Korean peninsula the object of Japan's "feverish desire" (*netsubo*), and says, that apart from considerations of material political interests, it is a place towards which the hearts of the people turn as a thirsty man turns to water. That is very plain talk and we believe it to be quite sincere. Spheres of influence are all the fashion now-a-days in the Far East. Japan should take some steps which would bring Korea definitely within her sphere of influence, and enable her to give the blessings of good order and civilized progress to the wretched Koreans.

ITINERANT ASSASSINS.

Korea is certainly a most pestilential neighbour. She has not capacity to contain her own lawlessness. It overflows, and finds its way into adjoining States. When Kim Ok-kyun and his fellow-exiles were clinging to the horns of Japan's altar of refuge, and when the Korean Government found that it could not induce this country to extradite them, in defiance of laws observed by all civilized nations, it sent over a band of paid murderers to make away with the refugees. There have been denials that the Korean Government was primarily responsible for the movements of these travelling Cains. They are supposed to have been enterprising patriots, who undertook the assassination project in purely speculative spirit, willing to ask for no reward until they succeeded. It really makes very little matter whether they had an Imperial commission at the outset or acted merely on their own knowledge of what would be Imperially agreeable. They were rewarded by the Sovereign of Korea after they had done Kim to death, and beyond that fact we need not push our inquiries. Mr. Pak Yong-ik (Boku Yei-ko) was among their projected victims at the time. While one band of thugs lured the unfortunate Kim to Shanghai, another tried to get at Pak in Tokyo. Pak proved a match for them, however. They found him not only fore-warned but also fore-armed, and the sequel was their own delivery to the police. These things happened in 1893, and after reflecting for five years, another party of adventurous assassins have crossed over to Japan to try whether the failure of 1893 can not be corrected. Some time ago, Pak was reported to have received news that he might return to Korea with impunity. Not only were his old offences forgotten, but a repentant Sovereign waited to do him honour and a progressive Government longed to avail itself of his services. He set out with apparent alacrity, but at Bakan he stopped, and by and by it became known that he would not go any farther. He himself explained that his only purpose in travelling to Nagasaki had been to meet his daughter whom he had long supposed to have perished at the time of the *emeute* in 1884, but who had been saved by a faithful servant and brought up by an American missionary. The public accepted the explanation, but did not altogether credit it. After a time, Pak, his friend An, and their companions, eight in number, proceeded to Fukuoka, and made arrangements to settle there. But a few days ago, another message came to them from Korea in the shape of a party of assassins. No particulars about the latter are published. We know only the fact of their arrival, which seems to have come at once to the knowledge of the police. On the 25th ultimo, the Chief of Police in Fukuoka warned Pak that he had better move elsewhere, and told off an escort to accompany him to Nagoya. An and the bulk of Pak's party happened to be in Kumamoto at the time. They were similarly warned and similarly escorted by train to Nagoya. After reaching the latter place, the whole party was asked to proceed to Tokyo, which they did, still accompanied by police constables. It is stated that the would-be assassins crossed over from Fusan, and the inference is that if Pak had gone to Sōul when he set out for Nagasaki in September, he would now be with his old friend Kim. We can not but wonder how long Korea will be suffered to continue in her present route. She is nothing less than a nuisance to the Orient.

PRINCE IMPERIAL VISITS COUNT OKUMA.

On the 4th instant, the Prince Imperial paid a visit to Count's Okuma's residence at Waseda. His Imperial Highness left the Akasaka Palace at 10 in the forenoon. As the cortêge approached its destination, it found the road lined on either side by some eighteen hundred students and teachers of the College and School at Waseda, which owe their existence to Count Okuma's enterprise and liberality. After the members of the Count's family had been

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presented to the Prince, His Imperial Highness witnessed the painting of some pictures by the celebrated artists Kawabata Gyokusho and Murata Gyokuden. Luncheon was then served, and at its conclusion the Prince visited the garden and inspected Count Okuma's magnificent collection of dwarfed trees and plants, an explanation of the shapes and peculiar features of the most remarkable being given by Mr. Fukuha Itsujin, Horticulturist to the Imperial Household Department. A performance of *No-Kyogen* subsequently took place, the chief actors being Messrs. Yamamoto To and Chomiyo Yeijiro. At 3 in the afternoon, His Imperial Highness returned to the Palace. He presented to Count Okuma, as a souvenir of his visit, a silver vase, and to each member of the Count's family a roll of white crêpe, the Count, on his side, offering to His Imperial Highness two rare specimens of dwarfed trees—a *maki* (*podacarpus chinensis*) and a *kinkan* (*citrus japonica*)—in pots of old Hirado porcelain, together with copies of all the books that have been compiled and published at the Waseda College and School and various other objects.

THE DOSHISHA.

In a paragraph reproduced in our columns the other day from the *Hochi Shimbun*, and which in slightly differing forms appeared also in other papers, it was intimated that the representatives of the American Board had refused to submit the questions at issue between them and the Trustees of the Doshisha to arbitration. We are, however, in a position to state that while the representatives of the Board cannot concede the right of the Trustees to change the fundamental conditions of the trust as embodied clearly and definitely in the constitution of the Doshisha, they are willing, and indeed have formally offered, to submit all other matters to arbitration. As regards the immutability of the conditions of the trust, they take their stand upon a principle which cannot be waived without doing violence to a much wider circle of interests than those of the American Board.

At the same time, as we understand the matter, and we have taken pains to understand it, the friends of the American Board, while they believe themselves thus called upon to controvert what they regard as a very grave misapprehension, on the part of the Trustees, of the scope of their powers, do not intend to impugn the motives which have led them to their present policy.

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN REVISED TREATY.

The *Official Gazette* of the 8th instant announces that the ratification of the Revised Treaty with Austro-Hungary were exchanged in Vienna on the 30th of November, and that the subjects of the high contracting parties are now entitled to enjoy reciprocal rights of protection for their trade-marks and patents. The Austro-Hungarian government's calculations in this matter were very correct. It asked for time until January 1st to get the Treaty ratified and the ratifications exchanged

THE LAW OF ELECTION.

It is stated that the Cabinet and the Constitutional Party have agreed upon amendments of the Law of Election almost identical with those proposed last session by the Ito Ministry. One of the principal changes contemplated is a large extension of the area of the electorates, each Prefecture and each City becoming an election, district. That, of course, will prove a great obstacle to corrupt practices. With regard to representation, the idea is that in rural districts there should be one member for every 120,000 persons; that in urban districts any town of not less than ten thousand houses should return a member, and that above the latter number, every eighty thousand persons should send up an additional representative. Tsushima, Oki, and Oshima are set down as independent electorates, and Sapporo, Hakodate, and Otaru are enfranchised. The qualifications for the franchise are to be 20 years of age and an annual payment of 5 *yen* of Land Tax (or 3 *yen* of Income Tax or Business Tax), and a minimum age of 20 years, instead of 15 *yen* of taxes and 25 years of age as formerly. The only qualification for a candidate is to be 31 years of age. The voting is to be by the *tanki* system—a separate ballot for each candidate—and, it is estimated that the total number of members will be increased from 300 to 400.

It is calculated that the results of the amendments now proposed in the Law of Election would be to give 75 members to the urban population, instead of 16, the present number. The representation of the various important places would be thus :—

	Members.		Members.
Tokyo	16	Hiroshima, and 41 other towns, including 3 in Hokkaido.	42
Osaka	8		
Kyoto	4		
Nagoya	3		
Yokohama	2	Total	75
Kobe	2		

Hence, if the new House has 400 members, the rural population would be represented by 325, against the present representation of 284, an increase of 41, whereas the increase for the urban districts would be 59. There is some disposition to complain that the urban population would be unduly favoured by this arrangement, but since one of the chief objects of amendments is to correct the signal disadvantage under which the manufacturing and mercantile classes now labour compared with the agricultural, the complaint is not likely to be heeded.

GUMMA PREFECTURE.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs has reversed the permission given by the late Governor of Gumma Prefecture, Mr. Kusakari Shimmei, for the re-establishment of the prostitution-licensing system in that district. This has certainly been a most extraordinary incident. We presume that the action now taken by His Excellency Marquis Saigo is in accordance with the wishes of the people of the Prefecture. Did Mr. Kusakari then, proceed in arbitrary disregard of those wishes? If so, he was very leniently treated. At all events he has made no attempt to refute the very serious charges preferred against him by the *Mainichi Shimbun*.

THE LIAOTUNG JURISDICTION AFFAIR.

Mr. Nakamura, whose letter we publish elsewhere, makes an interesting point about the case of Mr. Fukuhara who was arrested by the Russian Authorities last summer at Port Arthur, and ultimately released after a considerable time had elapsed. Our own remarks on the subject, which form the text of our correspondent's letter, were based on statements appearing in vernacular newspapers, but from information subsequently obtained, we are in a position to endorse the points made by Mr. Nakamura. It is doubtless admitted by all the Powers having treaties with China, that Russia has competence to exercise over their subjects or citizens at Port Arthur and Talien whatever measure of jurisdiction may be necessary for her own protection. But none of them would admit, we imagine, that she is competent to exercise punitive jurisdiction. Mr. Fukuhara was arrested on suspicion of being a spy. That the Russian military authorities were entitled to take from him any maps or plans found in his possession and to remove him beyond the limits of their lines, can scarcely be questioned. But their right to punish him is quite another matter. We do not know that they made any resolute attempt to assert such a right. At all events they did not insist on it, nor did Japan acknowledge it. Mr. Fukuhara's release was ultimately made by order of the Czar, and no inconvenient precedent was established. It seems to have been altogether incorrect on the part of the vernacular press to say that Count Okuma, when Minister of Foreign Affairs, purposely allowed the question of jurisdiction to pass unnoticed. He took whatever steps were necessary under the circumstances, and the end justified the means that he adopted.

THE REVENUE FOR 1899.

It is pointed out with much apparent justice that the Finance Department, in compiling its estimate of revenue for 1899, has taken a very rosy view of the prospects. The basis of the criticism will be at once apparent when the figures for the current year and the estimates for next year are placed side by side, with the proviso that, with one exception, namely, the Customs returns, the increases under each heading are not due to any change of taxation rates but are anticipated as the results of normal development :—

	Estimates for 1899. Yen.	Estimates for 1898 Yen.
Saké Tax	33,983 409	32,341,979
Income Tax	2 341,293	1,999,337
Tax on Exchange	962,513	789 726
Customs	16 111,322	7 415.517
Posts & Telegraphs	16 879 837	14,562,275
Tobacco	7,760,185	7,299,608
Total	78,038,559	64 418,422

We presume, however, that the Treasury bases its estimates for next year upon the actual experience of the current year, and if that be so, the normal growth of the revenue may be considered very satisfactory. But the increase—8,695,805 *yen*—shown under the heading of Customs Returns is difficult to credit. Large quantities of goods are believed to have been imported this year in anticipation of the higher tariff which will go into operation from January 1st. It can not be supposed, of course, that the Treasury has failed to take that point into consideration, but the figures do not suggest that it has.

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MARQUIS ITO.

Marquis Ito has been talking very frankly to a member of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun's* staff:—"Among all the problems that press for speedy solution, none is so pressing as the arrangement of the finances. That the expenditures should show some increase is a perfectly natural result of the large *post-bellum* programme. People who have any knowledge of the state of the world and of the state of the Orient will see that the present is no time for parsimony or hesitation. Take a comparison from the affairs of every-day life. You are in urgent need of coal. You make a contract for a certain quantity. If, when the other side comes to deliver it, you have no money to pay for it, you will forfeit your credit and be unable to carry out your plans. You must therefore shrink from no means of raising money. But suppose that you give yourself no concern about finding the required money, and waste all your time disputing about the place where the coal is to be stored, would you not be set down for a veritable fool? So, too, our present business above all others is to find funds. The revenue must be made larger, and when one comes to inquire how that can be practically effected, no source of stable income can be found except an increase of the Land Tax. The talk about finding a temporary expedient in indirect taxation is mere tinkering to deceive tyros. The finances of a State can not be made to depend upon such unstable and impermanent resources. Some politicians affirm that although an increase of the Land Tax is theoretically advisable, the time is not suitable. On some future day, they say, if the step becomes inevitable, it can be taken. What do they mean by a future day? If they refuse to turn to the Land Tax now, on what do they propose to base the finances? It is impossible to be more thoughtless. I am not in the smallest degree concerned because some folks call me disloyal. If I advised His Majesty to place the Administration in the hands of Counts Okuma and Itagaki and if I retired in their favour, it was because I believed that the finances could thus be placed on a sound footing and the business of the State smoothly carried on. The fate of this political party or of that did not cause me any solicitude. To-day, never mind whether Inouye's budget, or Matsukata's budget, or whose budget is taken. Paltry questions of that kind are entirely out of proportion to the dimensions of the necessity."

FORMOSA.

The campaign against the bandits in Formosa is being pushed vigorously. Collating the returns telegraphed to Tokyo, we make out that from the 15th of November to the 3rd of December, the number of bandits killed was 403, the number taken prisoners 335, and the rifles seized 53. A body of 200 under a leader whose name we can not identify, had entrenched themselves when the latest advices—dated the 5th instant—were despatched, and preparations to attack them were being made. The statement of casualties on the Japanese side seems to indicate that only two men were wounded.

THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

It will be observed that His Majesty in his Speech to the Diet makes no reference to an increase of the Land Tax, although he does speak of placing the finances on a sound footing. We are not able to say how much significance, if any, attaches to the omission. Some journals predicted, however, that if the Land Tax was not mentioned in the Speech, the fact might be taken as an indication of the Government's resolve not to press the matter this session. Mention may be made here of an article on the subject of the Land Tax which appears in the *Jimmin*. It adduces arguments almost identical in import and form with those stated by us on the 3rd instant, and having shown that a bill to increase the Land Tax at present would break up the Liberal Party and re-open the reign of chaos, it suggests an expedient which might be resorted to without injuring the political situation, if there be an unavoidable necessity to obtain additional revenue from the Land Tax. The plan hitherto proposed has been either to raise the rate of the Tax, without taking account of any inequalities of incidence which may exist, or to assess the *koku* of rice at a higher price. Neither method would be accepted by the House of Representatives. But if the Government decided that the actual rental value of the land, whether rural or urban, should be made the basis for levying the Tax, it is possible that the measure might be accepted. The average letting price for the past five years should be taken, and re-assessment every fifth year should be provided for. That method would effectually remove all inequalities in the incidence of the Tax.

THE FUTEN BIYO-IN.

There is some excitement about the recent destruction of a lunatic asylum in Tokyo by fire, and the burning to death of six of the lunatics. It so happens that the hospital, which is in Tamachi, in the Hongo district, had been, some time previously, the object of a scathing attack by the *Chuo Shimbun*, which charged Dr. Kato, the principal, with being a fraudulent charlatan; declared that the treatment of the lunatics was criminally cruel; said that the medicines administered to them were quack nostrums, known to be such by Dr. Kato who prepared them, and pointed out that to enter the hospital meant certain death. Then came the conflagration and the burning of six of the inmates. Four of the bodies were taken out by the relatives without any remonstrance, but the friends of the fifth, a man of seventy-seven, were dissatisfied, and demanded explanation. Dr. Kato at first pleaded sickness, and refused to meet them. Being urged by the police, however, he came forward, and offered such profuse apologies that they were satisfied, and would have removed the body had they not found a chain attached to it. The old man had been perfectly quiet when he entered the hospital, and the idea that he should have been chained subsequently, and that the chain held him to be burned alive, enraged his friends. The incident is not disposed of yet. We do not observe, however, that our vernacular contemporaries take any note of a fact which to us seems very singular, namely, that the old man's relatives do not appear to have visited him once from the time of his entering the hospital until the day of his death. If lunatics are abandoned so completely to the tender mercies of asylum-keepers, abuses may be considered inevitable.

THE CONCERT.

A correspondent's letter gives us an opportunity of correcting a false impression which appears to be entertained by a great many people, the impression that the critique of the recent concert published in these columns gave bitter offence to Herr Junker, so bitter that he threatened to leave Yokohama at once, and it became necessary to placate him by means of a laudatory document carrying the signatures of a number of the foreign residents. Herr Junker is an artist, and, as our correspondent rightly suggests, artists are far above any pettiness of that kind. The true artist is never content with the standard he has attained. He aims steadily at something higher, and nothing gives him greater satisfaction than to be assisted in his efforts by the unbiassed criticism of competent onlookers. People who imagine that Herr Junker's methods are above all criticism, may think to render him a service by enlisting sympathy on his behalf as well as singing his praises. But they are in fact doing him an injury, for we may be sure that he fully recognises the charlatanism of simulating perfection and denying the public's right to be critical. It may also be taken for granted that even in the incredible event of Herr Junker's assuming the inartistic attitude attributed to him by rumour, even supposing him to be without that modesty which is the genuine artist's essential characteristic, few people in this Settlement could be found to humour his vain caprices in the manner indicated. We admit that Yokohama is capable of producing surprises. It could scarcely have been suspected a week ago that such phenomenally silly people existed in our midst as certain newspaper correspondents to whom general gratitude is due for the amusement they have afforded since the concert. But we are not speaking now of rare birds whose plumage never can be predicted from normal precedents. We are speaking of sober business men such as those whose signatures would be necessary to give weight to a letter of atonement. If such men were asked to adopt extraordinary measures for placating a professional musician who had received some criticism as well as some applause from a newspaper, their answer would be emphatic. They would say that from the moment when a man asserts competence to give paid performances, he must be prepared for frank expressions of public opinion, and that he has no more right to claim exemption from criticism than he has to obtain money under false pretences. They would also say, with regard to this particular case, that since Yokohama is making a new and somewhat expensive departure, its interests are best consulted by an unreserved comparison of notes as to the value it is getting. Probably if the men whose views we are estimating were Englishmen, they would express themselves even more emphatically, for the last thing that occurs to an Englishman is to shrink from frank comment. On behalf, therefore, of Herr Junker and his friends, we have no hesi-

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tation in denying the rumour alluded to above. It had its origin, doubtless, in the fact that a species of round robin, traversing the views of the *Japan Mail's* critic, was actually addressed to Herr Junker. We are not in a position to offer any explanation of that step, but it certainly can not bear the construction generally put on it.

THE DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL SOCIETY.

The Tokyo Dramatic and Musical Society gave its first performance for the season in the Shoreikai Hall, Tokyo, on the 7th instant, with the usual intention of devoting the proceeds to charitable purposes. The dramatic part of the programme consisted of a comedy in one act, *Les Femmes qui pleurent*, by Siraudin and Lambert-Thiboust, and a farce in one act, *The Obstinate Family*. The former piece possesses many of the best features of French comedy. The plot is slight. A species of male nonentity, *M. Chambly*, small in every respect, though his vice of gambling threatens to become large, has married a widow, *Delphine*, who, having been unhappy in her first matrimonial venture, is determined to avoid any risks in her second, and therefore rules the *menage* imperiously, keeping the key of the *caisse* and limiting her husband strictly to an allowance of a thousand francs a month, which he generally disburses at *roulette* within a week of pay-day, and thereafter passes his time in unsuccessful expedients to get at the strong box and in petty protests against his failure. There are also a *Vicomte Albert de Rieux* and his bride *Clotilde*, who play an accessory rôle, she allowing herself to be tutored by the stalwart-minded widow into feigning tears to obtain a gift of diamonds from her husband, and he discovering the trick and showing the indignation that might be expected of a chivalrous man who holds all the passions sacred and truth inviolable. A waiter, *Jean*, is thrown in, an exceedingly silly person, who acts as a species of complementary colour to *Chambly*, their sickly moral hues reinforcing each other by juxtaposition. There are no incidents, no situations. Everything depends upon the sparkle of the dialogue, the contrast of the characters and the æstheticism of their portrayal. The part of *Delphine* was taken by Miss Perry, who has not before appeared upon the stage in Tokyo. This young lady would be delightful in any rôle, but there is no denying that a delightful rôle suits her best, for when her face lights up, as it does very readily, the whole stage is suffused with the illumination, and one becomes conscious of a difficulty in reconciling such sunshine with the wintry severity of her financial demeanour towards her husband. Her elocution is a veritable treat, and there would be no exaggeration in applying a very enthusiastic adjective to her acting in its entirety had she studied eloquence of gesture a little more closely. But even in her hands a large fan wielded like a Marshal's baton offends against the canons of grace. Mr. Paul May had an extremely difficult part to play as *Chambly*. The character has no strong tones; it is all neutral tints which nevertheless must be emphasized sufficiently to produce a vivid impression. It is essentially stage music in a minor key with corresponding difficulty in making the audience conscious of the tune. Mr. May succeeded well, we can not say thoroughly, because he himself, when he appeared upon the stage last spring, set a standard not easy to live up to. Still, his conception was excellent and his execution consistent and mirth-provoking. He has very exceptional histrionic gifts, and would certainly achieve great successes if he considered the perception of his audience a little more carefully. But many of the best points of his acting lose their objective value by over-refinement. The audience misses them and feels that something is escaping it, which is not the contented frame of mind essential to genuine enjoyment. *Albert de Rieux* and *Madame de Rieux* were played by M. and Madame Guibert. These rôles are comparatively insignificant, but were taken with conscientious accuracy and without any straining after undue effects. *Jean*, the *garcon d'hotel*, found a capital representative in M. de Carcer, who completely merged his identity in that of the ignorant but soft-hearted simpleton.

We may be permitted to say that the acting of this comedy might have been immensely improved by a little stage-management. The talent was there, plenty of it, but in the absence of the supervision which performers themselves could not possibly give, defects crept in, slight, indeed, but marring in their consequences. There was, on several occasions, a conscious waiting upon each other's words, or a conflict between action and dialogue, which the eye of a stage-manager would have at once detected, and a few hints from him would have corrected.

The English play followed the French in order as well as in character, for the same epithet of slightness applies to the plots of both and the same absence of situations may be asserted of their development. The author takes one idea and repeats it thrice under varying circumstances. A butler tests the submissiveness of a parlour-maid, whom he is "courting," by desiring her to repeat after him a silly formula, "Thank goodness, the table is spread." A youthful husband, overhearing the dialogue, is rash enough to subject his bride to the same test. An aged couple, the parents of the bride, are betrayed into a similar experiment in their attempt to reconcile the newly married folks. There is little sense in all that, but there is a great deal of amusing nonsense which has the rare merit of not being improbable. The principal rôle, that of the bride, *Jessy Harford*, was played by Miss F. Dening, and very well played too. Miss Dening reached the point of being quite natural alike in her amiability, her anger, and her grief. She was just what she ought to have been: a young lady with a will of her own and an abundance of feminine devices to reinforce it, though she did not altogether succeed in shaking off her self-consciousness. Mr. Hillhouse, as *Henry Harford*, very nearly played up to her—very nearly but not quite. The rôle is faulty in conception. It wants colour. Mr. Hillhouse may certainly be congratulated, however, on having concealed its defects very successfully, and especially on achieving the difficult feat of being quite harmonious in gesture and phrase and perfectly composed in manner. *Lucy*, the ambitious yet perverse maid-servant, was capitally personified by Miss Nishigawa—her first appearance. She made a decidedly pretty display of conflicting emotions, and if she had avoided the occasional error of allowing her mien to predict *denouements* which ought to take the audience by surprise, there could have been no doubt about the complete success of her acting. To *James*, Mr. Pattison, unqualified applause may be offered. His vulgar love-making, his shallow masterfulness and his ignorant obstinacy were a sterling study, excellently droll and unaffected. Miss Aoki took the part of old *Mrs. Harwood*, a terrible sacrifice of congruities, to which she did not, perhaps, altogether reconcile herself in the matter of make-up. But, for the rest, she was most loyal to the rôle. It was difficult indeed to recognise in the prim and positive old dame the charming little *ingenue* who won the plaudits of Tokyo last spring by her personification of a piquante, coaxing *femme de chambre*. Mr. Herod played *Harwood*. We need scarcely say that he was capital. He makes a success invariably, and he has the artistic faculty of leaving something to the imagination, for when we reflect upon the pleasure he gives us, we find ourselves involuntarily speculating on the ideal he might attain if he ever took the trouble to be word-perfect.

The musical part of the programme consisted of two pianoforte solos by Dr. von Koeber. It is unnecessary to say anything of this remarkable pianist's abilities. An opportunity of hearing him is one of the rare delights of life in the Far East.

Between the plays Mrs. Herod gave an all-too-brief exhibition of the Serpentine dance, Mr. Paul May playing the accompaniment. A most graceful and picturesque spectacular effect, it elicited a vociferous encore, and added not a little to the pleasure of a performance which, we must frankly say, was full of "go" and sparkle from beginning to end. As usual much of the praise is due to the indefatigable exertions of Baroness Sannomiya, and the results of Mr. Clay MacCauley's stage management were very evident in the well-balanced grouping and smooth interactions of the performers in the English farce.

PROGRAMME.

Scherzo in B flat minor, Chopin...Dr. von Koeber.

Les Femmes Qui Pleurent.
Comedie en un Acte.

PERSONNAGES.

Chambly..... Monsieur Paul May.
Delphine, sa femme..... Miss Perry.
Albert de Rieux .....Monsieur Guibert.
Clotilde, sa femme.....Madame Guibert.
Jean, garçon l'hôtel .....Monsieur Carcer.
Scène à Bade ...Un salon de l'hôtel d'Angleterre.

Serpentine dance.....Mrs. Herod.
Piano .....Monsieur Paul May.
Piano Solo.....Dr. von Koeber.
Le cavalier fantastique, Godard.

A Farce in one Act.
An Obstinate Family.

CHARACTERS.

Mr. Harwood.....Mr. Herod.
Harford's father-in-law.
Mrs. Harwood..... Miss Aoki.
Harford's mother-in-law.
Henry Harford .....Mr. Hillhouse.
Jessie Harford, his wife..... Miss Dening.
James, Harford's servant..... Mr. Pattison.
Lucy, a servant .....Miss Nishigawa.

A patient named Tsurutani Konosaburo at the charity hospital at Ota, Yokohama, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a knife on the morning of the 6th. He understood that recovery from his illness was impossible.

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THE ADDITION TO THE IMPERIAL PROPERTY.

FROM information published by vernacular journals we gather that there are no grounds for one of the apparent objections to the appropriation of 20 million *yen* from the Indemnity as an addition to the Imperial Estates. We refer to the objection that if the nation considered itself bound to take any such step in the sequel of the war with China, it ought to have taken it in 1885, instead of allowing an interval of three years to elapse. The information which deprives that objection of any force is that the obligation was recognised at once by the ITO Cabinet, on the conclusion of the war, but that it was considered advisable to postpone any definite measure until all uncertainty as to the payment of the Indemnity had disappeared. The project was therefore passed on from Cabinet to Cabinet, and the present Ministry happens to inherit it just at the time when its consummation becomes practicable. As to the necessity for the step, it is pointed out that the Civil List was fixed in 1890, and has remained without alteration ever since that time, although the expenses of the Imperial Household have been greatly augmented, owing, in the first place, to the enhanced prices of all commodities; in the second, to the considerably extended scale on which the Imperial hospitality has to be exercised; in the third, to the growing expenses connected with households of the Prince Imperial and the Imperial Princesses; and, in the fourth, to the numerous objects calling for an exercise of the SOVEREIGN'S charity and munificence. Owing to the operation of all these causes, the Civil List now proves deficient by a sum of from 500,000 to 700,000 *yen* annually.

It is, indeed, a matter of common knowledge that the demands upon the Imperial purse show a constant tendency to increase. If a calculation were made of the various sums paid by the Household Department after the war of 1894-5 in recognition of services which could not be submitted for the approval of the Diet, the total would be very considerable. One of the Tokyo journals further points out that, on the occasion of the Silver Wedding ceremony, large grants were made out of the Privy Purse to the Court Nobles whose impecunious condition had long been a source of solicitude to HIS MAJESTY; and another comments on the fact that when the Civil List was fixed at three million *yen* annually, the revenue of the state amounted to only 80 million *yen* whereas now it is nearly three times that sum. Comparisons are also made between the Civil List in Japan and the allowances set aside for the same purpose in European countries, but this part of the subject does not appear to have been very carefully investigated. The CZAR, for example, is said to have an income of £1,800,000, or 18 million *yen* annually. That is a very apocryphal calculation. The CZAR owns about a million square miles of cultivated lands and forests, as well as gold and silver mines. He has undoubtedly an immense income, but to put it at 18 million *yen* must be mere guess-work. Besides, Russia's case can not properly be cited for purposes of comparison with Japan's Civil List, inasmuch as the Crown domains in the former country are regarded as the personal property of the SOVEREIGN. The Emperor of AUSTRIA with his 9 million *yen* and the King of ITALY with about 6 millions are more to the point, though the latter, we observe, is said by the *Kokumin* to have over 9 million *yen*, whereas the real figure is 15,050,000 *lire*, or something over 6 million *yen*. Moreover, in the reference to England, great looseness is observable. Her case is dismissed with the remark that the SOVEREIGN'S allowance is £385,000 a year. But in that statement no account is taken of the allowance to other members of the Royal Family, or of the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall, the revenues of which go to the QUEEN and Prince of WALES respectively. The Prince and Princess of WALES receive a sum of £87,000 yearly from the State, and the revenue of the Duchy of Cornwall—£100,000 approximately—goes also to their support. To other members of the Royal Family £87,000 are paid, and the QUEEN'S income is swelled by the revenue of the Duchy of Lancaster—about £82,000. Hence the total payments made by the country to the SOVEREIGN and the Royal Family aggregate £741,000, or nearly 7¼ million *yen*. In other words, the allowances made in England are approximately two and a half times larger than the allowances made in Japan. Is that a startling contrast? It has often been shown in these columns that the wealth of England is to the wealth of Japan in very nearly the ratio of a sovereign to a *yen*—*i.e.* 10 to 1. Without insisting on that point, however, we may consider the matter in another way. The state revenue of Great Britain is a hundred million pounds sterling, approximately, and it follows that the sum expended on the maintenance of the Throne is $\frac{1}{1000}$ of the revenue. The revenue of Japan, after the proposed increase of taxation is effected, will be 180 million *yen*, so that the Civil List is already $\frac{1}{60}$ of the State's income. On the other hand, it is not to be denied that if 3 million *yen* annually was a proper figure for the Civil List eight years ago, it can not be a proper figure to-day, the Prince Imperial having now a large separate establishment of his own, the expenses of which have to be defrayed by the SOVEREIGN. Looking at the matter from a foreign point of view, it would seem natural and advisable that the Diet should make a separate grant on account of the Prince Imperial, whatever sum be added to the Throne's estates. However, we do not make these comments in a critical spirit. The affair concerns Japan only, though its interest for all nationalities induces us to speak about it. The time for the proposed grant is not happy. At a moment when increased taxation is the question of the day, the SOVEREIGN can not but be embarrassed by an offer contrasting so vividly with the duties which the Diet will be presently required to perform in connexion with the Budget. We venture to think that a more graceful and considerate method of procedure would have been to make a substantial increase to the Civil List. But no idea of that kind found expression in either House of the Diet when the Representation came up for discussion on the 6th instant. It was passed at once without division or dissension. The Japanese do not permit themselves the luxury of being critical where the SOVEREIGN is concerned.

SPHERES OF INFLUENCE OR THE OPEN DOOR.

IT is not within the competence of any Power to control the course of events completely. Some contingencies are out of reach, and the policy of every nation must consequently be to that extent adaptable. If, for example, the rulers in Peking are lost to all perception of what is fundamentally necessary for the preservation of an Empire's integrity, it would be quite futile for England, or any other foreign State, to waste its strength in trying to keep China upright. Should it appear that she is determined to throw herself down as often as she is set on her feet, she must be left prostrate. Has that conviction been forced upon England's perception? Yes, if *The Times* may be taken as representing British opinion. *The Times* says that "there has been a natural and, indeed, inevitable change in our position so far as China is concerned," and that "the policy of the "open door," in its earlier and simpler application, has collapsed, as a result of the growing weakness of the central Government at Peking, and of the increasing strength of foreign intervention." The plain fact is that since China declines to resist any demand for concessions, and since every concession obtained by one Power necessarily involves some inequality of opportunities for the other Powers, the "open door" becomes a mere farce. *The Times* suggests that it will now be unavoidable "to substitute for the old claim, namely, equality of opportunities, a new principle, namely, equal distribution of opportunities." "We should undoubtedly have preferred," it adds, "the 'open door' in its widest sense, but with a tottering Government at Peking unable to resist the pressure of more aggressive suitors, it is doubtful whether

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British interests would have obtained fair play without such a constant application of force as would have involved grave danger of international complications."* That is put very diplomatically and euphemistically, but in plain English it amounts to this:—"Since we can not, without risk of war, compel other nations to give us an equal share of all the slices they cut out of China, we must proceed to cut out slices on our own account." Here is the remainder of *The Times'* important article:—

Under the new policy the "spheres of interest" of the European Powers in China have been gradually distinguished and marked out. For the moment we may leave aside the question, so frequently discussed, of Russia's assertion of a dominant authority in Northern China and of her pretensions to interfere even in the Yang-tsze Valley. What is, perhaps, more immediately important is the agreement arrived at between this country and Germany in regard to one of the great trunk lines, that from Tien-tsin to Chin-kiang, following roughly a parallel course to the Grand Canal. The line is to be constructed jointly under German and British control, and is to be in German hands as far as the southern frontier of the Shan-tung province, while, after entering the province of Kiang-su, which is within the Yang-tsze region, it will be under British management. At the same time the Germans have withdrawn from any competition for the control of the proposed line, a very important one, connecting Shanghai with Nanking on the one side and Hang-chau on the other. The real significance of this understanding is that it implies a recognition of the British and German spheres respectively in the basins of the Yang-tsze and the Yellow River. The districts south of the Shan-tung border and those in immediate connexion with Shanghai are among the richest and most populous in China, and are most open to immediate commercial development. It is upon the Yang-tsze Valley that the attention of British diplomacy should be mainly fixed, and it is satisfactory to know that, in this matter, we have been able to negotiate with Germany in a thoroughly friendly spirit and on a basis of practical common sense. As we have been successful in South African in coming to a good understanding with the German Government in regard to questions which must, almost inevitably, arise in the future—to the great advantage, we feel sure, of both Powers—so we may hope that a similar agreement with regard to China has not only disposed of immediate controversies, but will also secure in the future the co-operation of the two great Teutonic nations for the furtherance of their commercial and economic interests.

It is obvious enough that, if Russia were willing to enter into an understanding of the same sort, there would be no insuperable objection on our side. The intelligence we publish this morning, confirming what has already been published in our columns, announces the signature of the contract between the Chinese Director of Railways and the manager of the Hong kong and Shanghai Bank, for a loan of 2½ millions sterling for the extension of the northern railway to New chwang and beyond that point, under a Government guarantee and with a charge on the line already open from Peking to Shan-hai-kwan. This contract implies the acceptance of the conditions laid down by M. Pavloff that no mortgage should be given over any part of the railway north of the Great Wall and that no control by any "foreign" owners or mortgagees should be permitted beyond the same limit. It amounts to an acknowledgment of an exclusive sphere of interest for Russia in the extreme north, even when British capital and enterprise are brought in; but, if it is to be accepted, what consideration is to be granted to this country elsewhere? It is quite possible to deal with Russia, as we have dealt with Germany, on the principle of "give and take." We cannot, however, profess to regard the so-called Belgian concession for the construction of the great trunk line from Peking to Hankau—while, as we are told, "the actual ownership and control of the whole line of communication will be in Russian and French hands"—as anything less than an invasion of what we are entitled to regard as our legitimate sphere in the Yangtsze valley. There is here a question which, if concessions are to be balanced against concessions, may be fairly given over for settlement to diplomacy; but it cannot be left indefinitely unsettled. From Han-kau southwards a line perhaps even more important than that from Peking is planned to that great additional seat of Chinese commerce, Canton, and, as it is proposed to be executed by American enterprise and with the aid of American capital, we have not the least reason to look upon it with any jealousy. When it reaches Canton, or probably long before, it will be met there by a line under British control connecting that city with Kouloon and Hongkong. The railway projects which have been contemplated by France are not supposed to be likely, for financial and other reasons, to make very rapid progress. They are, perhaps, in some cases intended rather to cut other people out than to be made profitable to the French themselves. But with France, as well as with Russia, it would be perfectly possible to come to an agreement on the basis of an "equitable distribution of opportunities," if, on the other side, there was a real disposition to agree.

We commend the above article to the attention of Japanese statesmen. This country's foreign policy is greatly wanting, we venture to think, in the element of self-assertion which European nations display so conspicuously. While Japan is talking romance, other countries are quietly gathering the plums. And yet, after all, Japan is crippled. Party politics prevent her from putting her finances on a sound footing, and, until that is done, she labours under a fatal disadvantage. We are tempted to speculate what might have been if the opening of the Diet could have been postponed for 20 years. Up to 1890, the country made admirable progress. Its affairs were directed by a group of brilliant politicians and soldiers; men created by the extraordinary circumstances of the Restoration; men whose manner of dealing with those circumstances should have won for them universal confidence. Liberal progress was their motto, and in every useful direction they led the nation steadily forward. What has been accomplished since 1890? Comparatively nothing. There have been signal military and naval achievements, but they were the direct outcome of systems with which the Diet happily never succeeded in meddling. In place of concentrating its attention on steady and united progress, the nation has been distracted by a long squabble, and has nothing to show for it all except the establishment of a principle which can not yet be carried fully into practice, the principle of party government. And now, when the supreme crisis of the Far East is within sight, the dissensions of these party politicians deprive her of strength to enter the arena. She has had a great deal of good fortune in her modern career, but fate was not kind when it reduced her to her present condition at this particularly critical epoch.

SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The war between the Liberal organs and the journals representing their opponents begins to wax vehement. Heavy blows are struck on both sides, but the impression produced on a bystander is that of idle fencing rather than earnest combat. The *Nippon*, we need scarcely say, revels in the renewed din of battle. While the Progressists and the Liberals occupied the same camp, the journalistic atmosphere was comparatively peaceful, and even when one party had been thrust out, the possibility that the two might find themselves once more fighting shoulder to shoulder against the Clan Statesmen, exercised a restraining influence. But now that the Liberals have finally passed over to the Ministry's side, their old enemies and recent allies, the Progressists, are beginning to throw pleasant amenities at them, and the Liberals return the compliment. Thus the *Nippon* finds itself again in its element. It does not attach the smallest value to Marquis Yamagata's declaration or to the newly assumed attitude of the Ministry towards the Liberals. The *Fiji Shimpo* may speak of these things as a distinct step of political progress; may affirm that the sign-board bearing the legend "Independent Cabinets" has been for ever removed from the Government's portals, and that the great aim of the parties has been peacefully achieved. But the *Nippon* declines to endorse such romances. It calls the coalition a mere makeshift and says that, so far from any real progress having been effected, the desired consummation has been postponed by the adroitness of the Clan Statesmen. Therefore the Progressists, who alone remain true to their old principles, must range up their forces and fill the gap left by the desertion of the Liberals. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, much soberer than its vigorous *confrère* but not less hostile to the Liberals, predicts that their union with the Cabinet will be of brief duration, for their history shows that their guiding sentiment is self-interest, and very soon they will find out that their office-hunting ambition can not be satisfied under the present regimen. Discontent will come quickly, and after discontent, disruption. The *Hochi Shimbun*, reading Marquis Yamagata's declaration, arrives at the conclusion that he had no policy of his own when he took office. He discovered a policy as soon as he found a party to dictate one to him. Having lashed itself into a state of considerable indignation over such strange vacuity of statesmanship, the *Hochi* asks angrily what business the Marquis had to accept the Sovereign's mandate if he was without any conception of a means to carry it out. The *Yomiuri* never flags in its efforts to create discord between the newly joined allies. It began by suggesting various reprehensible agreements secretly formed between the Liberal leaders and the Ministry. Then it endeavoured to show that Marquis Yamagata had made no concession of any kind to the *Kensei-to*, but had successfully cajoled them into thinking that they were getting a great deal, whereas the gain was all on his side, the loss on theirs. Then it sought to stir up the National Unionists by telling them that no account whatever had been taken of them in the negotiations between the Liberals and the Government. Now, finally, its ground of attack is the Land Tax. It avers that Count Matsukata, according to an admission made by himself to a journalist, entered the Cabinet conditionally on the latter's pledging itself to increase the Land Tax, and that he will have to resign, taking with him Count Kabayama, unless the Cabinet abides by its pledge.

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To these and other assaults the pro-

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government journals are not slow to respond. It should be noted that Japanese newspapers never allude to each other by name in their controversies. They observe the strictest parliamentary reticence in that respect. The effect upon a reader is sometimes peculiar. He seems to be watching heavily shotted guns fired in no particular direction. The target is not visible, but the ordnance is evidently intended to annihilate something. However, that sense of random artillery practice is rare. Generally the gunner, though he pays no visible attention to his immediate assailant, sets up a palpable figure-head quite important enough to be battered for its own sake. Thus, when the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* fires a broadside at the *Wai-to*, there is no occasion to inquire whether the shells are intended to ricochet against the *Nippon*, or the *Yomiuri*, or the *Hochi*, or some other skirmisher. The *Wai-to* is in itself an all-sufficient mark. The *Nichi Nichi* always calls Couma Okuma's Party *Wai-to*. The ideographs "O-kuma" mean "big bear," and "wai" is the alternative pronunciation of "kuma." But *Wai* has other meanings besides that of "bear." It means "dwarfish," and it means "obscene," and it means "vulgar," and it means "clamorous with the clamour of an unruly mob." *Wai* is therefore a convenient prefix. It extends to the other side the privilege of making a selection among its significations, and it secures this side against the risk of a disappointing choice. The *Wai-to*, according to the *Nichi Nichi*, is a party with a bad deficiency in its moral vista. Country is deficient; Self and Party occupy the whole field of vision, and State and People are obliterated. The *Jimmin* says something of the same kind but expresses it more forcibly. There are Nihilists in Russia, it observes, and Japan has a genus of the same species—Progressists. "Destruction" is the only device on their banner. They oppose everything, attack everything. If they are not in office themselves, no policy pursued by those in power, no measures contemplated by the Cabinet, can possibly be right. "Administration by the Progressists or Nihilism"—they recognise no other alternative. If we turn from these pleasant amenities to the writing of the *Jiji Shimpō*, which, after all, seems to be the only non-partisan paper in Tokyo, we find it congratulating the country on the death of that very tough old principle, *chōsen shugi*, or the policy of unconcern. The knell of independent Cabinets has at length sounded, and the nation may be assured that it has laid the anomaly for ever in the grave. Japan can now begin to write her constitutional history. For nine years she has toiled at the compilation of the preface and the preparation of the title. Henceforth she can proceed to compose the text.

* * *

Generally we have to express admiration of the broad-minded and far-seeing views propounded by the *Jiji Shimpo*. Mr. Fukuzawa is often spoken of as one of the greatest of Japanese educators. He well deserves the epithet. But people when they apply it to him are thinking chiefly of the books he has written or translated, of the lectures he has delivered, and of the students he has taught. They do not include his newspaper in the category of his title to that noble reputation. Yet it can not be questioned that the *Jiji Shimpo* has done more than all the schools and all the colleges in Tokyo to educate a high moral standard among the Japanese. It has led them steadily towards the light of truth. We welcome the fine assistance which the *Mainichi Shimbun* is now lending to the same cause. The *Mainichi*, with admirable courage, has constituted itself the out-spoken opponent of racial prejudice and illiberal bigotry. It denounces the abuses of the time with courageous candour. There is plenty to denounce, as it explains in an article intended to restore the confidence which many watchers of the time must have well nigh lost altogether. The Diet, upon which such great hopes were founded; what has it done for the nation? The finances; is there any immediate prospect of their being soundly regulated? The schools; can any one pretend that their condition is satisfactory? Religion; is there not imminent danger of its being drawn into the vortex of politics? The Throne itself; has not the shadow of the political struggle fallen upon it? The Ministry; are not military influences paramount? Public morality; do we not see the system of licensed prostitution restored in places whence it had been with difficulty eradicated? Progress; are there not folks that advocate a policy closely resembling the closing of the country and the expulsion of foreigners? It is a formidable list, but the *Mainichi* bids its countrymen not to despair. The darkest hour comes before the dawn.

* * *

A more remarkable article in the columns of the same journal is entitled "Spurious Patriotism; Spurious Loyalty." It is directed against the party known as *Nippon Shugi-to*, or the "Japan Party," which has for its leaders Mr. Inouye Tetsujiro, Mr. Furusawa Urao, Mr. Kimura Takataro (of the *Keika Nippo*) and Mr. Takayama Rinjiro (of the *Taiyo*). These men hang out the signboard of loyalty to the Throne and love of country, but their so-called loyalty is the worst kind of disloyalty, and their love of country is, in effect, enmity. Had they any real sense of loyalty and patriotism, they would at once see the gross error of their ways. Without sincerity there can be no loyalty, no patriotism. Sincerity is the base of all virtues. Have these men shown themselves sincere? When Mr. Furusawa was in London, he pretended to be a Christian. It was then that Ono Azusa wrote to him:—"You do not know what it is to be true to a friend. You do not know what it is to be true to a man. How can you expect to be thought true to Heaven? How can you venture to call yourself a Christian?" This same Furusawa once penned a memorial in favour of a popular assembly, and then turned round and advocated purely monarchical institutions. Mr. Inouye Tetsujiro is the man who, while in Berlin, delivered a lecture slandering the women of his own country so shamefully that all the members of the Japanese Legation and all his nationals in that city, declined even to speak to him again. Yet, no sooner did he return to Japan, than he set himself to pander for popularity by claiming a monopoly of patriotism, lauding everything Japanese and preaching the rejection of everything alien. Let the writings of such men be ever so fine, there is no truth in their hearts. They are like profligate Buddhist priests who chaunt litanies at the opening of a temple; like immoral Shinto ministers flourishing periapts on high; like dissolute Christian clergymen intoning solemn "Amens." Loyalty and Patriotism in the mouths of such men are an insult to the Emperor. Society knows how to apply the scalpel of truth to their spurious protestations, and to lay bare the unsightly reality.

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Coming almost on the heels of these scathing denunciations of the *Mainichi's* and going far to justify their general import, an article in the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* should be quoted, though it must be confessed that the *Tokyo Asahi* very seldom lends its columns to such illiberal writing. It is an article with reference to the question of permitting foreigners to engage in educational enterprise in Japan. The writer—we can not believe that he is the editor of the *Asahi*—unreservedly condemns the idea of granting any such permission. Some folks contend, he says, that it is too late now to think of imposing any restrictions, inasmuch as foreigners have already established many educational institutions under Japanese names. They certainly have done so. The fact is indisputable but the inference is erroneous. Foreigners have established schools but that is because the meshes of the law have been unduly loose. Let them be drawn close again, and there can be no evasions. There is all the more reason for stringency, since it is plain that men who deliberately evade the law for the sake of establishing schools, are not fit to be entrusted with the task of educating the youth of the country. We do not want such men. There are other folks who say that any attempt to impose restrictions now would impair Japan's friendly relations with foreign nations. That is a valueless argument. An individual may sacrifice his personal interests on the altar of friendship, but a State can not do so. It is true, of course, that all foreigners are not self-seeking, knavish persons. Some are large-minded, upright gentlemen. But the latter are few and far between. If there are any such foreigners who desire to engage in education in Japan, let them become naturalized. It will not do to allow aliens indiscriminately to undertake the instruction of the youth of the country.

MURDER IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.

We very seldom hear of murderous assaults in Japanese railway carriages, but a case is now reported. It happened on the 1st instant on the Sanyo Railway. When the train reached Fukugawa Station, Captain Adachi Naomi, of the 24th Regiment, was found dead in a second-class carriage. The telegram does not say whether he had been stabbed or shot, but death had certainly been caused by violence, and it is believed that robbery was the object. Two men have been arrested on suspicion.

Investigations show that the unfortunate captain who met his death in a railway carriage on the Sanyo line, was the victim of thieves. He was lying asleep with a rug thrown over him, and the robbers commenced operations by stabbing him in the neck. He made a gallant struggle for life, but, being disabled by the wound, succumbed at last. The assassins found only 8 *yen* on his person. Both of them have been apprehended.

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

According to the *Seikyō Shimpō*, the Greek Church in Japan is collecting materials for a Japanese Ecclesiastical History to be published at the close of the Nineteenth Century. Mr. Ishikawa Kisaburō is superintending the work and already has a great deal of matter in hand. In an article published in the *Seikyō Shimpō* Mr. Ishikawa gives his ideas as to the principles that should guide the compiler of such a book. He says that some Japanese seem to think that the object of an ecclesiastical history is to sing the praises of individuals who have helped to increase the number of converts. But this is not his idea of what is required of a Church historian. The author has to remember that the work about which he is writing is God's work and that the record of the expansion of the Church must be so compiled as to show God's hand in it all. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory" must be the keynote of the history. The fortunes of the Church as a Church must be faithfully recorded, and to personal history as such a very subordinate place should be assigned. Some of the Christians who have been asked to furnish material for the contemplated work seem to think that it is their duty to magnify the importance of their own little corner of the Christian world. This is also a misconception, says Mr. Ishikawa. The chief thing to be noted with care is the life of a Church and all that nourishes and develops that life. What we need are signs that God is working in our midst. It is, of course, likely that in describing God's work events will be attributed to miraculous agency that had natural causes, but this is not a bad fault. It is better to believe in too many miracles than to believe in none at all. Where it is thought that the hand of God has been present, it is desirable that the most minute details of the incidents referred to should be given.

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The *Fukuin Shimpō* makes some very important statements bearing on the relation of foreign missionaries to native pastors and other workers, which, if correct, indicate the adoption of an entirely new policy by the Protestant missionaries labouring in this country. No. 176 of the *Fukuin Shimpō* asserts that in several of the principal sects it has been decided that the foreign and native agents shall work apart and be entirely independent of each other. The sects specially mentioned are the Kumai Kyōkai, the Nihon-Kirisuto-Kyōkai and the Methodist Churches. Of the Methodists, the *Fukuin Shimpō* says that, though hitherto the Methodist Church in Japan has been called a Japanese Church, in future both in name and reality the Church will be a Canadian Methodist Church, as the Canadian Missionaries are controlling its affairs. The *Fukuin Shimpō* thinks that the relation of native Christians to foreign missionaries is one of the questions of the day and is of opinion that anything would be better than the weak manner in which so many Christians rely on foreign help. The relation of some churches to the foreign missionaries very much resembles that of a colony to the home country, says the *Fukuin Shimpō*.

We are not in possession of any special information on the subject, but we think that there is no doubt that one effect of the Dōshisha affair has been to make the missionaries very careful as to the amount of control over funds supplied by their Boards or Societies exercised by the Japanese. This seems natural enough, but whether they have gone to the length described by the *Fukuin Shimpō* we are unable to say.

* * *

The *Fukuin Shimpō* (No. 173) complains of the inaccuracy of the statistics lately published by "foreign missionaries" as regards the Nihon-Kirisuto-Kyōkai. We presume that it is to the "History of Protestant Missions in Japan" that the *Fukuin Shimpō* refers. The figures given there, as quoted by the *Fukuin Shimpō*, are 80 ordained pastors, 122 unordained pastors, 91 Bible women, 93 schoolmasters, 203 school-mistresses, making a total of 489. These figures are incorrect and misleading, says the organ we are citing. It does not explain, however, in what respects. Another grievance against the "History of Protestant Missions" is the use by the writers of that work of the word "native," which the *Fukuin Shimpō* tells us is "offensive to Japanese ears." According to this authority the term implies contempt.

* * *

If the *Fukuin Shimpō* occasionally says some rather severe things about foreigners and their ways, it cannot be affirmed that it is less severe on what it conceives to be the weaknesses and defects of the fellow-countrymen of the editor. No. 174 contains an article on the trimming and servility which characterise so many newspaper writers and politicians to-day. In pandering to the tastes of customers these men resemble the dancing girl and the restaurant-keeper, says the *Fukuin Shimpō*. There are no depths of sycophancy to which they will not descend in order to curry favour with the rich or the influential. Hypocrisy and pretence are to be seen on every hand; from the obscure student, whose home is some low-class smoky lodging-house, but who struts through the street with a cigarette in his mouth and a highly polished cane in his hand or appears on the platform uttering grandiloquent sentences on Japan's foreign policy, to the school-teacher who, while in his heart he welcomes the growth of democracy, for the sake of outward appearances and in order to please his employers keeps reading in public the Imperial Rescript on Education, bowing before the Emperor's picture and talking of "duties to the Crown and the State." Even the Church does not escape the taint of the prevailing insincerity, and there are pastors to be found who are pronounced trimmers.

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Some weeks ago Mr. Uchimura Kanzō delivered an address to the Kanda Young Men's Society on "The advantages of Studying Theology," a report of which has been published in the *Fukuin Shimpō*. The following is the gist of Mr. Uchimura's remarks. I am not a theologian, but simply one who believes in theology as a benefactor of mankind. Theology is a subject that is specially taught at Divinity Schools. My knowledge of it is not that of an expert. Our object here is not to train men for becoming evangelists, but to bear testimony to the efficacy of Christianity as we know and believe it. There is a great difference between the study of theology in Europe and America and that carried on here. The Ministry in those countries is regarded as a high class profession which gives to those who follow it social rank that in many cases would not otherwise be possessed by them. In addition to this the pastors are paid regular stipends. In Japan a minister of Christ reaps no material benefits from his position. Socially he is not advanced, and as for money, he could make much more by following other callings. But he obtains mental advantages from the study of theology that are not to be had by any other means. History records numerous instances of the power of theology to work great changes in states. It was theology that in the sixteenth century delivered Holland from the thraldom of Spain's yoke. It was theology that in England fired the souls of Cromwell's troops and rendered them victorious over their foes. It was theology that prompted the Pilgrim Fathers to cross the Atlantic and led to their founding the great American state. Christian theology is suited to all countries alike. From Palestine, the centre of the world, it was intended that it should spread to every part of the globe. We are informed by naturalists that the fish which swim in the lake of Galilee represent all the different types found in other parts of the world. This gives a new meaning to Christ's words to his disciples "I will make you to become fishers of men." It was intended that all the different types of mankind should be gathered into the fold of Christ."

* * *

Several magazines still continue to comment on the Sugamo prison affair. The former Governor of the prison, Mr. Arima, has been made Governor of the Ichigaya prison. But great dissatisfaction is felt with the way that the Home Minister settled the affair. Neither the Christians nor the Buddhists are pleased. The former, through their organs, demand fair play and no favouritism. The Buddhists for the most part object to any concessions being made to Christianity, and, as for equality of treatment, they would regard this as quite heinous. The *Kirisutokyō Shimbun* attacks Count Itagaki. It says that the removal of Mr. Arima from Sugamo was done to appease the Buddhists. It thinks it hopeless to expect prison reform to be carried out by a statesman who has not the courage of his opinions. The *Taiyō* disapproves altogether of the way the whole thing has been managed. It represents the action of the Home Office as a patch-work business. Attempts were made to bridge over the difficulty of the situation temporarily. It thinks that all religions practiced in Japan should be publicly recognised and that the failure of the Government to take any steps towards the public recognition of Christianity has given the Buddhists an unfair advantage over their opponents in this controversy. The whole attitude of the Home Office towards Buddhism during the past few months has been of a nature to create distrust in the minds of discerning persons, says the *Taiyō*. It looks very much as though the Buddhists had succeeded in overawing the Government. The action of the Home Office in regard to the Hongwanji troubles is anything but praiseworthy, concludes the *Taiyō*.

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The *Shinseiki* has articles on "Christianity in Europe and America;" "Is Jesus

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merely a man?" "Our Immortality. Death and after death:" "The Motive power required for the revival of morality:" "Workmen and the Factory Laws." "Travels in Korea;" "Prison Reform;" &c.

The article on the future of Christianity in Europe and America is by the Rev. H. Kosaki. The first part of the article gives the history of a Mr. Yamazaki Tamenori, who, after graduating at the Imperial University went to the Dōshisha and graduated there in 1879. He at once became one of the teachers of the school; but died two years after. Mr. Kosaki relates that Dr. Hamao tried hard to persuade Mr. Yamazaki not to join the Dōshisha. Dr. Hamao said that religion was only fit for people of little education and undeveloped minds and that the spread of Christianity would interfere with the progress of civilisation in Japan. Mr. Kosaki then proceeds to relate how persistent and vigorous was the opposition to Christianity offered by Professor Morse. Professor Yatabe, too, undertook to show that the doctrine of the trinity was a mathematical impossibility. Three could not be one, nor one three. Mr. Kosaki is of opinion that the idea that Christianity hinders the progress of civilisation is no longer entertained by the educated classes. But they habitually represent Christianity as being on the wane in Europe and America. This Mr. Kosaki endeavours to show is not the case. He quotes instances of the hold that religion still has on the minds of men, and comes to the conclusion that its prospects are bright in the western world and thinks that those Japanese who, after spending many years abroad and mixing with all classes of society, have reached an opposite conclusion are entirely mistaken.

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The *Jisen Mondai* (On Charity) is a much needed little book from the pen of Mr. Tomeoka Kōsuke published by the Keiseisha, Uneme-chō, Kyōbashi, Tōkyō, which sells at 25 *sen* a copy. It deals with the whole subject of charity in a very thorough manner, discussing its principal functions, its various kinds and qualities, the knowledge required by those who are desirous of exercising this virtue, the different methods of bestowing charity, the obligations and duties of Government, the upper class, and the wealthy in respect thereto. The various kinds of charitable institutions such as Reformatories, Asylums, and Industrial Homes are also discussed. Mr. Tomeoka, in addition to having had a great deal of practical experience in dealing with the fallen and the unfortunate in Japan, has made a special study of organised charity in Europe and America and gives the Japanese world the results of his investigations in this little volume. He points out how imperfect and bungling have been many of the charitable efforts of the Japanese in the past, owing to an entire ignorance of the best methods to pursue. He insists on the necessity of religion and science going hand in hand in the exercise of the virtue of charity, drawing attention to the harm that is caused by unskilful attempts to help the poor or the afflicted. It cannot be said that the development of charity in Japan has hitherto kept pace with other things. Hence a work like the *Jisen Mondai* was very much called for.

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The *Seikyō Shimpō* (No. 430) has some very timely remarks on the violation of the principle of religious liberty by Japanese society at the present time. The Constitution is new, and few are the people who really understand its significance. New regulations arrayed against habitual modes of thought and ancient customs do not stand much chance of making their influence felt in a short space of time. The article in the Constitution which grants religious liberty to all Japanese subjects is to the majority a dead letter. Moreover, not a few people regard Christianity as an affront to the Throne, as containing elements that promote disloyalty, and hence they are prepared to defy the Constitution when opposing the foreign creed. Many of the teachers in Elementary Schools are guilty of acting in direct opposition to the Constitution. Without ever studying Christianity they undertake to inform their pupils that it would be a breach of loyalty on their (the pupils') part to adopt it. The same notion prevails in official circles. Municipal and police officers and men serving in various bureaux are distinctly under the impression that to adopt Christianity would be to lay themselves open to suspicion of disloyalty. In the case of the Elementary School teachers the mischief begins at the Normal Schools where they are trained. They go forth from those institutions with all kinds of silly prejudices in their minds. There is no attempt made by the conductors of these schools to enlighten the minds of the students on the subject of religious liberty and what it implies. In official circles the known sentiments of superior officers greatly influence their subordinates, and few are the cases where men are sufficiently in earnest to ignore all consequences of their action and openly profess Christianity.

But, continues the *Seikyō Shimpō*, notwithstanding the unpopularity of their conduct, there are even among school teachers a few sincere Christians and among judges still more. One of the reasons of their being more Christians among judges than among other high-class officials given by the *Seikyō Shimpō* is the fact that these officers are appointed for life. The effect of custom on belief is, in Japan, very strong, specially so in small villages and districts, where the action of individuals when differing from that of the majority attracts attention and causes umbrage. In large towns there is much more liberty of practice and belief. The opposition of custom is something that the law cannot deal with, and yet it is a law in itself, which quietly undermines in many cases the written law of the land. This is the greatest of all the forces arrayed against Christianity, concludes the *Seikyō Shimpō*, but she is strong enough to overcome even this foe. It is by means of the strength of opposing forces that we get to know what is the power of the religion of Christ. It is not in calm seas that our vessel shows at her best, but when the waves are high and the wind boisterous.

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Commenting on the attack on Christians which took place at Shirakawa in September last, already referred to in these columns, the *Fukuin Shimpō* says that in many instances that have come to its notice the same kind of thing has happened, where Christians have taken a stand against established customs. No Christian teacher or student will escape a certain amount of ridicule or persecution when he differentiates himself from his fellows and follows his own religious customs. But one of the duties of the Christian is to discuss the practices of his fellow-countrymen and if he deems them wrong to endeavour to rectify them. The subject of religious festivals and what goes on during their celebration is one on which Christians must pronounce an opinion. But when they take steps to make their views known, first comes coldness from their fellow-citizens or fellow-townsmen, and then, in some cases, open opposition. It is quite evident that the obligation to grant religious liberty to others is one which the majority do not feel. But as regards Christians, before all things they must so act as to secure peace of conscience. If they forego this for the sake of temporary peace and quiet, they will suffer in consequence sooner or later. It is far preferable that they should openly declare their belief, let the consequences be what they may.

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It has been customary to represent Shintō as inferior to both Buddhism and Christianity, on account of original Shintō consisting of nothing but ancestral worship. The absence of an elaborate ceremonial and abstruse doctriness such as characterise Buddhism and many forms of Christianity is often cited as a proof that Shintō has no title to be called a religion. In a striking article published in the *Nihon Shugi*, a member of the pure Shintō school—of which Mr. (now Sir Ernest) Satow gives an account in Vol. III. of the Transactions of the Asiatic Society—glories in the dissimilarity to both Buddhism and Christianity that marks the original Shintō cult. The title of the article is "The Happiness of having no Religion." The writer commences by confessing that it is impossible to state in a few words exactly what Shintō teaches. It began when the nation came into existence and has so entwined itself with all the various phases of Japanese life as to be inseparable from them. Our agriculture and industry, our morality and our education may all be traced to this fountain-head. But there is something about our real Shintō that is quite different from both Christianity and Buddhism. Take our festivals. In them we worship the past. We call to mind the many benefits we have received from our ancestors and lift up our hearts in thanksgiving. But with all Buddhist and Christian festivals the thoughts of devotees are centred on the present benefits to be derived from their devotion, or the future rewards that they will receive in consequence of the homage they are paying to their objects of worship. In original Shintō there was no system of doctrines, no elaborate ceremony. The remembrance of a noble ancestry was kept fresh in the minds of the people and they were expected to strive to live lives worthy of their forefathers. In subsequent times Shintō shared the fate of most creeds. It was corrupted. It was provided with a ceremonial and with a system of doctrines. After the introduction of Buddhism into Japan the influence of the two creeds on each other led to numerous modifications of the original character of both. In order to render itself acceptable to the Japanese people, Buddhism borrowed largely from Shintō and represented its objects of worship to be no other than Shintō gods under other names. Shintō, on the other hand, recog-

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dazzling and captivating in the gorgeous ceremonial and the minute and philosophic doctrines of the Buddhists, and she incorporated as much of the alien system as she could assimilate. But it is quite possible even to-day to distinguish in Shintō that which was original from that which was derived, the tree from that which was grafted on it.

It is quite true to say that the Japanese state has no religion; that the Japanese people need no religion. The people that need a religion are servile and without principle. (*Nihon no Kokka, kokumin wa mushūkyō nari. Warera wa shūkyō wo yōsedsu. Shūkyō wo yōsuru kokumin wa hikutsu nari mushugi nari*). The chief object of religion, according to many, is to give those who believe in it peace of mind throughout life. But those who act on principle, those whose minds are strong already, possess this peace without seeking it elsewhere. It is only those who have no principles to guide them that are always looking to others for help. It is this unrest of mind on the part of many that necessitates the proclamation of pessimistic doctrines. The world is blamed because it does not yield what can only come from the mind's stability and assurance alone. Those whose principle are fixed know no disquietude and no disappointment.

Religion is one of the greatest causes of unrest and dissatisfaction that the world contains. The religious devotee is unable to enjoy to the full the pleasures of life, because he is alway hankering after the happiness of the life to come. Then the great religious systems are all permeated with egoism. Even charity, when performed, as is so frequently the case, for the sake of the future reward that it is expected it will secure, becomes spurious. It becomes a barter. It will gives so much now, in order to receive more hereafter. I am one of those who has never known what it is to be led astray by religion. It is my happiness to belong to a people whose hearts are happy because they are well established, fortified by principle. We can enjoy the present and feel no necessity to ask about the future. We rejoice in our country's progress and thank our stars that we are the descendants of such noble ancestors. So concludes the author of the *Mushūkyō no Kōfuku*.

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The same number of the *Nihon Shugi* from which we have quoted refers to the movement in England against teaching religion in State Schools by the members of what is called "The Moral Instruction League." It is contended by this party that the mixture of religious and moral teaching in schools is attended with great harm. Most religious doctrines are founded on supernaturalism; which is rejected by millions of young men in Europe, and the danger is that the destruction of the citadel of religious belief will involve the fall of the fortress of morality. In order to avoid this, the members of the Association mentioned above are proposing what they deem a thoroughly reliable basis of ethics—a basis as old as the world and capable of being used in any part of the globe. In England, says the *Nihon Shugi*, there is a good deal of bigotry and narrow-mindedness to contend with. It is only in France and Switzerland that moral teaching in public schools is free from all religious elements. It is difficult for Japanese to realise how powerful is tradition and custom in England in the matter of religion. It seems pitiable, continues the organ we are quoting, that at the end of the nineteenth century, notwithstanding all the advance that science has made and the large number of scientific men that England contains, it should be necessary to form a league in order to effect a reform that to us Japanese appears so natural that it needs no recommending. We are not troubled in this way here. In keeping religion out of our schools there is no religious prejudice or superstition to overcome. It is true, though, that a few ignorant people have of late advocated the introduction of religious teaching into our schools. It would be difficult to match the density of such people, concludes the *Nihon Shugi*.

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The *Yorozu Chōhō* states that there is a dispute going on between the Home Department and the Hōsei Kyoku (Legislative Bureau, connected with the Cabinet) in reference to the status to be given to the Ise Imperial Shrines and to those shrines known as Kwampei-taisha, where the ceremonies performed are under the direct supervision of the Government In the Bill to be presented to the Diet at its next session entitled Shaji-hōan, something definite will have to be inserted on this subject. The question which has to be settled is, shall the Ise Shrine alone occupy a different rank from ordinary places of worship? or shall the Kwampei-taisha also be excluded from the list of ordinary shrines to be controlled by the bureau which will take charge of all temples and churches?

* * *

Mr. Anezaki has translated Hartman's "Philosophy of Religion." In a review of the work, the *Rikugō Zasshi* says that in point of style the translation is not equal to Mr. Anezaki's "History of Religion in India." In that work the language flows along in an easy manner, but in the translation now published Mr. Anezaki seems "like a man climbing the sides of a mountain covered with thorns." Nevertheless the religious public is to be congratulated in having such a treatise as Hartman's *Philosophie des Unbewussten* rendered intelligible to them. There are many parts of Hartmann's work that are very applicable to Japan at the present time, says the *Rikugō Zasshi*. The transcendental basis of belief which he elaborates serves equally well for both Christianity and Buddhism. Although Mr. Anezaki has no doubt expended a good deal of labour on the translation, there are, says the *Rikugō Zasshi*, many parts of it that are very hard to understand. The subject itself is a stiff one and the reader must beware of becoming discouraged at the outset. Careful perusal of the whole volume, however, will well repay the earnest student.

The destructive storms of the 27th ultimo seem to have done most serious havoc in Echigo province. The railway between the Funtsuri Iron Bridge and Yoneyama 1st tunnel was greatly damaged, and the sleepers were all washed away by the flood. The damage is estimated at over *yen* 10 000. The engineers of the Railway Company are engaged on repairs, but traffic will be suspended for several days more.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

SATURDAY, DEC. 3RD.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

The weather on the 3rd instant proved so inclement that His Majesty's resolve not to ignore the injunctions of the Court physicians by opening the Diet in person, proved very fortunate. The Prime Minister read the Imperial Speech, which ran as follows:—

We hereby declare the Imperial Diet open for business.

Lords and Gentlemen—Our relations with the various Treaty Powers continue to be of an increasingly amicable character.

The time for the operation of the Revised Treaties is now close at hand, We trust that all classes of Our people will endeavour to bring the event to a successful issue.

For the purpose of placing the finances on a sound footing, We have directed Our Ministers of State to devise the necessary expedients, and to submit for the consideration of the Diet projects of law for the consummation of that purpose, together with the Budget for the 32nd fiscal year, and various other measures. We trust that you, Lords and Gentlemen, will impartially and circumspectly discharge your functions of deliberation and consent with regard to these important affairs of state.

MONDAY, DEC. 5TH.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEES, ETC.

On the 5th instant both Houses of the Diet met, but the only business transacted was the election of the Standing Committees and of the Chairmen of Committee of the Whole. To the latter office Prince Tokugawa Iyesato was elected in the House of Peers and Mr. Haseba Junko in the House of Representatives. Mr. Haseba is a member of the Liberal Party, or, perhaps we should say, of the Constitutional Party, since he owes his election to the united support of the sections forming the latter, not to the votes of the Liberals alone. It follows, therefore, that the three principal posts in the Houses—those of President, Vice-President and Chairman of Committee of the Whole—are occupied by members of the Constitutional Party. Hitherto there has been a certain amount of give and take in this matter. If one party's candidate was elected to the Presidency, another's was chosen Vice-President, and yet another's had the honour of becoming Chairman of the Whole. But the Constitutionalists are now supreme, and they have apparently resolved that their supremacy shall not be challenged. Of course the position of Chairman of the Whole is not a prize, so far as emoluments are concerned. The President receives an annual salary of four thousand *yen* and the Vice-President a salary of two thousand—not by any means insignificant rewards, seeing the work to be done for them is limited to a period of three months in the year. But the Chairman of Committee of the Whole is not a paid official, and his privilege is limited to taking the place of the President whenever the House goes into committee to debate on the third reading of a bill. Still the position has always been coveted for the sake of the distinction it confers, and the election of a Liberal furnishes additional proof that the Constitutional Party has a strong majority, for although the main body of the Independents may be expected to vote with the Government's supporters on all questions of a legislative character, they would not recognise any such obligation in the matter of electing the Chairman of the Whole, and the victory of the Liberals

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in the latter case is correspondingly suggestive. Prince Tokugawa Iyesato is the representative of the great family of Tokugawa, the last of the Shoguns, Tokugawa Keiki, having become *Inkyo*.

TUESDAY, DEC. 6TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

A GIFT TO THE THRONE.

The House of Peers met at 10.10 a.m., and after the reading of various reports and the granting of some applications for leave of absence, Marquis Kuroda moved that the Order of the Day be changed for the purpose of proceeding at once to consider a Representation urging the Government to transfer to the Crown Property a sum of 20 million *yen* from the portion of the Indemnity now remaining in the Treasury. The House agreed, and the Representation, having been read, was adopted unanimously. It ran as follows:—

Whereas during the War of the 27th and 28th years of *Meiji*, His Imperial Majesty, our illustrious Sovereign, this Empire's Great Civil and Military Ruler, advanced the Imperial Standard to Hiroshima, and in his Imperial person directed the affairs of the War so that abroad the soldiers of the country offered up their lives for the public cause, and, at home, a united people, one and all animated by a warlike spirit, offered up their resources for the conduct of belligerent operations, with the result that peace was finally restored to the East and the glory of the country made to shine throughout the world; and whereas we, His Majesty's subjects, are profoundly sensible that these issues were mainly due to the Imperial virtues, we desire to express the sincerity of our respectful gratitude by including in the Imperial Estates, as a memento of the signal successes achieved in the War, a sum of twenty million *yen* from the Indemnity obtained in consequence of the country's victories.

NEW BILLS.

The House then proceeded with the Order of the Day, and handed the following bills to Special Committees:—

1. Government Bill embodying a Law for the Better Preservation of Military Secrets.

The explanation of reasons appended to this measure states that, as the country's defences are now approaching completion, some regulations are necessary to prevent the divulging of military secrets or the publishing or sale of secret military books, documents, and plans. The project contains several clauses, defining the nature of the offences referred to, and prescribing penalties.

2. A Government Bill embodying Amendments of Law for Grants in Aid of the Families of Deceased Officials.

3. A Government Bill for extending the System of Military Courts Martial to the Troops Serving in Formosa.

With regard to this bill it was explained that the Military Law now in operation creates competence for holding courts-martial in Districts falling within the limits assigned to the various Army Division. The Island of Formosa is not among those Districts, and special legislation is therefore necessary in its case.

4. A Government Bill for amending the Boundaries between Chiba and Ibaraki Prefectures.

The House rose at 10.45 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.10 p.m., and after the usual preliminary business, proceeded to the Order of the Day, handing the following bills without discussion to special committees:—

1. Government Bill for the Protection of the Aborigines in Hokkaido.

It was explained with reference to this Bill that the aboriginal inhabitants of Hokkaido were entitled to the same measure of consideration and public assistance as that enjoyed by all the other subjects of Japan, and that, owing to the absence of aid, they were gradually disappearing in the struggle for the survival of the fittest. It was therefore proposed that a grant of 15,000 *tsubo* of land should be made [illegible] engaging in agriculture, conditionally on the land's being neither pawned nor sold; that farming implements and seed should be given gratis to those unable to purchase them; that no tax should be levied on such lands for a term of 30 years; that medical aid and medicines should be provided for the sick, and burial for the dead, if necessary, and that schools should be established. The Law is framed to go into operation from January 1st, 1899.

2. A Government Bill for excluding Kobe from the places where silk-conditioning warehouses are established. The amendment to go into operation from date of promulgation.

3. A Private Bill for amending the Registration Law.

A Representation was then introduced by Mr. Haseba Junko, urging that a sum of 20 million *yen* from the remainder of the Indemnity be included in the Imperial Estates. Mr. Haseba confined himself to reading the Representation and the brief appended statement of reasons. One of the members suggested that as the measure advocated in the Representation was understood to have been planned by the former Cabinet and handed down to the present Ministry, it might be embodied in a Government Bill with greater propriety than in a Representation made by the House. Mr. Haseba treated this suggestion with contempt, and, no member being found to second the proposal, the Representation was at once put to the vote and adopted unanimously.

The House rose at 1.45 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 8TH.

The House of Peers did not meet.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER PRESIDENT.

The House of Representatives met at 1.10 p.m., and after the usual reports had been made, the Prime Minister ascended the rostrum and read the following address:—

GENTLEMEN,—Having been honoured for a second time with the Sovereign's mandate to conduct the Administration, I am pleased to have this opportunity of submitting to you a statement of my policy. I need scarcely remind you of the fact that the change of Cabinets took place on the eve of the assembly of the Diet, and that, consequently, we have not had time to give full attention to all the important State affairs calling for legislation. With regard, however, to works connected with the programme of defensive armament and the development of the national resources, mapped out and undertaken as part of the *post bellum* scheme, inasmuch as their general object and scope were decided from the first and endorsed by successive Cabinets, we deem it sufficient to follow the routine indicated by our predecessors. But in the case of such works, not only was it found impossible to avoid some excess of expenditures over estimates, owing to the enhanced price of all commodities and to the vicissitudes of the era, but also certain additional correlated works presented themselves as inevitable. Steps had therefore to be taken to provide means for meeting the increased expenditures in one case and the added outlay in the other. Various measures for obtaining the requisite funds were therefore devised by the officials concerned, and the Diet was invited to consider them in its eleventh session. Owing, however, to the dissolution of the House of Representatives and to other causes, that purpose could not be accomplished, and it results that, to the great concern of all classes of the nation, there has been a failure to place the finances on a sound footing. I entertain no doubt that you, gentlemen, who approve of the purpose I have in view, will lend your assistance to correct the situation. In spite of the brief interval that has elapsed since the present Cabinet took office, we have adopted measures to secure financial stability, and submitted them to the Diet. The particulars of them will be explained to you by the Minister of State for Finance.

GENTLEMEN,—The relations between this empire and foreign nations have grown closer year by year. You will share the satisfaction I feel in being able to state that despite the numerous problems presenting themselves in the Far East, it has been possible for us to march in perfect harmony with foreign governments. Nevertheless, in these days of rapid progress, it becomes necessary, if we desire not to fall behind in the competitive race, that we should not relax our efforts for a moment in the domains of education, of production, of productive industries, of means of communication, and of trade. We have, in fact, carried the *post bellum* programme only half-way towards completion. It is our earnest hope that we may succeed in devising plans for strengthening the financial situation, winning the confidence of the country, and establishing prosperous economical conditions in general, so that the various works now in hand may be gradually brought to completion.

A very short time will now bring us to the consummation of the Treaty Revision which has been the constant desideratum of the nation for many years. The effect will be to greatly improve our international position; but at the same time, it becomes our duty to give full thought to the measures necessary in connexion with the operation of the new Treaties, so that by creating on both sides a feeling of equal security, and establishing our mutual intercourse on a footing of warm sympathy, the change may be productive of happy results. The Government has spared no pains in elaborating such administrative measures as may suffice to prevent mistakes, and we sincerely trust that you also, in conjunction with the people, will give the fullest attention to this matter.

The Government has taken steps to prepare, for submission to the Diet, whatever projects of law seem essential for giving administrative effect to the policy which I have here indicated. That you, gentlemen, by taking these questions into careful and impartial consideration, will enable the business of the State to be carried on smoothly and progressively, is the hope earnestly entertained by myself and my colleagues in the interests of the country.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

After the conclusion of the address, which was read with deliberation and emphasis, and listened to attentively, Count Matsukata, Minister of State for Finance, ascended the rostrum, and read the following:—

GENTLEMEN,—I am very glad to have the opportunity of saying a few words to you with reference to the Budget for the 32rd fiscal year, which is now in your hands. You are already aware that an unavoidable increase of expenditures, caused by the progress of the country, has to be faced. The Budget of outlays for the 32nd year had been compiled before I took office, and the present Government, considering it a suitable measure, decided to present it to you in that form. You well know, gentlemen, that our finances to-day present features which inspire much uneasiness. The expenditures for the approaching fiscal year aggregate 226,344,700 *yen*, and the revenue now in sight totals only 188,738,400 *yen*, so that there is a deficiency of income to the amount of 37,606,300 *yen*. It is therefore evident that steps must be taken to redress this inequality. The last Cabinet spared no effort to reduce the public outlays as far as possible, but many factors contributed to limit those efforts; namely, the marked appreciation of all commodities; the necessity of adopting various measures with reference to the operation of the Revised Treaties and the enforcement of the new Codes; the extension of means of communication; the inclusion of outlays on account of Formosan development and the encouragement of navigation in the Ordinary Expenditures, and the adoption of schemes for the defence of Hokkaido and

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Formosa. All these are pressing measures and indispensable. Some means must consequently be found of recruiting the revenue in order that it may be equal to meeting these various drafts upon it. With regard to increased taxation, the last Cabinet conducted various investigations, but did not arrive at any definite conclusion. Hence the present Government has been obliged to supplement those investigations, and the results are embodied in bills which will be submitted to you. No national problem presses more urgently and imperatively for solution at present than that of restoring the finances to a sound condition. To that end, some stable sources of increased revenue must be found. In the forefront of such sources the Government places an increase of the Land Tax and *Sake* Tax, and supplements these by amendments of the Income Tax and the Registration Tax. An additional revenue of 33,888,400 *yen* will thus be obtained in the 32nd fiscal year. That, however, does not represent the full increment expected from these sources, for in consequence of the collection periods being fixed in the cases of the Land Tax and the *Saké* Tax, the total income derived from a change in their rates can not be collected during the first year after the change. In the 33rd fiscal year, these increased taxes are estimated to yield a total additional revenue of 44,983,000 *yen*. In the meanwhile, it will be necessary next year to make a draft upon the Indemnity to the extent of 3,700,000 *yen*. By proceeding thus, not only will equilibrium be restored in the finances, but also they will be placed on a really sound basis. I would bespeak your appreciative consideration of these points above all others.

In addition to the above, certain matters of importance, as the supplementary expenses of the Iron Foundry, the cost of public works in Formosa, outlays on account of telegraph improvement, and so forth, have been handed over to me by the last Cabinet in an unsettled condition. They are now under examination, and we hope to be able to submit bills to you in a few days.

All particulars with regard to increased taxation will be given when each item comes up for your deliberation. But I have to point out that, among the measures for increased taxation, there are some which, if passed, will become operative from January next. It is therefore desirable that these should receive your early attention.

The increased expenditures are inevitable results of the state of affairs at home and abroad. At home you are confronted by the necessity of completing many administrative undertakings, and by a marked appreciation of commodities. Abroad, the conditions of the various Powers in the Far East have undergone large changes. I myself am convinced beyond all doubt that this empire of Great Japan has full strength to follow whatever course may be adapted to the conditions existing at home and abroad. But if the finances are not properly managed, if a policy of patchwork and temporizing be pursued with regard to them, I ask you how the empire's strength can be signally utilized. Most unfortunately for the interests of the country, the Government and the Diet have not been able to work in harmony since last year. If unhappily the bills for increased taxation fail now to pass, it is impossible to tell when we may hope to see our finances placed on a sound footing. Nay, the *post-bellum* undertakings will have to be suspended midway towards completion, the productive enterprises of the people will be paralysed, the country's credit will be impaired at home and abroad, and the nation's fortunes may suffer a serious reverse.

Gentlemen, if with sincerity of heart and mind, examining these problems, circumspectly and impartially, you approve the bills submitted to you by the Government, the bases of the country's finance will be consolidated and confidence will be restored in economical circles, so that we may confidently look forward to the revival of many industrial enterprises now in a languishing condition, to restored activity in the money market, and to the rapid growth of the mechanism of communications. I sincerely trust that you will take these steps for the sake of the future welfare of the country, for the development of its wealth and military strength, for the increase of its prestige, and for the happiness of its people.

The delivery of the above speech was not interrupted by any of the signs of impatience or hostility so common under similar circumstances on previous occasions. But after its conclusion, an attempt was made to revive the old system of frivolous cross-questioning. Mr. Kanaoka observed that during the two years which had elapsed since Count Matsukata last presented a Budget to the House, the State's expenditures had grown by 75 million *yen*. He wanted to know how that had come about. And he wanted to know whether financial stability would really be secured by an additional revenue of some 30 million *yen*. Would there not be need of another demand upon the people two or three years hence?

Count Matsukata replied that if the proposed bills were passed, he entertained no doubt as to the stability of the finances. Concerning the changes that the times might hereafter bring, he could not predict anything, not having divine foresight. Sympathising, however, with the natural anxiety of his questioner, he would add a word or two. The present method of financing was mere patchwork, and could not possibly be credited with any measure of stability. If financial credit did not exist at home, how could it possibly exist abroad? Nothing of the kind had ever been the case in Japan before. In pursuance of the *post bellum* programme, domestic bonds to the extent of 220 million *yen* had to be floated, but only 50 millions had been placed. The remainder of the loan could not be raised. If the Government went into the home market to-day, it could not obtain money. The obviously essential course was to increase the permanent revenue so as to restore the finances to a healthy condition.

Mr. Kudo Kokan and other members endeavoured to badger the Minister with reference to his disavowal of divine prescience, and to raise objections to any increase of the Land Tax which accentuated the present inequalities of incidence. Mr. Koyama wanted to know whether the Cabinet had any policy of its own. Judging from the Prime Minister's speech, the Ministry seemed to have simply adopted the policy of its predecessors. The House, however, showed itself impatient of this questioning, and the Ministers were presently suffered to withdraw quietly.

NEW BILLS.

The Order of the Day was then taken, and various Government Bills were handed, without many queries, to Special Committees. These measures were :—

1. A bill for amending the schedule of Income Tax Rates.

2. Bills for changing the *Sake* Tax, in the sense of raising to 12 *yen* per *koku* the tax upon refined *sake* (now 7 *yen*), unrefined *sake* (now 6 *yen*), white *sake* (now 7 *yen*), and sweet *sake* (now 7 *yen*); and to 13 *yen* per *koku* the tax on *shochiu* and alcohol (now 8 *yen* each), and on mixed *sake* (now 6 *yen*); also a bill for abolishing the brewing of *sake* for domestic use.

3. Bill for abolishing the present business tax on alcohol, and substituting an import tax on foreign alcohol and a brewer's tax on home-made alcohol.

4. Bill providing that in the case of alcohol used for medicinal or industrial purposes, the amount of tax originally paid shall be restored.

5. Bill providing for the imposition of the following *ad valorem* import duties on the articles enumerated :—

Alcohol	250	per	cent.
Cigars	100	,,	,,
Cigarettes	100	,,	,,
Snuff	100	,,	,,
Cut Tobacco	100	,,	,,
Various kinds of manufactured tobacco	100	,,	,,
Chinese distilled *sake*	100	,,	,,
Chinese non-distilled *sake*...	80	,,	,,
Chinese refined *sake* resembling Japanese	80	,,	,,
Other kinds of distilled *sake*	100	,,	,,
Other kinds of non-distilled *sake*	80	,,	,,

6. Bill for interdicting the import of foreign leaf tobacco, except by the Government, the latter to have a monopoly of the sale of any tobacco imported by it.

7. Bill for amending the Registration Tax Law.

8. Bill for abolishing the tax on ships in Okinawa Prefecture (Riukiu). N.B. The tax is an old institution. It is levied on all vessels with a spread of canvas measuring 5 *tan* or upwards, and the amount now collected is only 10 *yen* annually.

9. Bill for amending the Business Tax Law in the following sense :—

To the 2nd clause of Art. 15 of the Business Tax Law, No. 33, issued in 1896, the following :—

"When there are stores or other business premises at several places in Japan and abroad, if the capital is not differentiated, the portion of it that is employed at each store or other place of business in Japan shall be estimated, and the tax shall be imposed upon that portion."

The following article, making Art. 40, shall be added after Art. 39 :—

"Art. 40. The proviso contained in the explanatory clause added after clauses 2 of the 15th Article shall be applied in cases where there are several stores or other business premises in places where this law is operative and in places where it is not operative."

THE PHILIPPINES.

It will be very interesting to see how the United States Government deals with the difficult questions which must immediately present themselves now that America has become the owner of extra-Continental territories. The problem of the tariff is immediately prominent. It would be manifestly unreasonable to extend the operation of the United States' tariff to the Philippines. That fact needs no demonstration. But from the moment that the Philippines become an integral part of the Republic, the Government in Washington is constitutionally precluded from making any discrimination with regard to them. They must come under the general system applicable to the States in general. Will Congress be asked to take some special legislative action? Then there is the broad question of military operations. Saddled with the responsibility of governing these newly acquired territories in various quarters of the globe, must the Cabinet in Washington consult the views of the several States before organizing any military operations on a large scale? It is plain that the constitution is not sufficiently elastic to be extended to the contingencies now in sight.

The Sultan of Johore shot his second tiger the other day, a splendid specimen measuring 8ft. 2½in. in length. An unfortunate beater was badly mauled before the Sultan succeeded in giving the beast his quietus.

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THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA'S ALMANACKS.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha's almanacks for 1899 are already published. There are two, each of the same size, and similar in general arrangement—a circular medallion in the centre, showing the *Hitachi Maru* under a full head of steam; a leaf almanack on the right, and a rectangular medallion below, containing a brief statement of the Company's services, its offices and agencies. Around the two medallions and the almanack floral scrolls are disposed, the flowers in one case being white cherries, chrysanthemums and wistaria; in the other, pink cherries and red, blue and mauve convolvulus. The cards are beautiful specimens of designing and chromo-lithographical technique. They appear to have been lithographed by different firms, for one bears the name of Mitsuma, Ginza, Sanchome, Tokyo, and the other, that of the Tokyo Printing Company. Certainly in this kind of work the Tokyo experts have not much to learn from any other country.

THE CRUISER "KASAGI."

It turns out that the telegram recently sent by Reuter with regard to the cruiser *Kasagi* was a great exaggeration. The telegram stated that the *Kasagi* had collided with a bridge, on her way up the river to Newcastle, and that she had suffered serious injury. Our readers may remember that no news of the event had been received at the Naval Department in Tokyo, and that the probability of some exaggeration on the part of Reuter's agent was consequently inferred. The facts, as now ascertained by the Naval Department, are that the vessel had been taken over by Armstrong's people, and that she was proceeding to their works to take on board her armament when she came into slight contact with a bridge. One of her sponson suffered a trifling injury which will be repaired without difficulty. These details were telegraphed to Tokyo by Mr. Matsunaga, who is now at Newcastle, inspecting the progress of the ships that are under construction to order of the Japanese Government.

JUDGE TAKANO AGAIN.

The Takano affair is not dead. It is to be brought up once more in the present session of the Diet. A Question has already been presented over the names of Messrs. Suzuki Shigeto, Abe Hanken and other well-known members of the Opposition. They put the matter in this form:—"The Matsukata Cabinet decided that the Second clause of the 58th Article of the Constitution, which guarantees a life tenure of office to Judges, does not extend to Formosa. Is the present Cabinet of the same opinion?" The present Cabinet will of course answer in the affirmative. The Constitution does not extend to Formosa. We do not believe that a single jurisconsult could be found to assert that it does. From some points of view the treatment extended to Mr. Takano may have been open to criticism, but that the Government was competent to remove him, is a proposition scarcely admitting of question.

"THE MAGISTRATE" AT THE PUBLIC HALL.

"The Magistrate" is one of the most ambitious pieces ever attempted by the amateur Thespians of Yokohama, as a glance at the *caste* given below will show—sixteen characters being engaged in its production—but they are justified in the event. Produced in March, 1885, at the Court Theatre, London, when that *bijou* play-house was under the management of the late John Clayton and Arthur Cecil, Pinero's whimsical farce has been revived again and again, until it would seem that Shakespeare's lines, borrowed and adapted for the occasion, may apply to it—

Age cannot wither, nor custom stale,
Its infinite variety.

Linked to witty dialogue are situations which compel spontaneous laughter; but the fun never degenerates into banality; Pinero is too resourceful a craftsman for that: and interest therefore never flags, nor does the intellectual palate revolt at the feast of quip and fancy spread for its delectation. The plot may be briefly summarized. *Agatha Poskel* marries, after she has crossed over to the shady side of thirty, a *Mr. Poskel*, the occasional occupant of the bench of Mulberry-street Police Court. It was her second venture into matrimony and perhaps it was pardonable that the handsome dame should be rather reticent in regard to her precise age. Indeed, she exercises the prerogative, wrongly supposed to belong to her sex, and misstates it, by putting back the clock of her life by fully five years. This has rather awkward consequences, for by her first marriage she has offspring, in the shape of a precocious lad, and if the mother's age has to suffer revision so has the son's. Thus we have the pleasing result of a lad of 19 masquerading as a hobble-de-hoy of 14; and full advantage does he take of the situation so obligingly prepared by his maternal parent. The young hopeful unfortunately gains complete ascendancy over his step-father and teaches that erst-while venerable and up-right man many reprehensible tricks, among them a game of cards which enables *Cis* to "rook" the Magistrate and his brother justice whenever he is in want of pocket money. The engaging youth, it appears, has a private room in the Hôtel des Princes, a house of dubious reputation, where he carries on the life of a spark about town. Just about the time when the farce opens, an old friend of *Mrs. Poskel* unexpectedly returns from India. This gentleman, *Colonel Lukyn*, was god-father to *Cis*; and the lady consequently fears that the truth about her age will leak out, for *Mr. Poskel*, meeting him casually in the City, asks the Colonel home to dinner. *Mrs. Poskel* on learning this is alarmed, and, despite the lateness of the hour, under excuse of visiting a sick friend, proceeds with her sister, *Miss Charlotte Verrinder*, to *Lukyn's* lodgings to beg of him not to discourse of dates in allusion to her, or her late lamented, or their offspring, while dining with, or talking to, the Magistrate. The ladies find the Colonel has gone to the Hôtel des Princes, where, in his salad days, he also kept a room. As luck will have it, *Poskel*, that same evening, has been induced by his incorrigible stepson to go "out on the spree" and they are supping at the same hotel when *Mrs. Poskel* arrives to interview the Colonel; though the good lady fondly believes that both her darlings are safe in bed at home. The hands of the clock have by this time flown past the regulation closing hour for hotels in London, and of course a raid is made on the house by the police. They could not have chosen a more inopportune moment for all concerned. *Cis* and the Magistrate manage to escape by falling through the kitchen skylight and bolting by a back entry, but the others are caught and at Mulberry-street, next morning, *Poskel*, still suffering from his evening's dissipation, summarily sentences *Mrs. Poskel*, her sister, the Colonel, and another military gentleman to "seven days' without the option of a fine." The straightening out of the miserable business, when the family skelston finally crumbles to pieces, is hugely diverting. Of course, all ends happily, and *Mrs. Poskel* and *Cis* are advanced to their proper positions in the tables of longevity.

The *Caste* was as follows:—

"THE MAGISTRATE."

Mr. Poskel and *Mr. Bullamy*...Magistrates of the Mulberry Street Police Court.....
Mr. A. C. Read & Mr. R. G. E. Forster.
Colonel Lukyn...From Bengal, retired .....
Mr. W. G. Bayne.
Captain Horace Vale...Shropshire Fusiliers
Mr. E. C. Davis.
Cis. Farringdon...Mrs. Poskel's son by her first marriage .....Mr. H. J. Sharp.
Achille Blond...Proprietor of the Hôtel des Princes .....Mr. L. Plummer.
Isidore.....A Waiter ...Mr. H. G. Parlett.
Mr. Wormington...Chief clerk at Mulberry Street .....Mr. C. I. Fraser.
Inspector Messiter, Sergeant Lugg, and *Constable Harris*...Metropolitan Police.....
Messrs. F. J. Lias, G. W. Bramhall, B. C. Howard
Wyke.....Servant at Mr. Poskel's.....
Mr. W. B. Clayton.
Agatha Poskel...Late Farringdon, née Verrinder.....Mrs. McWilliams.
Charlotte...Her Sister.....Mrs. Franklin Clark.
Beattie Tomlinson...A young lady reduced to teaching Music .....Miss Poole.
Popham.....A Parlour Maid.....Miss Morse.
Property Man—Mr. C. E. McWilliams.
Stage Manager—Mr. W. G. Bayne.

The house, needless to say, was packed to the doors—every seat in the Hall had been secured five days before, we are informed, and when the curtain rose it was to an expectant and sympathetic audience. Applause quickly rose, and then the laughter began to ripple, continuing almost uninterruptedly until the close. The performance in fact was the most signal success that has ever been achieved in Yokohama. Mr. A. C. Read, as *Poskel*, surpassed his previous records on the local stage. His impersonation of the character "went home" from the start and he carried his house with him to the end. Mr. Bayne, who carried on his shoulders the heavy responsibilities of stage manager, made a big hit as *Colonel Lukyn*, the proverbial irascible Anglo-Indian officer of the "curry-and-liver" order. It was good to hear his emphatic "By George!" and other strange oaths that invariably go with this particular genus. Mr. Forster had but a secondary part to play, but acted it well. Mr. Sharp's impersonation of *Cis Farrington* is the best thing he has ever given in Yokohama. The make-up, to begin with, was "simply killing;" and the manner in which the character was carried through showed that most conscientious labour had been bestowed upon it even to the smallest detail. Mr. Sharp, most unreservedly, may mark last evening's performance in his theatrical calendar with a white stone.

As *Agatha Poskel*, Mrs. McWilliams filled a congenial part excellently well, and long before she had run through the *gamut* of the emotions aroused in a maternal bosom by undoubting but misplaced faith in a precocious son, she had thoroughly won the appreciation of her audience. In her sister *Charlotte*, Mrs. Franklin Clark, we welcome a new aspirant to local honours. She carried out the part most creditably. Miss Poole as *Beattie Tomlinson* was a great success. But we might continue our eulogies over several columns had we the space at disposal. Honestly, it must be said, the minor parts played up to the principals capitally, combining to achieve a result creditable to all concerned. Hearty thanks are due to Mr. Bayne, and every one in his clever band of players, for the enjoyable evening afforded.

The *Siam Observer* hears that the long pending case in which the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation sued Phra Pakdee Patarakorn for the recovery of 131,541 ticals upon an overdraft, and which, after going through the International Court, the Appeal Court, and the Privy Council was decided in favour of the Bank, has now been settled by the defendant to the satisfaction of the Bank.

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THE NEW CRICKET PAVILION.

The opening of the new pavilion on the ground of the Y.C. & A.C., will take place on Saturday, and now that the weather gives signs of being settled the Committee indulge in the hope that they will be able to carry out the football match and bicycle meet as originally arranged. We trust all members of the Club—young and old alike—will do their best to be present at the tiffin that day and thus strengthen the hands of the genial President, Mr. J. P. Mollison, and his hard-working Committee. The heads of firm, we think, should especially lend their support to the cricket club for through its agency, in the various allied sports, young fellows may keep their health in good trim and so make them the better fitted for the discharge of their business duties.

The Committee of the Y.C. & A.C. have decided to give a subscription ball at the Public Hall in aid of the Pavilion fund on the 20th inst. Coming as this will in Xmas week, the function should prove highly popular and an enjoyable *reunion* for the whole community Tickets can be obtained from members of the Committee, ladies, 2 *yen*, gentlemen 3 *yen*.

The new Cricket Pavilion is of two stories and constructed of timber, and at one end is a is clock tower containing the handsome clock presented by Mr. Abenheim—an extremely well-timed gift, it may be added, without any desire of punning. The wood employed is Oregon pine, painted a dark red. On the ground floor are the bar, the dressing rooms, storage room for playing gear, lavatories and bathrooms, while above is a large room for match luncheons and afternoon tea, the walls of which are decorated with sporting photographs and two handsome portraits of the President, Mr. J. P. Mollison, and the late Mr. Edgar Abbot, so well remembered as a thorough sportsman, and through whose exertions the various sporting clubs were amalgamated in 1884. A Committee room and a small storage room are also on the upper floor. The dressing room on the ground floor is extremely well arranged, and contains as many lockers as will amply accommodate all playing members. The baths and lavatories, too, are excellently arranged.

The erection of the new building is the outcome of a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club early last year. It was then decided that the old pavilion, originally a single storied building, but to which a second story was added some 14 years ago, should be replaced by a larger and more commodious structure. The old edifice had become so crazy as to be almost untenable, and the provision of new quarters was forced on the Club. It was estimated that 3500 to 4000 *yen* would meet all the expenses, but this hope has proved to be fallacious, and the actual cost of the whole work, including the out buildings, will be more than 6000 *yen*. A generous response was made to the appeal for funds, and in a short time 3000 *yen* had been subscribed. Last autumn the committee accepted the plans of Mr. J. McD. Gardiner, of Tokyo, and the work was commenced last February. Unfortunately, Mr. Gardiner's ill-health prevented him giving for long his personal supervision to the work, and the responsibility fell on the Committee. It is almost an aphorism that management of things of this kind by Committees—unless it be a Committee of one man—is sure to be a grim failure. The present case, however, is the exception which proves the rule. The Committee has fulfilled its work most efficiently—chiefly, it must be admitted, by leaving the bulk of it to Mr. Mollison and the Vice-President, Mr. C. M. Duff. These gentlemen deserve the warmest gratitude of the members, and of all who are interested in sporting matters in Yokohama. They have had an immense amount of detail to see to, and the admirable manner in which they have carried out their labours is both a credit to themselves and a source of congratulation to the community.

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Forest Lovers, a Romance, by MAURICE HEWLETT; London, MacMillan's Colonial Library: Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh.

THE high lady, the Lady Isabel de Forz, Countess of Hauterive, Countess Dowager of March and Bellesme, and Lady of Morgraunt in her own right, was betrothed in her youth to Earl Roger of March and Bellesme, a man twice her age. Earl Roger went to the Crusades and one day young Fulk de Bréauté happened to find himself in the company of the lovely lady. He made eyes at her and Isabel lost her heart and then her head. She was secretly married to Fulk and a child was born to them. Then news came home that Roger, the great Earl, was returning from the wars, and Fulk and the Countess grew affrighted. Fulk took their infant to convey it to a place of safety, but that night, as he was crossing the forest of Morgraunt, Earl Roger's men fell suddenly upon him and he was stabbed to death. The child disappeared, and with her a crystal locket bearing the semblance of a pelican with a crown of thorns. The Countess then married Earl Roger, but he died soon; and in the long years of widowhood that ensued the Lady Isabel had many an hour to spend in wild regret and longing for the husband of her first youth and their child.

The years speed quickly by and Fate prepares her shuttle to weave a fresh pattern in the tangled web of the life of the great chatelaine of Hauterive and Morgraunt. Lovers come and lovers go but the Lady remains faithful. When least expected her child comes back to her aching heart, with the bitter experience of many strange and stirring adventures in field and hall, and accompanied by a youth of most goodly promise and redoubtable prowess. It is the tale of these three and their close connection with two other persons—a recreant monk and a thoroughly bad woman, even for mediæval days—that occupy the 384 pages of *The Forest-Lovers*. And exceedingly well-told is their story. It takes one, as the author says in his opening chapter, into times and spaces alike rude and uncivil. Blood is spilt, virgins suffer distresses, the horn sounds through woodland glades, dogs, wolves, deer, and men, Beauty and many Beasts tumble each other, seeking life or death with their proper tools. There is much mad work, but it is not devoid of entertainment. Long before he reaches the word *Explicit*, the reader will have learnt something of Morgraunt Forest and the Countess Isabel; will have perceived the duplicity of the Abbot of Holy Thorn; will have wandered with Isoult, that most gracious of maidens, and have discovered why she is called La Desirous; will have perceived what a doughty youth is Prosper le Gai, and will understand how a man may fall in love with his own wife; will have discovered also how near the brute the heart of Galors always remained and what desperate deeds he ventured—only to lose all and life in the end.

The book, without doubt, is a masterpiece of strenuous English prose, and will take front rank easily with the best romances that have been written in this generation. Critics of proved ability have spoken most highly of the tale, and even Mr. James Lane Allen, the hyper-sensitive author of *The Choir Invisible*, finds that it must, for several reasons, be regarded as of very unusual interest. "In the matter of style alone it is an achievement, an extraordinary achievement. Such a piece of English prose, saturated and racy with idiom, compact, and warm throughout as living human tissues, well deserves to be set apart for grateful study and express appreciation. In the matter of interpreting nature, there are passages in this book that I have never seen surpassed in prose fiction." Anyone in search of a gift-book for the approaching season need go no further than *The Forest-Lovers*, for it will charm and delight a very varied and extended circle of readers.

Rodman, the Boat-steerer, by LOUIS BECKE: London, Fisher Unwin's Colonial Library.

MR. LOUIS BECKE is an accomplished writer of short stories, and in the region that he has made peculiarly his own, is unsurpassed. In the collection of Pacific tales which we are now discussing he weaves before his reader's eyes a series of glowing pen pictures that transport us to the Isles afar, and we hear, as we traverse his pages, the hiss and boil of the "tumbling surf" on many a coral reef outside a placid calm of sheltered lagoons, and also learn to love the dusky people who were not so immoral as unmoral before the ruthless European came and forced upon them the ethics of a different civilization. But all the stories are not pleasant. Many deal with dark tragedies, with mutinies, with vindictive acts of cruelty that make the blood run cold. Yet all are worthy of attention.

We have also received from Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, a copy of Mr. Henry Seton Merriman's new book, *Roden's Corner*, which we hope to notice at length shortly. Like his former works, *The Sowers* and *With Edged Tools*, the novel has been received very favourably at home.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE JURISDICTION IN LIAOTUNG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In regard to Mr. Fukuhara's case, you spoke as if the Japanese Government had implicitly recognized the Russian sovereignty established in the Liaotung Peninsula. But we hardly think that our Government has committed itself to such a serious blunder. Mr. Fukuhara was arrested, because he was suspected of being a military spy, when he landed at Port Arthur, which was then occupied by the Russian forces. This was, therefore, by no means, a civil case, and our Government did not find any ground to protest against the unfortunate arrest of Mr. Fukuhara. Truly the Japanese Government must have recognized the fact regarding the occupation of Liaotung Peninsula by the Russian forces, but it has by no means recognised the Russian sovereignty established in the same peninsula.

Your obedient servant,

KEIJIRO NAKAMURA.

Nagoya, December 3rd, 1898.

THE ORCHESTRAL TEMPEST IN THE SOCIAL TEA-POT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—As the recent concert in Yokohama appears to have been made the subject of very lively discussion,—though I admit I have seen nothing concerning it except what has appeared in the *Mail*,—I may perhaps be allowed to offer a few observations from the point of view of one who did not attend the entertainment, and to set forth the reasons why I was not tempted to be present. The ordinary amusement-seeker,—or art-lover, if you like,—is naturally influenced by the character of a programme, when the performances consist chiefly of orchestral and choral pieces. What he desires, and what he is willing to pay for, is as much variety, as much novelty, and as much excellence of selection and execution as possible. To a little novelty, at least, he thinks he is entitled. If he cannot have this, he expects variety and abundance; and failing these, he must be pretty well assured of the value of such music as is presented, and of the thoroughly good performance thereof, before he feels that the affair is worth his patronage. When the programme of the late concert was announced, I and doubtless many others, looked in vain for any of the features I have mentioned. Disjointed extracts from a familiar oratorio, deprived of their proper instrumental accompaniment, do not constitute an attraction of a high order; and an orchestral entertainment consisting of three numbers has certainly no quality of profusion or diversity. I say three numbers, because a violin solo cannot be classed with works of strictly orchestral design, the quantity being plainly insufficient,

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let us inquire how far the the other requirements were satisfied. Two of the pieces chosen were as destitute as they well could be of the merit of novelty, and their artistic value was not pronounced enough to overbalance this deficiency. The overture of Reissiger is gay and spirited, and would be well enough in its way if followed by more substantial matter; but as a *pièce de resistance* it is wholly inadequate. Perhaps, however, the Wedding March was intended as the *pièce de resistance*, though it is not really worthy of that distinction. It is woefully hackneyed, in the first place, and at its best it is not a very remarkable composition. Certainly it does not, like the overture in the same series, represent the finest characteristics of Mendelssohn's genius. Such pieces do not add much to the embellishment of a programme, and if given at all, their performance should be justified by exceptional skill in interpretation. This, however, was absolutely impossible with Mr. Junker's body of musicians. I was astonished to read in the *Mail* that the only wind instruments under his command were one high reed and one low brass. Now, of all pieces that could be chosen, the Wedding March especially demands the use of wind instruments. The pomp of its exordium is utterly lost without the three trumpets for which the author wrote; and its conclusion is marked by a series of effects which are entirely sacrificed by the employment of any substitute for the wood force. Consequently, this well-worn march could not have been duly executed by the orchestra in its present state, even if every member were a player of the highest conceivable grade. The dance music alone remains—pretty and graceful, but hardly valuable enough to atone for shortcomings in other directions.

It appears, then, that the music offered was extremely limited in quality and variety, was lacking in novelty, and could not be performed with anything approaching the effects contemplated by the composers. Concerts so administered cannot be expected to secure public favour for any length of time. Perhaps, if the truth were known, public favour is not precisely what the organization covets. The amateur entertainments of this community are one and all undertaken primarily for the gratification of the performers, and with very little regard to the opinion of the multitude. A good deal is said about artistic cultivation and the encouragement of a refined taste, but I always wonder how the people who indulge in talk of that kind can keep from bursting into laughter in one another's faces, like the Augurs in Gerome's famous picture. Our amateur actors and musicians mount the stage for their own admiration and that of their friends, and the theory that they serve as apostles of a lofty æsthetic purpose is a fallacy so childlike in simplicity that no one can possibly be deceived by it,—least of all themselves. I do not find fault with their motive. Without the stimulus of personal vanity there would probably be no public entertainments of any sort in a community like those of Yokohama and Tokyo; and, let the impulse be what it may, nobody can deny that very satisfactory results are often attained. We have good and enjoyable acting, and many of our unprofessional musicians possess genuine talent and praiseworthy skill. Their contributions to the diversion of Society will continue as long as they can gain distinction and win applause. But the same rule does not hold when an orchestra or chorus has to be considered. There is small chance of individual glorification when twenty or thirty persons are singing or playing in a mass; and for this reason the present combination will as surely fall to pieces without accomplishing anything of value as all its predecessors have done. The true artistic spirit, the zeal and devotion essential to solid achievement, are to the flighty fondness for new "sensations," transitory excitement, and notoriety, what the pennyworth of bread was to Falstaff's intolerable deal of sack. Yet it is a pity that while the new orchestra lasts, it should not do something to dignify its existence. Its error at the start seems to have been that of rushing into demonstration before it was ready, and insisting on a performance for which it had neither fitting instruments nor a sufficient repertory. I am confident that Mr. Junker is perfectly aware of these facts. His professional position is beyond discussion, and though he may not hitherto have been tested as a conductor, it is fair to assume that his experience with some of the finest orchestras in the world amply qualifies him for the duties he has been called upon to discharge. But bricks cannot be made without straw,—nor without a reasonable time for baking. The ablest of conductors must have the right material to work with, or his efforts will come to naught. The name of the Wedding March may be printed on a programme, but the promise can not be fulfilled by an orchestra that has no brass department. I have seen a statement that an attempt is made to compensate for the absence of wind instruments by using a small organ, or harmonium; and this expedient is serviceable, to a certain extent, for the filling in of harmonies. But when the wind is needed for prominent effects, no substitute will avail. Since the Wedding March had to be given, it would have been better worth while to engage Japanese trumpeters for the indispensable opening than to weaken the resonance of its attack by a thin imitation. But it is not my intention to touch upon details of this nature. I desire merely to establish the proposition that if the managers of the Society hope for prosperity, even during the short term to which their organization is destined, they must strive to deserve it. Concerts, in order to attract, must be made attractive. I dare say that Mr. Junker can show them how, if he is allowed a free hand and unfettered authority;—with the privilege of enlisting from outside such adjuncts as he deems necessary. If the members are not equal to all the demands of a properly constituted orchestra, they should fill the gaps from some other quarter. Whether they will do this,—whether, indeed, they will ever do anything to prove that they are animated by a wholesome and serious purpose, is a question that may puzzle many besides one who modis guisedly avows himself A SKEPTIC.

THE LATE CONCERT AT YOKOHAMA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I was unfortunately prevented from attending the recent Oratorio performance, and therefore I am not in a position to express my own humble opinion as to the merits or demerits of the effortson that occasion to do justice to such music. But I am truly astonished at the storm in a teacup that is evidently raging in Yokohama, over the criticism which appeared in the *Mail* and which to my mind certainly did not seem to be vitiated by malice. But amateurs the world over are proverbial for the filmy nature of their skins. The moment you add a drop of honest criticism to the concentrated syrup of fulsome praise for which their souls do hanker, you arouse a storm of impotent indignation. I do not suppose for a moment that Herr Junker himself sides with all this unseemly hubbub. He is too genuine an artist not to glance down with an indulgent smile at the antics of the naughty little asses in lion's skins, whom unfortunately for his temper he has to sway with his baton. The sequel of the concert is proving no doubt infinitely more amusing than the concert itself, but next time such a performance is to be given, it had better be done *in camerâ* for the sake of those poor martyrs whose susceptibilities are too tender to tolerate the shafts of the "chiel amang 'em takin' notes."

Yours obediently,

AMUSED OUTSIDER.

Tokyo, Nov. 29.

THE UNITED STATES AND COLONIAL GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In view of the discussion of the feasibility of colonial government by the United States under the present constitution, the following extract from a judgment of the United States Circuit Court of appeals for California possesses much interest. The judgment was given in a case in which the appellants sought to have certain liquor legislation for the Territory of Alaska set aside as unconstitutional.

Judge W. W. Morrow, in declaring the decision of the Court, said:—

"The answer to these and other like objections urged in the brief of Counsel for the defendant is found in the now well established doctrine that the territories of the United States are entirely subject to the legislative authority of Congress. They are not organized under the constitution, nor subject to the complex distribution of the powers of Government as the organic law, but are the creation exclusively of the legislative department, and subject to its supervision and control. The United States having rightfully acquired the territories, and being the only government which can impose laws upon them, have the entire domain and sovereignity, national, municipal, federal and state. Under this full and comprehensive authority, Congress has unquestionably the power to exclude intoxicating liquors from any or all of its territories, or limit their sale under such regulations as it may prescribe. It may legislate in accordance with the special needs of each locality, and vary its regulations to meet the circumstance of the people. Whether the subject elsewhere would be a matter of local police regulations or within the State control under some other power, it is immaterial to consider; in a territory, all the functions of government are within the legislative jurisdiction of Congress, and may be exercised through a local government or directly by such legislation as we have now under consideration."

The writer of the article, from a foot note to which the above is taken, then goes on to say:—

"In other words, the colonies are under the absolute control of Congress, subject to no restrictions of any sort, and free from the operation of any form of constitutional checks and balances. Only through such freedom is colonial government under the United States possible." See *Atlantic Monthly* for November, 1898, page 590. Yours etc.

X.

December 7th, 1898.

ELASTICITY OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In an editorial note on "The Philippines" in the *Japan Daily Mail* for Saturday, the 3rd inst., you express a doubt whether "the Constitution (of the United States) is sufficiently elastic to be extended to the contingencies now in sight," especially in connection with "military operations on a large scale." Inasmuch as the U S. Government has recently been able to carry on certain military operations on a somewhat large scale against Spain, it is a little difficult to understand in what point embarrassment will arise in the future. The U.S. constitution specifically grants to Congress the power "to raise and support armies," to provide and maintain a navy and "to make rules for the Government and regulation of the land and naval forces." It is not necessary to "consult the views of the several States" as States, though it may be wise to consult public opinion.

Respectfully yours,

ERNEST W. CLEMENT.

Tokyo, Dec. 6th, 1898.

Whilst the P. and O. R.M.S. *Victoria* was at Albany, and during coaling operations, one of the men, named Jack Palmer employed on the coal bulk, slipped and fell down the hold, being killed instantaneously. Deceased leaves a widow and four children in England. After leaving Albany the passengers on the *Victoria* collected the sum of £23 10s., and Captain Crewe was requested to hand over the money to the widow on his return to London.

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JAPANESE BAZAAR.

A pretty and interesting charity bazaar was held on Thursday evening at the Public Hall in aid of the funds for the Hokkaido sufferers, the Yokohama Orphanage, and temperance work in Yokohama. The affair took place in the Public Hall, and the hours during which it remained open were weirdly long—from 10 a.m. to six p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. In the afternoon there were a good many European visitors, but the evening performance was attended almost wholly by Japanese who patronised freely the tasteful little stalls for the sale of all kinds of artistic nothings, and ate and drank copiously of the tea and refreshments—chiefly fish and rice prepared in a multitude of mysterious ways—provided in what is usually the cloak room. It was not an orthodox bazaar in the sense that prices were in no cases beyond the limit of moderation, and in many instances ridiculously low. The Japanese young men and maidens who conduct the sales have not reached the high level of the west, where people victimise each other for the sake of charity, and bargain like hucksters for a church fund. There was an exhibition of Japanese paintings in western style—and a very hideous style for the most part, but charity covereth all things, and some were not so bad. As for the stage performances praise is really due to them. The sword exercises and dances, in which Mrs. Sugimoto Masa and Mrs. Murakami Hideo took the chief part, were most interesting to a foreign onlooker, while the chief feature of the entertainment programme, the Delsarte pantomime, was a great success. It was given by the girls of the mission school, who have been trained by Miss Dorsey, and, considering that they have only been practising a very short time, the result was admirable. The pantomime consists of the reading of some popular poem (Poe's "Raven" was the one we heard, and it was very sweetly read by one of the Japanese scholars), and the ladies on the stage, dressed in classical costumes, make in unison and to musical accompaniment poses and gestures in harmony with the incidents and language of the piece. The effect was very graceful, though in less skilful hands the thing might easily have developed into burlesque. We trust the charities concerned will benefit largely by the efforts of the performers.

ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

The annual installation of Principals and investiture of officers of Royal Arch Chapter "Yokohama," No, 1092, E.C., took place on Thursday evening at the Masonic Temple. The list of officers is as follows:—

E. Comp. T. E. Beatty .....Z.
E. Comp. S. E. Unite .....H.
E. Comp. H. J. Sharp, P. Z.....J.
E. Comp. Thos. W. McIlraith ...S.E.
Comp. F. C. Herb .....Treas.
Comp. H. W. Lea .....S.N.
Comp. E. C. Fox .....P.S.

The Companions after the ceremony dined together at the Masonic Hall.

HIGH COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND COMMERCE.

(CONCLUDED.)

The representations forwarded by the members of the Council during its session numbered 15, of which the one presented by Mr. Taguchi and two others in regard to the incidence and amount of taxes upon manufactures, were passed by the Council, steps being taken to present them to the Government in the form of a memorial. The rest of the Representations were not discussed on account of the date of the session of the Diet being too close at hand. Nevertheless, with the exception of a representation submitted by Mr. Inouye Jintaro and one other member in connection with the establishment of offices for the testing of mineral fertilizers, the others received due attention at the hands of the Investigation Committee, by whom resolutions were passed as enumerated below for purposes of reference:—

November, 31st year of *Meiji*.

1.—Representation in regard to the training of industrial engineers.

2.—Representation in regard to despatching engineers abroad.

Investigation Committee:—

Tanaka Yoshio, Chairman,
Teshima Seiichi, Suzuki Chozo, Horita Rentaro, Matsuda Gengoro } Members.

Report in regard to the above:—

At a meeting of the Committee held on the 28th October in regard to the Representations above referred to, the following resolutions were passed:—

October 29th, the 31st year of *Meiji*.

Tanaka Yoshio, Chairman.

To Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi, President of the High Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Council.

Representation in regard to the training of Industrial Engineers.—Japan has proved herself wanting in the means of training engineers and industrial experts, and as deficiency exists at present in the supply of such experts the inevitable result is that unskilled engineers are frequently employed both in Government and private workshops. The development of industry is an urgent necessity, but it can not be accomplished without the aid of experienced engineers. Although the Treasury has now determined to grant aids to local technical schools with a view to training students in such a manner as to enable them to qualify as artisans or foremen of artisans, yet, with the exception of two or three Government schools, no arrangement has yet been made for training engineers above the rank of artisans. Under these circumstances it is quite natural that the number of able and eminent engineers should have been small. Technical schools where eminent engineers may be trained require so large an amount of outlay for their organization and maintenance that a single city or prefecture could scarcely be expected to bear the expense. Thus a necessity exists for formulating schemes for the training of engineers of a greater efficiency than has hitherto been attained, at the expense of the State, so that pace may be kept in this point with the development of industry. The council having arrived at a resolution as remarked above, the same is presented to Your Excellency in the form of a Representation in accordance with Article II. of the Regulations of the Council:—

SHIBUSAWA EIICHI,
President of the High A.C.I.C.

To the Minister of Education.

Representation in regard to despatching a number of engineers abroad.—We are informed that measures have hitherto been taken by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to despatch a certain number of students to foreign countries for the purpose of training them as engineers, but we may take the liberty to state that the number of students so despatched is hardly sufficient to meet the requirements of the time—a time in which there is absolute necessity for the cultivation of industrial enterprise of all descriptions. The importation of manufactured articles during the past few years has been steadily increasing in quantity and value, while the export of manufactures of our country has shown a tendency to decrease. These facts, it may be presumed, are attributable to want of skill and experience on the part of our engineers. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce ought to adopt measures for despatching a greater number of students or engineers abroad, so that they might be more effectually trained in their profession and render more efficient assistance in the development of industry. As for the qualifications of engineers to be so despatched, the branches of science to be studied, the obligation devolving on them after their return to Japan, and other important questions, the officials concerned may take appropriate steps to meet requirements; but as the country's financial condition at present demands the immediate adoption of schemes calculated to diminish imports and encourage exports, it is advisable that as large number of engineers shall be despatched abroad as funds will allow.

SHIBUSAWA EIICHI,
President of the A.C.I.C.

To Mr. OISHI MASAMI,
Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

Representation relating to the distribution of papers and reports showing the result of investigations in regard to agriculture, commerce, and industry.

Investigation Committee:—

Sakatani Yoshiro, Chairman.
Inouye Jintaro, Endo Keishi, Suzeki Jubi, Yokoi Tokiyoshi } Members.

Report in respect to the above:—I have the honour to inform you that at a meeting of the committee held on the 28th October with regard to a representation concerning the distribution of reports and other papers showing the result of investigations carried on with respect to agriculture, commerce, and industry, the following resolution was passed:—

Sakatani Yoshiro, Chairman.

To Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi, President of the A.C.I.C.

The representation above referred to secures the sympathy of the Council, but as it seems to have been customary for the officials concerned to print as well as distribute the various reports as suggested in the representation so far as the funds allowed, necessity exists for presenting a special memorial on the subject.

Representation in regard to the appointment of agricultural Inspectors or Overseers.

Representation in regard to the extension of business conducted in the main and branch offices established for the inspection of agricultural products, and in regard to the encouragement of agricultural produce devoted to special purposes.

Representation with regard to obtaining aids from the Treasury for the maintenance of Agricultural Inspection Offices in the various cities and prefectures.

Representation relating to the constitution of vessels needed for the investigation of marine products, as well as for training in investigation.

Representation concerning the distribution of seeds and vegetable sprouts throughout the Empire.

Investigation Committee:—

Murata Tamotsu, Chairman.
Watarase Torajiro, Kanai Nobu, Tanaka Yoshio, Yokoi Tokiyoshi, Yamamoto Kametaro, Oguri Torajiro, Tamari Kizo, Inouye Jintaro } Members.

A Report in respect to the above:—

I have to honour to inform you that the following resolutions were passed on the 29th October at a conference of the Committee in connection with the last five representations submitted:—

October 31st, in the 31st year of *Meiji*.

Murata Tamotsu, Chairman.

To Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi, President of the High A.C.I.C.

Of the five Representations the first two were passed without any alteration. With regard to the third, namely, a representation calling for aids from the Treasury for the maintenance of Agricultural Inspection Offices in the various cities and prefectures, the amount nominally fixed at 1,500 *yen* was altered to a proper sum, the other portion being passed in its entirety. The fourth and fifth Representations were also passed without alteration.

Representation in regard to the establishment of Sericultural Investigation Councils.

Murata Tamotsu, Chairman
Watarase Torajiro, Kanai Nobu, Tanaka Yoshio, Yokoi Tokiyoshi, Yamamoto Kametaro, Oguri Tomijiro, Tamari Kizo, Inouye Jintaro } Members.

Representation for holding a meeting for the discussion of questions in regard to the sericultural industry:—

Among the various exports from Japan silk occupies the most conspicuous position. It is beyond doubt that the national economy and the development of national resources are considerably influenced by the vicissitudes of the silk trade. But if we look at the condition of the silk industry in the interior we find that silk worm eggs are of every conceivable dissimilarity, in consequence of which sericulturists have failed and still fail to secure uniformity in thread. The process of rearing, too, remains unimproved, while every silk district suffers each year by

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gross miscalculations or failures in crop. Moreover, the reduction in the area of mulberry farms which takes place year by year evidences a serious decline of the industry. In point of quality or fineness the Japanese silks can hardly venture to compete with those of Italy or France, while in the amount of production they are behind China, which has now secured the reputation of producing an improved class of silk. The favour of foreign consumers towards the Japanese manufactures has steadily decreased, and the cry of dissatisfaction is growing louder and louder. Unless remedial measures are immediately taken to secure the permanent stability of the industry there is reason to fear that Japanese silk, the most important article of commerce, will be driven out of foreign markets. It is therefore advisable that the Department of Agriculture and Commerce at this conjuncture should take steps to convoke a number of experienced sericulturists to investigate and determine the general policy to be pursued.

Representation regarding measures for securing the smooth circulation of money and lowering the rates of interest.

Investigation Committee:—

Sakatani Yoshiro, Chairman
Takahashi Korekiyo, Matsuda Gengoro, Doi Michio, Tokokawa Kyohei, Endo Keishi, Hamaoka Kotetsu } Members.

With regard to the above representation the following resolution was passed:—

The methods available for the steady circulation of money may be manifold, but with regard to those which require immediate adoption the following remarks may be made:—

I. Extension of legal limits for the issue of convertible notes free from taxes leviable on the security reserves of the Bank of Japan.

Since the 23rd year of *Meiji* the amount of convertible bank notes issued free of taxes upon the security reserves has been limited to 85 million *yen*. Comparing that year with the present it will be found that, owing to the extraordinary development of agriculture, commerce, and industry, foreign trade has trebled in volume, bringing about a corresponding increase in the demand for currency. The issue of paper in excess of the security of 85 millions of *yen* requires at present a payment of tax at the rate of 5 per cent. The system can hardly fail to enhance the rate of interest and consequently to obstruct the circulation of money. The circulation of convertible notes on which taxes are levied should be resorted to only as a temporary expedient in anticipation of a time of panic or other extraordinary occasions. In no way is it justifiable to enforce such a system in ordinary times, as it is calculated to obstruct the process of adjustment in monetary operations. The Government, it may be suggested, ought to alter the Convertible Bank Notes Regulations, in such a way as to increase the amount of issue to 120 million *yen* without levying a tax on the security reserve.

II.—The Bank of Japan's obligation consequent upon the increase in the issue of notes free of interest on security reserves.

Since the augmentation in the amount of issue would be virtually an expansion of the privileges of the Bank of Japan, the Bank may be ordered to adopt the following measures in compensation:—

1. In Foreign commerce Japan has to compete with foreign capital at low interest, and therefore greater attention should be paid to lowering the rate of interest with regard to discounts allowed on foreign exchange bills, in order that the development of trade may be effected with greater facility.

2. Gradual establishment of branches or out-offices in places of commercial and industrial importance, in the interior, where no such institutions exist, and the inauguration of a more extended system of issuing loans in the case of ordinary banks.

3. Remittances in the interior through the main office of the Nippon Ginko or its branches or out offices, should be dealt with free of charge.

4. Greater facilities should be given in discounting domestic commercial bills, so as to secure the development of credit.

5. A policy should be adopted for altering the bonds included in the security reserves in such a way as to render them freely saleable in foreign markets.

6. Active steps should be taken to remedy abuses and anomalies connected with the circulation in different localities of various coins and paper, especially of subsidiaries.

III.—Opening a path for the use of small cheques or deposit bills for which the banks are responsible, in making payments or presenting securities to the Treasury. In dealing with the Treasury the most convenient and at the same time unobjectionable methods should be adopted, and a cheque system restricted to banks of known credit, would promote the circulation of money. The use of small cheques for which substantial banks are responsible is, in no way objectionable. Sums of money which have hitherto been received by the Government in the form of personal securities or securities for public tender, in accordance with General Accounts Regulations or other rules, have been limited to specie or public loan bonds. But it is desirable, in cases where no valid reason for objection exists, that the use of deposit bills issued by substantial banks should be allowed so as to open a path for the utilization of the credit of banks. The above resolution is submitted in the form of a representation in accordance with Article II. of the Regulations for the High Agricultural Commercial, and Industrial Council.

November 2nd, in the 31st year of *Meiji*.

SHIBUSAWA EIICHI,
President of the Council.

To His Excellency OISHI MASAMI,
Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

GOTEMBA LEPER HOSPITAL.

We have been asked to publish this list of donations, which have been received for the Christmas Fund started on behalf of the inmates of the Gotemba Leper Hospital:—

G. M. dos Remedios	$25 00
Berrick Bros.	5.00
Maurice Russell	10 00
A. & B.	5.00
C. E. M.	10 00
F. W. Thomas	10 00
A. R. G. Clark	10 00
I. C. & Co.	10 00
E. V. Thorn	10 00
A. M. Apcar	10 00
A. Resident	5.00
F. Woodruff	2 00
C. J. Strome	10 00
E. Andreis	10 00
Kelly and Walsh, Ltd.	10 00
Cash	5.00
D. H. B.	3 00
Total	$150.00

On behalf of Father Vigroux, who is in charge of this institution, the undersigned tenders his thanks for these donations.

A. PETTIER.

TROUBLED KOREA.

"Land of the Morning Calm—and Afternoon Repose"

can no longer be applied to Korea. At the present moment she is a more distressful country than Ireland ever was, even in the dark days of last century. The puppet Emperor who sits on the Throne of the peninsula empire is a poor, shiftless creature, swaying from this side to that as the wind of party politics may blow upon him: never knowing his own mind; truckling to this faction to-day and to that the next; pleading for peace and quiet and whining when he finds that his desires go entirely unheeded; fretfully storming at his advisers, or fuming at his favourites. A sorry spectacle in very sooth. Meanwhile things go from bad to worse in his empire; robbery is rampant everywhere; business is paralyzed; Justice hides her head, being bartered to the highest bidder; and tumults and commotions, riots, murders, house-burnings and sackings take place at the very gates of the palace.

The latest issues of the *Independent* to hand are painful reading. One day the Independence Club is on top: next the Pedlars. Mass meetings are held in front of the Palace gates by either party, and every now and again one or other is dispersed. Sōul has had five Governors since the beginning of November. The last appointee was Mr. Yun, the erstwhile proscribed President of the Independence Club and editor of the *Independent*. It was deemed doubtful whether he would accept the office, or, if he did, if he would remain there long. When our last mail advices left Sōul, the Pedlars were the party on top, having succeeded in winning the Emperor to their side, but the telegrams show that they had short shrift, and that the Independents ultimately won the day.

Who are the Pedlars? We turn to the columns of the *Independent* for an answer. That paper says:—"It goes without saying that they are not the *bona fide* 'travelling merchants,' whose strict discipline and compact organization made them, in former days, an object of admiration among the lower classes of Korea. The pedlars, so-called, now in Sōul are mostly made up of ex soldiers, ex-police men, ex righteous-army-men, ex-Tonghak leaders, ex-slaves, ex-servants, ex-shop keepers, ex-alms house people, in short ex everything collected from the city and the suburbs by the promises and purse of Hong Jongwoo, the ex-assasin; Yu Kuiwhan the Extraordinary Envoy; Yi Kuitong the ex-Vice Minister of Law; Kil Yongik, the ex magistrate of Kwachun; Yi Yongik, the ex-Director of Mines, backed by several Excellencies in the Government. The crowd has been strengthened by coolies and gatemen from the streets who join the glorious guild for the comfortable 15 *yang* (60 cents) per day. No wonder that a crowd of such promiscuous hoodlums, knowing, as they do, that they are the pets of the Palace favourites, should have already shown themselves insolent and oppressive. They enter into a shop, take what they like, pay as much or rather as little as they want."

"During the night of the 21st Nov. the houses of the Five Villains, so-called, were demolished by the infuriated mob. No one condemns these riotous proceedings more than the ex-Independent men out of whose control the Pedlars have driven away the patient people of Sōul." The five villains are the gentlemen mentioned above as the financial backers of the Pedlars.

The soldiers stationed along the streets leading to the Palace are well behaved and do not in the least molest foreigners going to and fro. But the *Independent* feared that the Pedlars may turn on foreigners after they have "cleaned up" the People's Union.

The Korean Cabinet resigned in a body on the 24th, after a vain attempt to persuade His Majesty to disperse the Pedlars, prosecute the Five Villains, and grant the popular demands. So says the *Independent*.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The French force at Kwong-chau-wan includes 200 infantry and 70 militia.

Princess Henry of Prussia is a passenger for Hongkong by N. D. L. mail steamer *Prinz Heinrich*.

The German flagship *Kaiser* has been docked at Kowloon to repair the damages done to her bottom by the rocks in Samshah Bay. She will be in dock fully two months.

The increase of Japanese prostitutes in Western Australia, Thursday Island, etc., bodes trouble in the near future, writes a correspondent in Australia.

Another of the sunken Spanish cruisers has

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been raised in Manila Bay. This time it is the *Don Juan de Austria*; and she has been placed on the slip at Cavite.

It is reported from Nagasaki that a Chinese resident named Ah Hong has forged cheques for an amount of *yen* 5,000 belonging to a Japanese and absconded. He is supposed to have proceeded to Kobe.

As a reference to another column will show, "The Magistrate" is to be repeated on Thursday next, when the funds will be given to the General Hospital in aid of the Insane Ward, for which some 800 *yen* is urgently needed.

It is reported that the Admiralty contemplate carrying out an important project with a view of providing better accommodation for warships at Chatham. It is understood that it is proposed to cut a new channel to the River Medway at Upnor, on the opposite shore to Chatham Dockyard, and so form a spacious basin or wet dock.

A telegram to the *Daily Press* from Shanghai, dated 27th November, says:—Two large fires occurred here last night simultaneously. Hall and Holtz's store was entirely consumed. There was practically no salvage and the loss will be fully Tls. 250,000. In the other fire ten Chinese houses in Hangkow Road with three foreign houses in Albany Gardens adjoining were destroyed. The loss is as yet uncertain.

A man named Nakayama Bunjiro (30), watchman of a small Buddhist temple at Tomita, Kitakatsushika-gori, Saitama Prefecture, has murdered a farmer named Tokojiro (23) and his wife He was arrested on the 5th inst. at the Yoshiwara, Tokyo. It is stated that Onuma Ryoa (45), a priest of another temple, and his wife Fusa (37) are concerned in the crime. The priest's wife is mother-in-law of the murdered farmer.

The chief feature at Friday evening's meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society was a lecture by Mr. E. B. Clarke on "A study of words." Mr. Clarke dealt interestingly with his subject, and was followed with keen attention. The musical programme was as follows; Overture, "Marta," Messrs. Dorn and Mason; Trio, Mr. F. Schmid, Mr. R. Schmid, and Mr. Mason; Song, "A Norwegian Song," Mrs. James Walter; Song, "Far Away,' Mrs. Herb; Song, Mr. Steel; Song, "Entreat me not to leave thee," Mrs. James Walter; Violin Solo, Mr. F. Schmid; Song, Mr. Steel.

The officers of H.M.S. *Powerful* have been entertaining Hongkong folks with a musical extravaganza entitled "Aladdin, or the wonderful Scamp," which was originally composed for the entertainment of the Fleet when at Chefoo, and was afterwards proposed to be given in Yokohama. Our readers will be interested, we feel sure, in the cast:—

The Emperor (Who compasses all his wants) Comm. Pillotti (Com. Stansfield.)
The Grand Vizier (An electric old Fizzar) Lieut. Switchoff (Lt Heneage.)
Pekoe (The Vizier's own peculiar joy) Mr. Toffi Sheen (Mr. Sheen.)
Aladdin (A lad in years, but, alas! in love) Lieut. Allatsea (Lt. Halsey.)
Alanazar the Magician (A 'Powerful' fire-eater) Mr. Wan Tak Long (Fl.-Eng. Edwards.)
Genius of the Ring (A noted light weight) Lieut. Aiguillette (Lt. Streatfield.)
Slave of the Lamp (A heavy gun, 9 2) Lieut. Missfire (Lt. Egerton.)
Widow Twankay (With a War-spite reputation) Lieut. Black Michael (Lt. Hodges.)
Princess Badroulbadour (A vision of delight) Miss Single (Lt. Ingles.)
Tee-Tu-Tum (A brotherly District Visitor) Mr. Sah Moa (Mr. Wall.)
Attendants of the Courts—Messrs. Charlton, Dowling, Bedford, Peile, Lewis, Middleton.

THE CELEBRATED ATLER TROUPE.

Clowns—Messrs. Dawson and Whiting.
Musical Director—Lieut. Sam Breezey.
Stage Director—Mr. Simkin (Mr. Sims.)
Manager—The Pay Clerk Paymaster (Lt. [illegible])

THE GREAT FUR CASE.

IN H.B.M. COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before H. S. Wilkinson Esq., Judge, sitting with a Jury.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 1898.

REGINA V. CHARLES EMIL LEOPOLD.

APPLICATION FOR POSTPONEMENT.

The Leopold case, locally important as it is, is not that species of *cause celèbre* that arouses much popular excitement apart from personal concern in the parties involved. There is not much human interest in bills of lading, invoices, exhibits A and B., and the intricacies of the Larceny Act. The story of the head and hunt of Mr. Leopold's alleged offending is not entertaining, even when it has the advantage of the truly literary exposition of which it has been made the subject in the indictment given below. Accordingly it was not a matter for surprise that the Court room was not inconveniently crowded on Tuesday morning when the Court opened. There were a rather woeful-looking crowd of potential jurors at the back of the Court, gloomy at the possibility of a week or two of intolerable *ennui* and grave interference with business or pleasure. When the unlucky five were finally caught the rest beamed with satisfaction, and went on their path rejoicing, leaving the Court almost empty of all but witnesses and unofficials. The usual batch of excuses were sent in—several of them quite genuine. Mr. Lines caused some amusement by his forcible way of showing cause why he should not be a Juror: (1) he had a headache; (2) he had sciatica; and (3) he had a prejudice against the prisoner. Which of these reasons seemed him his *congé* was not clear, but Mr. Lines was excused. Another was lucky enough to escape on account of deafness. Five who had been called and did not appear were fined $50 each.

The scene in the Court was not very dramatic—like the case itself. The accused appeared a trifle more anxious than at the preliminary hearing. He was standing most of the morning, but later obtained permission to be seated. He was evidently disappointed at the failure of his counsel's effort to secure a postponement of the trial, and listened with a rather dispirited air to the enormously long indictment, through which the Clerk of the Court bravely waded, almost sprightly at first, gravely in the middle, and exhaustedly at the finish. It was a masterpiece of style. At the conclusion the clerk had retained sufficient self-possession to put the usual formula to the prisoner: "How, say you, Charles Emil Leopold, are you guilty or not guilty?" "and the accused replied in a firm voice: "Not guilty."

Mr. H. C. Litchfield, Crown Prosecutor, with Mr. J. R. Lowder, appeared to prosecute; Professor Terry appeared for the defence; and Mr. A. B. Walford represented the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Before the indictment was read Professor Terry rose and said:—I am afraid I shall have to move for a postponement of this trial. I did not expect, but I received yesterday evening, a letter which I have shown to counsel on the other side from Mr. Leopold's brother in London. We have been, I may say, ever since this affair first began in correspondence with him trying to find out whether we could get any evidence of any importance. Until I received this letter I had no reason to suppose there was anything of importance that he could lay before the Court. Now he writes that he is sending by the mail which follows this a sworn statement which would tend to show that Messrs. Ahrens and Company had a knowledge of what Mr. Leopold was doing at this time. This appears to me to have very considerable bearing on the question of fraudulent intent, and is of importance. What the contents of the statement are I cannot say, for the letter is brief.

The Judge—Would it be evidence in the case at all?

Mr. Terry—It would not be evidence, but it might give us the opportunity of applying for leave to take the testimony of Mr. Leopold's brother in London.

The Judge—But can you take testimony in London in a criminal case here?

Mr. Terry—If I cannot there is nothing more to be said. I have not had time to look the matter up. Mr. Leopold has offered to come, and if the sworn statement happens to be concerning facts that he personally knows I can have him come. I will say, your Honour, that I did not expect until this morning that I should have to make any such motion, or I should have spoken of it before.

His Honour—Let me see the letter. (After perusing it): The first part of this would be to show that there was not only fraud on the part of the defendant, but that he was in conspiracy to defraud.

Mr. Terry—Not necessarily. He is charged in the indictment with defrauding Ahrens and Co.

His Honour—That is one count only.

Mr. Terry—I do not think it would show conspiracy to defraud. It would simply show a careless manner of dealing with the consent of his firm.

His Honour—According to this the person would swear that Ahrens and Co. knew that the accused had signed bills of lading for goods that had not been put on board the ship. Would that assist your client in the slightest degree?

Mr. Terry—It would certainly show that she did not intend to defraud Ahrens & Co.

His Honour—Is there any other point?

Mr. Terry—I think not.

His Honour—Then I decline to grant the motion. (After a pause) You will see that this letter is dated the 17th September.

Mr. Terry—Yes, it came, Mr. Leopold tells me, a few days ago. I am not sure as to the exact date. It might be ten days ago possibly. It was sent to me yesterday.

His Honour (after making notes)—I refuse the application. Is there anything else?

Mr. Terry—That is all. I don't know whether it would be proper for me to accept formally.

His Honour—I may point out to you, Mr. Terry, that I am willing to take note of any exception at all, but for a postponement of the trial I must of course have something on oath. If you could have shown me a private letter, or statement, then I would, of course, have had it put in train, if I could have done it. I have had no statement, only what you say of what this letter could prove. You would see at once that your note of objection is useless as there is nothing sworn before me.

Mr. Terry—I had not time to prepare an affidavit, and the only affidavit I could have made would have been that I had received this letter and that I believed the statements made in it to be true.

His Honour—If you wish me to note the objection, I will note the objection, but I shall have to note that there is no sworn statement.

Mr. Terry—If a sworn statement is of any use can I put it in afterwards? Can we consider it as if there were a sworn statement?

His Honour—Assuming this were sworn in a case like this I can't give you the benefit, unless it were to prevent a real injustice being done.

Mr. Terry—You would refuse if it were a sworn statement?

His Honour—Yes, the only thing to be sworn would be that the letter has been received, and that you thought the statement to be true.

Mr. Terry—I may say that we had made all possible efforts to obtain evidence and had been in correspondence with Mr. Leopold's brother.

His Honour—Yes, you have done your best, Mr. Terry.

Mr. Terry—Yes, I know I have done my best. I only wanted to know if I could do anything further.

His Honour—I think not. The application is refused.

ANOTHER APPLICATION.

Mr. Litchfield then applied to amend the figures in the first count from *yen* 41,421.32 to *yen* 42,816 76. The error was owing to a miscalculation on his part. The same mistake had occurred in the second and fifth counts, and he applied that they be amended also.

This was done.

THE INDICTMENT.

The Clerk of the Court (Mr. C. D. Moss) then read the indictment as follows:—

IN HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S COURT FOR JAPAN, KANAGAWA TO WIT:

Henry Charles Litchfield, Crown Prosecutor in Japan for our Lady the Queen presents and charges that Charles Emil Leopold, a British subject at Yokohama, Japan, on the thirty-first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, unlawfully knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to one Herbert Maurice Bevis, the Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama aforesaid, that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped at the port of Yokohama on board the German steamship *Hohenzollern* ten cases of furs of the alleged value of twelve hundred and fifty pounds sterling and that he had also been possessed of and had shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* forty bales of furs of the alleged value of three thousand pounds sterling to be carried by the said steamship and other steamships connecting with the same from the port of Yokohama to the port of London and there to be delivered to the order of

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him the said Charles Emil Leopold, and that the said furs had been duly insured against loss by perils of the seas during the voyage aforesaid, by means of which false pretences he the said Charles Emil Leopold did then unlawfully cause and procure the sum of fortysone thousand four hundred and twenty-one *yen* and thirty-two *sen* of the monies of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to be transferred and paid to the Bank account of him the said Charles Emil Leopold for his use and benefit with intent to defraud; whereby he did obtain from the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the said sum of forty-one thousand four hundred and twenty-one *yen* and thirty-two *sen* with intent to defraud, whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* the said ten cases of furs or any of them and whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship the said forty bales of furs or any of them and whereas in truth and fact he had not insured the said ten cases of furs or the said forty bales of furs or any part of them as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the Peace of our Lady the Queen Her Crown and Dignity,

SECOND COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown Prosecutor for our Lady the Queen as aforesaid doth further present and charge that afterwards on the said thirty-first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven at Yokohama aforesaid the said Charles Emil Leopold unlawfully knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis, the Manager of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the German steamship *Hohenzollern* certain furs to be carried by the said steamer to London and that he was then on the thirty first day of December lawfully possessed of two bills of lading signed by Messrs. H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf., one of the said bills of lading representing ten cases of furs marked (L I in a diamond above 9 8) 46/55 and the other of them representing forty bales of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond above 9 8) 56/95 and also that he was lawfully possessed of two several policies of insurance signed by H. Ahrens & Co. Nachf. as Agents for the London Assurance Corporation, by which policies of insurance the said ten cases of furs and the said forty bales of furs were purported to be insured by the said Corporation against perils of the seas on the said voyage to London, by means of which said false pretences he did cause and procure the said Herbert Maurice Bevis to purchase with the money of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation a bill of exchange drawn by the said Charles Emil Leopold on C. M. Lampson & Co., London, for twelve hundred and fifty pounds payable four months after sight another bill of exchange drawn by the said Charles Emil Leopold on C. M. Lampson & Co. aforesaid for three thousand pounds payable four months after sight, and did cause and procure the proceeds of the said two bills of exchange to be paid to the Bank account of him the said Charles Emil Leopold for his use and benefit and that thereby he the said Charles Emil Leopold unlawfully obtained forty one thousand four hundred and twenty one *yen* and thirty two *sen* of the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation with intent to defraud, whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* the said furs or any of them. And whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold was not then lawfully possessed of the said two bills of lading or either of them, and whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold was not lawfully possessed of the said two policies of insurance as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace of our Lady the Queen Her Crown and Dignity.

THIRD COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown Prosecutor for Our Lady the Queen as aforesaid doth further present and charge that afterwards on the said thirty-first day of December in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven the said Charles Emil Leopold being at the time aforesaid indebted to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama aforesaid in the sum of forty thousand seven hundred and fifty *yen* and eighty-eight *sen*, he the said Charles Emil Leopold on the said thirty first day of December wrote a letter to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation aforesaid stating therein that he the said Charles Emil Leopold did send therewith to the said Banking Corporation complete B/L Policy in duplicate and invoices for Lt in a diamond above 9 8 46/55 ten cases furs shipped per N.D.L. steamer *Hohenzollern* at Yokohama for London via Suez Canal and that a certain Bill of Exchange for twelve hundred and fifty pounds referred to and enclosed in the said letter and drawn by him against the said goods was in accordance with C. M. Lampson & Co.'s telegraphed credit and on the said thirty-first day of December he the said Charles Emil Leopold wrote another letter to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation stating therein that he the said Charles Emil Leopold did send therewith to the said Banking Corporation complete B/L policy in duplicate and invoices for (L I in a diamond above 9 8) 56/95 forty bales furs shipped per N. D. L. steamer *Hohenzollern* at Yokohama for London via Suez Canal and that a certain Bill of Exchange for three thousand pounds referred to and enclosed in the said letter and drawn by him against the said goods was accordance with the said C. M. Lampson & Co's telegraphed credit whereby he the said Charles Emil Leopold did unlawfully, knowingly and designedly falsely pretend to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation that he had shipped on board the said German steamship *Hohenzollern* the ten cases of furs and forty bales of furs as aforesaid to be carried from Yokohama to London and had insured the said furs and that the two Bills of Exchange aforesaid for twelve hundred and fifty pounds sterling and for three thousand pounds sterling respectively were in accordance with a certain letters of credit issued by the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at the request of a certain firm known to the said Banking Corporation as C. M. Lampson & Co. of London, by means of which said false pretences he the said Charles Emil Leopold did then unlawfully cause and procure the sum of forty thousand seven hundred and fifty *yen* and eighty eight *sen* of the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to be paid and transferred to his bank account with the said Banking Corporation in discharge of his indebtedness to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for his use and benefit, and did thereby obtain the said sum of forty thousand seven hundred and fifty *yen* and eighty-eight *sen* from the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation with intent to defraud, whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* the said ten cases of furs or any of them, and whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* the said forty bales of furs or any of them or any part of them, and whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not insured the said ten cases of furs or the said forty bales of furs or any of them or any part of them, and whereas in truth and in fact the said Bills of Exchange for twelve hundred and fifty pounds and for three thousand pounds were not nor was either of them in accordance with the said C M. Lampson & Co.'s telegraphed credit as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the Peace of Our Lady the Queen Her Crown and Dignity.

FOURTH COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown Prosecutor in Japan for Our Lady the Queen doth further present and charge that Charles Emil Leopold a British subject at Yokohama Japan on the said thirty first day of December in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven unlawfully knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to one Albert Hofmann a partner in the firm or Co-partnership of Henry Ahrens and Company Nachfolger at Yokohama aforesaid that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped or caused to be shipped on board the German steamship *Hohenzollern* at Yokohama ten cases of furs numbered 46 to 55 and also forty bales of furs numbered 56 to 59 by means of which said false pretences the said Charles Emil Leopold did then unlawfully and fraudulently cause or induce the said Albert Hofmann to write the name of the firm or Co-partnership of Henry Ahrens and Company Nachfolger acting as Agents for the said steamship upon two separate bills of lading the first of the said bills of lading purporting to acknowledge the receipt on board the steamship *Hohenzollern* of the ten cases of furs aforesaid and the second of the said bills of lading purporting to acknowledge the receipt on board the steamship *Hohenzollern* of the forty bales of furs aforesaid in order that the said bills of lading might be converted and dealt with as valuable securities with intent thereby then to defraud and injure the said Henry Ahrens and Company Nachfolger whereas in truth and in fact at the times aforesaid he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped or caused to be shipped on board the steamship *Hohenzollern* the said ten cases of furs or any of them, and whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the steamship *Hohenzollern* the said forty bales of furs or any of them as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the times he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace of Our Lady the Queen her Crown and Dignity,

FIFTH COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown Prosecutor for Our Lady the Queen as aforesaid doth further present and charge that afterwards on the said thirty-first day of December in the year aforesaid Charles Emil Leopold at Yokohama aforesaid did unlawfully designedly and knowingly falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis the Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama aforesaid that he the said Charles Emil Leopold before the said thirty-first day of December had shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* ten cases of furs of the alleged value of twelve hundred and fifty pounds sterling and that he had also shipped on board the said steamship forty bales of furs of the alleged value of three thousand pounds sterling and that he had caused the said furs to be insured against loss by perils of the seas on the voyage from Yokohama to London by means of which said false pretences he induced the said Herbert Maurice Bevis to purchase with the moneys of the said banking corporation a bill of exchange for twelve hundred and fifty pounds drawn by him the said Charles Emil Leopold on C. M Lampson & Co. of London payable four months after sight and another bill of exchange for three thousand pounds sterling drawn by the said Charles Emil Leopold on the said C. M. Lampson & Co., payable four months after sight and thereby incurred a liability to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in the sum of forty one thousand four hundred and twenty-one *yen* and thirty-two *sen* for which said sum he then obtained credit with the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not at the time of incurring the said liability or at any other time shipped the said ten cases of furs or the said forty bales of furs or any of them or any part of them, and whereas he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not caused to be insured against the perils of the seas the said furs or any of them as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace of our Lady the Queen her Crown and Dignity.

SIXTH COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown Prosecutor for our Lady the Queen as aforesaid doth further present and charge that the said Charles Emil Leopold at Yokohama aforesaid on the tenth day of January in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight unlawfully knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis, the Manager of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama aforesaid by writing a letter stating in the words and figures following that is to say:—

Yokohama, 10th January, 1898.

From H. Ahrens and Co., Nachf.

To Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Present.

DEAR SIRS,—I herewith beg to hand you complete B/L. policy in duplicate and invoices for (L I in a diamond above 9 8), 96/105 10 bales furs shipped per N.D.L. Steamer *Hohenzollern* via Suez Canal to London. Against above goods I enclose my draft at four months on Messrs. A. M. Lampson and Co., London for £750.

The amount drawn is in accordance with Messrs. A. M. Lampson and Co.'s telegraphed credit. Kindly credit my current account with proceeds at 2⅛=$7,309 65 per settlement of the 18th October, 1897, (Parsons and Blad).

I am, dear Sirs, Yours truly, E. LEOPOLD.

That he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the said steamship ten bales of furs of the alleged value of seven hundred and fifty pounds sterling marked and numbered (L I in diamond above 9 8) 96/105 to be carried from Yokohama to the Port of London and there to be delivered to the order of him the said Charles Emil Leopold and that the said ten bales of furs had been duly insured against loss by perils of the seas during the voyage aforesaid and that the Bill of Exchange in the said letter mentioned was in accordance with a credit issued by the said Banking Corporation at the request of C. M. Lamp-

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son Co. of London by means of which false pretences he the said Charles Emil Leopold did then unlawfully cause and procure the sum of seven thousand three hundred and nine *yen* and sixty-five *sen* of the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to be paid and transferred to the Bank account of him the said Charles Emil Leopold with the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for his use and benefit with intent to defraud and did thereby obtain the said sum of seven thousand three hundred and nine *yen* and sixty-five *sen* of the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation from the said Banking Corporation with intent to defraud whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* the said ten packages of furs or any of them and whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not insured the said ten packages of furs or any of them and whereas the said bill of exchange for seven hundred and fifty pounds was not drawn in accordance with C. M. Lampson and Co.'s credit as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid, and further that he the said Charles Emil Leopold on the ninth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight by writing another letter in similar terms except as to the figures therein to the one herein before set out addressed to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation did unlawfully knowingly and designedly falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had been possessed of and had shipped on board the aforesaid steamship, sixteen packages of furs marked and numbered L. I. in a diamond above 9 8 150/165 to be carried from Yokohama to London and that he had duly insured the said sixteen packages of furs and that a Bill of Exchange for two thousand and eight hundred and seventy five pounds drawn at four months after sight on C. M. Lampson & Co. of London was in accordance with the credit issued at the request of the said C. M. Lampson & Co. by means of which false pretences he the said Charles Emil Leopold did unlawfully cause and procure the further sum of twenty eight thousand and ninety one *yen* and sixty one *sen* of the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to be paid and transferred to his Bank account with the said Banking Corporation for his use and benefit with intent to defraud and did thereby obtain from the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the said sum of twenty eight thousand and ninety one *yen* and sixty one *sen* with intent to defraud. And further that on the fifteenth days of February in the year aforesaid the said Charles Leopold at Yokohama aforesaid by writing a letter similar in terms except as to the figures therein as the one set out as aforesaid addressed to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and unlawfully knowingly and designedly falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the steamship aforesaid to be carried from Yokohama to London four cases of furs marked and numbered L. I. in a diamond above 9 8 166/169 and that he had duly insured the said furs and that a bill of exchange for one thousand pounds sterling drawn by him at four months after sight on C. M. Lampson and Company aforesaid was in accordance with a credit issued by the said Banking Corporation at the request of C. M. Lampson and Company aforesaid by means of which false pretences the said Charles Emile Leopold unlawfully caused and procured the further sum of nine thousand and seven hundred and seventy *yen* and ninety-nine *sen* of the moneys of the said Banking Corporation to be transferred and paid to his bank account with the said banking corporation for his use and benefit with intent to defraud and did thereby obtain from the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the said sum of nine thousand seven hundred and seventy *yen* and ninety-nine *sen* with intent to defraud, and further that on the nineteenth day of February in the year aforesaid the said Charles Emil Leopold at Yokohama aforesaid by writing another letter in similar terms except as to the figures therein as the one set out as aforesaid addressed to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation unlawfully, knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the aforesaid steamship ten packages of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond above 9 8) 185/194 and that he had duly insured the said furs and that the two several bills of exchange one for eleven hundred and twenty-five pounds sterling and the other for eight hundred and seventy-five pounds sterling drawn by him at four months after sight on C. M. Lampson and Co., London were in accordance with a letter of credit issued by the said Banking Corporation at the request of the said C. M. Lampson and Co. by means of which false pretences he the said Charles Emil Leopold unlawfully caused and procured the further sum of nineteen thousand five hundred and forty-one *yen* and ninty-nine *sen* of the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to be paid and transferred to the bank account of him the said Charles Emil Leopold with the said Banking Corporation with intent to defraud and that he did thereby obtain from the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the said sum of nineteen thousand five hundred and forty-one *yen* and ninty nine *sen* with intent to defraud, and further, that the said Charles Emil Leopold on the seventh day of April in the year aforesaid at Yokohama aforesaid by writing two other letters of the same date in similar except as to the figures therein to the one set out as aforesaid addressed to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation unlawfully, knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the steamship aforesaid nine packages of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond about 9 8,) 195/203 and ten packages of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond above 9. 8, 204/213 to be carried from Yokohama to London and that he duly insured the said furs and that two several Bills of Exchange for seventeen hundred and fifty pounds each drawn by him at four months after sight on C.M. Lampson & Co. of London aforesaid were in accordance with a letter of credit issued by the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at the request of the said C. M. Lampson & Co. by means of which said false pretences the said Charles Emil Leopold unlawfully caused and procured the further sum of thirty-four thousand one hundred and eleven *yen* and sixty four *sen* of the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to be paid and transferred to the Bank account of him the said Charles Emil Leopold with the said Honging Corporation for his use and benefit with intent to defraud. And that he did thereby obtain from the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the said sum of thirty four thousand one hundred and eleven *yen* and sixty-four *sen* with intent to defraud whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* the before mentioned sixteen packages of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond above 9 8) 150/165 or the aforesaid four cases of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond above 98) 196/169, or the aforesaid ten packages of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond above 98) 115/194 or the aforesaid nine packages of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond above 98) 195/203 or the said ten packages of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond above 98) 204/213 or any of them or any port of them and whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not duly insured the aforesaid furs or any of them and whereas in truth and in fact the aforesaid bills of exchange in this count mentioned were not nor were any of them drawn by the said Charles Emil Leopold on C. M. Lampson & Co. in accordance with the letter of credit issued by the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at request of the said C. M. Lampson & Co. as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the respective times and time when he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the peace of Our Lady the Queen Her Crown and dignity.

SEVENTH COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown prosecutor for Our Lady the Queen as aforesaid doth further present and charge that the said Charles Emil Leopold at Yokohama aforesaid afterwards that is to say on the said ninth day of February in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety eight unlawfully, knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis by writing a certain letter dated said ninth day of February and addressed to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama aforesaid that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* sixteen packages of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond above 98) 150/165 to be carried from Yokohama to London and there to be delivered to C. M. Lampson and Co, or their order and that he duly caused the said furs to be insured against the perils of the seas and that a bill of exchange for two thousand and eight hundred and seventy-five pound sterling the value as alleged by him the said Charles Emil Leopold of the furs aforesaid was drawn by him according to the conditions of a letter of credit issued by the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at the request of the said C. M. Lampson and Co. by means of which false pretences the said Charles Emil Leopold unlawfully caused and procured the sum of twenty eight thousand *yen* of the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to be paid to the Russo-Chinese Bank at Yokohama a Banking Company of which Messrs. Browne and Company were then the agents at Yokohama for and on account of him the said Charles Emil Leopold and for his use and benefit with intent to defraud and that he did thereby obtain from the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the said sum of twenty-eight thousand *yen* with intent to defraud, whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship the sixteen packages of furs aforesaid or any of them, *and* whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not caused to be insured the said sixteen packages of furs or any of the said furs, and whereas in truth and in fact the said bill of exchange for two thousand eight hundred and seventy-five pounds sterling was not drawn in accordance with the said letter of credit issued at the request of C. M. Lampson and Co. as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the peace of Our Lady the Queen her Crown and Dignity.

EIGHTH COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown Prosecutor in Japan Our Lady the Queen as aforesaid doth further present and charge that afterwards on the said nineteenth day of February in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight at Yokohama aforesaid the said Charles Emil Leopold unlawfully, knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend by writing a letter dated the said nineteenth day of February and addressed to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation stating therein that he did send therewith to the said Banking Banking Corporation complete bill of lading, policy in duplicate and invoices for ten packages of furs marked and numbered (L I in a diamond above 9 8) 185/194 shipped by the said steamship *Hohenzollern* at Yokohama for London *vid* Suez Canal and that a certain bill of exchange for eleven hundred and twenty-five pounds sterling and another bill of exchange for eight hundred and seventy-five pounds sterling referred to and enclosed in the said letter and drawn by him against the said good were in accordance with the said C. M. Lampson & Co.'s credit, that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the said German steamship *Hohenzollern* ten packages of furs to be carried from Yokohama to London and had caused the said furs to be insured against loss by perils of the seas and that a bill of exchange for eleven hundred and twenty five pounds sterling, another bill of exchange for eight hundred and seventy-five pounds sterling drawn by him the said Charles Emil Leopold were and each of them was drawn in accordance with a credit issued at the request of the said firm of C. M. Lampson & Co. by means of which said false pretences he the said Charles Emil Leopold did then unlawfully induce the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to purchase and the Bills of Exchange aforesaid and out of the proceeds thereof did unlawfully cause and procure to be paid to the said Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China at Yokohama aforesaid eleven thousand *yen* of the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for and on account of him the said Charles Emil Leopold for his use and benefit with intent to defraud and that he did thereby obtain from the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the said sum of eleven thousand *yen* with intent to defraud whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship *Hohenzollern* the said ten packages of furs or any of them. And whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not caused to be insured the said ten packages of furs or any of them, and whereas in truth and in fact the said bills of exchange for eleven hundred and twenty-five pounds and eight hundred and seventy-five pounds were not nor was either of them in accordance with the said C. M. Lampson & Co.'s letter of credit as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace of our Lady the Queen Her Crown and Dignity.

NINTH COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown Prosecutor in Japan for our Lady the Queen as aforesaid doth further present and charge that the said Charles Emil

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Leopold afterwards on the tenth day of January in the year aforesaid unlawfully knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis the Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama aforesaid that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the aforesaid steamship *Hohenzollern* ten bales of furs marked and numbered L.I in a diamond above 98 (96/105 of the alleged value of seven hundred and fifty pounds and that he had duly caused the said furs to be insured against the perils of the seas on the voyage from Yokohama to London by means of which false pretences he induced the said Herbert Maurice Bevi's to purchase with the moneys of the said Banking Corporation a bill of exchange for seven hundred and fifty pounds drawn by him the said Charles Emil Leopold on C. M. Lampson & Co. of London, payable at four months after sight and thereby incurred a liability to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in the sum of seven thousand three hundred and nine *yen* and sixty five *sen* for which said sum he then obtained credit with the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not at the time of incurring the said liability or at any other time shipped the said ten cases of furs or any part of them, and whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not caused to be insured against the perils of the seas the said furs or any of them as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the Peace of Our Lady the Queen Her Crown and Dignity.

TENTH COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown Prosecutor in Japan for Our Lady the Queen as aforesaid doth further present and charge that the said Charles Emil Leopold at Yokohama aforesaid afterwards on the said ninth day of February in the year aforesaid unlawfully knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis the Manager of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the said steam ship *Hohenzollern* sixteen packages of furs marked and numbered (L.I in a diamond above 98) 150/165 of the alleged value of two thousand eight hundred and seventy five pounds sterling and had duly caused the said furs to be insured against the perils of the seas on the voyage from Yokohama to London by means of which false pretence he induced the said Herbert Maurice Bevis to purchase with the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation a bill of exchange for two thousand eight hundred and seventy five pounds sterling drawn by the said Charles Emil Leopold on C. M. Lampson & Co. of London and thereby he the said Charles Emil Leopold incurred a liability to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in the sum of twenty right thousand and ninety one *yen* and sixty one *sen* for which said sum he then obtained credit with the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not at the time of incurring the said liability or at any other time shipped the said sixteen packages of furs or any of them and whereas in truth and in fact he had not caused to be insured the said sixteen packages of furs or any of them against the perils of the seas as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the Peace of Our Lady the Queen Her Crown and Dignity.

ELEVENTH COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown Prosecutor in Japan for our Lady the Queen as aforesaid doth further present and charge that the said Charles Emil Leopold afterwards at Yokohama aforesaid on the said nineteenth day of February in the year aforesaid did unlawfully designedly and knowingly falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the said German steamship *Hohenzollern* ten packages of furs marked and numbered (L.I in diamond above 98) 185/194 of the alleged value of two thousand pounds sterling and that he had caused the said furs to be insured against loss by perils of the seas by means of which false pretences he the said Charles Emil Leopold induced the said Herbert Maurice Bevis to purchase a bill of exchange for eleven hundred and twenty five pounds sterling drawn by him the said Charles Emil Leopold on Messrs. C. M. Lampson & Co. London and another Bill of Exchange for eight hundred and seventy five pounds sterling drawn by him the said Charles Emil Leopold on C. M. Lampson & Co. aforesaid and payable four months after sight and thereby incurred a liability to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in the sum of nineteen thousand four hundred and thirty-one *yen* and ninety nine *sen* for which sum aforesaid he then obtained credit with the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship the said ten packages of furs or any of them or any part of them and whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not caused to be insured against loss by the perils of the seas the said furs or any of them as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the Peace of Our Lady the Queen Her Crown and Dignity.

TWELFTH COUNT:—And Henry Charles Litchfield as Crown Prosecutor in Japan for Our Lady the Queen as aforesaid doth further present and charge that the said Charles Emil Leopold afterwards at Yokohama aforesaid on the seventh day of April one thousand eight hundred and ninety eight unlawfully knowingly and designedly did falsely pretend to the said Herbert Maurice Bevis the Manager of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation that he the said Charles Emil Leopold had shipped on board the German steamship *Hohenzollern* nine packages of furs of the value as alleged by him of seventeen hundred and fifty pounds sterling to be carried from Yokohama to London and there delivered to the order of him the said CharlesEmil Leopold and also that he had shipped on board the aforesaid steamship *Hohenzollern* ten other packages of furs of the value as alleged by him of seventeen hundred and fifty pounds sterling to be carried from Yokohama to London and there delivered to the order of him the said Charles Emil Leopold and that the said furs had been duly insured against loss by perils of the sea during the voyage aforesaid by means of which false pretences he the said Charles Emil Leopold did then unlawfully induce the said Herbert Maurice Bevis to purchase with the moneys of the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation two bills of Exchange for seventeen hundred and fifty pounds sterling each drawn by him the said Charles Emil Leopold on C. M. Lampson & Co., London, payable four months after sight and thereby incurred a liability to the said Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in the sum of thirty-four thousand one hundred and eleven *yen* and sixty-four *sen*, for which said sum he then obtained credit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship the said nine packages of furs or any of them, and whereas in truth and in fact the said Charles Emil Leopold had not shipped on board the said steamship the said ten packages of furs or any of them, and whereas in truth and in fact he the said Charles Emil Leopold had not caused to be insured against loss by the perils of the seas the said nine packages of furs or the said ten packages of furs or any of them as he the said Charles Emil Leopold well knew at the time he did so falsely pretend as aforesaid against the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the Peace of our Lady the Queen Her Crown and Dignity.

(Signed) HENRY CHARLES LITCHFIELD,
Crown Prosecutor.

Dated at Yokohama in the district of Kanagawa this Eleventh day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety eight.

Prisoner, on being asked to plead, replied "Not guilty."

SWEARING THE JURY.

The swearing-in of the Jury was then proceeded with.

The following were called :—C. K. M. Martin, G. Charlesworth, A. J. Lines, H. Rose, J. Stewart, F. H. Hooper, S. Strauss, H. V. Henson, T. Abbey, E. C. Davis, W. Walker, J. B. Coulson, H. Bent, T. W. McIlraith, H. Baldin, G. Watt, and G. Steeny.

Medical certificates were sent in in the cases of Messrs. Rose, Hooper, and McIlraith, and they were excused. Fines of $50 each were inflicted in the cases of Messrs. Stewart, Charlesworth, Henson, Coulson, and Bent, who did not answer to their names.

Mr. Lines, on being called, asked to be excused on the ground that he suffered from sciatica, headache, and a very strong prejudice against the accused—(laughter).

Mr. Terry—I think he had better stand aside for the present.

The Judge—You may stand aside.

Mr. Watt was called, and went submissively into the box but after some hesitation Mr. Litchfield rose, and, observing that the proposed Juror was deaf, suggested that he should stand aside.

The Judge concurred.

Addressing Mr. Terry, His Honour asked him if he wished to challenge any of the Jurors. He said the Crown was entitled to the last word with regard to Jurors standing aside, but if there was any whom Mr. Terry objected to he might show cause against him.

Mr. Terry—Have I the right now to put a question to the Jurymen to find out whether there is any cause why they should not serve?

The Judge—No, you cannot hold an inquisition. You challenge any man, and examine him with a view to show cause.

Mr. Terry—I have no right to put questions?

His Honour—Not fishing questions, no.

Mr. Terry—That is, I have no right to challenge unless I know, and cannot put questions to ascertain?

His Honour—No.

Mr. Terry—I wanted to know what is the practice. Our practice is different.

The Jury were finally sworn in as follows:—Messrs Martin, Abbey, Walker, Baldin, and Steeney.

COUNSEL'S OPENING.

Mr. Litchfield then rose to open the case for the prosecution. He said the indictment was of considerable length, but that was rendered necessary by the circumstances of the transactions in which the accused had been engaged. The indictment as a whole charged the accused with the offence technically known as obtaining money under false pretences, and alleged that that money had been obtained from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at various times, in the first instance on the 31st December last year, and in the last instance on the 7th April of this year. There were also a set of counts against the accused of incurring a liability to the bank and obtaining credit from the bank on false pretences. There was also another specific charge against him in the fourth count of the indictment which he (Mr. Litchfield) would treat separately from the others—that of inducing one of the partners of Ahrens and Co. to issue documents for the purpose of being used as a valuable security by means of false pretences. Throughout all these transactions the false pretences made use of were practically the same. They differed only in dates and amounts, so that it would be most convenient to make the Jury understand the real purport of the charge before going into specific details. It might be well to explain who the accused was at the time these offences were alleged to be committed; what he did at that time, and what he (Mr. Litchfield) should have to ask them to infer as to the reasons of his action. Leopold on the 31st December, 1897, and prior to that time was a clerk in the employ of Ahrens & Co., Nachf. a firm of German merchants in Yokohama, who in addition to their ordinary business acted as agents for the German steamship company the Norddeutscher Lloyd and for the London Insurance Company, which occasionally issued policies of marine insurance. The accused was manager of the shipping department of the office, and under him was a German named Hannssen. Among the duties of these two men, and chiefly of the accused, was that of seeing that bills of lading for cargo carried on board the steamers of the Norddeutscher Lloyd were made in due form and according to the rules of the office. When prepared in proper form they were laid before one of the partners of the firm, whomever might be in charge, for his signature. He (Mr. Litchfield) would be able to show them that one of the partners, Mr. A. Hoffmann, who was in charge on the 31st December, was in the habit of attaching the firm's signature as a matter of course to the bills of lading presented to him coming from the shipping department. They (the gentlemen of the Jury) could quite understand from their experience of business that considering the number of bills of lading presented prior to the departure of a steamer it would be almost impossible for the partner to read over every bill laid before him or even to enquire what the particulars of the cargo to which it related were, or in fact to do more than take it for granted that the man who was chief of the department had done his duty and that the bill was in order. He submitted that the accused at that time had been in the employ of Ahrens & Co. for many years, and that great confidence was reposed in him. In consequence of that trust his opportunities were all the greater in the event of his being tempted to betray his employers, and he (Mr. Litchfield) had

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to submit that he did betray them. Some time prior to the 31st December accused laid before or caused to be sent in from the shipping office to the partners' office a bill of lading for the signature of the firm which purported to state that he had shipped on board the *Hohenzollern* 10 cases of furs of the value of £1250 and also 40 bales of the alleged value of £3,000 to be taken to London. About the same time he procured as manager of the insurance business of the firm the firm's signature to an insurance policy purporting to be issued on the 10 cases and 40 bales mentioned in the bill of lading. With these documents in his possession he wrote to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank a letter enclosing the documents and asking to be credited in the bank's books for the equivalent in *yen* of the sterling value of the two alleged shipments in accordance with a credit telegraphed by a London firm, Messrs. Lampson and Co. Leopold had been for some time shipping goods to London on his own account, and had been advised by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank that they were authorised to purchase his bills drawn on London for the value of furs at certain rates, provided that the documents relating to these furs were given to the bank as security, that security constituting what was called documentary bills. On the security of the bills of lading presented by Leopold on December 31st the bank purchased the bills, and it was this and other transactions which gave rise to the present charge. He (Mr. Litchfield) would be able to show them by negative proof that at that time Leopold had not shipped on the *Hohenzollern* or taken any steps to ship either 10 cases or 40 bales of furs, and further that from that time to the 7th April, 1898, he had not shipped any furs bearing the marks and numbers of these particular shipments, that though he had not shipped any furs he still went on obtaining bills of lading on dates specified in the indictment, and that it was these bills of lading which induced the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to purchase his bills of exchange on Lampson and Co. The evidence he would have to lay before them as negative proof of non-shipment would be the practice in vogue in the shipment of goods and the signing of bills of lading. Some time ago Yokohama procured the advantage of a pier in the Harbour, and for the purpose of transacting the business of shipping cargo there was formed a company which carried on business as the Pier Traffic and Lighter Company. This Company acted as the agents of Ahrens and Co. in delivering cargo intended to be shipped on board the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamers. The intending shipper made application to Ahrens and Co. and received from the shipping office a form in duplicate on blue paper on which he had to fill in the particulars of the cargo. At the same time he received from the shipping office a set of bills of lading. The blue forms were filled in at the office and the particulars given by the shipper were entered into the counterfoil, and duplicate blue forms were filled in corresponding to the counterfoil, and were given to the shipper with the forms of the bill of lading. The intending shipper took these two forms to the office of the Pier Company and if he took the cargo with him he was given a receipt on one of the company's forms, which practically rated as what before the establishment of the Pier Company would have been called the mate's receipt acknowledging the delivery of the goods. The shipper got one of these forms, and when he asked for his bill of lading to be signed he brought back this blue form to Ahrens & Co. His bill of lading was then compared with the particulars stated on the blue form, the blue form receipt was filed, and the set of bills of lading were sent through the shipping office to the partners' office for the signature of the firm. There was another check upon the shipper and the Pier Company. The latter was supplied with a book of forms of white paper in counterfoil and duplicate. Two forms were filled in by the Pier Company in accordance with the particulars on the blue forms and were sent with the cargo to the *Hohenzollern*, and if the cargo was properly received by the *Hohenzollern* the second officer signed one copy of these white forms and gave it to the Pier Company as a receipt. The second copy of the white forms was afterwards sent to Ahrens and Co. He wished them to notice that as the blue form receipt was looked on as what was called the mate's receipt the bills of lading were made out from that and signed before the departure of the *Hohenzollern*. After the departure the white receipts came in and they were a further check. In the meantime the shipping department had made out the manifest of cargo. That manifest was made out in the first instance from the bills of lading, the copy of which was retained in the shipping office. The manifest was made out from that, and after the departure of the steamship was again checked by the white forms. He should show the Jury that the signatures of the bills of lading which formed the subject of these indictments were obtained by Leopold without any corresponding entries at the office of the Pier Company, so that the mate of the *Hohenzollern* saw no manifest, and he should also be in a position to state that the cargo represented by the bills of lading could not have been received and was not received on board the *Hohenzollern*, as represented and purported to be by these bills of lading that Leopold had obtained. This was a general view of the facts of the case. It now remained for him to go into the separate counts in detail.

At this point the Judge suggested that it would be a convenient moment to adjourn. Addressing the Jury he observed that he was glad to tell them that there was no necessity to detain them, but it was their duty, if they were allowed to go freely, not to talk concerning the case to any one except among themselves, and he charged them to observe that injunction.

The Court then adjourned till two o'clock.

On the Court reassembling Mr. Litchfield said he would proceed to explain as clearly as he could the points likely to be at issue between the Crown and the accused on the evidence he proposed to submit. The offence of false pretences was defined by the Larceny Act, and that case came under the section which provided that any person who by false pretence obtained for any purpose any valuable security with intent to defraud was guilty of a misdemeanour, and of another section which laid down that any person attempting to secure money with attempt to defraud should be deemed to have obtained such money within the meaning of the Act. Mr. Litchfield then went through the indictment count by count, impressing on the Jury the facts and points of law referring to each. He dwelt among other things on the conversations Leopold had in April at the Hospital with Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Harmssen and his letters to Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Wismer. The effect of these was that Leopold was quite aware that these goods had not gone forward. Their evidence would also substantiate the fact that Leopold had urged Ahrens and Co. to make certain representations by telegram to their principals to account for the fact that these furs had not gone forward. The Jury could remove from their minds any difficulty as to coming to a conclusion whether these furs were or were not sent forward. The question to which they would have to devote their attention and possibly also the main question which they would be asked by his learned friend to consider would be the question whether or not these transactions were carried through by Leopold with the intention of defrauding anybody. He should ask them as reasonable men of the world and as men of business what could be those intentions. A man's intentions must be judged by his acts. They could not pry into his secret thoughts; they could only judge by the results. He confidently submitted to them that Leopold by virtue of his position got signatures of bills of lading which had not passed through the usual form, and had falsely represented that certain furs had been shipped to London, and induced the Bank to buy his bills on the strength of that. Lampson's credit was only given on the condition that the furs were properly shipped, and he (Mr. Litchfield) submitted that Leopold improperly obtained money from the bank, and asked them to infer from that he had fraudulent intent. It was not a question whether Leopold had some idea of repaying the money at a subsequent time if he was able to do so. The question was—did he wrongfully and unlawfully induce the bank to part with their money even for a day, even for an hour? If they were satisfied that these bills of lading were fraudulent he should ask them to find the accused guilty. Having pointed out that the fourth count came under the 30th section of the same Act, and that the fifth count was under the Debtors' Act, Mr. Litchfield went on to remark that what were called the Captain's copies of the bills of lading were retained by Leopold, and pointed out that if they had been brought to notice on the 31st December and on subsequent dates the goods to which they referred would not have been included in the manifest of the *Hohenzollern*. He asked them to draw their own inferences from the fact. He then proceeded to a general review of the evidence he intended to call, and, alluding to the fact that the liabilities with regard to part of the bills in question had been met by Ahrens & Co., pointed out that that company no doubt argued that the ultimate responsibility lay with them, and that they might as well make up the loss at once as later; and also that they might have had another reason—the desire not to alienate two influential companies of whom they were the agents. He observed that it might be said that what Leopold had done was a slip. "Well," said Mr. Litchfield, "we are all liable to err. I make mistakes myself occasionally. If it is only once we may hope to be excused. But where you find exactly the same mistake on four or five occasions, perhaps six occasions, always for the benefit of the accused and by means of which perhaps he obtained money and obtained benefits for himself I must ask you to enquire whether it is carelessness or whether it is, if not fraud, at least a deliberate attempt to defraud."

EVIDENCE.

Evidence was then called.

Henry William Fraser, in the employ of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, said:—I am the clerk in charge of the outward bill business of the Bank. I was in charge of that department on 31st December, 1897, and I am still in charge of that department. I know the accused. He was a constituent of the Bank previous to December 31st, 1897. He was well known to me. He had been a constituent of the bank, I think, all the time I have been in Yokohama, just over three years. I know he had a credit with the bank opened by Messrs. Lampson & Co., London, to draw bills of exchange with documents attached against furs. This document (produced) bears my initials.

Mr. Litchfield—It is a letter from the Hongkong Bank to Mr. Leopold dated February 8th. (Exhibit J. This was a letter from the Hongkong Bank stating that Messrs. Lampson & Co. had opened a credit with them on Leopold's behalf to the extent of £5,000).

Witness—That was the credit I mentioned. That was a renewal of former credits. On the back of this letter are the amounts of the bills negotiated under the credit. The letter was sent to Mr. Leopold, and sent back with the bills noted on the back by Mr. Leopold.

The endorsement on the back was read by Mr. Litchfield as follows:—

Negotiated.

Date 1898.	£
February 9th	2,875
" 14th	1,000
" 21st	1,125
	5,000
February 24th	875
April 7th	1,750
"	1,750

In explanation of this the witness said:—There are three sums which, added, make £5,000 Then there are three other amounts not added up. There is a note on the back, which explains this. "Wire 22/2/98 makes this credit £10,000" A wire extending the credit to that sum was received on Feb. 22nd. This note was placed on the back of the letter by me on receipt of the wire from our London office giving us that information. After that note the letter came into Mr. Leopold's possession again. He was aware of the credit being increased. I know of the existence of letters verifying credits possessed by accused previous to the 31st December. The letter produced (Exhibit A) is signed E. Leopold. It was received by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank here.

Mr. Litchfield here read the letter contained in the sixth count of the indictment.

Witness—The pencil marks on this letter were made by me when the document was received. The marks are 33 over 6,388. That is the number of the bill in our books. The letter was accompanied by invoices, bills of lading, and a policy of insurance. I identify the signatures on the bills of lading (referring to shipments of furs) produced as those of E. Leopold. I identify the signatures on the insurance policies produced. They are those of E. Leopold.

The witness was then shown a number of exhibits consisting of letters, bills of lading, and insurance policies, to which he identified the signatures as those of E. Leopold. The amounts for which the bills were bought by the bank were, he said, placed to the credit of the current account of the accused. This was in accordance with his request. Witness passed the entries himself. They were journal entries. The bank's own account was debited with the same amounts.

Mr. Litchfield—As between the bank and the constituents what would you describe the effect of those entries?

Mr. Terry—I object; the effect of ordinary entries is a matter of common knowledge for the Jury, and not a matter of opinion from a witness. It is a matter of opinion about a fact which cannot be proved in that way.

His ■ nour gravely took note of the objection but allowed the question.

The witness was then asked the question, and replied that the effect would be that Mr. Leopold

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would have the number of *yen* stated placed to his account.

His Honour—That doesn't give us much information—(laughter).

At this point the Court adjourned till ten o'clock this morning.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7TH, 1898.

RESUMED HEARING.

The hearing of the Leopold case was resumed on Wednesday morning. The attendance in Court was smaller than on the opening day, and was practically restricted to persons directly interested in the case. Counsel appeared as on the opening day; Mr. Litchfield and Mr. Lowder for the Crown; Professor Terry for the defence; and Mr. Walford for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

The Judge, immediately after taking his seat, said to Mr. Litchfield—Yesterday you put a question to Mr. Fraser to show that the credits previous to the credit of which we have got a copy were in the same words. Do you propose to put in those previous credits? If you have them I suppose you will. If you have not it will be necessary of course to show what has become of them, because I take it you cannot give secondary evidence of them if they are in existence and procurable.

Mr. Lowder (after consultation with Mr. Litchfield)—They are in the hands of the other side and we have called for them. They have not been produced and if they are not produced we shall have to give secondary evidence as to their contents.

His Honour—It is desirable that that should be done as soon as possible.

Mr. Lowder—Quite so, I will formally ask the counsel for the other side whether he produces the letters advising accused of the credit of the 15th December, 1897, and the 4th of January, 1898.

Mr. Terry—We have sent for them. I do not know whether we can get them, but I have not made any objection and shall not make any objection as to any secondary evidence as to their contents. I have no doubt whatever they were all in the same terms.

His Honour—Yes. But in a case of this sort I cannot even accept your admission, though it facilitates matters.

Mr. Terry—I don't know what the rule of this Court is in the matter.

Mr. Lowder—Then we want evidence as to the credits of the 15th December, 1897, and the 4th January, 1898. I might add to these the 19th February and the 28th February, 1898.

His Honour—The same remarks apply to these.

Mr. Terry—I am quite willing that these should go in evidence.

Mr. Lowder—The first letter is March 29th, 1887. That is as far as we can go back. We have called for all these.

His Honour—I am ready to take secondary evidence as to these matters if it is convenient to take it at this stage.

Mr. Litchfield—Mr. Fraser, you told us yesterday that Mr. Leopold had previous credits; have you written to him advising him of them?—Yes.

Among other advices did you write him on the 4th January, 1898, on the subject.—Yes.

Was the letter sent to Leopold?—Yes.

Have you sent for the originals?—Yes.

They are not in the bank?—No.

His Honour (handing a legal book)—Put these formal questions here, Mr. Litchfield.

Witness was then shown a copy of the letter, and recognised it as an accurate transcript taken on the date of the letter. A press copy was taken at the time and was now in the press copy-book at the bank.

The copy of the letter of the 4th January, 1898, was then read. It was to the effect that the bank had been advised to purchase Leopold's bills at 4 months on C. M. Lampson and Co. to the extent of £5,000, for value of skins shipped, the bills to be accompanied by invoices, bills of lading, &c. The letter advised him that this was not to be regarded as a bank credit and did not absolve him from the liability attaching to the drawer of a bill of exchange. In the margin of the letter was this note: "N.B. This is a renewal of our London credit 33/45 advised by wire 29th March, 97. Of the limits with regard to the purchase of skins you have already been advised."

The letter, the witness said, consisted partly of a printed form and partly of writing. The copy put in was an accurate transcript of the copy in the Bank press letter book of the original letter.

The Judge—I am afraid I can't take secondary evidence of secondary evidence. I think you had better get the press copy book itself.

The witness left the Court for the purpose.

On his return he compared the copy with the one in the press letter book and stated that it was an accurate copy. The letter of credit would be sent to the bank with the bills sent in by accused. The bills negotiated were endorsed on it. He had no doubt, that that was done in this case. This credit was exhausted by bills sent in. They were December 31st, 1897, £1,250; same date £3,000; Jan. 10th, 1898, £750. Entries to that amount would in the ordinary course be made on the back of the letter of credit. He was aware that the letter was dated Jan. 4th, 1897, but that two bills were negotiated on December 31st. Witness thought that was a mistake of the clerk who made a copy of the endorsement.

The Judge—Would you like to look it up again and see what were the real sums against that credit and those against other credits?

Witness—Yes, from another book at the bank.

His Honour suggested that if Mr. Litchfield was going to prove other credits he should say so, and give the witness the opportunity of putting himself in a position to trace them at the same time.

Mr. Lowder undertook to give the witness a note of all that had to be proved, and to give him an opportunity of looking them up.

The examination as to documents was then resumed.

Witness was shown another exhibit of the date of January 10th, 1898, consisting of a letter, bill of lading, invoices, and insurance policy. He identified the signature as that of Leopold.

His Honour—By whom was it received?

Witness—The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

His Honour—No, it was not. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation can't read a letter. By what person was it received?

Witness—The accountant.

The letter was read. It had reference to ten bales of furs alleged to be shipped on the *Hohenzollern* on January 10th. On the letter was a note, "Credit c a 10/1/98." This was to show that accused had been credited with the equivalent in *yen* to the sterling value of his bill.

The bill of lading was then read in detail.

Witness next identified the signatures on letter and documents of 9th February, referring to 16 packages of furs. The date of the letter was 9th February, but credit was not given for the amount (£2,875) till 14th February. He did not remember why that was, but it was probably only because some of the documents were not in order.

The letter and documents of the 15th February, 1898, were then handed to witness, and he replied in similar terms. The same procedure was adopted with regard to the documents of the 19th Feb. On the latter date witness wrote a letter as follows to Leopold:—

> Dear Sir,—With reference to your draft on C. M. Lampson & Co. for £2,000 please note that it overdraws your credit by £875. We have therefore asked the Chartered Bank to present again on Monday your cheque for 15,900 *yen*, when we hope you will have arranged the credit to put all in order.

The draft of £875 was afterwards accepted in consequence of a telegram from the London office of the Bank instructing the Yokohama manager to extend the credit to £10,000.

The documents of the 7th April were then put in, and witness identified the signatures.

The Court then adjourned for tiffin.

Mr. Fraser, re-examined, said it was on a general authority that he dealt with the bills of exchange in the manner he had spoken of. He meant on general instructions from the Manager of the Bank.

Showing the witness the set of documents marked A (a letter, bill of lading, invoice, and insurance policy) Mr. Litchfield asked him what he considered the representation made by them was intended to mean.

Mr. Terry objected.

The Judge—On what grounds?

Mr. Terry—In the first place, that the opinion of the witness as to the meaning of representations the words of which have been proved to the Jury is not proper evidence. The second objection is that the fact itself is not a proper fact to be proved at all. Mr. Terry went on to quote cases to show that a prisoner could not be held liable for fraud upon a construction of his words other than that which he intended them to bear. The case on which he chiefly relied was that of Delly v. Peate in which the question at issue was a sale of property and a claim was made for misrepresentation. The statement complained of was made in a written document which was capable of bearing two constructions. It was proved that the seller intended it to bear one meaning, in which sense it was true, and the buyer understood it to have a different meaning, in which sense it was false. The Court of Appeal undertook to decide which was the true meaning and decided that the meaning in which the words were false was the true one, but the House of Lords reversed this decision, holding that the only meaning that could be attached to the words was that which the defendant himself attached to it. The question as to what this witness thought of the representations made was wholly irrelevant. There were only two meanings which were of value—the meaning Mr. Leopold himself attached to the representation and the meaning which Mr. Bevis, the Bank manager, attached to them.

Mr. Litchfield—I think there is some misapprehension. I did not mean to ask what opinion he forms now, but what opinion he formed at the time.

Mr. Terry—I shall made the same objection. I shall object to any statement except Mr. Leopold's and Mr. Bevis's. What any one else understood is not of any importance.

The Judge—This bill of lading is signed by Ahrens and Co., and the statements made in it

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Mr. Terry—I say that nobody's understanding is of any importance except that of Mr. Leopold and Mr. Bevis. There are only two meanings—the meaning of the man who made the representations, and that of the man who acted on it.

The Judge—You cannot pretend that that bill of lading, signed by Ahrens and Co., means anything but that the furs have been shipped.

Mr. Terry—I don't admit that.

The Judge—That is what I shall tell the Jury is their meaning.

Mr. Terry—If your Honour decides that——

The Judge—I do not say that I shall say that there was fraudulent intent.

His Honour—Unless there is evidence to the contrary the bill of lading showing that goods have been shipped leads to the inference that they have been shipped.

Mr. Terry—The opinion of this witness, I submit, is not proper evidence.

His Honour said the question was that Mr. Fraser received these documents and acted upon them, and what was his belief at the time he did so?

Mr. Terry said what Mr. Bevis understood was proper evidence, but not what his subordinate understood. What impression was made by the documents on Mr. Bevis's mind could be proved, and he should not object, but the opinion of this witness was of no importance in the case, as they had it at the preliminary hearing that the instructions as to buying these bills came from Mr. Bevis.

Mr. Litchfield quoted cases in reply to the objection, and submitted that Mr. Fraser was the authorised and intelligent agent of the bank, and that the question as to what effect these representations had upon him was legitimate.

Mr. Terry—I did not suppose that the prosecution would take the ground that Mr. Fraser was responsible for these transactions. At the preliminary hearing it was stated that Mr. Bevis was responsible for the instructions concerning them. If the question had been put to Mr. Bevis I should not have objected to it.

His Honour (to Mr. Litchfield)—Mr. Terry's objection is that your case covers any representation made to Mr. Bevis, but does not cover any representation made to Mr. Fraser.

After some further discussion it was suggested that the question "What were your duties with regard to these bills" might be put, and this was done.

Witness—I should pass the bills if the documents appeared to be in order without reference to the management.

Mr. Litchfield—Supposing any of the documents, say a bill of lading, had been missing at the time what would your duty be with regard to the purchase or otherwise of the bill of exchange?

Witness—I should have rejected it.

Mr. Litchfield (to the Judge)—Now I ask you to allow me to repeat my first question.

His Honour (after a pause)—Now, Mr. Fraser I am going to put you a question myself. Was it your duty to form an opinion upon what was meant by the document itself?

Mr. Terry—I object.

His Honour—That can meet with no objection. It will be time for you when we get the answer.

Witness—Yes, it was.

His Honour—If you had any reason to believe that the facts were other than stated in the documents would you have acted as you did?

Witness—No, certainly not.

His Honour—Do you still object to the question, Mr. Terry?

Mr. Terry—I persist in my objection, but I will not waste your Honour's time in arguing on it further.

The question was then put in this form "Did you infer from these documents that the furs had been shipped?"

Witness—Yes.

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Had you any reason whatever to believe that they might not have been shipped?—No.

The same questions were asked with regard to other exhibits, and for the convenience of the Court the witness was told to stand aside to await cross-examination, and re-examination on the points reserved early in the morning, till to-day.

Albert Hoffman, a German subject, said he was residing for the present in Kobe. On the 31st December last he was residing in Yokohama, and previous to that he had lived in Yokohama for about 12 years. He was one of the partners in Ahrens ■ Co., Nachf. He left Yokohama for Kobe about January 20th, 1898. He knew the accused. He was in the employ of Ahrens & Co. in December last. He had been in that employment since 1886, when witness arrived in Japan. The firm of Ahrens and Co. were engaged in the import business and they were also agents of the N.D. Lloyd and the London Assurance Company. The accused was the manager of the shipping and insurance department. He had the control of the whole work. The steamer of the N. D. Lloyd from Yokohama to Hongkong was the *Hohenzollern*, and cargo shipped by her would be transferred at Hongkong to another steamer. Ahrens & Co. signed bills of lading for cargo as agents for the N.D.L. Company. The witness identified his signature on various bills of lading produced. He did not remember signing them. The rule was that the bills of lading were examined in the shipping office, and, if found correct, brought to the private office for signature. The partners presumed that everything was in order when they were brought in from the shipping department. Mr. Leopold was chief of the shipping department, and they had every confidence in him. Witness identified his signature on policies of insurance. He did not examine these before signing them. Witness went to Kobe about the 20th of January and paid a visit to Yokohama at the end of April. He went to see accused, who was in the German Hospital. At that time his firm had received a telegram from Bremen, from the Nord. Lloyd. He communicated the contents of the telegram to accused. The telegram came in code. Witness had conversations with Leopold on the subject of the telegram. On the first occasion there was no other person present. Witness informed accused of the contents of the telegram. He requested an explanation about a certain number of packages of furs, which should have gone forward per *Hohenzollern* in December or January, but which had not arrived. Accused admitted that he had not shipped the goods. Witness asked him why he had placed the firm in such an awkward position, but he could not get a satisfactory explanation. Accused was very sick at the time and conversation was difficult. He gave witness a list of drafts on Lampson and Co. against the supposed shipments, and promised that he would do everything to satisfy the firm of Ahrens and Co., so that they should not lose anything. He handed witness further a list of assets and a letter addressed to Mr. Wismer giving the gist of their conversation. The letter produced was in Leopold's handwriting, and was written, to the other partner in Ahrens and Co., Mr. Wismer. Mr. Leopold wrote it in witness's presence. That was on May 1st.

Mr. Litchfield read the letter, which stated that Leopold's private account would more than cover the overdraft with the Chartered bank.

Witness identified the list of assets produced, which was in Harmssen's handwriting. It was dictated by Leopold in witness's presence. To the best of his recollection it was a correct representation of what Leopold dictated. He had also received the following note from accused:—"Lampson wires must have cash or goods at once. The affair can therefore be arranged O.K. Yours E. Leopold."

Another message afterwards came to him as to a telegraphic reply Leopold suggested should be sent to Lampson and Co. and which he had dictated to Harmssen.

His Honour suggested that it would perhaps be convenient to call Harmssen at this point to speak to these documents, and counsel concurred.

Johann Andreas Harmssen was called, and said with the exception of a few words the message intended by Leopold as a reply to Lampson's was written by him at Leopold's dictation. The words not written by him were "goods were kept back at shippers' request." That was in Leopold's handwriting. The rest of the draft telegram was dictated by Leopold, and was taken down correctly by witness. It was to this effect: "Goods were kept back at shipper's request. Matter arranged between L. & L. goods to be re sold here. Full remittances through Lampson to us. Full particulars go by mail." A second telegram was also taken down by witness at Leopold's dictation. It was to this effect:—"Thanks, have arranged resale. Have remitted £5,000 T.T. Hongkong. Further remittances follow as soon as deliveries are made. Inform Lloyd." The list of Leopold's assets which witness also took down was as follows: Phoenix Saw Mills, *yen* 80,000; Yoshihama-cho shed and lease, *yen* 1,000; house and godown in Japanese town, *yen* 2 500; land in Kanazawa, *yen* 1100: paper manufactory in Tokyo, *yen* 4000; (in Mr. Uyeda's name) Yoshida Shinden lands, outlay on loans, *yen* 37,000 (in Uyeda and Gisa's name). Claim London Assurance, *yen* 30 000; various unsold stocks in London, *yen* 30,000; amounts owing to me, *yen* 3,000; shares, *yen* 12,000; skins, coal, wood and other goods unsold, *yen* 36,000; No. 59, furniture, dwelling house and offices *yen* 3,500; total *yen* 240,100.

At this point the Court, which had been sitting in semi-darkness for some time, rose for the day.

THURSDAY DEC. 8TH, 1898.

The hearing was resumed on Thursday morning.

On the opening of the Court, the witness Hoffman was recalled. He was shown an exhibit reading as follows:

Goods were kept back by shippers' request. Matter has been arranged between L. and L. Goods will be resold here. Full remittance to Lampson from us. Full explanation goes forward by Mail.

This was the telegram which accused suggested should be sent in answer to the telegram of the N. D. Lloyd. It was not sent, however, as it did not correspond to the facts. The goods referred to were furs. Witness first learned that the furs had not gone forward at the end of April. Before that time he had no knowledge directly or indirectly that they had not gone forward or that they were not going forward. His first intimation was the telegram from the N. D. Lloyd at Bremen. The word "L and L" meant Leopold and Lampson. The telegram, as far as he knew, was not sent at all.

Another exhibit was shown witness reading as follows:

Thanks; have arranged resale. Have remitted £5,000 T. T. Further remittances follow as soon as deliveries are made. Inform Lloyd.

This was a telegram intended to be sent by Leopold himself to Lampson. "Lloyd" meant the Norddeutschen Lloyd.

This closed the examination in chief.

Cross-examined—The firm signed bills of lading as agents of the N. D. Lloyd. Leopold had been engaged for some years in an export business of his own independently of the business of Ahrens and Co. He exported other things besides furs. Witness did not know whether he always shipped goods by the N. D. Lloyd. He did not remember Leopold coming to him at any time with a bill of lading and witness asking him whether the goods were going forward by that particular steamer, and Leopold replying that it was not going by that steamer and perhaps not by the next. He remembered no conversation at all to that effect. He recollected no conversations at all with Leopold with regard to not sending shipments forward. He remembered no conversation with him with regard to the shipments of other goods besides furs. It could perhaps have happened that the ship was so full that goods for which bills of lading had been issued could not be shipped on that voyage, but in such a case the shipper would be informed immediately. He did not remember an occasion on which this had actually happened.

Re-examined by Mr. Lowder—If accused was the shipper of the goods he would himself know whether they had been delayed or had gone forward. If bills of lading and policies of insurance had been issued for goods which could not be sent on immediately they would be cancelled immediately it was found that they could not be shipped. The firm would generally know before the bills of lading were signed.

Mr. Terry put through the Judge a question as to whether it was not a fact that when the witness saw Leopold at the hospital he was so sick that he could do very little talking of any kind.

Witness—Yes, he was very sick and rather deaf. He could hardly hear a word.

His Honour—Do you remember any conversation with accused with regard to shipments of furs prior to your conversation of April last?

Witness—I remember no special conversation.

His Honour put to the witness further questions to elicit whether he would have been satisfied if the goods for which bills of lading were signed in December or January were about to go forward in the month of April. The witness had much difficulty in understanding the question, but finally replied in the negative. He was under the impression that the goods for which he signed bills of lading in December and January were going forward by the steamer about to sail at those dates.

Henry William Fraser was recalled. He said he had, since the previous day, examined the bank's books as to the credits of the accused. The document produced was an extract from the books, which were in the custody of the bank. Witness had examined them personally, and the extract was correct. The extract was from a register of the credits received by the Bank in Yokohama and a note of the drafts drawn against them. Witness read the extract, which gave full particulars of the different credits and the drafts negotiated. Witness admitted that it appeared on the back of the credit of January 4th that two bills had been negotiated on that credit dated before the credit was actually received. The explanation was that when these bills came in Leopold informed them that the credit was *en route*, but the Bank insisted on his wiring for it. The letter produced was sent to Leopold from the Bank in the ordinary course of business, and he had no reason to suppose that it had not reached him. It was as follows:

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,
March 20th, 1897.

Dear Sir,—We are in receipt of a wire from London to the effect that your credit with Lampson and Co., is renewed for same amount, £5,000, same conditions. Yours truly, H. V. Dickinson, accountant.

E. Leopold, Esq.

Another letter was handed in, but the Judge said it stood on a different footing to the last. It was a copy from a general letter from the office of the Bank in London to the Yokohama branch, and did not appear to him to be of much importance. It was doubtful whether it was evidence in the case at all, and he (His Honour) should have to hear counsel on the point.

Mr. Lowder agreed that it would not be proper evidence unless it had been communicated to the prisoner.

His Honour—It does not seem desirable that you should raise a highly technical question.

Mr. Lowder said the paper would be withdrawn.

Witness continued that the credit of January was exhausted by the bills negotiated on 31st December, 1897, £1,250, and £3,000, and January 10th, 1898, £750.

Cross-examined—On December 31st, when draughts for £1,250 and £3,000 were purchased by the Bank, Leopold's account was overdrawn. Witness understood that he had been allowed to overdraw on the faith that he would send in drafts afterwards. He did not know whether the bills of exchange in exhibits A. to H. had been paid by Messrs. Lampson. The time for acceptance had certainly passed, and probably the time for payment. If any of those bills had been dishonoured the Bank would have received advices in the ordinary course of business. The Bank had in point of fact received no such advices. Thus as far as he knew the Bank had lost nothing on the transactions, and as far as he knew there was no reason to suppose that the Bank would lose anything. Leopold only came to the Bank personally with regard to the letter of credit; on the occasions when the bills were bought by the Bank he did not come himself. Witness received the bills and documents accompanying from the compradore of the Bank. They came to the Bank in a chit-book by a messenger. The Yokohama branch of the Bank did a general banking business. He believed the Bank occasionally purchased bills on the strength of the names on them, and apart from any other security, but he could not say positively, as this did not lie within his department. Such transactions, however, lay within the province of ordinary banking business. The documents (produced) were advices from the Bank to the accused advising him of credits from Lampson and Co. and the terms and conditions on which the Bank would buy his bills. They all contained the words "as per list of prices." The Bank sent a list of prices to Leopold which was sent them at the time the credit was opened by Lampson. It meant the amount which might be drawn for each skin of a particular kind—so much for one sable, so much for one marten, and so forth. The letters from Leopold (produced) all contained the words "the amount drawn is in accordance with C. M. Lampson and Co.'s telegraphed credit." Asked if he understood that to mean that the amount drawn for was in accordance with the number and kind of skins mentioned in the respective invoices according to Lampson's list of prices, witness replied that he understood the drafts to be in accordance with the terms of the credit.

Mr. Terry—Did you understand that the amount of the draft was made up according to the number of skins mentioned in the invoice at Lampson's prices?

Witness—Yes.

You have identified the signatures on these documents as Mr. Leopold's. Is the body of the document in any case in Mr. Leopold's writing?—No, only the signature.

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Witness, continuing, said the amount for which Mr. Leopold was given credit for bills in the books of the Bank was the price for which the Bank bought his bills. The Bank then became the holder of the bills. If they were repaid the Bank would receive only the sterling equivalent of the amount paid to Leopold in *yen*. He could not say whether the Bank made a profit on the transaction. The exchange might have varied; it was impossible to say what the Bank would receive in sterling in London. All the bills came into his department at the Bank; he acted under general instructions and under the contracts entered into by the manager. The manager had not given him instructions to receive Leopold's bills up to the amount of his credit; he acted on a broker's contract which the manager had handed over to him. These contracts arranged the exchange and the class of bills. He had the manager's instructions to receive the bills to the amount stated in the contract, and not in the letter of credit. The contract was sent to him first and if the bills presented agreed with the terms of the contract he had instructions that he could purchase them without special reference to the manager. Witness did refer to the manager with regard to the bills of the 7th April, as there were no brokers' contracts with regard to them. Witness first examined them to see that they were in order, and took them in to Mr. Bevis and asked him if he might purchase them. There was then existing a credit with Lampson sufficient to cover them. He should regard a bill for which no goods had been shipped as a bill which Lampson's would not accept or pay. He only knew approximately at what time the steamer sailed. He did not know of the arrangement of shipping goods through the Pier Company. He did not know that the N. D. Lloyd had a practise of receiving goods and giving bills of lading for them even when the steamers were not in port. There was no general clearing house for bank cheques in Yokohama; adjustments were made between the banks themselves. There were other amounts paid into Leopold's account during the period covered by these transactions, but he could not say whether they were substantial amounts or not.

By the Jury—Advices of non-acceptance of bills were notified first by wire and afterwards by letter. No communication was received in the case of Leopold's bills. To the best of his ability he always checked the prices of the skins, and if their total did not correspond with the amount of the draft he should have rejected them. He must explain, however, that the prices of skins varied at different periods and in some cases they accepted Leopold's word where the amounts did not tally with the prices previously prevailing.

By Mr. Lowder—Witness would be satisfied with the date on the bills of lading presented to him, and would compare the date with that of the sailing of the steamer. He meant by his reply to Mr. Terry in cross-examination that he understood that if the bill of lading had not gone forward Lampson's would not pay or accept the bill. If the bills of lading were in order he should take the bill as a good and valid document without further investigation.

Mr. Terry—Is it the general rule in Banks, or is it the peculiar usage of Mr. Fraser's Bank, to be satisfied by the statements in bills of lading that goods have been shipped, or do they go behind the bill of lading and ascertain that they have been shipped?

Witness—It is our custom to take the bill of lading as evidence that the goods have been shipped.

His Honour—Do you refer to Banks generally or to your own Bank?

Witness—I refer to our Bank.

His Honour—Mr. Terry wishes to know if you know the custom of other banks?

Witness—I do not know.

By Mr. Martin (a Jury man)—Witness took it as sufficient evidence of a bill being in order that it bore the signature of the agents of the steamer.

This concluded the examination of the witness, and the Court adjourned for tiffin.

On the Court reassembling Mr. Lowder made application on behalf of Mr. Hoffmann for permission for him to return to Kobe in the evening. This was granted on the condition that he should hold himself at the disposition of the Court if it should require to hear him further.

Fukushima Choichi was examined through the interpretation of Mr. Perfett. He said he was in the employ of Ahrens and Co., and had been so for about five years. He was engaged in the shipping office and had to deal with insurance policies and to do various clerical work in shipping matters. He identified the writing in several of the documents produced as his. He wrote them by the instructions of accused, and after having written them he handed them to accused.

By Mr. Terry—Besides the business of Ahrens and Company accused was engaged in an export business on his own account. Witness helped accused in his export business. Accused had sent goods by other boats besides N.D. Lloyd boats.

Mr. Terry—Does the witness know whether, when Mr. Leopold shipped goods by some other line, he obtained bills of lading given him by the other company that he shipped by, making the goods deliverable by the N.D. Lloyd or deliverable to the N.D. Lloyd?

Witness—They were not in favour of the N D Lloyd; they were his own.

Mr. Terry—Did he endorse them to the N.D. Lloyd?

Witness—They were not endorsed in that way.

Does he know whether they were made out to Ahrens and Co.?—They were not written so.

Suppose Mr. Leopold shipped by the P. and O., say, does he know what Leopold did with the bills of lading he got from that company?—He sent them to the bank.

How does the witness know this?—I wrote them.

Whereabouts did Mr. Leopold keep the captain's copies of the bills of lading?—In the drawer of his writing desk.

Was the drawer locked?—It was not locked.

How did the witness know that Mr. Leopold kept them there?—I was in the habit of seeing them put in there continually by Mr. Leopold.

Since when?—A long time past. I cannot say exactly.

When other people shipped goods did they put them in this same drawer?—No, the Captain's copies in Mr. Leopold's drawer were his own only, they were not other people's.

Where were the other people's kept?—They were kept in a basket of some kind in a drawer of another desk.

If a Captain's copy was found in the office after the ship had sailed would it show that the goods referred to in it had not been shipped by the steamer?—Yes.

Did he, then, understand that Mr. Leopold had bills of lading for goods which had not been shipped?—Yes.

For how long?—I do not know exactly. Perhaps from October last year to April this, when Mr. Leopold was in the hospital.

Did other people in the office have the same knowledge as himself?—Most of the people of the shipping department were aware of the fact.

Did the witness ever speak to Leopold about it?—I have spoken to Leopold.

Did he ever speak to other people in the office about it?—No.

Did any other people in the office speak to the witness about it?—No one.

Did he ever mention the matter to any member of the firm?—No.

Did not Mr. Leopold occasionally take his captain's copies out of the drawer when he shipped the goods to which they corresponded?—Yes.

Did he not sometimes ship goods to which these captain's copies corresponded?—That is so.

Did Leopold sometimes ship goods after the steamer for which the bills of lading were first made out had departed?—That is so.

Did Leopold occasionally give instructions to the witness as to what goods he wanted shipped?—No.

Did Leopold ever send the witness to the drawer for captains' copies?—Mr. Leopold has told me to do so.

When the steamer was about to go was it not usual for this witness to go to Leopold and ask him what goods he wanted to send on to the steamer?—I am not able to say.

As a matter of accommodation has Mr. Leopold issued bills of lading to other shippers before the goods had been put on board?—I cannot say exactly, but probably there were such cases.

Does he know that Leopold, for a long time had been in the habit of getting bills of lading for himself before the goods were shipped, and that in some cases at least he afterwards shipped goods to cover them?—That is so.

And this practice was generally known among the people in the shipping office?—If cases of that kind had happened the rest of the people in the shipping office would know.

Does he know of any case where Mr. Leopold remitted money to London instead of goods which ought to have been shipped.—I don't know anything of the banking transactions.

Does he know anything of any other business in which Mr. Leopold was engaged outside of Ahrens and Co. and outside of his export business?—Yes.

Does he know anything about that?—I am not well aware, but believe that the Phœnix saw mills were Mr. Leopold's.

Does he know whether from the middle of December to the beginning of April there was a considerable rise in the price of the furs in which Leopold was trading?—I do not.

Did he ever ship goods without their going through the Pier Company?—I do not know.

Does he know when Mr. Leopold was sick if Harmssen asked him if he knew where Leopold kept his captain's copies.—He did not.

Did he hand them to Mr. Harmssen?—I did.

After a telegram had been received in regard to missing furs?—That is so.

How came he to hand them to Harmssen?—There was an examination being carried on to see why these furs had not been sent. Harmssen asked if they had not been sent, and I handed the captain's copies to Harmssen.

Did he take them from the drawer or did Mr. Harmssen?—I took them.

Does he know if Mr. Harmssen went to the drawer?—I do not know.

Does he know if Harmssen afterwards went to the drawer to take them?—I do not know.

Did the witness have any conversation with any employe as to testimony he was to give at this trial?—No.

Ogata Bunkichi, another Japanese clerk in the shipping officer, was examined by Mr. Lowder, and identified certain bills of lading and insurance policies as in his hand writing.

Cross-examined—He did not know anything about shipments of goods by Mr. Leopold by other lines. Leopold's captain's copies were kept in a drawer in Leopold's desk. He believed there were others of the staff who knew they were kept there. If a captain's copy were found in the office after a ship had sailed it would be taken to mean that the goods had not been shipped. The manifest was made up from the captain's copies and both the manifest and the copies were handed to the captain at the starting of the steamer, so that after a steamer had started there should be no captain's copies in the office. He believed that it was the practice to deal with Leopold's captain's copies as with the others, and hand them to the Captain before the steamer's departure. Witness was aware that Leopold had occasionally issued bills of lading for other shippers before the goods were actually on board. He could not say at what date this was done, but it was about a year ago.

Witness afterwards said he could not answer this last question, as he only had to do with writing bills of lading and not with shipping goods. Continuing, he said he did not know of goods being shipped by Leopold without passing through the Pier Company.

Tanaka Tamejiro, clerk in the employ of Ahrens and Co., identified several bills of lading and insurance polices as in his handwriting, and said he wrote them at the instructions of accused, to whom he handed them.

Cross-examined—He did not know of any shipments by Leopold by other lines of steamers. He did not know of Leopold's ever sending goods forward by a steamer later than that for which the bill of lading was issued. He did not know what the "captain's copies" were, and therefore he could not say where Leopold kept them.

Mr. Lowder said there was another Japanese witness, but he had disappeared and the prosecution had been unable to trace him. The prosecution proposed to submit the evidence he gave at the preliminary waring.

After consultation with Mr. Litchfield, however, Mr. Lowder said his learned friend thought they would be unable to get in this evidence, and he would withdraw it from the Court's consideration.

Johann Andreas Harmssen, recalled, said he was in the employ of Ahrens & Co., and had been for about four years in Yokohama with them. Previously he was in the Kobe branch of the firm. In the month of Dec., 1897, he was assisting Leopold in the shipping and insurance department. In shipping cargo by the Norddeutscher Lloyd shippers usually first made application by letter, sometimes they called personally. A shipping order on a blue form was then written out, signed by Leopold or witness, and together with a set of bills of lading, was given to the applicant. The forms were filled up at the office, and contained marks, numbers, and the destination of goods. The firm had an arrangement with the Pier Traffic and Lighter Company, whose duty was to receive and store cargo and forward it to the steamer when she was in port. When they received cargo they gave a receipt to the shipper on a blue shipping order form and this was returned by the shipper to Ahrens and Co. Before the bil of lading was passed by the shipping department they had to have the receipt from the Pier Company. It was both Leopold's and witness's duty to examine bills of lading, but witness did most of it.

After being examined the bills were sent in by one

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of the Japanese clerks for the partners' signature. The bills of lading were prepared in sets usually of four copies. Three were given to the shipper, and one was retained. The one retained was unsigned and stamped as "captain's copy." Before despatching a steamer a manifest of cargo was prepared from the captain's copies. Besides the receipts from the Pier Company on the blue forms, the company was supplied with white forms. These white forms were sent with the cargo to the steamer, and after receipt on board one copy was signed by the officer of the steamship and returned to the Pier Company, and later on returned to the office. Sometimes it did not come back till after the steamer had gone. After it arrived the copy of the manifest remaining in the office was checked again by Japanese clerks by comparison with the white receipts. Any error in the manifest would be reported to witness. Witness knew that Leopold was in the habit of shipping goods on his own account. In the month of April witness had an interview with the accused in the hospital. Witness saw him alone the first time. After general conversation witness informed him that Ahrens and Company had received a telegram from the N.D. Lloyd at Bremen enquiring about 133 packages of furs shipped in December and January by Leopold. Witness asked him whether these goods where not shipped, and he admitted that they were not. Witness then asked him if he could give any reason, but he gave no proper explanation. Witness then drew his attention to the responsibility of the firm, because he had also mentioned to witness that bills of lading had been issued, but he attached no particular attention to that. Witness then remarked that he should speak to Mr. Wismer and that they would have to make further enquiries, as they could not trace the goods by themselves. Witness did not know where the original of the telegram from the N.D. Lloyd was; he believed it was in Yokohama.

Mr. Litchfield—Search for it and produce if to-morrow morning.

Witness, continuing, said he saw the accused afterwards in the presence of Mr. Hoffmann. Mr. Hoffmann tried to get out of Mr. Leopold the particulars of goods not shipped by him and his reasons why he had not shipped them. He also explained in what a serious position the firm would be put and asked for a suggestion as to the best way to face the difficulties. Leopold suggested a telegram to be sent to the N.D. Lloyd, which witness took down at his dictation. Leopold assured them that he would bring everything in order and that the firm would not lose a cent. The draft telegram produced was that which Leopold suggested should be sent. It was not all written by witness. The first seven words were written by Leopold himself: "Goods were kept back at shippers' request." The remainder was in witness's writing at Leopold's dictation: "Matter has been arranged between L and L. Goods to be resold here. Full remittances to Lampson's through us. Full explanation goes forward by mail." That was intended to be sent to the N.D. Lloyd, but was not sent. Witness believed the draft telegram (produced) was written at the same time: "Thanks, have arranged resale; have remitted £5000. T. T. Further remittances follow as soon as deliveries are made. Inform Lloyd." That telegram was intended to be sent to Lampson by Leopold. The first telegram was intended to be despatched by Ahrens. The second telegram was in witness's handwriting, but there were pencil marks by, he believed, Leopold. It read:—

May 2, 1898, Nexoma, London.

Thanks; have arranged resale. (Then in pencil) Have remitted £5000 T. T. (Then in pencil) through Ahrens and Co. Further remittances follow as soon as deliveries are made. (Then in pencil) Leopold.

"Nexoma, London" he believed was the telegraphic address of Lampson and Co.

The Court then rose.

TELEGRAMS.

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM.)

NEW PACIFIC CABLE.

TO CONNECT HAWAII, THE PHILLIPINES, AND JAPAN.

Washington, Dec. 4.

The United States gun-boat *Ranger* is being fitted out at San Francisco and will soon sail for the purpose of surveying the route of the Pacific Cable between Hawaii, the Philippines, and apan *via* the Caroline and Ladrone Islands. Rear Admiral John Irwin, a Director of the Pacific Cable Co., will accompany the expedition.

(FROM THE "JAPAN TIMES.")

THE JAPAN-AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN TREATY.

London, Dec. 2.

The Austrian Upper House has also passed the treaty with Japan.

AUSTRIA AND GERMANY.

Great sensation has been created in Austria and Germany by the declaration of the Austrian Premier in the Reichsrath, that if the expulsion of Austrian subjects from Germany continues, Austria will have to defend her rights.

IN RELIEF OF THE WEST INDIES.

The Government will make, it is believed, a free grant of £40,000 for certain classes of property damaged by the hurricane in the West Indies.

SEQUEL TO THE DREYFUS. AGITATION.

London, Dec. 3.

The Senate has adopted a motion extending to military tribunals the abolition of secret examination. M. de Freycinet, Minister of War, opposed the amendment, excepting in cases of national danger.

GORDON COLLEGE AT KHARTOUM.

The American millionaire Waldorf Astor has subscribed £5,000 towards the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum.

WEST INDIAN SUGAR PLANTING.

Sir Thomas Lipton, at the instance of Mr. Chamberlain, is sending experts to Barbadoes to examine into the sugar industry. If their report be favourable, he will invest one million sterling in developing the industry.

AMERICA'S NEW POSSESSIONS.

London, Dec. 5.

The Hon. Russell Alger, Secretary for War, recommends recruiting a portion of the new troops from the natives of the Antilles and Philippines, and the building of a railway throughout Cuba at a cost of twenty million dollars.

PROPOSED GERMAN ARMY INCREASE.

A bill is to be presented to the Reichstag to increase the army by 15,000 men annually, until a force of 40,000 has been reached. It also provides for the addition of forty-eight new field batteries.

THE CAPE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRITISH NAVY.

The bill in favour of the contribution of the Cape to the Navy has been read a second time in the Cape Parliament, both parties heartily supporting the motion.

REWARD FOR GALLANTRY.

Surgeon William Maillord has received the Victoria Cross for gallantry in the Candia massacres.

ASSEMBLING OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

The British Parliament assembles on February 7th next.

RAILWAY SURVEYS IN CHINA.

London, Dec. 6.

Captains Twiss and Purvis, of the Royal Engineers, are passengers by the *Himalaya*. They are going to Peking to make railway surveys.

GERMANY TO BUY THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

The *Times'* Washington correspondent telegraphs that Spain is negotiating for the sale of the Caroline Islands to Germany. It is believed the United States will not object, although she may wish to buy one island for a coaling and cable station.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY'S MESSAGE.

A forecast of President McKinley's message does not define the policy to be pursued in regard to the new colonies, but urges Congress to deliberate earnestly on the subject. It suggests the increase of the army, to 100,000, and demands money for the navy but proposes no financial or tariff changes.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

London, Dec. 8.

President McKinley's Message declares the construction of the Nicaragua canal with American control indispensable. Referring to China, the President claims friendly indiscriminating treatment of American commerce from the new occupants of the Chinese ports, and proposes the formation of a committee to study the commercial and industrial conditions in China. He also urges regular and frequent steamship communication under the American flag with the new possessions, including the Philippines, and endorses the increase of the army and navy.

RETURN OF SIR CHARLES MITCHELL.

Sir Charles Mitchell, Governor of the Straits Settlements, will leave on his return to Singapore on Wednesday.

MONSON SAYS THERE IS LIMIT TO ENGLISH PATIENCE.

Speaking at the banquet of the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris, Sir Edmund Monson, British Ambassador, hoped that the idea that we (British) were unduly squeezable had been thoroughly exploded. He appealed to French statesmen to discontinue the policy of pin pricks such as the proposal to establish French schools in the Soudan to rival the British, as such ill-considered provocation might induce Great Britain to adopt measures undesired by France.

(FROM THE "CHINA MAIL.")

BRITISH OCCUPATION OF THE CHUSAN GROUP.

Shanghai, Nov. 26, 4 2 p.m.

Vice-Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour, Commander-in-Chief, has hoisted the British flag at Tinghai, proclaiming the British occupation of the Chusan group.

There are eight warships assembled at Tinghai.

ACCIDENT TO THE "CHWNSHAN."

Amoy, Nov. 26, 12.10 p.m.

The steamer *Chwnshan* (Captain Messer), belonging to Messrs. Bradley and Co., struck the Coker Shoal, as she was leaving Amoy Harbour bound for the Straits.

The bottom plates were badly damaged.

The steamer has returned to Harbour, and will dock here.

(FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.")

THE TWO KUANG VICE-ROYALTY.

Peking, Nov. 28.

In answer to a memorial from Viceroy Tan of the Two Kuang provinces, asking to be allowed to resign his post on account of prolonged illness, the Empress Dowager has granted him a month's extra sick leave and refused his prayer. It is, however, stated in official circles here that if the Viceroy does not get well by the end of his extra leave, his prayer will be granted and a successor appointed to Canton.

Urga, Mongolia, Nov. 28.

The work on the telegraphic extension between this city and Kiachta is now completed.

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The Telegraph Administration has given special privileges for the space of seven days to all senders of messages through the new line.

THE EMPRESS DOWAGER'S WARLIKE MEASURES.

Peking, Nov. 30.

Considerable additions in men and material to the troops not only of Peking and its vicinity, but also of Mongolia and Manchuria, are being energetically but quietly pushed on, and the explanation of these warlike measures is that they are to "fight foreigners with." In consequence of this, the rowdy masses in the north are anxiously awaiting the signal, which certain officials of the Conservative party have promised to give, for a general uprising against foreigners and their Chinese friends. The edicts issued by the Empress Dowager since coming into power have inflamed the masses against foreigners to a dangerous degree.

YU MAN-TZE,

Chungking, Dec. 2.

Yü Man-tze is still at Lungshui, to which market town he retired since he rebelled the second time. His lieutenants have begun making their raids again on neighbouring towns and villages, devastating the country wherever they go. The troops, on the other hand, remain quiet in their encampments hoping to see Yü Man-tze lay down his arms of his own accord. The civil mandarins naturally dare not move in the matter.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

Peking, Dec. 6.

The natives have seized and detained French missionaries in Szechuan prefecture. The French Representative in Peking has warned the Tsung-li Yamen that French troops will be sent into the prefecture unless the missionaries are released.

Peking, Dec. 8.

The Chinese Government has, by secret orders of the Empress Dowager, instructed Mr. Li, the Minister in Tokyo, to capture Mr. Kang Yu-wei dead or alive.

If the captured French missionaries are not restored to liberty by the Chinese authorities, it is expected that French troops will be despatched to Szechuan *vid* Yunnan. Great Britain is expected to protest against this movement of France.

The German Representative has demanded punishment of the local officials and the restoration of the missionaries with all honours.

It is stated that Great Britain will not prefer any great demands for compensation.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M Co.	Aztec 1	F. Dec. 9
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 2	M. Dec. 12
America	P. M. Co.	Shantung 3	M. Dec. 12
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Salazie 4	W. Dec. 14
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su. Dec. 18
America	C. & O. Co.	Coptic 5	Su. Dec. 18
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Dec. 19
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W. Dec. 21
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. Dec. 24
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. Dec. 29
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	C. R. Janeiro	Sa. Dec. 31

1 Left San Francisco on the 23th ult.
2 Left Nagasaki on the 7th inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 23rd ult.
4 Left Hongkong on the 6th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 29th ult.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Belgic	F. Dec. 9
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. Dec. 10
Hongkong	P. & O. Co	Rohilla	W. Dec. 14
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Satsuma Maru	W. Dec. 14
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Dec. 19
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu Dec. 20
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	S lazie	W. Dec. 21
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	F. Dec. 23
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Tu. D c. 27
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. Dec. 29

CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at Wright's Hotel on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 397.

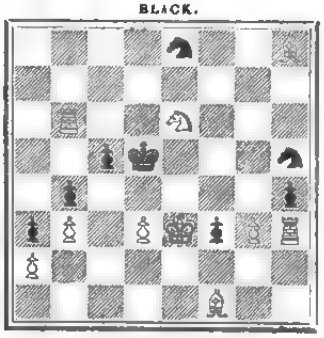
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to B 8	1—R to B 8 ch
2—R to K B sq mate	
	1—R to Kt 4
2—B to Kt 7 mate	
	1—R to B 5
3—B takes R mate	
	1—K to Kt 3 or B to [Kt 5
2—Q to Q 8 mate	
	1—B any other
2—Q takes R mate	
	1—K to Kt 5
2—B to Q 2 mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S., Musco, Skipper, and S.S.

PROBLEM No. 400.

By W. H. MASON, Tokyo.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME No. 461.

THE COLOGNE CONGRESS.

A fine game won by the English representative from the ex-champion. Taken with notes from *The Field*:—

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—A. Burn.	Black—W. Steinitz.
1—P to Q 4	1—P to Q 4
2—P to Q B 4	2—P to K 3
3—Kt to Q B 3	3—Kt to K B 3
4—Kt to B 3	4—P takes P

This variation has been played several times at the recent Vienna tournament, and therefore thoroughly analysed. We do not think it favourable to Black, as it facilitates White's P to K 4 whilst the Pawn has to be given up again.

5—P to K 3	5—P to Q R 2
6—P to Q R 4	6—P to B 4
7—B takes P	7—Kt to B 3
8—Castles	8—B to Q 2
9—Q to K 2	9—Q to Kt 3
10—K to Q sq	10—R to Q sq
11—P to Q 5	11—P takes P
12—B takes Q B	12—B to K 2
13—P to K 4	13—Kt to Q 5
14—Q to B 4	14—Kt takes Kt ch

This exchange opens a dangerous attacking file. The alternative would be 14—Kt to K 3

15—P takes Kt	15—Castles
16—B to B 4	16—Kt to R 4

Obviously the Kt P cannot be taken.

17—B to Kt 3	17—Kt takes B
18—R P takes Kt	

The Kt file being closed, an equally dangerous R file is opened instead.

	18—B to K B 3
19—R to Q 2	19—Q to Kt 5
20—P to R 5	20—Q takes Q
21—B takes Q	21—B to B 3
22—B to Q 5	22—R to Q 2
23—Kt to R 4	23—B takes Kt
24—R takes B	24—K R to Q sq
25—R to B 4	25—B to K 2

If 25—B to Q 5, then 26—P to Q Kt 4 &c.

26—R to Q 3	26—K to B sq
27—R to Kt 3	27—R to Kt sq
28—K to B sq	28—P to B 3
29—K to K 2	29—R to B 2
30—K to Q 3	30—K to K sq
31—R to B sq	31—K to Q sq
32—K to B 4	

Mr. Burn's manœuvres ■ win this difficult ending with Bishops of different colour are very interesting. He fastens on to Black's weak points, whilst his own position is perfectly secure.

	32—R to Q 2
33—R to K R sq	33—P to R 3
34—P to B 4	34—K to B 2
35—P to B 5	35—R (Q 2) to Q sq
36—R to R 4	36—B to B sq
37—P to B 4	37—R to Q 3
38—K to B 3	38—P to Q Kt 4
39—P takes P e.p. ch	39—R takes P
40—R takes R	40—R takes R
41—R to R sq	41—B to K 2
42—P to Kt 3	42—R to Q 3
43—R to R sq	43—R to Kt 3
44—K to Q 3	44—K to Kt sq
45—K to K 2	45—R to Q 3
46—K to B 3	46—K to B sq
47—K to Kt 4	47—K to Q sq
48—K to R 5	48—K to K sq
49—K to Kt ■	49—K to B sq
50—R to R 5	50—R to Kt 3
51—B to B 4	51—B to Q 3
52—R to R sq	52—B to K 2
53—K to R 7	53—B to Q 3
54—R to Q sq	54—R to B 3
55—R to Q 5	45—P to K R 4
56—K to Kt 6	56—P to R 4
57—K takes P	57—R to Kt 3
58—P to K 5	58—P takes P
59—P takes P	59—B to K 2
60—R to Q 7	60—R to Kt sq
61—R to R 7	61—R to Q sq
62—R takes P	62—R to Q 7
63—R to R 8 ch	63—R to Q sq
64—R to R 7	64—R to Q 8
65—P to B 6	65—P takes P
66—P takes P	66—B to Q sq
67—P to K Kt 4	67—R to K Kt 8
68—P to Kt 5	68—R to Kt 6
69—K to Kt 6	69—K to K sq
70—B to Kt 5 ch	70—K to B sq
71—R to B 7 ch	71—K to Kt sq
72—B to B 4	

A fine game and an instructive ending to complete it.

Black resigns.

END GAME.

A sparkling finish of a game played at Palermo Chess Club, and published in *L'Eco degli Scacchi* of this month.

BLACK.—(Sig. BUTTAFUOCO.)

WHITE.—(Sig. SEICHILONE.)

Black won thus—1..... Q takes P ch; 2—Kt takes Q, R takes Kt ch; 3—B takes R, R takes B ch; 4—K to R sq, R to R 7 double ch; 5—K takes R, Kt to Kt 5 ch; 6—K to Kt sq, B to R 7 mate.

NOTE.

The match between Janowski and Showalter says an American Exchange, did not commence on 1st of Nov, according to arrangement, and there is apparently some hitch in the matter. It is believed that Showalter has found himself unable to raise his share of the stakes, as the Cosmopolitan Chess Club of New York has wired to him that it is prepared to make good any shortage in his stake money. Janowski, who came to the United States expressly to meet Showalter, is rather surprised at the treatment the Kentuckian has accorded him and he may be induced to enter into a match with Steinitz, who is now in New York and who is said to be perfectly willing to engage in such a combat. Meanwhile Janowski is giving New Yorkers ocular demonstration of his ability as a chess expert, and making arrangements for touring the country. He expresses himself as being fain to play his match with Showalter in Chicago or San Francisco.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 2nd December,—Yokkaichi 1st December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saizura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, N. Mumezono, 2nd December,—Kobe, 30th November, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 2nd December,—Shanghai via ports, 26th Nov., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Ternick, 3rd December,—Muji, 30th November, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Nishimura, 3rd December,—Otaru 1st December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,149, S. Tsuji, 3rd December,—Kobe 1st December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

St. Mary's Bay, British barque, 1,115, James Maclachlane, 3rd December;—Bona, Algiers, via Clyde 1st July, Phosphate.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 4th December,—Kobe 2nd December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,682, W. Townsend, 4th December,—Nagasaki 1st December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Troop, British ship, 1,526, Fritz, 4th December,—New York 14th July, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Bowhead, Argentine steam-whaler, 240, J. Cook, 5th December,—Arctic Ocean, Whale Bone and Blubber.—American Trading Co.

Hector, British steamer, 3,005, John Barr, 5th December,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe 4th December, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Yeijo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,534, Weilbach, 5th December,—Otaru 2nd December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Yamanouchi, 5th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, 4th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Elphinstone, British steamer, 1,146, Abbott, 6th Dec.,—Shanghai, 29th Nov., Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 6th Dec.,—Yokkaichi 5th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, F. W. Horton, 6th Dec.,—Otaru via ports, 1st Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, K. Soyeda, 7th Dect.,—Fushiki, 6th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,053, S. Kawamura, 8th Dec.,—Bombay via ports, Kobe, 6th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 2,422, W. H. Seabury, 8th December,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 7th December, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Armenia, German steamer, 3,469, Magin, 8th Dec.,—Hamburg via ports, Shanghai, 4th Dec., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, J. H. Rinder, 8th Dec.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 19th Nov., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,149, S. Tsuji, 9th December,—Kobe, 7th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, A. E. Moses, 9th Dec.,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Kobe, 7th Dec., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 9th Dec.,—Seattle, Washington, 18th November, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 2nd Dec.,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Yamanouchi, 2nd Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, I. Higo, 2nd December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Eidsvold, Norwegian steamer, 2,296, J. Anderson, 3rd December,—Chemulpo via Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 3rd December,—Uraga Dock, Ballast.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*,—from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Cowan, and Mrs. Y. Odagiri, in cabin; 84 in steerage.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 3rd December,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bamberg, German steamer, 2,660, S. Voss, 4th December,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,149, S. Tsuji, 4th December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, K. Soyeda, 4th December,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Ternick, 5th December,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Nishimura, 5th December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, N. Mumezono, 5th December,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Yamanouchi, 6th December,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 6th December,—Hakodate via Ogimohama, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,265, W. H. Cope, 7th Dec.,—Yokosuka, Ballast.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,260, De Maubeuge, 7th Dec.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 7th December,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 7th December,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, T. Tibballs, 7th December,—Hakodate via Ogimohama, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Priam, British steamer, 1,803, Jackson, 8th December,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Szechuen, British steamer, 1,158, G. H. Pennefather, 8th Dec.,—Moji, Ballast.—Butterfield and Swire.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, K. Soyeda, 8th December,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Shanghai*, from London via ports:—Mr. E. E. Turner, Mrs. Turner, and Mr. F. Arratoon in cabin.

Per American steamer *China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Col. F. W. Ames, Mr. W. A. Behrens, Lieut. J. F. Chambers, Lieut. G. M. Conrad, Mr. E. H. Dunn, Mrs. Del Castillo, Mrs. R. J. Kirby, and Lieut. H. D. Lackore, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Capt. W. Gordon, Surgeon Pokrowsky, and Mr. Yuen Chong, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Capt. F. A. Astrom, Mrs. M. L. Delaplaine, Miss Delaplaine, Capt. Frank Fisher, Miss E. Garner, Mr. H. Green, Mr. Hayter, Mr. F. Heyl, Mr. L. J. G. Kuhlwein, Capt. J. E. Lombard, Mrs. J. Lewis, Dr. W. B. McGill, Mrs. McGill and infant, Miss Myrtle McGill, Miss Stella McGill, Mrs. C. Mertens, Mr. H. S. Nichols, Mrs. Nichols, Mr. E. Quackenbush, Capt. E. F. X. E. Seguin, Lieut. O. L. M. Seguin, and Mrs. A. B. Warvholtz, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. K. Kitajima, Mr. G. P. Godsey, Mrs. G. P. Godsey, Mr. G. R. Chipman, Mr. W. L. Littlefield, Mr. J. P. Morton, Mr. William Boone, Mr. James Donald, Lieut. W. P. Elliott, Lieut. C. E. Fox, Lieut. A. P. Niblack, Mr. C. E. Vreeland, Lieut. J. H. Bull, Mr. H. H. Hough, Dr. L. W. Spratling, Mrs. L. W. Spratling, Mr. E. Adet, Mr. W. Vehling, Mrs. N. W. McIvor, Mrs. F. H. Marshall, Mrs. M. A. Andrews and maid, Mrs. M. D. Whitman, and Mrs. A. K. Harrington and child, in cabin. For Kobe:—Rev. A. D. Hall, and Mrs. A. D. Hall, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. W. H. Bell, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Rev. E. F. Tatum, Mrs. E. M. Tatum and child, and Capt. C. C. Cornwell, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. W. E. Dunteuback and child, Mrs. E. H. Lice, Mr. R. Leiman, Miss Helen Penny, and Rev. and Mrs. M. McKenzie and 2 children, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancover, B.C.:—Mr. F. Ayscough, Mrs. B. Bavanda, Mr. R. Fetham, Lieut. W. Forbes, R.N., Mr. H. Frazer, Mr. C. A. Harris, Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Hussey, Capt. Kingsmill, R.N., Mrs. Lucas, Miss Myers, Mr. E. R. Smith, Mrs. L. M. Todd, and Col. J. Weir, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, for Marseilles via ports:—Commander E. J. Warre Slade, Capt. Wirbel, Mr. Victorin Eylenbosch, Mr. D. Larrieu, Mr. B. R. A. Niemenhuizen, Mr. J. R. Gibson, Mr. B. P. Sheldon, Mr. A. E. Blake, Mr. H. W. Lea, Mr. Rah Seel, Mr. M. W. Kochen, Miss Boeddinghaus, Mrs. Vjiesniewski, Sœur Louise Philotee, Mr. G. Kuk, Mr. Alex. Atanassief, Mrs. Fortaine, Mr. Muller, Mr. Mark Leong, Mr. Marju Jashanker, and Mr. Young, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Woodhams, Com. M. Yamamoto, I.J.N., Mr. and Mrs. H. Johnson and three children, Mr. Fadoeff, and Mr. N. Adachi, in cabin; Mr. S. Moriya, Mr. H. Yoshimoto, Paymaster H. Yendo and wife, and Mr. J. Nakamura, in second class; 60 Japanese, and 7 Chinese, in steerage.

EXPECTED.

Per German steamer *Prinz Heinrich* by *Hohenzollern*:—Dr. V. Schab, Mr. G. Kunst, Prof. J. L. Janson, Prof. Dr. L. Löuholm, Dr. Haberer, Mr. S. Beasch, and Mr. Robert Mendl.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS

Business is still not as active as might be expected. There is some enquiry for certain lines, but the tone as a whole is not all brisk. The rise in Manchester goods and American cottons of course is against the trade here.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb., 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2 55 to 2 85
Grey Shirtings—9lb., 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb., 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2 00
Indigo Shirtings—42 yards, 44 inches	1.60 to 2 30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sattoons Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	30.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.28 to 0.40
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 32 inches	0.15½ to 0 22½
Cloths—Plain, 54 to 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 51 to 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 3½, per ℔	0 55 to 0 67½
	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.50 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 32 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	0.40 to 0 60
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb., 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.50

SATEENS VARIES.

	per piece.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28 32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	44.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2 60, Plain	64.00 to 65.00
Nos. 2 80, Plain	76 00 to 77.00
Nos. 2 100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2 60, Gassed	70.00 to 72.00
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2 100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.25 —
Chinese	18.25 —

METALS.

Business is not active, as buyers' offers are not high enough to tempt holders. Prices nominally as last week.

	per picul.
Round and square 4 inch. and upward	4 00 to 4 35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4 65
Sheet Iron	5 00 to 5.20
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.25 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	6.05 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6 20 to 6 50
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2 10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The market continues firm and sales are effected at last week's prices.

American	1.18 to 2.20
Russian	2.15 to 2.17
Langkat	1.95

SUGAR.

The usual steady trade has been doing at the prices prevailing last week.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	15.30 to 5.25
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.60
Brown Daitoung	4 20 to 4.25
Brown Canton	3.90 to 5.60
Refined from Penang	6.80 to 8 00
White Refined	7.95 to 9.85

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EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Some fair transactions have been passing with a tightening of prices as compared with last week. The sudden "spurt" that started on the 3rd had the effect of sending holders' ideas up into the regions of fancy figures, and the result was a postponements of business all round.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den	$900
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 denier	845 to 855
Filatures—No. 1 13/15, 14/16 den	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	830 to 840
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	820 to 830
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	870
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	840 to 845
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	805 to 815
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	780
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	850
Kakedas—No. 1	810
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	770
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is quite lifeless.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	67½ to 70
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Bushu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi—Joshu, Good	55 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	50 to 53
Kibiso—Filature, Best	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	75 to 80
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

There is nothing doing and prices are quite nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal.
Choice	Nominal.
Finest	$29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

Rates all steadily maintained with no alteration in silver from London or sterling from China.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅝
— — Bills on demand	2/0⅞
— — 4 months' sight	2 0⅞
— Private 4 months' sight	2 0⅞
— — 6 months' sight	2 0⅞
On Paris—Bank sight	256½
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	261
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅛
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07½
— Private 4 months' sight	2.12
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3⅛% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	5⅛% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	75⅛
— Private 10 days' sight	76⅛
On India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	155
Bar Silver (London) on 5th inst.	27 1/16

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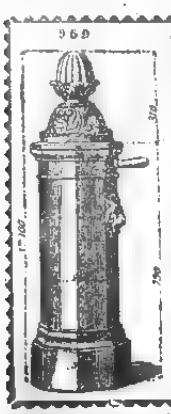

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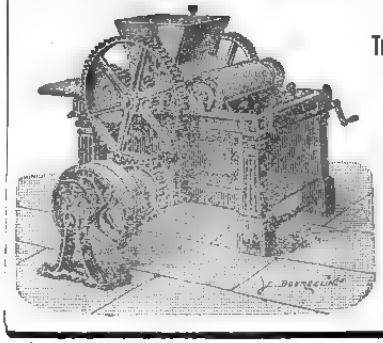

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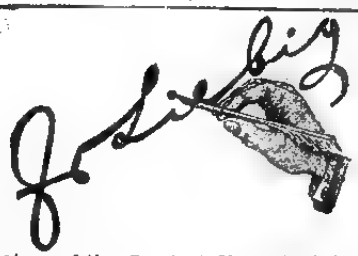

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"PAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, DEC. 17TH, 1898.

BIRTH.

On the 12th inst., the wife of R. RUEGG, of a son.

DEATH.

At No. 109, Bluff, on the night of the 11th inst., FRANK HERBERT HOOPER, of an aneurism; formerly of Bucklesham, Kent.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

SIR WILLIAM VERNON HARCOURT has resigned the leadership of the English Liberals.

COUNT OKUMA has come out as a resolute opponent of any increase of the Land Tax.

A VIOLENT thunderstorm broke over Yokohama on Thursday; the lightning flashes were very vivid.

THE Emperor has graciously approved of the gift of 20,000 *yen* voted from the Indemnity by the Diet.

THE new Pavilion of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club was formally opened last Saturday. There was a football match in the morning; tiffin at midday, and bicycle races during the afternoon.

THE Japanese Legation in Brussels was opened on the 5th inst. Its present home is the Hotel Bellevue.

FORMOSA continues to be greatly disturbed, the bandits growing more and more intrepid in their exploits.

THE notorious Mr. Tanaka Shozo has been temporarily expelled from the Lower House for breach of discipline.

GENERAL BROOKE has been appointed Military Governor of Cuba, with control over the civil and military administration.

THE Dreyfusite papers are now asserting that the late Colonel Henry was the real traitor and Major Esterhazy his accomplice.

THE French Government, in deference to the Budget Committee, has waived the proposed state guarantee of any part of the Tonkin railway loan.

MARQUIS ITO has delivered two important speeches this week on China and the necessity of supporting the home Government's financial policy.

THE Yokohama players gave another performance of *The Magistrate* on Thursday in aid of the funds of the General Hospital, and again achieved success.

ON the night of the 10th the police raided the house of a famous gambler named Takei Sadakichi, Kakigara-cho, Tokyo, and arrested 17 gamblers. The others escaped.

A LONDON despatch recently received by the Government says the torpedo-boat destroyer *Yugiri* has been launched. At her trial trip a speed of 30½ knots was made.

THE Emperor William, in opening the Reichstag, announced forthcoming Bills providing for an increase in the army, and preventing the terrorizing of workmen willing to work.

THE annual meeting of subscribers to the General Hospital was to have been held on Thursday afternoon, but, only four persons being present, a postponement was necessary.

THE Tokyo Tramway Company held its general meeting on the 10th and declared a dividend at the rate of 35 per cent. per annum. It was decided its increase the capital to *yen* 500,000.

ON Tuesday the Japanese steamer *Yayeyama Maru*, when entering Moji harbour, ran on to the P. & O. steamer *Brindisi* and sustained so much damage that she sank within four hours.

THE second "scene" in the House since the reassembling of the Diet occurred on Thursday, when Mr. Momma Shokei, disputing the Vice President's ruling, was removed by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

ON Thursday a meeting of the opponents of an increase of the Land Tax was held at the Maple Club, but, before the opening speech could be delivered, the police dispersed the gathering, due notice not having been furnished in accordance with the provisions of the law.

A KOREAN despatch announces the reply of the Government to the protest of the Powers against the order regarding the retirement of foreigners from Pyong-yang. Korea will not cancel the order, but postpones its enforcement indefinitely.

AT a meeting of seatholders held on Thursday it was resolved to sell the Settlement lots on which Christ Church and the Parsonage stand and buy a lot on the Bluff if a profit of *yen* 20,000 can be made by the exchange.

THE trial of E. C. Leopold in the British Court on a charge of obtaining credit from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank under false pretences, concluded on Friday, when prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

A SUBSCRIPTION dance will be given in the Public Hall on Tuesday next in aid of the funds of the Cricket Club. During the first week in January a subscription fancy dress ball will be given at the same place in aid of the funds of Christ Church.

HERR VON BULOW, in a speech in the Reichstag on foreign affairs, said there were all sorts of questions and many points whereon Germany can go with England and does gladly go with her, while completely maintaining her other valuable connections.

THE peace treaty between America and Spain was signed at Paris on the 10th. The *Times'* Washington correspondent states that President McKinley favours selling the Philippines after their cession, but retaining Luzon as a coaling station. This was subsequently denied.

THE match manufacturers of Kobe and Osaka have decided to stop work for 17 days from the 1st January. The market at present is over supplied and prices are falling below remunerative figures. Present stocks are estimated at about 30,000 cases and no new business is expected for some time.

ACCORDING to the statistics of the Financial Department, the exports of Yokohama and Kobe last month amounted to *yen* 15,842,239 and the imports to *yen* 14,479,717, an excess of *yen* 1,362,822 in exports. The export of gold and silver amounted to *yen* 5,044,485, and the import to *yen* 197,026, an excess of *yen* 4,847,469 in exports.

BUSINESS, despite the season, continues very dull and the yearly clearing-up of accounts does not look very promising. A huge stock of goods is accumulated in Yokohama godowns, in anticipation of the new tariff, but these will be moved off very slowly. During the week enquiries have run principally on woollens and prices for these are firm. Metals are still dull, buyers not offering anything like the figures now ruling the home market. Kerosene is firm and so is sugar. In raw silk some extensive purchases are reported, but waste silk is quite dead. Nothing is now doing in tea.

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THE TWENTY MILLIONS OF YEN.

Count Itagaki has thought it advisable, as leader of the Liberal Party, to explain his own motives in promoting the gift of 20,000,000 *yen* to the Throne. The explanation is slightly inartistic. Count Itagaki disavows all idea of swelling the possessions of the Throne in order that the habits of the Court may become more luxurious. Was such a disavowal necessary? Certainly the manner of the Emperor's life does not suggest that it was necessary. We doubt whether in the whole world there is a Sovereign who lives more frugally, or spends less upon ostentation or pleasure in any form. That all Japan's rulers will be similarly self-denying would be too much to hope, but that any addition to the yearly income of the present Emperor would betray His Majesty into spendthrift habits is a chimera which even foreigners must find extravagant. Count Itagaki further explains that the purpose of the vote is to bring under the Sovereign's control larger means of doing good. The Liberal leader's language is not so simple as our rendering suggests. In fact, it is very eloquent and learned language. But we translate its signification correctly when we say that the twenty millions are to enable the Emperor to give more substantial encouragement to distinguished ability in all spheres of life and to extend the Imperial benevolence to a larger circle of sufferers. It was difficult for Count Itagaki to express such ideas in language which should be entirely free from all shadow of impertinence, but we trust that we ourselves shall not be guilty of impertinence when we say that his manner of performing the task is not ideal. He adds that the effect will be to increase the nation's affection and veneration for the Throne, a consummation which few Japanese would be willing to consider necessary, and fewer still to pronounce possible.

The Imperial assent has been given to the Supplementary Budget transferring a sum of 20 million *yen* from the Indemnity to the Imperial Estates. The Presidents of the two Houses of the Diet were summoned to the Palace on the 15th instant, and entrusted with a message conveying His Majesty's acknowledgment of the motives that had influenced the vote. There have been many conjectures, first, as to whether the Sovereign would accept the money, and secondly, as to whether, if he did accept it, he would not at once devote it to some purpose notably beneficial to the nation. His Majesty, however, has simply acknowledged its receipt; the most dignified course under the circumstances. Whatever may be the destination of the yearly income derived from the fund, we may be sure that no part of it will be spent on pomp or luxury.

The general opinion of outsiders will be that in the present condition of the finances, these twenty millions might have been diverted to other purposes; but it is at all events re-assuring to find that the Diet and the Government take such a rosy view of the state of the Treasury. In one respect the appropriation seems to us a fortunate thing: it materially reduces the remnant of the Indemnity. The Indemnity has proved itself a decidedly mischievous asset. It has created an illusory notion that the Treasury always had a large marginal fund into which it cast when ordinary sources of income failed, and under the influence of that fancy the Legislature has paltered with its financial duties. If the Indemnity were entirely spent, the Diet would probably settle down resolutely to the business of making ends meet permanently.

THE LAND TAX AGITATION.

December 10.

The situation with reference to the Land Tax question is becoming almost comical, but so much depends on its favourable settlement that we are forbidden to be amused. On the 8th instant the parliamentary representatives and supporters of the Constitutional Party, to the number of over 160, assembled to hear the result of their leaders' consultations with the Cabinet. Count Itagaki made the report. The gist of what he had to tell was that the Government held its ground firmly, denying that, apart from the Land Tax, any permanently stable source of additional revenue could be found. The Constitutional Committee had suggested an increase of the tobacco-monopoly rates and the imposition of the tax on sugar, but the Ministers had replied that neither of those expedients could be trusted. Count Itagaki limited himself to stating these facts: he did not accompany them with any suggestion as to the course that the meeting ought to take. Nor did any debate ensue. A member proposed that the General Committee should again give the matter full consideration, should submit it once more to a meeting of the Council, and should then present another report to the members in full conclave. The proposal was accepted *nem. con.*

It is plain that the Constitutional Party recognises its responsibility in connexion with this grave problem, and is determined not to act hastily. Meantime Marquis Ito's return to Tokyo is understood to be the result of a request addressed to him by the Cabinet through Marquis Saigo, and is generally believed to have for its object the reconciling of the Liberal Party to the Land Tax. Marquis Ito of course visited the Palace and had a two hours' audience, but he has also been in direct communication with the Liberal leaders, urging them to lay aside petty considerations of party interests, and to give their support to a measure of essential necessity to the country. Marquis Ito is said to have been literally besieged by callers since he arrived in Tokyo. He is staying at the residence of Baron Suyematsu in Shiba, and is said not to be in very robust health.

December 12.

The Progressists—in other words, the "Real Constitutionalists" (*Kensei-hontō*)—have decided to make a party question of the proposed increase of the Land Tax, and to organize a strong opposition to the measure. A grand union has also been formed with that object. The preliminaries were arranged at a meeting in the Maple Club on the 8th instant, when about 210 persons assembled, among them being 87 members of the Lower House and three or four of the Upper, including Viscount Tani. The Union calls itself *Chiso-zōchō hantai Dōmei*, an exceptionally clumsy epithet. It was decided, among other things, at the meeting that should this question lead to the dissolution of the House, the Union would devote its strength to bring about the re-election of the present Progressist members of the Diet.

On the other side, a formidable association of Business Men has been organized. Its field of operations extends to Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Yokohama, Kobe, Kuwana, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hakodate, and Nagasaki, and it includes such names as those of Baron Iwasaki, Baron Mitsui, Mr. Shibusawa, Mr. Fujita, Mr. Konoike, and, in short, nearly all the magnates of commercial and industrial circles. A great gathering of the projectors was held in the Imperial Hotel on the 8th instant, and they decided to form themselves into the *Jitsugyoka Dōdomei*, with their head office in the Hotel. It is the first time that men of the Iwasaki, the Mitsui, the Fujita, and the Konoike families have united for a political purpose—if this financial question can be properly called political—and the union must have immense influence.

Viscount Tani and Mr. Tomita Tetsunosuke, leaders of the anti-land-tax movement, have addressed a circular to all the constituencies, urging them to combine against the measure. The principal argument advanced is that the Emperor promised, in 1873, that the Land Tax should be reduced ultimately to 1 per cent. of the land. The circular recommends the constituencies not to return one of the members favourable to the Tax, should dissolution of the Lower House necessitate new elections. Viscount Tani is now in his element.

December 13.

A compromise seems to have been effected in the matter of the Land Tax. On the 11th inst., the Council of the Constitutional Party held a meeting, and after some discussion came to the conclusion that the most advisable course for the Party was to accept the principle of the Government's Bill and modify the details. The Government proposes to raise the rate of the Tax from 2.5 to 4 per cent. The Council thinks that it should not be raised above 3.3 per cent. The effect of that reduction would be to diminish the revenue set down in the Government's estimates by 6,805,653 *yen* in 1899-1900, and by 8,233,626 *yen* in 1900-1. Our readers may be puzzled at first to understand why the same measure should produce a different result in two consecutive years. The explanation is that the full revenue accruing from an increase in the rate of the Land Tax will not be realized until the second year after the increase. To provide for this loss of anticipated income, the Council proposes that the price of tobacco under the Monoply should be augmented, so as to yield an additional revenue of 3 millions, approximately, and that the tax on urban building lands should be raised so as to give three millions more. The Council's views will doubtless be endorsed by the Party, and we may assume that the Government also will accept the compromise.

December 15.

The contest over the question of the Land Tax is very close. Each of the great political associations has made the question a party issue, and both are straining every nerve to win the victory. A short time ago, it seemed probable that a cave would be formed among the Progressists, for several members of the Party, under the leadership of Mr. Shimada Saburo,

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are strongly in favour of increasing the tax. But that prospect no longer exists, for Mr. Shimada has announced that, although he approves of the Land Tax as a means of obtaining additional revenue, he can not consent to its increase until the programme of military expansion has been reduced. He does not propose, indeed, to go back to the military establishment as it was at the time of the war, but he thinks that an expansion of 50 per cent. would have been sufficient, and he therefore advocates the disbanding of three of the additional Divisions organized under the *post-bellum* programme. Mr. Taguchi appears to share Mr. Shimada's views in that respect, so both will probably speak and vote against the measure when it comes up for discussion in the Lower House. Meanwhile, Count Okuma has stepped forward as an uncompromising opponent of any addition to the burden of the agricultural class. Count Okuma, when he held the portfolio of Foreign Affairs in the Matsukata Cabinet last year, was understood to be in favour of increasing the Land Tax. At all events, he remained a member of a Ministry which had compiled, and was about to present to the Diet, a Budget based on Land-Tax increase. When, however, the Progressists severed their relations with the Cabinet and Count Okuma resigned his portfolio, it appeared that, although not condemning the Land-Tax proposal on principle, he considered the time inopportune for such a measure, in view of the failure of the rice crop last year. But now he condemns any and every increase of the Land Tax, whether in the present or in the future, and, with characteristic energy, has thrown himself heart and soul into the struggle, using the press freely to ventilate his opinions, taking up his quarters at the Imperial Hotel in order to be within easy reach of the arena, and announcing his intention of speaking at the meeting of the *Hi-chisosāchō Dōmei kai*, which takes place on the 15th instant in the Maple Club. Despite this agitation and energy, however, the anti-land-tax men appear to be in the minority, though, indeed, it is a very small minority. The advocates of increase claim that they have 155 votes in the Lower House—namely, 104 Liberals, 20 National Unionists, 26 Business Men, and 5 seceders from the Progressists—whereas the other side assert that they command 148 votes. The figures may not be perfectly accurate—indeed they can not be, for they aggregate 303 members in a House of 300—but the significant fact is that the Progressists confess themselves in a minority. The *Yomiuri*, which always fights in the van of the Progressists, virtually throws up the sponge. It says that the opponents of the tax entered the field too late, and that nothing remains for them now except to organize their strength for the repeal of the measure next session. Perhaps we should premise that the favorable attitude of the Liberals is based on the compromise suggested by the Party's Council, namely, an increase from 2.5 per cent. to 3.3 per cent., instead of to 4 per cent., as the Cabinet proposes.

December 16.

It is stated that twenty-six parliamentary members of the Constitutional Party have asked permission to oppose the bill for increasing the Land Tax. The regulations of the Party contain a provision to the effect that when a member is unavoidably prevented from endorsing a measure approved by the Party in its collective capacity, he may seek permission by exercise his own discretion, without severing his connexion with the Party. Under that provision these twenty-six members are said to have made application to the General Committee. The statement is made by the *Jimmin*, which, as an organ of the Constitutionalists, ought to be well informed. Of course the loss of twenty-six votes would completely defeat the bill. Even its supporters did not claim a plurality of more than five votes, when their last calculations were made, and they then reckoned on obtaining the support of the whole Liberal Party. Twenty-six secessions would give the victory into the hands of the Opposition.

A HUNDRED LOSSES AND NOT ONE GAIN.

That is Count Okuma's verdict about the proposed increase of the Land Tax. A section of the large landed proprietors are very well off, he says, and, observing their condition, some folks are led to conclude hastily that an additional burden would be easily borne by the agricultural classes. Such critics take no account of the great mass of the farmers throughout the empire—the men who are farming a quarter of an acre, or half an acre, or, perhaps, one or two acres, and are obliged to rent additional land in order to support themselves. These men are the foundations of the nation. They are industrious honest folk, now sincerely anxious to improve their methods of agriculture, and with that object they contribute to the support of associations for judging agricultural products and procedure. Increase their taxes, and they will cease to be able to make any effort towards improvement. The truth is that the burden borne by the farmers has always been greater than that of the mercantile and manufacturing classes, and the difference has become even more marked of late years since local taxes, communal expenses, and so forth have steadily increased. Things are worse now than they were in feudal times, for the hardship of the conscription has been added. Owing to the conscription system, an able-bodied man loses three years of his life just at a time when he could earn 60 or 70 *yen* a year if he remained at home. Then, after his service with the colours is completed, he has to devote one month annually for 4 years to military duties. The returns show that one-third of the school-age children do not attend school, and of these the greater number are farmers' children, from which fact the impecunious condition of the agricultural class may be inferred. Sanitary measures also are incomplete. Dysentery, typhoid, cholera and such diseases destroy about 100,000 lives annually, whereas the war with China cost only three or four thousand. The farmer must incur considerable expenses for hygienic purposes, and if his taxes are increased, he will be unable to fulfil that essential duty. Then there is the question of riparian improvement. Enormous losses are caused annually by floods. The State has the responsibility of defraying the cost of some riparian works, but the bulk of them must be paid for by the farmer. Thus to increase the Land Tax is to destroy the system of local autonomy.

Count Okuma then passes on to other phases of the problem. People make the mistake, he says, of supposing that an increase of the Land Tax would improve the prospects for the commercial and industrial classes. It is easy to expose the fallacy of such a notion. The poorer the farmers become, the smaller the funds at their disposal to purchase goods. The meaning of that from commercial and industrial points of view is evident. Again pilgrims to Ise and worshippers at Hongwan-ji would diminish in number, and the meaning of that to the railways is evident. In short, the prosperity of the towns depends on the conditions of the provinces. It is equally erroneous to speak of the Land Tax as the best means of placing the finances on a sound footing. To tax the land is to tax the very root of production. There can be no worse tax. The proceeds of such a tax never increase. For twenty years the yield of the Land Tax in Japan has remained absolutely stationary. But an essential feature of a good tax is that its yield should grow with the growth of the nation. In that sense such taxes as those on imports, on *saké*, on tobacco, and on incomes are good taxes. Before many years have passed, the customs dues will amount to 40 or 50 million *yen*. The other taxes produce increased incomes every year, so that they suffice to maintain financial stability. There is no reason to impose a bad tax. Besides, nothing is more precarious than the crops. They may be largely reduced, or even destroyed, at any time by a natural calamity or by an attack of insects. To apply the epithet stable to revenue derived from such a source is the acme of thoughtlessness. As for the high price of rice so much talked of by the advocates of the tax, it is true that rice was dear during the spring and summer, but it has fallen now to 8 *yen* a *koku*. Just because the agricultural class have begun to live better, lodge better, and wear better clothes, they are at once called luxurious, and reckless proposals to tax them are put forward. Their manner of life is in truth pitiful. Only in spring and autumn do they know the taste of fish. They lack physical strength to engage in keen competition, and they can not be expected to make good soldiers. They ought to be able to eat meat once a week, but to increase the Land Tax would still further lower their scale of living. There is talk of re-assessing the taxable value of the Land, but apparently Tohoku, Kiushiu and all the other districts are to be placed on the same footing. That would be most unjust. The Tohoku region is buried in snow during the winter. Only one crop can be raised there, whereas in Shikoku and Kiushiu two crops are obtained. "My final conclusion is that to increase the Land Tax would check the improvement of agriculture, would destroy the possibility of local autonomy, would impair commerce and industry, would embarass the farmers who constitute the bulk of the nation, and would not place the finances on a sound footing. Therefore I say that it would be productive of a hundred ills and not one good. And I make that assertion with respect not to the present alone, but also to the future."

By way of contrast to the above, we translate the gist of a circular addressed

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by Mr. Taguchi and others to the members of the House of Representatives. Some years ago, the circular says, the aim of the representatives returned by the agricultural class was to reduce the Land Tax from 2½ to 2 per cent. But it was found impossible to effect administrative economies warranting such a reduction. Then politicians turned to a reassessment of the taxable value of the land, but even that could not be managed. Then the Matsukata Cabinet of 1897 changed the monetary standard, reducing the gold price of the *yen* to one half of its original figure and thereby cutting down the Land Tax by 50 per cent. If, now, the rate be raised to 4 per cent., it will be really 2 per cent., when expressed in the currency of former years. Hence the representatives of the farmers have obtained what they so strenuously and unsuccessfully endeavoured to achieve in the early days of the Diet. Moreover, the taxable value of the land is to be re-assessed. So the farmers are getting more than they ever asked for. Again, the yearly revenue derived from rural lands at present is 35 million *yen*. With rice at 9 *yen* a *koku* as it is to-day, 4 millions of *koku* pay the tax. But prior to the re-assessment of the tax in 1874, the farmers paid 12 million *koku*. They are, in fact, three times as lightly taxed now as they were 25 years ago, without taking into account the facts that 12 million *koku* represented a larger fraction of the rice crop in 1873 than the same quantity represents to-day, and that the farmers have since then developed other prolific sources of income.

CHINESE AS JOURNALISTS.

The journalistic projects of Kang Yu-wei's disciples in Yokohama seem to have matured. On the 23rd instant, the public is promised the first number of a magazine to be called the *Seigi Jumpo*, a title which the projectors appear to have borrowed from *Truth*. It is to appear every tenth day and the editor is Mr. Leung Kei-chiu, a well-known follower of Kang Yu-wei. From January a daily paper—the *Nippo*, or "daily intelligence"—will be published from the same office.

POLITICIANS AND GOVERNORS.

Baron Sonoda held the position of Chief of Police under the last Ito Cabinet, and distinguished himself by an almost violently conservative address to the inspectors under his command when the Administration was handed over to the two Parties last July. He resigned his post, of course, and was attacked in bitter terms by the party organs. In short, his unpopularity was so great that it contributed materially to swell the outcry then raised against the Bureau of Metropolitan Police and to strengthen the demands for its abolition. When the present Cabinet came into power, Marquis Saigo, the new Minister of Home Affairs, appointed Baron Sonoda to be chief of the Hokkaido Administration. But the party politicians in that part of the Empire do not forget his doings last July, or, perhaps, he has taken some step which quickens their memory. The section of the Constitutional Party in the northern island has held a meeting and decided unanimously that he is not fitted for the position. Will they succeed in getting the leaders of the Party to espouse their opinion? It is a suggestive incident. Imagine the Conservatives in an English shire taking a similar step with regard to some official newly appointed to the county. Japanese party politicians have not apparently learned anything of the discipline without which party government is a practical impossibility.

THE OWNERSHIP OF LAND BY FOREIGNERS.

Too much zeal is a dangerous equipment for an advocate. A case in point is the criticism evoked by the recent trouble between Messrs. Vantine and Company and a Japanese whom they had employed to carry on a branch of their business in Nagoya. The Japanese embezzled monies which, of course, could not be recovered, and he also showed a disposition to retain possession of certain immovable property which, though purchased with his employers' money, was registered in his name so as to evade the law which forbids the acquisition of real estate by foreigners outside the Settlements. Referring to this incident, a Kobe journal writes:—

> The whole story is one more proof of the difficulties with which foreigners will have to contend even after the Revised Treaties come into operation so long as the Japanese Government maintains its present attitude on the question of land. . . . In the case under consideration, it appears that as the result of the measure taken Messrs. Vantine & Co. have recovered most of their property, movable and immovable, but will probably lose the money which is alleged to have been embezzled by their *employé*. There will always remain that risk until the Japanese Government boldly faces the questions at issue and gives foreigners in Japan the same rights that Japanese possess in almost all the other countries of the world.

This is agreeably inconsequential. What is the risk that will remain always, "even after the Revised Treaties come into operation"? We can not suppose that the writer refers to embezzlement of money, though his language admits of no other construction. The direct or vicarious tenure of land has nothing to do with the embezzlement of money. Doubtless this confusion of ideas is due to mere clumsiness of phraseology, and the editor's intention is to refer solely to land tenure. But then we have again to ask, what is the risk which will "always remain." Is it conceivable that after the Revised Treaties go into force any foreigner will be so foolish as to purchase land and register it in a Japanese name when he can obtain a lease of it for a hundred or two hundred years in his own name? The intelligent and intelligible reasons in favour of removing all restrictions upon land tenure by foreigners are conclusive, and such thoughtless writing as that quoted above tends only to create bewilderment and distrust in Japanese minds.

THE "KASAGI KAN."

News is published to the effect that the responsibility for the accident to the *Kasagi Kan* rests entirely on the pilot who was in charge of the vessel, and that the repairs—which are not of much consequence—will be performed without any cost to Japan. Neither will any delay be caused in the matter of shipping the armament. The *Kasagi* will be able to leave Newcastle for Japan in February, the date originally arranged.

REFORM OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

The Government's proposals for the reform of the election system are apparently considered satisfactory by the public, for virtually no exception is taken to them. There are, indeed, some expressions of regret that the property qualification has not been reduced to a maximum of 3 *yen* in the form of direct taxes, and that the minimum age for candidates is not fixed at 25 years instead of 30. Very likely amendments in that sense will be proposed in the Lower House where liberal principles find extreme advocates. There will also be a discussion about the method of voting. The plan suggested in the Bill is called *tanki kimei tôhiyo*; that is to say, each voter hands in a signed ballot for each candidate. Thus in Tokyo, which would have 16 representatives under the new system and would, at the same time, be one electoral district, every franchise-holder would cast 16 ballots. There is thus no provision whatever for minority representation. Some publicists contend that a better plan would be to combine the *renki* and the *tanki* systems in equal proportions; in other words, to require each voter to write one half of the number of candidates on one ballot, and to cast separate ballots for the other half. For party purposes the latter method would be more convenient, and its effect would also be to reduce the trouble of voting. But it would not help the minority. We are surprised that the Government does not seek to obtain the Diet's consent to the simple expedient of limiting each voter's ballots. For example, if in Tokyo a voter's ballots were limited to thirteen, the remaining three would be elected by the minority. We do not mean, of course, that thirteen to three is an ideal ratio. The figures are nothing. Our reference is to the principle only.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE FRENCH LEGATION.

An interesting and novel entertainment was given by the French Minister and Madame Harmand at the French Legation on Saturday, the 10th inst. Their Imperial Highnesses Princes Kanin and Komatsu (jun.) were present, as well as a number of other guests both Japanese and foreign. The chief feature of the entertainment was an exhibition of specimens of the new coloured photography. They were shown by M. Veyre, an agent and assistant of Lumiere. He prefaced the display by giving a short *résumé* of the history of photography with an explanation of the manner in which this new triumph of photographic art has been attained. Most of the pictures represented flowers which, owing to their rich colouring, are specially suitable subjects for illustrating the novel photography. In one a variety of jewels were shown, each colour being wonderfully reproduced. The cinematograph was subsequently brought into play and a number of realistic scenes were shown to the audience. The evening ended with dancing, which, of course, was kept up to a late hour. The entertainment was altogether consistent with the high reputation that French hospitality has won in Tokyo.

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THE STATE RAILWAY QUESTION.

The project for the State purchase of the chief private railways seems to be gaining ground. We read in vernacular newspapers that the Constitutional Party has determined to introduce in the Lower House a Representation to the Government, urging that the Nippon and Sanyo Lines should be converted into public property in order that the State may have control of the main trunk line from the north to the south of the central island. The sum mentioned for the acquisition of these roads is 120 million *yen*, and the idea is that it should be raised by a domestic loan. As to the method of paying the shareholders there has been a difference of opinion, one section of the party advocating half payment down and the remaining half by yearly instalments, whereas another section advises that the whole disbursement be spread over a term of years. The latter view is said to have prevailed. It will be observed that this version makes no mention of the Kobu and Kiushiu lines, which have always hitherto been spoken of as part of the scheme. Moreover, we read in another Tokyo newspaper that Viscount Yoshikawa, the Minister of Home Affairs, has been consulting Mr. Miura as to the ideas of the Kobu shareholders, and that he will take a similar step with regard to the Kiushiu folks. Probably the sum mentioned above is the estimated purchase price of the four railways. Even on that hypothesis it is generously large. We should think, too, that the raising of the money in Japan is quite hopeless. With the Government's 5 per-cent. securities selling at 93, and the best Banks giving 7 per-cent. on fixed deposits, what conceivable chance is there of floating a domestic loan of 160 million *yen* on terms consistent with any principles of sound finance?

OUTRAGES IN RAILWAY CARRIAGES.

Close on the heels of the news that a captain of infantry had been murdered and robbed in a carriage on the Sanyo Railway comes news that a Kobe dancing girl, travelling by the same line on the night of the 6th, was robbed of 50 *yen* and thrown out of the train at a point some three or four hundred yards from Himeji station. The girl—Tanaka Hisa—fell into a rice-field and happily escaped without injury, but the ruffian that assaulted her has left no clue. It is singular that these two incidents should have occurred on the Sanyo Railway, which is the best appointed and the best organised line in Japan. We read in vernacular papers that the Directors have resolved to make up the night trains in future with carriages free from partitions; and, further, to attach two servants to every express train. They have also applied to the Authorities to place two or three policemen in the through trains.

Are the Directors of the Sanyo Railway Company responsible, we wonder, for the term "boy" which has been repeatedly used by the press in speaking of the servants attached by the Company to the trains on its line. "Boy" is a form of expression never used in England to designate a man-servant. The French *garçon* cannot be properly translated by "boy." How the term came to be employed throughout the East in addressing servants or speaking of them, we do not know. Possibly it is a fiction expressly devised for the solace of ladies, who certainly employ male servants in China and Japan for domestic purposes which would be considered entirely beyond the proper province of a man in England or America, though not, perhaps, in some countries of Continental Europe. We have sometimes thought that the term a "boy housemaid" may sound less objectionable in the ears of a modest lady than "man housemaid," and if so the solecism may be condoned to some extent. But surely the Japanese should avoid the importation of such an epithet into their language. It is almost as bad as calling a dog a "come here."

FORMOSA.

The latest group of telegrams from Formosa are these:—

Taipeh, Nov. 19.

The conduct of Kan Taishi (a bandit chief whose submission was recently reported) being suspicious in many respects, troops have been posted at points of vantage and a force of police will be sent to-morrow morning to surround his position. Should he offer any resistance, measures will be taken accordingly.

Taipeh, Dec. 11th, afternoon.

Kan Taishi, the brigand leader who recently made act of submission, having again rebelled, has been attacked forthwith.

Taipeh, Dec. 12, 12.30 a.m.

(From Governor-General Kodama to the War Department.)

The bandit leader Kan Taishi, whose haunt is in the neighbourhood of the Tafton mountains, has proved false to his pledge of submission. Consequently, before day-break on the 11th a force was despatched to clear out his lair. Up to the present, the corpses of over forty bandits have been counted, but it is not known whether Kan's body is among them.

Taipeh, Dec. 13.

The expeditionary force in the district of the 13th Brigade is gradually advancing into the mountains near Kotai. From the 29th ultimo to the 6th instant, the number of bandits killed was 552, and the number taken prisoner, 188. Many swords, spears, and other weapons have been seized, together with 163 guns. The losses on the Japanese side are 2 wounded. The weather is fine, and there are very few in valids. Communication is difficult in the mountainous regions, and some embarrassment is experienced in the transport of supplies. Bandits are lurking in the hills near the Shrine of Kwangu outside the region where repressive measures are in progress, and the roads in the neighbourhood of Tainan are in an unsafe condition.

This intelligence seems to indicate that Formosa is still in a very disturbed condition. Evidently the conciliatory measures recently resorted to have proved abortive, in some cases at all events. We may take it for granted that when the Chinese were in possession of the island, they did not administer its affairs with anything like the vigour and ability shown by the Japanese, yet, if a judgment is to be based on results alone, the Chinese were more successful. It is a curious fact. An explanation would offer readily enough if the Japanese had adopted a resolute policy in extending the limits of the sphere of civilization in the island, for they would then have found themselves in conflict with forces which the Chinese left severely alone. But the Japanese have not pursued such a policy. It is true that they have established fairly good relations with the aborigines, but that proceeding did not involve any recourse to arms, and the bandits now proving so troublesome are not the aboriginal inhabitants, but the disaffected Chinese. The low lands were certainly freer from raiders and their inhabitants enjoyed greater security of life and property in the old days than they do now. What is the cause? The answer given by competent observers is that the Japanese have failed to win the confidence or the respect of the Chinese. They have not failed, indeed, to make themselves feared. The list of losses set down above would be sufficient to dispel any doubt on that head, for if the Japanese troops can kill 552 bandits and take 188 prisoners with no casualties beyond 2 wounded on their own side, they must be giving to the Chinese a conclusive object lesson in drastic methods. The respect we speak of is a different matter.

It is the respect which the Chinese very soon learn to feel for Englishmen, or Americans, or Germans with whom they are brought into contact, and it arises just as much from their observation of the foreigners' method of life as from the treatment they experience at his hands. People who have been to Formosa say that the Japanese official's manner of existence and the integrity of his ways are not such at to make a Chinaman look up to him. It is not necessary that an official should inhabit a fine house or surround himself with luxuries, but it is necessary that his habits should not be such as to bring him into contempt. Force can always be employed. The Japanese are thoroughly competent to employ it. But in a country like Formosa, where military operations can never be more than partially successful, to save the situation by force alone must be a matter of years, whereas if moral suasion were brought into play, months would suffice. We believe firmly that if England and Japan changed places in Formosa, the pacification of the island would have been effected long ago. Not that the Japanese are without administrative capacity. We have no right to express a definite opinion on that point. But they certainly are without the experience of which England has laid up a rich store in governing alien races, and unfortunately they deem it a humiliation to avail themselves of that experience, whereas the real humiliation consists in making a bad failure through self-opinionated reluctance to employ available aids. The lesson which the Governor-General is now giving to the bandits may terrify them into quiescence for a while, but the fact will still stand to Japan's discredit that, three and a half years after taking possession of the island, she is still obliged to undertake an extensive slaughter of the inhabitants. Does it not occur to the Japanese that they are playing to a critical and not over-lenient gallery, and that when their qualifications to undertake the task of civilizing and administering a foreign country come to be reckoned up,—as may be the case at any moment in connexion with the dismemberment of China,—this Formosan Drama will certainly not tell in their favour?

The bandits in Formosan are apparently getting more resolute. A telegram from Taipeh, dated 2 p.m. on the 13th instant, announces that an attack was made by them on the South-Formosan branch of the Bank of Japan. They were driven off by a detachment of Japanese troops

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stationed in the neighbourhood, the latter losing one man. Nothing is said about the casualties on the side of the bandits. They carried away a quantity of mail matter, supposing it to be paper money.

THE VANTINE CASE.

An instance of misplaced confidence is reported in detail by the *Kobe Shimbun*. The facts are said to be these:—Messrs. Vantine and Company established a branch of their business in Nagoya, employing a Japanese named Funamoto to conduct the affairs of the branch in his own name, since Nagoya, being outside treaty limits, is not a place where foreigners may lawfully engage in commerce. Funamoto proved unequal to the trust. He advanced twenty thousand *yen*, unwisely it would seem, to Japanese merchants, and he squandered an equal sum on his own amusements. When called to account by Messrs. Vantine and Company, he displayed at first a disposition to deny their right of interference, since the business was conducted, and the immovable property registered, in his name, not in theirs. Ultimately they appear to have brought him to a more docile frame of mind through the assistance of a Tokyo barrister, though on what grounds the latter intervened it is not easy to perceive. That is the story; a sufficiently simple tale but not without a moral. The moral is, why did Messrs. Vantine and Company repose such confidence in Funamoto? His antecedents were good, it is true. A graduate of the Doshisha, a professing Christian and a spotless record for some years—these are all favorable passports to trust. But from the moment that Funamoto agreed to act as manager of a branch of Messrs. Vantine and Company's business in Nagoya, lending his own name for purposes of dissimulation, from that moment he became a law-breaker and consequently ceased to be worthy of full confidence. Messrs. Vantine and Company were law-breakers also. It is amusing to observe the elastic morality with which a Kobe journal treats this question. There is nothing in the treaties, it says, to forbid partnership between foreigners and Japanese and "no harm can possibly be done to anybody because a foreigner holds land in a Japanese name." Such pleading has not even the merit of being ingenious. To carry on commerce is not wrong *per se*, nor is it wrong to own land, but in Japan neither operation is permitted to foreigners beyond the limits fixed by treaty, and no commonly honest critic can pretend that what is contrary to law is sanctioned by morality. As to the degree of the offence, little need be said, for to evade a restriction due primarily to international illiberality and racial prejudice can not be called a very blameworthy act. None the less any Japanese agreeing to become the agent in a transaction of the kind ought to be regarded with a certain measure of distrust, and if the confidence reposed by foreigners in such Japanese is not more frequently abused, the fact speaks rather for the latter's integrity than for the former's prudence. There is, indeed, a singular inconsistency between the avowals of many foreign residents and their actions. While denouncing the Japanese in general as untrustworthy, each of them nevertheless claims to have in his employment a Japanese deserving of all trust, and not a few unhesitatingly incur risks which in Europe would be thought quite unjustifiable, for they purchase real property and register it in the name of a native servant or of a Japanese friend without any social status. Similar ventures would end disastrously in a majority of cases were they tried in an Occidental country.

DISPERSAL OF A POLITICAL MEETING.

On the 15th instant, the opponents of Land-Tax increase began to assemble at the Maple Club in Shiba from 8 a.m., according to the arrangement already referred to in these columns. Count Okuma, Viscount Tani, Viscount Miura, and other prominent politicians of both Houses of the Diet were present, and it is stated that, before 10 a.m. when the proceedings were to commence, a great crowd numbering from 3,000 to 3,500 persons had assembled, filling the corridors of the building and completely occupying the garden. Mr. Hiraoka Kitaro, having taken the chair, announced that Viscount Tani would first address the meeting. The Viscount thereupon ascended the platform, and commenced his speech with these words:—

"GENTLEMEN—The bill which the Cabinet has submitted to the Diet, providing for an increase of the Land Tax, is an insufferable affair, and we must endeavour to oppose it."

At this point an Inspector of Police stepped forward, and, calling Viscount Tani by name, informed him that the meeting was suspended. The Viscount attempted to address some further remarks to the audience, apparently in explanation of this interference, but the Inspector warned him that, after the mandate of suspension had gone forth, no speaking could be allowed. Viscount Tani, however, persisted, and many of the people in the vicinity of the platform began to hustle the constables who, by this time, had advanced from several directions towards the rostrum. There was, in short, every appearance of a disturbance, when Count Okuma came forward, and called out that, much as he regretted being prevented from expressing his opinions, there was no course for the meeting except to obey the representatives of the law. Mr. Tanaka Shozo also appeared at this juncture gesticulating vehemently and calling for three cheers for the Emperor, and Mr. Kono Hironaka suggested three cheers for the Anti-Land Tax-Increase League. Both calls were vigorously responded to, and the meeting finally dispersed, indulging in a great deal of invective against official tyranny.

The alleged grounds of this interference by the police are declared by the *Hochi Shimbun* to have been that the meeting was calculated to injure public peace and good order. But we believe that the *Hochi's* anti-Cabinet bias is responsible for that version. The probable truth is that the meeting was held in violation of the law. It was called a *Konshin kai*, or friendly gathering, and, as such, did not require to be notified to the police beforehand. But it was not a *Konshin-kai*. It was a *Seiji-kai*, or political meeting, and due notice of the intention to hold it should, therefore, have been conveyed to the police 24 hours in advance. The police are not competent to interdict the holding of political meetings. Notice is given, not for the purpose of obtaining their consent, but merely to enable them to make whatever preparations they may consider necessary in the interests of public peace. The first few words of Viscount Tani's speech indicated beyond question that the meeting was to be invited to discuss political topics, and it immediately became an illegal assembly, the forms prescribed by law not having been observed. There will, of course, be a great deal of talk about this affair, and many critics will accuse the authorities of arbitrary conduct; but it is to be observed that the present Law of Public Meeting and Political Association was made by the Diet, not by the Administration, and if the men who assisted to frame it, namely, the Progressists, do not choose to observe its provisions, they have no right to complain because their disobedience causes them inconvenience. The particular provision of the Law which led to the dispersal of the Maple-Club meeting is a mere measure of precaution. Its observance can not, in any way, impair the privilege of free speech. Its sole object is to place the police in possession of information without which they might fail to make due arrangements for the preservation of good order. There can be no hardship in sending a brief notice to the police on the day before a meeting. Indeed, one is almost tempted to think that deliberation, not accident, was responsible for the omission made by the projectors of the Maple-Club meeting. Nothing could have happened more conducive to the interests of their game than this intervention by the police, for it will at once have the effect of carrying the discussion from the sphere of calm discussion into the realm of passion and prejudice. If they contemplated that result and wittingly planned the *coup*, they will probably have reason to congratulate themselves on their tactics, for in this new phase of the contest many persons hitherto neutral or wavering will probably join the Anti-tax League.

SHIPWRECK AND HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE.

The *Tokyo Asahi* reports the loss of a Japanese fishing junk and 41 lives. The vessel left Kaitorigata in Shiribeshi, some time ago, for the purpose of salmon-fishing in the waters off Saghalien. Having completed her operations, she commenced her return voyage on the 28th of September, in the face of bad weather, and was wrecked in the neighbourhood of Nanatsujima on the 2nd October, only two out of her crew of forty-three escaping. She had on board, at the time of the disaster, 400 *koku* of salted salmon and 1,800 bags of salt.

THE TITLE OF "DOCTOR."

The *Official Gazette* announces that there shall hereafter be nine distinct degrees of "Doctor" instead of five as heretofore; namely, Doctor of Law, Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Pharmaceutics, Doctor of Engineering, Doctor of Literature, Doctor of Physics, Doctor of Agriculture, Doctor of Forestry, and Doctor of Veterinary Science. We may mention that it is the usual custom to use the term *Hakase* in the sense of "Doctor," but according to the Authorities of the University the proper form of expression is *Hakushi*.

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MARQUIS ITO'S SPEECH.

On the 10th instant, Marquis Ito was present at a meeting of the Constitutional Party, the Ministers of State, Baron Ito, and other notables in the Imperial Hotel. The object of the meeting was to welcome the Marquis on his return from China, and to hear his views on current affairs. Count Itagaki presided, and in a brief speech expressed the pleasure that those present felt in receiving the distinguished statesman and in having an opportunity of hearing his valuable opinion. Marquis Ito then spoke as follows :—

Yesterday Mr. Hayashi conveyed to me, gentlemen, an expression of your desire that I should attend this evening and make a statement of my views. I can not pretend that I have any special claim to occupy your attention, but since you have been good enough to invite me, I gladly comply with your wishes. When I resigned my official position in June last, as you are aware, and found that I had some leisure, I felt that I ought, if possible, to pay a visit to China and Korea in order to obtain direct knowledge of the state of affairs in those countries. I deem it fortunate that I was able to carry out my project, yet I am conscious now that to enter into any detailed statement this evening of the conditions existing in the two empires would be a matter of much difficulty. If I limited myself to an account of what I have seen and heard, I might easily address you; but to descend below the surface and lay before this meeting an intimate *résumé* of China's state would be a serious task. In truth, the present condition of China offers features of a particularly perplexing character. That is not merely my individual opinion. I had many opportunities of meeting and conversing with foreigners during my travels, and all agreed that to construct any definite theory about China to-day is scarcely possible. Thus, her relations with Foreign Powers are of quite an exceptional character, and their reality differs greatly from the appearance. The procedure adopted by Western States in their dealings with China, and their attitude of jealousy towards each other, constitute a situation of grave peril. China, on her side, does not appear to have any fixed policy or any definite idea how to deal with her embarrassments. Turning to her domestic affairs, the most superficial observer can see that they too are fraught with danger. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Far-Eastern question is now the Chinese question. Korea's case is comparatively insignificant; it can not be mentioned in the same breath with China's. It is commonly said of China that the problem of reform is responsible for the signal changes that have occurred since September last. I myself did not originally suppose that the question of national reform had assumed such large dimensions in China, though I fully appreciated the imperative necessity of reform. But things have greatly altered, and the question has now entered an acute phase. Looking at the order of the various reforms undertaken, I am not sure that they were calculated to effect a general improvement in the condition of the Chinese empire, and I was not surprised, therefore, to find that they had been interrupted mid-way. China must be reformed. That is beyond doubt. But in a country where the customs of the people, the administrative methods, the laws, the literature, and, in short, everything that goes to make up the life of the nation, have been crystallized by the uninterrupted passage of centuries upon centuries of time, it is not to be supposed that really valuable reforms can be effected in a moment. To attempt to carry into successful operation any large measures of reform, would demand extraordinary ability on the part of the Administration, and would involve something very like a revolution. At the present moment, therefore, there is little hope of China's reform. On the other hand, can her integrity be preserved if things remain as they are? All are agreed that she does not possess either the military organization or the administrative arrangements necessary for the maintenance of a great empire. She is merely leading a precarious existence which derives its vitality chiefly from her antiquity. Can she hope to assert her independence henceforth? Consider the frequent disturbances that occur within her borders and the contingencies to which they may lead. If she once becomes an arena for the exercise of the rivalries between Foreign Powers, there can be no hesitation in affirming that her fate is sealed. I arrive, therefore, at the definite conclusion that a very precarious state of affairs exists in the East, and if you ask me what are the chief factors of danger, I answer that they are numerous. One of the principal is that the Eastern question is not localized, but has come to have an intimate connexion with the problems that concern Western nations in their own spheres. If you look at the telegraphic and journalistic intelligence which we have received about the Fashoda affair and the difficulties that grew out of it between England and France, you will perceive at once that any warlike struggle between the two Powers would immediately have been felt in the Far East. When I was in Shanghai, the British squadron received orders to rendezvous at Wei-hai-wei. Many people said that the step was taken by way of precaution against the danger of some serious anti foreign movement in North China. Was that so? No. The incident was simply one of the phenomena caused by the Fashoda disturbance. In other words, the peril of the situation in Europe had at once made itself felt among British subjects in the Far East. I do not say that an outbreak might not have occurred in Peking demanding the exercise of military force on Great Britain's part. But the assembly of the British Squadron at Wei-hai-wei was not merely a precautionary measure against troubles in China: it was an outcome of the strained relations between Great Britain and France in Africa. As for China, her defensive capacities at present are totally inadequate to preserve her independence, and she is quite without means to deal with a serious crisis should it arise. Any serious complication in her domestic affairs leading to the interference of Foreign States would immediately bring upon the *tapis* the question of the balance of power between them, and the situation would ultimately enter a phase eminently dangerous to her integrity. A country must be able to manage its domestic affairs properly before it can show a bold front to the world. If it can not control the forces that operate to subvert peace and good order within its own territories, that Foreign Powers will take upon themselves the duty of controlling them is beyond doubt. China's intercourse with foreigners is disfigured by many untoward incidents; burnings of churches, assassinations of missionaries, outrages against personal and property. These troubles, if they assume larger proportions, may at any moment become the cause of a serious crisis in her affairs. Japan, her immediate neighbour, would be the first to feel the effects of such a crisis. What then, should be the line of procedure adopted by our country? Naturally the special circumstances of each case must influence our manner of dealing with it, but, speaking generally, although I am not one of the so-called "strong policy" men, I have no hesitation in saying that unless we are fully prepared to meet all contingencies, we shall find ourselves virtually resourceless in the supreme moment, however strenuous may be our efforts to save the situation. As lovers of our country, we must make it our aim to develop our strength while the opportunity is yet with us. In the case of Korea, the occurrences now reported from Söul are not of sufficient magnitude to constitute a national danger, but if they continue unchecked, they may easily develop grave phases.

Reviewing the situation as a whole, I am disposed to think that with regard to China and the Far East the actual conditions are not such as the Japanese people in general seem to imagine, and I apply this remark alike to the problem of North China and to the Anglo-French problem. Other nations plainly regard China's affairs as having assumed a very precarious character and other nations appear to me to be right. (Here the Marquis entered into an account of his own doings. He said that since the year before last he had not intended to take any further share in the administration, but had altered his intention in deference to the Emperor's commands, and had assumed the responsibility of organizing a Cabinet last January. It had become his duty to propose an increase of the Land Tax, and the result had been a collision with the Diet leading to the dissolution of the Lower House. He had then handed over the Administration to the Constitutional Party, because he supposed that they would be able to achieve what he himself had failed to accomplish, and it had been a bitter disappointment as well as a great surprise to him to learn at Shanghai that the Constitutional Party had broken up and that the Ministry had fallen. Arriving at Nagasaki, however, he had learned with pleasure that the present Cabinet had been formed.) It is inevitable that whatever statesmen assume the direction of the nation's affairs at this juncture, they must encounter great difficulties. I therefore feel it to be my bounden duty to render every assistance in my power, for the fortunes of the country depend largely on the manner of its administration at present. Need I say that I have no hesitation in sacrificing myself if I can in any way promote the interests of the country. I can not tell you how gratified I was to learn that, at such a crisis, a union had been formed between you, gentlemen, and the Cabinet, and it is my most sincere hope that you will work in full harmony. Another dissolution of the House of Representatives would be a calamity of the gravest nature to the country. This is essentially a time calling for concord between the Legislature and the Administration. If the present opportunity be forfeited, no man, let his genius be what it may, will be able to retrieve the situation." (The Marquis then dwelt on the necessity of providing funds to carry out the various enterprises on which the nation had embarked, and declared positively that the Land Tax was the only stable and sound source of revenue. He had not originally been an advocate of increasing the Land Tax, as his record showed, but after coming to deal with national affairs in recent times, he had been forced to conclude that this was the best available resource.) "I venture therefore to hope that, in the country's interests, you will support the Land Tax Bill submitted to the Diet by the Cabinet. History indicates that you were the first to endorse and vote for the *post bellum* programme. I ask you to complete the task to which you then pledged yourselves. There are among my hearers several gentlemen fully acquainted with the state of affairs in the Treasury, and it is unnecessary that I should offer to them any information about the Indemnity. But I bespeak your patience for a while I give a few figures." (Here the speaker read a statement with reference to the calls that had been made upon the Indemnity, and showed that, in 1899, it would not suffice to meet the demands now in sight). "Such being the case, some method of relieving the financial strain must positively be found. I do not go so far as to assert that an increase of the Land Tax is absolutely inevitable, but I most emphatically allege that, having joined hands with the Cabinet, you are bound to assist it in seeking some exit from the present financial difficulty. The state of affairs now existing is precisely similar to that of which I myself had painful experience, and I can therefore fully sympathise with the Ministers of the Crown, and I venture to think that your solicitude for the country's good will awaken in you a corresponding disposition to sympathy and helpfulness. In the field of commerce the balance of trade has been partially restored, yet the general condition of commerce is distinctly languid. There appears to be a slightly renewed feeling of ease in the money market, but, on the other hand, enterprise is almost paralysed. What we have to do before everything is to consider the necessity of carrying to a conclusion the national undertakings already commenced. I have been absent from Japan for some time, and it is possible that my knowledge of the political situation may appear incomplete, but one thing is beyond all doubt, namely, that without harmony between the Legislature and the Executive, the constitutional system of Government can not be a success. Causes of differences are bound to arise, of course, in connexion with the numerous problems presenting themselves for solution, but it is above all things desirable that the progress of constitutional institutions should not be interrupted by vain discussions. The smooth working of the constitutional system in England is primarily due, I think, to the fact that the English people understand the necessity of subserving individual opinions to the general good. It is your duty to the Constitution, gentlemen, to cultivate a spirit of compromise so that a long existence may be assured to the institutions which it is our happiness to possess."

Mr. Hoshi Toru having thanked Marquis Ito for his address, the company, numbering about 300, sat down to dinner.

THE IDEAS OF LEADING CHINESE STATESMEN.

Lord Li, interviewed by a representative of the *Hongkong Daily Telegraph* in Peking, was good enough to explain very frankly the reasons that have induced China to throw herself into the arms of Russia and to turn away from England's embraces. During his term of service as Chinese Representative in Tokyo, Lord Li earned the reputation of an able, liberal-minded statesman, and the explanation he now finds of his country's situation comes as a kind of shock. He

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is satisfied, apparently, to think that helplessness is an excuse for any display of incompetence and pusillanimity. England would not aid China against Japan, therefore China turned to Russia. Did Russia aid her? Yes; she interfered to prevent the annexation of Liaotung by Japan and then annexed it herself. There is nothing in history so splendidly sarcastic as Russia's treatment of China. Russia did not want to have the Japanese in possession of Liaotung. Her access to warm seas must be *vid* Korea or Liaotung. There were many considerations which militated against the final choice of the former, yet a favorable opportunity to choose the latter did not present itself immediately. All chance of such an opportunity would have disappeared had Japan taken Liaotung, and, moreover, her presence there would have greatly impaired the advantages offered by Korea also as an oceanward route for Russian enterprise. Russia would therefore have been extremely fatuous had she neglected any means of keeping Japan out of Liaotung, and when France and Germany showed themselves willing to play her game to perfection by assisting her to re-write the Shimonoseki Treaty, it was a foregone conclusion that she should avail herself of their extremely obliging cöoperation. Yet Lord Li imagines that Russia acted on that occasion in China's interests; imagines such a thing in the face of subsequent experiences; is actually blind enough to think that China has been befriended by a Power which, having exacted a munificent reward for salving her property, then proceeded to seize the property for herself? If such a story were told in fiction, it would be denounced as inartistic owing to its extreme improbability. Weare not finding fault with Russia. The conscience of a State and the conscience of an individual are totally different things, and although Englishmen may deem it convenient to accuse Russia of moral callousness in her dealings with China, they know very well that she might find precedents for all her acts in the records of Great Britain herself. That is not the point, however. The point is that Lord Li, an intelligent Chinese statesman, professes to regard Russia as China's friend. His estimate of her amity is not a bit disturbed by the events of the past year. In Germany's Kiao-chou *coup* he finds full excuse for Russia's occupation of Port Arthur and Talien. That very kind friend Russia interprets the duties of friendship to mean that if her friend is despoiled of one portion of his garments by violent folks, she should immediately proceed to despoil him another. Lord Li manages to reconcile that procedure with his ideas of "friend pidjin," and such a feat of mental gymnastics must be quite as entertaining to Russian publicists as it is to all students of human nature. Can we wonder that national helplessness should be China's condition when the intelligence of her statesmen is so terribly befogged? However, it would not be wise to take all these statements of Lord Li's quite literally. He does too glaring injustice to his own shrewdness. To find excuses for the wholesale calamities that his father has brought upon China by recourse to Russia's friendly aid, he does not hesitate to depict the old Vicerey and himself in the light of the naïvest and least astute statesmen that ever assisted to dismember their country. Nor does he hesitate to represent China's heplessness in the most extravagant light. "We had no power to turn Germany out of Kiao-chou." A State with very scanty means of maritime transport, lands three or four hundred men at a point ten thousand miles from its base in the territory of an immense empire containing 300 millions of inhabitants. Yet Lord Li says:—"We had no power to turn them out." Pusillanimity could not be carried beyond that extreme.

We are inclined to think that though Lord Li devoted so many words to proving the wonderful ineptitude of himself and his father—ineptitude which, we take leave to observe, is quite irreconcilable with what the world knows of the two men—, and to exposing the wretchedly invertebrate and cowardly condition of the Chinese empire, the only really significant part of his remarks is the assertion that "England does not want to help China to become a great manufacturing country; has no wish to see China greatly reformed; and wants to keep China down as much as possible." That belief is, at all events, intelligible. It does not tax our imagination quite so severely as does the theory that Earl Li and Lord Li are cursed with immeasurably shallow minds. Plenty of folks pretend to regard England as a schemer against China's industrial development. The doctrine is not generally accepted, being slightly difficult to reconcile with the fact that whatever industrial progress China has hitherto made is due mainly to Britisli initiative. Nevertheless such a faucy might easily present itself to the minds of the two Li if they resemble, even approximately, the portraits that they draw of themselves. England does not wish China to be nationally strong, so, under the guidance of the two Li, China goes to Russia to be deprived of her nationality altogether. It is as though an invalid, finding his physician reluctant to administer an invigorating tonic, applied to a surgeon to be dissected. What is to be the fate of a country whose statesmen labour under such hallucinations? The "open door" policy rests upon the assumption that the house to whic.. access is sought has for its inmates people sensible enough at least to desire that the edifice should not be pulled down altogether. If the Chinese have that much sense, Lord Li manages to conceal the fact most successfully.

A DISSIPATED SECRETARY OF LEGATION.

It is stated that Mr. Ohara Kinzaburo, for many years Secretary of the Japanese Legation in Paris, has been arrested on a charge of misappropriating twenty thousand *yen* of public money. The story told by the vernacular newspapers is that Mr. Ohara allowed himself to be betrayed into spendthrift habits, the attractions of the French capital proving too much for him, and that he falsified his accounts from time to time until the aggregate of his defalcations reached the above sum. Only recently, however, did the Foreign Office discover the fraud. Mr. Ohara's recall followed immediately, of course, and his arrest was effected on the 11th instant.

On Monday evening at 5.30 a foreign lady living in Tsukiji fell into the river at Irifunecho, Kyobashi, Tokyo, mistaking her way through shortness of sight. A policeman, a *jinrikisha* coolie, and two boatmen rescued her and she was sent to her residence.

LOSS OF THE "YAYEYAMA-MARU."

On Tuesday (13th) at 1 a.m., a collision occurred between a steamer of the Peninsular and Oriental Company—the *Brindisi*—and the Japanese steamer *Yayeyama Maru*, in Moji Bay, with the result that the latter was sunk. No casualties to life or limb are reported. The *Yayeyama* is a vessel of 1,575 tons (gross). She was built in 1872 by the London and Glasgow Company, and she belongs to Mr. Okazaki Takichi, of Kobe. The P. and O. steamer, which was at anchor at the time, slipped her cables and steamed to Nagasaki for repairs, so it is expected her damages were slight. The Japanese steamer was referred to by several papers as the *Yayeyama Kan*.

MR. FUKUZAWA'S STUDENTS.

The students and faculty of the Keiogijuku, to the number of about 400, held a friendly meeting in the Maple Club on the 12th instant. Mr. Kamada, the Director of the College, made a speech, in the course of which he stated that the object of the meeting was not to celebrate Mr. Fukuzawa's recovery, but inasmuch as the 12th was Mr. Fukuzawa's birthday, the public can entertain no doubt about the intention of the "Sage of Mita's" pupils in coming together on that day. Contemporaneous meetings of a similar character were held at all the principal places throughout the Empire, so that the affair assumed the character of a national demonstration.

"THE MAGISTRATE."

The Magistrate was played to another full house on Thursday evening, and the funds of the Yokohama General Hospital should benefit considerably. One thing stands out distinctly in connection with *The Magistrate*, and that is the general excellence of the minor characters. To our way of thinking the players of "secondary parts" seldom get their just meed of praise. Much of their work in ordinary comedies is of the most thankless description, and yet how much of the success of the play really depends upon them. The author of *The Magistrate* has made opportunities for the lesser lights which were taken full advantage of last evening. The by-play of *Sergeant Lugg* (Mr. Bramhall), for instance, rises naturally from the few words that fall to him, yet it requires a low comedian of no ordinary capacities to bring it out as he has done. His conception of the part—and we think we can bestow no higher praise—was "to the life." Mr. C. I. Fraser's *Wormington*, the Magistrate's Clerk at Mulberry-street, was also capital, and his make-up" on the lines of a well-known local official proved very realistic. Miss Poole showed to even better advantage than on the opening night. Miss Morse as *Popham*, the amorous parlour-maid who found a *Vade mecum* in *Bow Bells*, deserves appreciative notice, as does also Mr. W. B. Clayton for his rendering of *Wyke*, the manservant in the *Poskel* establishment. Mr. Lias made a most natural Inspector of Police and had an able colleague in Mr. B C. Howard, *Constable Harris*. *Isidore* (Mr Parlett) and *Achille Blond* (Mr. L. Plummer) were highly acceptable in their amusing rôles. The principals, it goes without saying, were all in good form last night, throwing into their several characters all the "go" that makes so completely for success.

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THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

THERE is nothing surprising in the fact that fresh complications have occurred in Peking in connexion with the recent outrages against missionaries. We ventured to express our conviction, when the news of the outrages reached Tokyo, that the evasive, perfunctory attitude of the Chinese Government would provoke the direct interference of Foreign Powers. The telegrams now say that Germany threatens to send a force from Kiao-chou to the scene of the outrage in Shantung, and France talks of an expedition to Szechuan *viâ* Yunnan. The former project is, of course, feasible enough from a military point of view, though the German officials accompanying the troops would find considerable difficulty in effecting anything except a wholesale measure of retaliation. But an expedition from the Red River *viâ* Yunnan to Szechuan would be a stupendous undertaking, and could not possibly be commenced before April next. It is scarcely credible that France can seriously contemplate anything of the kind. If it were necessary for her to despatch a force to Szechuan to exact reparation for the murder of a missionary, the obvious route would be the Yangtze, which, even if Ichang were the point of debarcation, affords comparatively easy access to Szechuan. If France found it necessary to take that step and were in any difficulty as to means of water transport, she could, of course, count on Great Britain's cō-operation. But the news of her mining designs imparts a new complexion to the affair. Is it credible that she has sought in the murder of one of her missionaries a pretext for demanding mining concessions? Scarcely credible, we think. That would be to reduce Occidental civilization to a burlesque. Of course if it is true, an ominous situation is created, for after all England's talk about the Yangtsze Valley, we can scarcely suppose that she would quietly agree to France's acquiring exclusive mining privileges in Szechuan. Fate seems to be most unhappily disposed towards the relations between England and France. They have already become very precarious in the Valley of the Nile, and it looks as if the Valley of the Yangtsze were now to become a new field of collision.

SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The question of transferring 20 million *yen* from the Indemnity to the Imperial Estates has occupied some journalistic attention, but, on the whole, can not be said to have provoked controversy. Three journals only, the *Asahi*, the *Yorozu Choho*, and the *Nippon*, have ventured to raise their voices against the project; all the rest find words of approval alone. The arguments employed by the opponents of the measure have already been re-produced with sufficient fulness in these columns, and it is scarcely necessary to describe in detail the various suggestions that have been added for the purpose of impuguing the motives of the politicians that were mainly instrumental in pushing the proposal—such suggestions, for example, as that the transfer of so large a sum to the Household Treasurers and its subsequent investment in some form of securities would cause a sudden appreciation of the latter, and thus offer a chance to speculators; or that the whole project is a mere device to provide an exit from the Land-Tax dilemma; or that the intention is to enable the Emperor to make some demonstration in favour of military armaments. There are always people of infinite wisdom who read into every incident schemes and devices written there by their own diseased imagination. The two Houses of the Diet passed with virtual unanimity the Representation embodying the proposal. Absolute unanimity was, indeed, spoken of by the newspapers, but it subsequently transpired that three members in the Lower House did not rise in their places when a show of hands was called for, and some capital is made of the fact by the opponents of the project. They aver, with a certain show of truth, that on such an occasion a member is under immense moral pressure to vote in the affirmative; that one dissenter might, perhaps, be explained on the ground of eccentricity, but that three indicate the existence of a feeling which, under ordinary circumstances, would probably have given the "noes" a majority. It can scarcely be affirmed, however, that the opponents of the step have held their ground. They showed firmness at the outset, but their voices ultimately ceased to be audible. The last suggestion is that His Majesty should accept the money and then hand it over to the Government to form a fund for the assistance of primary education. From the time when the Indemnity began to be paid, claims to some portion of it were strenuously urged by educationists, but they never succeeded in obtaining a hearing, and if the Emperor now showed his appreciation of their needs by appropriating this sum of 20 million *yen* to their uses, the gratitude of the nation would be unbounded. The *Hochi Shimbun* is the author of that suggestion.

* * *

Very much greater interest has been aroused by the problem of the Land Tax. This may be said to have become the political issue of the hour. The Progressists, seeing in it their only chance of defeating the Liberals, have organized a strenuous opposition, and are actively canvassing for supporters. Their newspaper organs of course write in strong terms. The *Yomiuri* is conspicuously uncompromising. It professes to think that the fate of the Clan Statesmen is involved in the problem. Cabinet after Cabinet has been wrecked by it, and if it be now employed as a weapon to overthrow the Yamagata Ministry, the knell of the Clan Statesmen will have been finally rung. Other journals discuss the matter more moderately, but it is significant that the *Mainichi Shimbun*, which used to be a staunch advocate of increasing the tax, has now so far changed its views as to maintain that until the military armaments are reduced to the point indicated by the nation's resources, there should be no increase of taxation whatever. In short, the *Mainichi's* contention is that the finances never can be placed on a stable footing until the excessive dimensions of the military expansion programme are cut down, and that it is folly to talk of financial adjustment while the sole root of the trouble is left untouched. There are symptoms that the latter view is acquiring strength, journalistically at all events. It has two strong advocates in the *Asahi* and the *Nippon*. The former thinks that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance showed plain inconsistency in the language they addressed to the House of Representatives, for while they avowed themselves opposed to any temporizing patchwork, they at the same time declared their allegiance to the *post-bellum* programme, and so long as that is pursued, it will be necessary to patch and tinker the finances perpetually. The *Nippon* takes the same line. It finds that whatever additions be made to the taxes, the result, so far as financial adjustment is concerned, must be like dropping water on a burning stone. All predictions of finality in the matter of military expenditure have been contradicted by events. The more the nation spends, the more it has to spend. Appropriations are now demanded for fortifying Tsushima, Kelung, and the Pescadores, and for completing the military organization in Hokkaido. Such works may be necessary, but why were they not included in previous schemes? Why was the country assured that if it made the effort demanded of it in 1896, no new outlays need be anticipated? The fact is that by far the larger portion of the Indemnity has been spent upon armaments. Very little has gone to public works and none at all to education. There can be no certainty that further expenditures will not be demanded by the Army Authorities at any moment, and, if they are, the Government will certainly consent. The first step towards financial adjustment is to stop that endless drain. Strange to say, although the Liberal Party as a whole seems disposed to support the Cabinet, its principal organ, the *Jimmin*, adopts a tone of uncompromising hostility towards Land-Tax increase, and calls upon the Party not to depart from its avowed policy. The Liberal leaders, in a conference with the Ministers, urged that reliance should be placed, for the present, on revenue derived from sugar, tobacco, and *sake*. The Ministry declined to adopt that course, and thereby sacrificed the recently established *entente*. There is no longer any cōoperation between the Cabinet and the Party, according to the *Jimmin*, and the latter should stoutly maintain its position. The *Jimmin*, however, has always been hostile to the union. It need scarcely be said that the *Nichi Nichi*, the *Kokumin*, the *Shogyo Shimpo*, the *Keisai Zasshi*, and so forth argue in the strongest and most convincing manner in favour of increasing the Land Tax. The *Jiji* is, as usual, moderate. It has been an unswerving advocate of the *Sake* Tax alone, but its advice now is that the Land-Tax Bill, having been definitely determined by the Cabinet, should be passed, if possible. But should the measure unfortunately fail to obtain the House's endorsement, the Cabinet, instead of passing a sentence of dissolution and thus sacrificing the whole Budget as well as renewing the reign of chaos, should quietly accept its defeat, and turn to the *Sake* Tax as a source of additional revenue.

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The *Mainichi Shimbun* continues its campaign against the abuses of the time. One of its latest articles on the subject contains a vehement attack upon extra-marital relations. It refers to the disgrace which attaches in the Occident to all breaches of the moral code such as those committed by Professor Koch and the Duke of Devonshire, and it alleges that in Japan escapades of that kind are regarded as fashionable and elegant. Chapter and verse are given by our contemporary. It openly mentions the name of a danseuse who for eight thousand *yen* became the companion of a leading merchant, and the name of another who for ten thousand bestowed her charms on a well-known scientist, the gentlemen also being designated. We do not feel justified in following the *Mainichi* into details, but will merely notice its inference that, if leaders in the Japanese world of wealth and thought show little respect for morality, the condition of the rank of file must be very miserable. In short, the Japanese "gentleman" (*shinshi*) would not circulate as such in any civilized country. He is debased currency, a kind of chopped dollar, without any value outside his own locality.

* * *

In another article the *Mainichi* attacks the Diet. It recalls the great expectations that were connected with the Diet originally; how it was expected to work legislative wonders for the country and be a wholesale corrector of abuses. But it has proved a complete disappointment. At the outset it gave some promise of fulfilling the nation's hopes, and, if it had progressed in that manner for ten years, it would have been an object of pride and satisfaction to-day. Very soon, however, it entered the downward grade, and thenceforth its descent was uninterrupted. Subserviency, self-interest, sacrifice of principles to profit, apostacy—these became the ingredients of the parliamentary atmosphere. The distribution of administrative appointments came to be discussed and determined at tea-houses—places of assignation—and every kind of unprincipled practice found ready disciples among the members, who, for the rest, are generally ignorant persons, quite incapable of comprehending the measures submitted to them for discussion.

* * *

Under the heading of "military independence" the *Fiji Shimpo* strongly urges that Japan should endeavour to become her own shipbuilder whatever preliminary sacrifices the effort might entail. To that end it recommends an agreement with some foreign firm in the nature of the arrangement recently discussed between the Russian Government and the Thames Iron Works. Foreign capital and foreign expert experience might be obtained without much difficulty, and although the cost of vessels built in Japan would, for a long time, be greater than the cost of similar vessels obtained abroad, that objection would be only temporary, and, at all events, should not be considered weighty in comparison with the immense advantage of developing competence to be independent.

* * *

The present lines of cleavage between political parties are declared by the *Nippon* to have lost all practical value. The Progressists, the Liberals, the National Unionists, and so on stand apart merely from habit. They could not possibly translate their differentiating doctrines into intelligible language. That is one of the great obstacles in the path to party government. Until parties are based on clearly defined principles they can not possess any stability. The time has come to pull down partitions which have ceased to be tangible, and to re group politicians under banners with legible and comprehensible legends. An excellent line of division now offers in the increase of the Land Tax. Let the opponents of the measure pass into one camp, without reference to their past affinities, and its supporters into another. One would infer from this suggestion that the *Nippon* expects the Land-Tax question to remain unsettled for many years to come. To us it appears that a more unstable basis for party division could scarcely be conceived.

* * *

The extraordinary sensitiveness shown by the Japanese in all matters relating to the Sovereign is strongly condemned by the *Jimmin*. The tendency of the time is to make the Emperor a pretext for political movements of every kind. A Minister of State was attacked because he spoke of the Chinese as a people with republican instincts. The other day, the people of Shizuoka accused an unpopular Governor of disrespect to the Throne because he issued a notification on a national holiday. Politicians watch each other's utterances keenly, knowing that if they can detect anything construable as disrespectful to the Emperor, they hold a winning card. The effect of such extravagance will ultimately be to impair the prestige of the Throne. In truth nothing could be less respectful than the conduct of men who use the Sovereign's name as gamblers use dice. These remarks of the *Jimmin's* contrast curiously with the fact that the first impulse was given to the habit of *fukei-ron* by the attack that the Liberals made upon Mr. Ozaki Yukio.

* * *

The *Tokyo Asahi* thinks that the two reforms most needed by China are a reform of her literature and a reform of her military and naval systems. The former, however, must be a matter of years, whereas the latter can not wait. What should be done, therefore, is to entrust to Japan the task of re-organizing the Army, and to Great Britain the same duty with regard to the Navy. "Japan has a Gordon, and there are plenty of Langs in England."

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Soshi bushi (Soshi's Song) by YONEJIRO SUZUKI; Tokyo, Jujiya, Ginza.

THE meaning of the above title is the "*Soshi's* Song," a title which will probably suggest to our readers the idea of an ode advocating stalwart conservatism in its least attractive form. None of us have learned to love the *Soshi*, or even to tolerate him, and we have not the smallest desire to hear him singing songs or otherwise "occupying the floor." Nevertheless it has been reserved for this truculent *Soshi* to spring a soft surprise on us, for not only does he now proclaim his versified sentiments to the world through the medium of æsthetically *truité* crêpe paper and tenderly coloured illustrations, but the sentiments themselves, when carefully examined, are found to be of the most liberal and pacific description. In fact the *Soshi*, as represented by Mr. Suzuki Yonejiro, has fully recognised the error of his former ways, and has now become an orderly and docile member of society. It is true that the recognition has involved considerable sacrifice, for whereas he was once a roistering blade, ready to place his right arm at the service of any redresser of wrongs or subverter of rights, he has now become a milk carrier, a newsvendor, or a street-minstrel. Mr. Suzuki is finely frank. He does not claim a particle of romantic chivalry for the *Soshi*. He admits that this "stalwart" was the product simply of over-elevated ambition and disproportionate opportunity. Young men, misled by the mirage reflected on provincial skies from the new civilization of the great cities, turned their faces towards the strange light, believing that fortune, in some guise or other, there awaited the resolute seeker, just as the rustic of classical times believed that a mine of gold lay at the base of the rainbow's arch. His equipment for the struggle in the cities, according to Mr. Suzuki, was ignorance of the world, "general lowness of principles," instability of character," and absence of all family control. If, carrying such a cargo, he steered into the wrong port, can we greatly wonder? The truth is that there are in modern Japan many things which elicit the foreign observer's unqualified condemnation and betray him into sweepingly adverse judgments, chiefly because he forgets the conditions under which they occur; forgets the revolution which, thirty years ago, shook the Japanese social fabric to its very foundations and still visits it with tremors and disturbances. Modern Japan may be compared to a river in flood. She has received so many affluents from abroad that the stream of her national life has become swollen almost beyond the capacity of its channel, and a good deal of impurity and rubbish, which would otherwise have lain hidden in the depths, has been forced to the surface. The *Soshi* may be considered a part of these dregs. He went swirling along for a time, with natural accompaniment of collision and frothings, but he seems to have now sunk even below his original level in the river's deepened channel. The theatrical stage offered a saving ledge to a few of his number. There they found a chance which they had not foreseen and which they utilized successfully. But the bulk have taken refuge in menial pursuits, and are apparently reconciled to the failure of their ambitions, for it is an essential part of the Japanese character to show a brave front to adversity. Mr. Suzuki Yonejiro tells the story of the *Soshi* in a short song, set to music and framed in a collection of pretty pictures printed in colours on crêpe. It is a dainty volume and it ought to find a ready market now that Christmas is in sight. The song can scarcely be called verse. The writer's ideas of rhyme and rythm are still incoate. But his sentiments are excellent, and he has derived remarkable aid from his brush and decorative genius—for he seems to be himself the artist as well as the poet—and from the liberality and enterprise of his publishers, Messrs. Jujiya and Company. We quote a few of the verses, not because they are the writer's nearest approximation to poetry, but because they furnish a good index to his sentiments:—

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Now Japan is opened up,
Foreigners may come and go
Where they please within the realm
Passports they no longer need!
No longer need!
And at last our country dear
Stands acknowledged peer
By the nations all whose power
Once her haughty spirit curbed.
Brightly shines the glorious sun,
Yukwai! Yukwai!

If you come to Nippon now
You may see, where'er you will,
How the *Soshi*, bold and brave,
Once so troublesome a crew,
Troublesome a crew,
Earn their rice and "cool their minds,"
By dramatic art!
In the theatre of the *Soshi*.
"Welcome to our foreign friends,
Seems to beam from every eye,
And again this song is heard,"
Yukwai! Yukwai!

It will be observed that Mr. Suzuki uses ryhmes when they occur to him and dispenses with them when they don't come, thereby showing a fine independent spirit. But what are we to say of the conception that betrays a Japanese literateur into writing such doggrel, and of the judgment that allows a Japanese business-man to publish it? In such matters the Japanese want foreign advice badly. If a foreigner were to write Japanese poetry and publish it in a magnificently illustrated and expensively got up volume, they would regard him as a slightly demented person, and his own countrymen would take the same view of his conduct. But the converse of the case does not appear to suggest itself to the Japanese. They seem to imagine that they can write English prose and even English poetry in such a manner as to win the applause of Englishmen. The Indian baboo used to have a monopoly of that sort of misconception, but he has been deprived of it by the Japanese. It would be very false kindness on our part not to tell Mr. Suzuki and his publisher that while the illustrations and binding of this little volume may justly be called beautiful, the letter-press is a mere burlesque, wholly unworthy of such setting or, indeed, of being printed at all.

Classical Tales of Old Japan, by Y. TAKENOBU; Tokyo, *Japan Times* Office.

MR. TAKENOBU, literary editor of the *Japan Times*, has just published a volume entitled "Classical Tales of Old Japan." It contains twelve stories, which, as he truly says, "form a part of the life of the nation." It can not be doubted that in such stories—some of which are true while others represent their writers' ideas of what ought to be true—we find materials for constructing a far juster conception of Japanese character than a mere study of every-day traits can furnish. Of course the tales are not all new to foreign readers. Benkei and Yoshitsune at the Ataka Gate; Akoya's ordeal by *koto*; the death of Matsuo's little son, which forms the basis of one of Japan's greatest histrionic tragedies, the *Tera koya*; the Saga Brothers, and so on—all these are familiar enough, though they never can become hackneyed. Mr. Takenobu tells the stories in a straightforward style, without any embroidery, and, as a matter of course, his versions are true in every detail to Japanese traditions. He has been assisted by the Rev. Arthur Lloyd, whose revision has done much for the English, though Mr. Takenobu himself is an English scholar of no mean skill. Neither the author not the reviser, however, seems to have hadsufficient timefor careful proofreading. Several typographical errors have escaped attention which is a pity in the case of such a prettily illustrated and well got up little volume. Mr. Takenobu promises the public more of these stories, and we trust that he will be able to keep the promise.

Roden's Corner, by HENRY SEXTON MERRIMAN, Macmillan's Colonial Library; Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd.

MR. MERRIMAN is one of the few novelists of these days that one can read with any satisfaction. The fact arises, it may perhaps seem unkind to say, almost as much from his negative as his positive qualities. He is not neurotic, not unduly flippant, not ponderously incomprehensible, not at all nasty, and above all not given to sex problems. He is free from that mania of preaching to which the English literary man has ever been a victim, and which, tolerable as it might have been from men who had some message to deliver, is unutterably tiresome in the present age of non-conviction. Nothing is more irritating than a sermon without a gospel behind it. Mr. Merriman, too, writes English that can be understood by Englishmen. He does not seek to establish a reputation for profundity by dint of being incomprehensible, or to coin cheap epigrams at the expense of common sense. To find these qualities in an author of 1898—in times when Miss Marie Corelli is a literary goddess—is truly a relief. On the positive side, Mr. Merriman may be admitted to possess an attractive, pointed style, and an ability to tell a story interestingly. If he would conquer the tendency to a "scrappy" manner of presenting his plot from which all end-of-the-century novelists suffer, and discard the use of little tags and scraps of obvious French conversation, which come in irritatingly here and there, his books would be even more readable than they are at present. However, one is always certain of finding in his work a fund of quiet cleverness and inoffensive humour, and that alone is much to be thankful for.

"Roden's Corner" is a story of that organised folly and inhumanity which is generally known as charity. We have progressed since the days of Mrs. Jellyby and Borria-boola-gha. Our charitable people—people, as Mr. Merriman aptly says, with a great desire to do good, and astonishingly sparse opportunities of doing it—have ceased to devote themselves to sending blankets and top boots to the interesting cannibals of tropical islands, and have devoted themselves to more practically mischievous aims. "Roden's Corner" is an example. London society is interested in a scheme for the benefit of malgamite workers. Malgamite is a necessary ingredient in the making of high class paper, and its manufacture is one of the deadliest of the unhealthy industries. One Van Holzen, a foreign savant, has discovered a means of making the trade practically innocuous, and proposes, with the aid of Percy Roden, a financial genius who has seen hard times and wants to see them no more, to establish a model factory which shall be, instead of a centre of disease and death, a contented happy colony of healthy workers. Society is interested, and particularly one Lord Ferriby and his family. Funds are subscribed largely on the appeal of his lordship, the works are started, batches of workmen are attracted on the promise of high wages and a share of the profits, and the undertaking commences under happy auspices at Scheveningen, near the Hague, that "pleasantest village in Europe" of Lord Chesterfield. One Tony Cornish, a nephew of the philanthropist Ferriby, throws himself into the scheme heartily enough, and it succeeds. The malgamite secret enables the product to be produced not only innocuously, but at a vastly cheaper rate than by old methods. Other manufacturers are threatened with ruin, and agitate against what they regard as a monstrous monopoly. But the charity goes on its way, making enormous profits, and finally its basis, on the suggestion of the financier and Van Holzen, is turned into what is practically a limited liability company. Then Cornish begins to find out what had been suspected by others. Deaths are more numerous at the new factory than under the ordinary processes; though, however, efforts are made to keep the fact a secret. Van Holzen's great secret is simply a cheaper and deadlier way of producing the malgamite, humanely abandoned by a tacit consent by other manufacturers. The great charity is simply a great "corner" designed to enrich the principal promoters, who have been clever enough to obtain their capital for nothing. Lord Ferriby is informed, but gracefully allows the heads of the concern to present a large sum to his bankers, not of course as hush-money, but as a recognition of his services. Cornish and others, on the contrary, feel that they cannot in honour be the accomplices in practically a system of wholesale murder at a profit. And then follows a struggle of plot and counter-plot, intrigue and counter-intrigue, a batch of love complications, and a dramatic catastrophe for which we must refer readers to the book itself. The incidents are exciting and narrated with force and conviction. It is impossible for the most hardened reader not to feel a shudder over the description of the terrible scientist Van Holzen's attempt to murder Cornish scientifically by means of carbonic acid gas. There is, as we say, a love interest in the book, but to our mind Mr. Merriman is much truer in his grasp of masculine than of feminine character. There are one or two men in the book who are true to the life—real men of an interesting generation—but the women, as a rule, leave no impression behind them. There is only one—a shrewd, up-to-date, bicycling, no-nonsense maiden of eighteen—whom we really know. But when we look back at the great writers and remember the ghastly feebleness of Dickens's female characters—whenever he ventured outside of Mrs Nickleby, Mrs. Micawber, and Sarah Gamp—and think of the utterly unconvincing portraits of Thackeray's "good" women—by the side of whom Becky Sharp, with all her wickedness, charms—we need not throw a stone at Mr. Merriman. He has given us a book that is clever, clean, and readable, and amid the multitude of dull and dirty books which the publishers unpityingly foist upon us there is much to be thankful for in that.

MARQUIS ITO ON CHINA.

A social gathering arranged by the business men of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, the Tokyo Commercial and Industrial Association, and the Finance Investigation Society, was held, according to the *Nichi Nichi*, at 2 p.m. on the 11th instant at the Imperial Hotel. Messrs. Shibusawa and Masuda received the guests, among whom were the Premier, Marquis Yamagata; and other Ministers of State—Marquis Saigo, Count Matsukata, Viscount Katsura, Viscount Aoki, and Viscount Kiyoura, Baron Kuki and Iwasaki, and over 270 business men. At 3.23 p.m. Marquis Ito entered the hall amid acclamations, and Mr. Shibusawa, on behalf of members of the associations above mentioned, addressed the meeting as follows:—

Marquis Ito, with his profound knowledge and public spirit, has investigated the state of affairs in China, and any remarks that he may present to us about our neighbours can scarcely fail to benefit the commercial and industrial community at large. Any information that he may give will help to guide us in our trade with China, and may dispel the gloomy clouds now lying before us in connection with the financial problem. The present meeting is held with the object of obtaining such information from the Marquis. We are much pleased that Marquis has accepted our request, and have to express our sincere gratitude for his kindness.

Marquis Ito then rose. He began his speech by intimating that after his failure in politics in June last he came to a resolution to give up for a time all thoughts about domestic politics, and undertake a tour in China. But the tour so made, was not of such grand dimensions as had been represented. He was not in possession of information such as would satisfy the wishes of the gentlemen present. He would, however, draw their particular attention to one

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point, namely that he had been treated with cordial hospitality in every part of China and Korea where he had had the pleasure of journeying. Leaving aside for a moment all comments on Korea, the Marquis described China as an extensive country full of industries and populated by a laborious people. China, he remarked, began holding intercourse with the outside world much earlier than Japan did, and was renowned for the extreme frugality of her people. That she had fallen into her present condition was attributable partly to her peculiar laws and customs, but more especially to financial embarassment. She had a number of great statesmen, men of talent, such as Li Hung-chang, Chang Chih-tung, and others, who were all familiar with the principles of modern civilization. These gentlemen agreed with the Marquis on the subject of reform, but they were not able, from want of money, to carry out their projects. The people had accumulated wealth to a certain extent, but it was no easy task for the Government to collect it. Even the indemnity in connection with the war of the 27th and 28th year of *Meiji* had to be raised by recourse to foreign loans negotiated on the security of the customs revenue. The salt tax and other taxes levied in the valley of the Yangtszekiang had also been placed under the control of Sir Robert Hart, the Chief English Commissioner of Customs. China, under the present circumstances, should have an organised Army and Navy. In the existing state of affairs the Powers of Europe might not allow each other to take any radical measures for the dismemberment of China, but they had shown a marked disposition to enter into competition with each other for power and profit in the ancient Empire. The source of danger which still lay concealed was serious; the position was as perilous as that of a number of eggs piled one upon another; the whole system might at any moment come toppling to the ground. China had fallen into a rut of obstinate adherence to old-world ideas. The late war had roused her from her sleep, but it was to be regretted that when she awoke, she found herself financially in an extremely embarrassed condition, so that nothing in the way of reform could effectually be carried out. The foundation of a state virtually lay in the strength of its finances. The Marquis then passed on to show that the foreign trade of Japan with China ought to be encouraged. He read (from a document which we shall subsequently translate) the main points of information collected during his sojourn in China. In the first place he referred to the financial distress; secondly, to the three classes of the people—gentry, nobles, and commonalty; thirdly, to the facilities enjoyed by Japan for carrying on her commerce in the north of China, and finally to the different divisions of territory with which commercial relations might be established. The central part (the territory along the Yangtsze-kiang, including Shanghai) had been opened to commerce from an early period, and abounded in wealthy Chinese with whom commercial cōoperation was absolutely necessary. The Southern part (Canton district), which was also opened very early, would be a field of keen competition by Japanese with the Chinese merchants. The Marquis then expressed, in animated terms, deep solicitude with regard to the present condition of Japan. He urged the necessity of consolidating the foundations of the national finance to keep pace with the steady development of the resources of the country. He pledged himself to do anything in his power for the support of the financial policy formulated by the present Ministry. He strongly condemned party broils as extremely prejudicial to the interests of the State, especially when an urgent national problem presented itself for solution. The administration of the country's affairs ought to be entrusted to young and vigorous statesmen who had acquired their knowledge and ability by a regular course of study. In the case of an exigency like the present, the basis of finance could not be consolidated except by the adoption of the programme determined by the present Cabinet. The members of the two Houses, as well as the business-men at large, should devote their utmost energies to assisting the Cabinet in the consummation of the financial work which it has just begun. The Marquis concluded his speech amid vehement applause.

Mr. Ozaki, as a representative of the members present, expressed his thanks to the Marquis, adding that he entertained the latter's view in regard to the proposed increase of the land tax.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

A FORMOSAN DEBATE.

The House of Peers met at 10.10 a.m., and proceeded to the first reading of a Government bill for extending the operative period of Law No. 63 of the year 1896 until the 31st of March, 1902. This is a law contering special legislative powers on the Governor General of Formosa, and its period of operation was originally limited to April 30th, 1899. the Government's forecast being that, by that time, Formosa would be ready to come under the same system of laws and regulations as that applied in Japan proper.

Mr. Goto, Chief of the Civil Government Bureau in Formosa, introduced the bill in a brief speech, explaining that the new territory was not yet in a condition to be governed by laws of the nature now operative in other parts of the Empire. Pressed for a fuller explanation he entered into a detailed account of the manners and customs of the inhabitants of Formosa, and the peculiar usages which differentiated them from other peoples. He declared that some parts of the island were regular haunts of bandits, and that no ordinary system of administration could be applied there.

Mr. Izawa Shuji, who has had opportunities of intimately observing Formosan conditions, said that, as he understood, the terrible disorder prevailing in Formosa was in great part due to abuse of the legislative powers. If what Mr. Goto had told them was correct, in other words if the Formosans were not fit to be brought under a definite system of laws and regulations, how did it happen that the Civil Code and the Criminal had been made operative there during the present year? According to newspaper accounts, the local and fiscal administration of the island was fully elaborated, and the country might be said to be enjoying "piping times of peace." How were they to believe, if things were so happily ordered, that a definite system of laws and regulations could not be put into operation?

Mr. Goto's answers were somewhat obscure, but Mr. Izawa did not press the question, and the bill was entrusted to a Special Committee.

HOKKAIDO.

The next bill on the Order was an amendment of the law relating to the management of unreclaimed land in Hokkaido. According to the law as it now stands, free grants of lands may be made to settlers, but, if the recipient of such a grant desires to register his title, which without registration does not possess validity, he is charged a registration fee which often amounts to more than the present value of the land. Moreover, the fees of registering land-titles in the *Tochi-Daicho* are the same in Hokkaido as in the main island, which is plainly improper. Therefore the Government proposes to amend the law in the sense of dispensing altogether with registration fees in the case of lands obtained by free grant, and reducing them greatly in other cases. The bill was handed to a Special Committee.

MILITARY SECRETS.

Viscount Tani, as chairman of a special committee, reported favourably on the bill for the better protection of military secrets and the bill for extending the court-martial system to Formosa. The Committee recommended a few verbal amendments in the former measure.

The House passed both bills through their Second and Third readings, and rose at noon.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives did not sit, the various committees alone assembling for the examination of the measures entrusted to them.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The Committees alone of the Upper House assembled.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.10 p.m.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Nemoto presented a Question about the salaries of diplomatic officials *en desponibilité*. He contended that no valid reasons existed for giving pay to such officials, and he asked for a statement of the motives influencing the Government.

Mr. Tanaka Shozo presented a Question on his favorite subject, the Ashiwo copper-mine pollution. He declared that the losses suffered by the inhabitants of the districts to which the poisonous products of the mine had access aggregated 40 million *yen*, if reduced to money. The Government denied the correctness of that figure, but he wanted to know something about the investigations forming the bases of the Government's denials. For his part he maintained the absolute correctness of his figures, and declared unhesitatingly that the unfortunate people of the infected districts did not receive the protection to which they were entitled by the Constitution. Mr. Tanaka very soon talked himself into his wonted mood of excitement. He denounced the whole body of officials as utterly heartless. They were ready enough to turn their feet towards Oiso and Kamakura and other places where cool breezes and fair landscapes might be enjoyed, but they never thought of paying a visit to regions where men and women were suffering cruel hardships through administrative neglect. They were a pack of national brigands, &c. The worthy member descended from the rostrum amid the laughter of the House.

THE GIFT TO THE EMPEROR.

Mr. Kuribara Riyoichi, Chairman of the Budget Committee, presented a report showing that the Committee had unanimously approved a Supplementary Budget presented by the Government proposing that a sum of 20 million *yen* be taken from the Indemnity and included in the Crown Estates. The Supplementary Budget had been compiled in consequence of Representations passed by both Houses of the Diet a few days previously. He moved that the Order of the Day be changed for the purpose of discussing the Budget at once.

Leave having been given to change the Order, the Supplementary Budget was passed without discussion or dissent.

NEW BILLS.

The Order of the Day was then taken and the following bills were handed to Special Committees:—

1. A Government Bill for amending the language of the Leaf Tobacco Monopoly Law, in the sense of empowering the Government to extend its monopoly to imported tobacco.

2. A Government Bill for amending the Land Tax Regulations, in the sense of raising the rate of the Tax from 2½ per cent. to 4 per cent., provided that, simultaneously with the operation of the amended Regulations, the taxable value of the land should be re-assessed in districts where inequalities of incidence were apparent.

This Bill was entrusted to a Special Committee of 27, nominated by the President.

3. A Government Bill for re-assessing the taxable value of Land. The statement of reasons appended to the Bill explained that although certain amendments of assessment had been made in 1880 and 1889, there was still considerable inequality of incidence calling for correction. Three factors are employed in assessing the taxable value: they are, the price of the *koku* (*kokudai*); the amount of the yield (*shukaku*), and the rate of interest (*riritsu*). It was proposed now to determine the value of the *koku* by taking the average market price for ten years, beginning with 1887. As to the estimate of yield, it should be reduced whenever

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The Japan Weekly Mail:
(SUPPLEMENT.)

REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

YOKOHAMA, DECEMBER 17TH, 1898.

明治三十五年十二月十三日 第千五百二十三號

THE GREAT FUR CASE.

IN H.B.M. COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before H. S. WILKINSON Esq., Judge, sitting with a Jury.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 1898.

REGINA V. CHARLES EMIL LEOPOLD.

On the Court assembling the Judge said he had had copies of the indictment printed for the convenience of the Jury, and he thought it desirable that they should be handed them.

Counsel concurred.

Johann Andreas Harmssen was then recalled. He said he had searched since the previous day for the original of the telegram from the N. D. Lloyd to Ahrens & Co., but had been unable to find it. Before the interview he had had with Leopold at the Hospital witness was engaged in searching for documents connected with the fur transactions. He examined the manifests of the voyages of the *Hohenzollern* from December to April. He searched for the captain's copies of bills of lading referring to the furs. He found several copies of bills of lading in Leopold's desk. He could not say that he found all the copies produced on his first search, but certainly a part of them. They were found in one of Leopold's drawers. He looked in the drawers because he could not find any trace of furs shipped on the manifests. He enquired of the Japanese in the shipping office, and in consequence of what he was told he looked for them in the drawers and found them there. He afterwards made enquiries of the accused on the same subject. After the conversation in the hospital he found out that the bills of lading found must represent Captain's copies, although they had not the usual stamps and checks. Witness compared the captain's copies produced with the bills of lading sent to the bank, and stated that they corresponded in all essential particulars. In the course of the office routine the Captain's copies should have gone forward with the steamer, and ought to have been delivered in London to the agents of the N. D. Lloyd.

Mr. Litchfield was about to put in the manifests of December to April when His Honour, intervening, said evidence of the manifests was admissible, but were the manifests themselves admissible evidence? It was a purely technical question, but he threw it out for their consideration.

Mr. Lowder said it was in evidence that the accused was in charge of this department, and his learned friend would prove that it would be his duty as head of the department to see that the bills of lading were compared.

His Honour—Have we got that in, Mr. Lowder, Mr. Lowder—No, not yet.

His Honour thought it would be convenient to to lay the foundations of the evidence first.

Witness then stated that accused was in charge of the shipping office, but he could not give any answer to the question whether the manifest book was under the charge of the accused. He could say, however, that when the steamer was despatched and the manifest was prepared Leopold and himself usually compared the entries with the Captain's copies.

Mr. Litchfield asked if witness had searched the manifests in the book, and found traces in the manifests of shipments of furs bearing marks and numbers L I in a Diamond 46 to 47.

M. Terry objected. He said a proper foundation must be laid for such a question. It did not appear that it was the duty of the accused to make the manifests up, and the previous day a Japanese witness had stated that he made up the manifests and Leopold only looked them through afterwards. Also, he must object that these were not the original but only copies of the manifests.

His Honour—The evidence goes to show that the accused has read over these. What would it be that he read, Mr. Harmssen—those in the book or what?

Witness—They are all checked.

His Honour—But is it the one that is kept in the office or the one that would go to London.

Witness—They are read before they are sent off the night before the departure of the steamer, and this copy is taken.

His Honour (to Mr. Litchfield)—It appears that the original was compared by the accused, and these were a copy of what was compared. Do you want to consider that question? Do you want to put them in? I have no doubt the evidence can be got in, but what is the way?

Mr. Lowder (to witness): Then will you say whether the original is in this country or not?

Witness—This may be the original. They were all in manifold writing, and not in copying ink.

Mr. Lowder suggested that they should take the evidence of the witness without putting the documents in.

His Honour—You need not produce them at all, it appears to me. You are ready to produce them if they are called for. All the evidence we want is the evidence with regard to searching for them. Do you object to that, Mr. Terry?

Mr. Terry said to prove that a thing was not in a written document followed the same rule as proving that a thing was in it. The only evidence was the document itself. A written document was primary evidence of the fact that a certain entry was or was not contained in it. When it was required to prove that a certain entry was or was not contained in a certain document the only primary evidence was the document itself.

His Honour—The inclination of my opinion is towards the admissibility of this.

Mr. Lowder—We could not tell which was the original document in this case.

His Honour—At the present moment my opinion favours your contention, but if you think it better to wait till the afternoon and will then produce any authority on one side or the other I shall be happy to hear it.

Mr. Lowder—We shall accept your Honour's suggestion.

Mr. Terry—There are two distinct questions involved. First, is a certain statement contained in the written document? That must be first proved. Secondly, suppose the fact to be that the statement is not contained in the written document, is that fact itself evidence in itself?

His Honour—The point seems to me the proof of a negative, and I am quite prepared without discussion at all to hear the statement of Mr. Harmssen that he has made all enquiries he can and the result of those enquiries. I don't think you can say that that is subject to any objection.

Witness was then asked if he had compared the blue shipping forms from December to April, and could find among them any receipt by the Pier Traffic and Lighter Company for 10 cases of furs marked LI in a diamond above ▮ I and numbered 46 to 55.

Mr. Terry said he made the same objection. He said it was not quite in the same form, because it was here a question whether any written document existed.

His Honour—Can you sustain any objection to that at all, Mr. Terry?

Mr. Terry said if this document were in existence it would not be evidence against the accused It would be in the nature of a narrative and only hearsay evidence.

His Honour said the question whether a particular document had been found was one of the commonest questions put with regard to many cases in which questions of the knowledge of any body as to documents was concerned.

Mr. Tserry—That is perfectly true if the document when it is found would in itself be evidence.

His Honour—The question is simply this. It would be evidence for something and the question is what it is for. It would be very important evidence if it were found.

Mr. Terry—My contention is that the document itself would not be evidence when found. Of course if it is decided that it would be evidence this question would be admissible. If the document however, as I contended, is hearsay evidence the question would not, I submitted, be admissible.

His Honour—I am prepared to take the answer.

The question was repeated to the witness, and he replied that he had been unable to find the receipt in question. He gave the same answer with reference to other dates. Witness was then taken through a number of other documents, bills of lading Pier Company's receipts, and insurance policies, and examined as to the various signatures, marks, and entries on them. He also described the routine of making out insurance policies.

The adjournment for tiffin was taken here.

On the Court reassembling Mr. Litchfield said with reference to the question of manifests he had been of opinion and was still of opinion that the question might be properly put, but he had decided after consideration not to press the question.

The witness Harmssen, recalled, said he had in court manifests from December to April. The exhibit produced was written by witness at the hospital at the dictation of Leopold. It was the rough notes of the list of assets already published.

Witness read the list, translating several entries in German, as follows:—

	yen
Saw Mills	...100,000
Godown land Shiogacho	... 15,000
Nakamura	... 10,000
Yoshida Shinden (or Yoshihama-cho) ...	1,000
Japanese houses	3,000
Paper Manufactory Tokyo	4,000
Furs and general merchandise... ...	... 60,000
London	30,000
Land and property	...100,000
Samuel Samuel & Co.	
Shares	8000 & 1,500

There was also the word "Klondyke," some words witness could not read well; the word "Kildoyle," and a German word he translated as advance. The list was written at the interview of Mr. Hoffman and himself with Leopold. Leopold said they were his assets. Witness did not think Leopold said anything about where these furs and merchandise were, but witness certainly understood that the merchandise was in his possession. Questioned on another point witness said he knew that when Mr. Leopold took out bills of lading he used to keep the Captain's copies somewhere about his desk, handing the Captain's copies to witness at the time the manifest was going to be prepared. They were then checked by witness and put in the general Captain's copies basket, and later on handed over to the Japanese to write out the manifests. That might apply to any bills of lading which were checked by Leopold himself.

This closed the witness's examination.

Mr. Terry, cross-examining—At one of his interviews at the hospital Mr. Leopold dictated to you a list of assets, did he not?—Yes.

Did Leopold at this time make any statement about these assets?—I think he did.

Did he mention the Phœnix Saw Mills as property in which he had some interest?—Yes.

Did he mention that it was in a Japanese name?—I don't remember.

Did he mention that it was outside of the foreign concession?—I daresay he did.

It was, as a matter of fact, outside the concession?—As far as I know.

Don't you know?—Yes.

Didn't he say he had put something like 50,000 *yen* into that property.—I cannot say.

Did he say that he, or he and others, were carrying on a saw mill business there?—My recollection doesn't go so far.

Do you know whether in fact he did carry on a saw mill business there?—Yes, I knew it, but I had no knowledge to what extent.

Do you know if he lost pretty heavily on it?—I do not know.

Do you know if he spoke of the Yoshihama-cho sited?—As it is down in the list of assets he may have done.

It is outside of the foreign concession?—Yes.

Did he mention the house and godown in Japanese town?—Yes.

What value did he put down for that?—3,000 *yen*.

Did he mention Kanazawa?—I cannot say.

He spoke of the paper factory in Tokyo?—I suppose so.

He was exporting wall paper?—I believe so, but I don't know anything of his private business.

In answer to other questions witness said in the draft list of assets there was an entry that might

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mean Yoshihama-cho and might mean Yoshida Shinden.

Mr. Terry—Did Leopold make any mention of being interested in a lighter company?—I find the word lighter company on the paper, but I don't remember anything about it. As there is "8,000" down it might refer to that

Did he refer to a jinrikisha company and a coal company in Tokyo?—I cannot say.

Did he give any reason why he has not shipped these furs?—He gave no proper reason.

Did he give any reason at all?—No.

None at all?—Witness (after consideration)—Well he said he kept them both, I think.

Did he say anything about a rise of prices in furs?—I believe he send a telegram to that effect to London.

You don't recollect whether he said there had been a sudden rise in price in furs?—I do not.

Do you remember him saying that his business in furs had turned out very unfavourably and he lost a lot of money?—On the contrary.

Asked as to how he came to look in Leopold's drawer for the captain's copies, witness said he enquired of the Japanese in the shipping office, and found them on their information. The shipper had always the right to ship direct to the steamer, and not through the Pier Company, and witness believed treasure was always shipped in that way. It was not the practice in the office for the partners to sign bills of lading beforehand so as to have them ready for shippers when they came with their blue forms. It might happen occasionally. The steamer stayed in port from two to four days. He could not say how long it stayed on particular voyages mentioned. Witness thought it was an unusual thing for bills of lading to be given a long time before the sailing of steamers.

Mr. Terry—Here is one bill of January a little more than half way between the sailings of steamers—16 days after one and 14 days before the other. How is that?—If the goods were delivered to the Pier Company and a receipt obtained any bills of lading might be signed on the strength of such receipt.

Then your arrangement with the Pier Company enables you to give bills of lading at almost any time?—Yes, at almost any time; not at any time.

Do you know if this arrangement exists in the case of other companies, the P. & O. for example?—I don't know, they were Mr. Leopold's arrangements.

Do you recollect a case where certain goods were to be shipped by Leopold on the *Hohenzollern*, and matters went so far as the entering of particulars on the counterfoil, when it was found that the steamer was too full, and they had to be shipped by another steamer?—I remember a case when Mr. Leopold said the steamer was too full and they were shipped by another steamer, but I don't know that the steamer really was too full. It was Mr. Leopold's own decision.

Look at the counterfoil book. Is there a record there of applications from Mr. Leopold for shipment of skins marked otherwise than LI in a diamond?—Yes, folio 44, "Pc London 1 barrel skins." No number. Date 15th February 1898 E. Leopold as name of shipper.

Witness examined several other books of counterfoils without finding any other entries in the name of Leopold.

Were there not goods shipped by Leopold sometimes shipped in Japanese names?—Yes.

Then the fact that you do not find Leopold's name in the counterfoils does not imply that there were no shipments by him during that time?—No, we found that some goods were shipped by the Kaitsu Gomei Kaisha on account of Leopold.

Is there an entry about April 14th in the name of Leopold marked LI in a circle consisting of one case of furs?—No, it is in the name of K.G.K., the initials of the Kaitsu Gomei Kaisha.

Do you know that some goods of Mr. Leopold's were seized by the Chartered Bank after these troubles began?—Yes, I believe so.

Did any part of them consist of furs?—I believe there were some furs.

Were they not seized in Ahrens and Company's godowns?—Yes.

Were they not of the value of 6,000 or 7,000 *yen*?—I could not say.

Witness said he remembered one case when Leopold in his private shippings had obtained bills of lading by the N.D. Lloyd, sent the goods to which they referred by a steamer of another line, and had the bills of lading exchanged in London. Witness never assisted Leopold in his private business; he had refused to do so. Witness knew of cases in which Leopold had given bills of lading to shippers before they came to the office with their blue forms; this was in case of silk shipments. He did not know of Leopold remitting money to London to cover bills of lading in respect to which goods had not been shipped.

At this point the Court rose. It was agreed not to sit this afternoon, there being no probability of finishing the case for the prosecution, even with a late sitting.

SATURDAY, December 10th, 1898.

The hearing was resumed on Saturday morning.

On the Court assembling the witness Harmsen was recalled for further cross-examination by Mr. Terry.

Mr. Leopold was shipping large quantities of other articles besides furs, was he not?—Yes.

A pretty general export business?—Yes.

I refer you to the book of counterfoils beginning April 12th. Are there not one or two shipments of furs under this same mark L I in a diamond 9 8?—Yes, there are.

Those were numbers 1-5, 11-13, 41-45?—No, it is a little different. 14th April—1-4, (5 scratched out and altered to 4). 11-13 and 41-44 (45 altered to 44).

Was there not one consignment of furs marked L. I. in a circle numbered 24/76?—Yes.

How long was Leopold sick in hospital?—I should say from the beginning of April; I am not sure about the dates.

About how long did he stay there?—About the end of April, I believe.

He was there about a month?—About three weeks.

Do you know what was the matter with him?—Pneumonia.

He was ailing some time before?—Yes.

And absent off and on for some weeks before?—He might have been away a day or two. Yes.

He had been ailing for how long?—About four weeks.

When you saw him at the hospital the first time he was very sick?—Yes, I think more so than later on.

He had a severe illness?—He was very ill for one day, I believe.

Is it the practice generally to draw foreign bills of lading in sets?—Yes, I should think so.

His Honour—I think you may take that without evidence. From the memory of man they have been made in sets.

Did not Ahrens and Co. sometimes receive advices from Hongkong limiting the amount of cargo that could be shipped from here?—Not sometimes, but always. We get a wire about the tonnage to Europe.

You are advised then what amount of cargo can be taken by the European steamers and have to regulate your cargo accordingly?—Yes.

And you might have to refuse cargo?—Yes, it might be so.

It was occasionally so?—Yes, I think so occasionally.

The practice of giving one copy of bills of lading to the shipper is a practice in all companies?—I don't know. It is a rule of our company.

Is it not necessary that a copy should be delivered to the Captain?—It would do no harm if we did not, but it is always done.

The other copies went to the shipper and so were outside of the Company's control?—Yes.

Re-examined by Mr. Lowder—It might occur any voyage that cargo was shut out; he could not say whether it was the case in any particular voyages; no record was kept of such occurrences; it was mostly done verbally. He knew of a case where Leopold did not ship cargo that he intended to ship during the time between December and April. Witness could find it out by reference to the manifest book.

Witness was shown the manifest book and identified the entry as of the 2nd January, 1898, for wall paper and straw, braid. There were 39 packages of wall paper and 261 packages of straw braid. They were recorded in the manifest book by Leopold. Witness had spoken to Leopold about it, and he remembered that the latter said he would ship the goods on that manifest by the P. & O. steamer, and that he wanted the bills of lading he had already taken out for the N.D. Lloyd to be exchanged at destination. That was the only occasion he recollected when cargo the accused intended to ship was not shipped. Asked if, as far as he knew, any application was made for spaces for freight in the case of the bills of lading in exhibits A to H (covering transactions which are the subject of the charges), witness said he could not say anything about it, and he could not say either whether the goods existed or not. If they had been shipped they ought to appear in the manifests now in Court.

Mr. Lowder said he proposed at this point to ask the witness to refresh his memory by reference to the book of manifests, but he would ask one or two questions first in order not to take counsel for the other side by surprise if he proposed to object.

Were these manifests made by you?—I believe not one.

Were they read over by you shortly after they were written out by some other person?—They were.

When you had read them over did you know them to be correct in this sense that they were correctly copied from the documents from which they were prepared?—Yes.

Mr. Lowder—Now I propose to ask the witness to refresh his memory by reference to these manifests.

The Judge put some questions to the witness, and elicited the fact that in some cases the Japanese clerks compared the manifests with the receipt forms, and referred to him in case anything called for query. Sometimes he himself checked them with the Japanese clerks, but the other method was often followed.

His Honour pointed out to Mr. Lowder that the witness, very properly anxious not to fall into any error, had pointed out that the comparisons were not always made by him, but that the checking was actually done by Japanese.

His Honour did not think the manifests could be put in on that ground.

Mr. Lowder—I will then put to the witness another question. Has any complaint been made by the shipper of the non-delivery at destination of goods with regard to the bills of lading in exhibits A to H?—Not that I am aware of.

Mr. Martin (a juror)—Were you on good terms with Mr. Leopold up to the time of the interview at the hospital?—Yes.

Mr. Martin called attention to the fact that witness had said he did not know that the bills of lading in exhibits A. to H. existed. Did he not make out insurance policies for those goods?

Witness admitted this, but said he was not aware because of that of the existence or shipment of the goods.

In answer to Mr. Walker, witness said Leopold carried on his private business mostly at No. 59, but he did not know where he stored his goods.

Mr. Martin asked as to the words of the telegram received from the N. D. Lloyd.

The Judge pointed out that this would not be proper evidence, but Mr. Terry afterwards said he would put in the telegram.

His Honour—You can do so, but not the other side.

The telegram was given to the witness, who read it as follows:—

> Lampson London claim 133 packages furs shipped by Leopold Yokohama December January which we cannot trace whereabouts. *Cleats.*

The last word, the witness explained, meant "Immediate answer required." He believed the 12 packages shipped in April were part of two lots for which bills of lading were taken out in December or January.

Asked as to when the goods shipped in December and January ought to have arrived in London, witness said about 52 days after the departure of the steamer from Yokohama.

It was pointed out that there was a large discrepancy between the 133 packages mentioned in the N. D. Lloyd telegram and the number in the documents before the Court referring to December and January.

Mr. Terry said that might be explained. There were 45 packages which went before the shipment of December 31st which were not shipped till April. Also Leopold was shipping under other numbers than those in the documents before the Court, and he suggested that the balance of the goods might be accounted for thus.

Witness said Leopold made an explanation. Shown a paper, he said it was written by Mr. Wismer, and witness was present when he wrote it. Part of the entries were taken out of Leopold's private pocket book. Leopold admitted the non-shipment of the 133 packages, and they went through the Captain's copies. There were not enough captain's copies to make up the total, and they took Leopold's private book which he gave them, and were able to make the list up by the entries in that. The number traced by the Captain's copies was 108.

Mr. Terry thought it would be better to leave the point till Mr. Wismer's evidence, as he could speak as to the list he had taken.

This was agreed to, Mr. Lowder remarking that the counsel for the prosecution were placed in a rather awkward position. They could throw light on the matter, but were debarred from doing so.

His Honour—I quite see the position you are in.

Mr. Martin asked what shipments of furs could have reached London by April 22nd.

Witness replied that those for December, January, and February could have reached their destination by that date. The alleged shipments for those months covered 90 packages.

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After a protracted conversation, Mr. Terry suggested that the list made by Mr. Wismer should after all be put in. It read as follows:—Dec. 2nd 1-20, 20 packages; Dec. 29th 21-40, 20 packages; Dec. 30th, 41-45 5 packages; Dec. 31st 46-55, 10 packages; Dec. 31st 56-95, 40 packages, Jan. 10th, 96-105, 10 packages; Jan. 14th 106-113, 8 packages; Jan. 14th, 114-119, 6 packages; Jan. 17th 120-133; 14 packages; total 133.

The Judge pointed out to the Jury that of this list there were only included in the indictment Nos. 45 to 106, and the others were not included in the indictment at all.

The Court then rose.

MONDAY, 12th December.

The hearing was resumed on Monday morning.

On the Court reassembling, the witness Harmssen was recalled.

A Juror (Mr. Walker)—Was the telegram you received from the N.D. Lloyd in English or in German?—In English.

Who received the telegram?—The firm.

But which member of the firm opened it?—Either Mr. Wismer or myself. I cannot remember which.

Had you the original telegram when you visited Mr. Leopold at the hospital?—Yes.

Did you have any reason for not showing it to him?—No, I believe I did show it to him.

To your knowledge did Mr. Hoffman see the telegram?—At the time Mr. Hoffman was in Kobe, but he certainly saw the telegram later.

You said in your evidence—"At the time Mr. Leopold was in the hospital I asked him if they (the furs) were shipped, and he said they were not. I remarked that I should have to speak to Mr. Wismer, and we should have to make further enquiries, as we could not trace them." What did you mean by that?—Mr. Leopold had mentioned that he had kept back the goods, and that made us believe that they were in existence.

Then you meant to trace them in Yokohama?—I meant to trace them anywhere.

What manifest did the agents in London receive, the copy made by you in the office, or a copy made on board the ship? I believe copies are made on board the ship. I cannot say what the practice is. Three copies are delivered to the ship.

Supposing bills of lading to arrive for goods which are not forthcoming would it not be the duty of someone in the shipping office to refer to the manager?

Witness—You mean the agent at home.

Mr. Walker—Yes.

Witness—Yes, I suppose it would.

The cargo that left Yokohama on the 25th December should have reached London about the 17th February?—Yes, about that day; I said in about 50 days.

And that shipped on the 22nd January about the 13th March?—Yes, I should think so.

And that by the following steamer on the 14th April?—Yes.

By the Judge—The exhibit produced was, he believed, in Mr. Hoffman's writing. Witness was not present when it was written.

Henry William Fraser asked to correct an inaccuracy in his figures owing to a defective press copy. He took the figure 18,500 in one of the letters from the bank to the accused to be 15,500. He had been able to detect this by reference to an other document in the Bank.

Toguchi Shosaburo, who was examined in English, said he was in the employ of the Pier Traffic and Lighter Company, which carried on business as a landing and shipping agency. They had an agreement with Ahrens & Co. for shipping cargo. They got blue shipping forms from Ahrens and Company, and on receiving cargo at the Customs Compound at the Hatoba they entered its marks and all particulars concerning it. They then made out white forms, one of which was delivered with the cargo to the *Hohenzollern*. Witness did not know Leopold. He only knew the cargoes of Ahrens and Co. On the 24th December he received, according to the counterfoils produced, cargo, marked LI in a circle, 2211 23; 2269-77. It consisted of [illegible] cases of wall paper. Under the same mark were eight bales of paper, five cases of shells, 45 cases of shells—total 80. There were no other entries in December or January marked either LI in a diamond or LI in a circle. Under date 4th March, 1898, were 28 packages of wall paper, feathers, and chilis under the same mark. This was by the steamer *Crefeld*. By the same ship, under LI in a diamond, on the 5th March, were entries of four cases of skins. By the *Hohenzollern* dated 14th April, were entries under LI in a diamond of five bales of furs four three bales of furs, and four cases of furs. On the same date under LI in a circle was one case of furs. He could not find any other entries under either mark. He had searched through the books from 24th Dec., 1897, to 14th April, 1898. He had searched through the blue forms from Ahrens and Co.'s office from the 1st December, 1897, to the end of April. There were shipments on December 23rd by the Kaitsu Gomei Kaisha, marked L I in a circle, 22 cases of wall paper, 8 bales of furs, five bales of furs, three bales of furs, and four cases of furs, and one case under L I in a circle. These were all by the *Hohenzollern*. He could find no other entries referring to shipments by that steamer. In regard to the *Crefeld* on 28th February, 1898, there was an entry marked L I in a circle, in the name of the Kaitsu Gomei Kaisha, of 10 cases of wall paper, 8 bales of feathers, one case of feathers, 5 cases of shells, 45 cases of shells.

His Honour—(To the Jury): That agrees exactly with the white form.

Witness, continuing, said on 14th April, 1898, under L I in a circle, the Kaitsu Gomei Kaisha shipped 20 cases of duties. On the same day the same company shipped, under L I in a diamond some packages of leathers, and 9 packages of chilis.

It appeared that there was a discrepancy between the blue forms and the white forms with regard to the 20 cases of chilis, mentioned in the first, and it was explained that the witness must have turned over two pages of the counterfoil book instead of one when looking through it. He now read the entry, which corresponded with that of the blue forms. There were no other entries relating to goods marked L I in a diamond.

By Mr. Terry—Witness was the manager of the shipping and landing business of the Company.

Witness could not say whether accused shipped goods also under the mark E. C. L; he did not know what marks he used. He could not find in the blue forms an entry of December 28th, in the name of the Kaitsu Gomei Kaisha, marked L I in a diamond, 14 packages of wall paper.

By Mr. Walker—The Pier Company only got mate's receipts for cargo that was shipped by them, but so far as he knew all Ahrens and Co's cargo went through them.

Mr. Terry—Who pay your charges—the shipper or Ahrens and Co?—Ahrens and Co. for export cargo.

The Court then adjourned for tiffin.

On the Court reassembling, Karl Friedrich Adalbert Ehlert, a German subject, said he was second mate on board the *Hohenzollern* in December last year. When the *Hohenzollern* was in port it was witness's duty to attend to the receipt of cargo. She was in the harbour at Yokohama in December last. He could not himself remember whether accused shipped any cargo that month, but he could tell by reference to his cargo books. Witness produced the books for the 31st and 32nd voyages. There was no entry for the 31st voyage (to Hongkong) marked L I in a diamond. There were some cases of wall paper, feathers, shells, &c., of that date. The details were as mentioned in the last witness's evidence. He received no cargo marked L I in a diamond from Yokohama on the voyages of January, February, or March, but in April there was an entry with those marks for twelve bales of furs. There was also one case of furs marked L I in a circle, and 20 bags of chilis under the same mark.

His Honour—That agrees pretty well with the statement by the manager of the Pier Company.

Witness believed that three manifests were delivered on board the ship. At Hongkong two were sent on board the other steamer, and the other they kept on board.

Cross-examined—The time the *Hohenzollern* stayed in harbour varied, two, three four, or five days. Witness did not know if Mr. Leopold shipped cargo under other marks than L I.

By the Judge—He could say that there was no other cargo on board during the voyages mentioned beyond that which he had specified.

Emil Wismer, a German subject, and senior partner in the firm of H. Ahrens & Co., was next examined by Mr. Lowder. The prosecution had, he said, been instituted at his request. He had searched for and found the telegram of April 22nd from the N.D. Lloyd. The telegram (produced) read as follows:—

Bremen Lampsons London 133 claim packages furs shipped by Leopold, Yokohama, December January which we cannot trace. Wire whereabouts at once. *Cleats*.

The last-mentioned word meant "immediate answer required." Witness was resident in Yokohama in December last. The accused was in witness's employment, and he continued so till the 8th or 9th May this year. He had been in the employ of the firm since 1878, as far as witness could remember, and had been with them even before. In 1878 the name of the firm was H. Ahrens & Co. The present firm was Ahrens and Co. Nachfolger. The old firm had different branches, while the new firm had only an import business. The firm took the new names on January 1st, 1887. Witness came to the firm in October, 1878. Accused was already in the firm of H. Ahrens and Co., in London, and was at that time an office boy specially attending to shipping business in London. Witness was a general clerk for a short time in London. Witness came to Japan in 1879. Accused came to Japan in 1882 or 1883, and was placed in the shipping and assurance department. He had no one above him in that department. The firm had every confidence in his ability, capacity, and honesty. He had been in charge of the department ever since that time until May this year. Besides his salary he had a share in the profits of the shipping and insurance. Witness would certainly say that accused knew much more than he himself did about the shipping and insurance department. During the period named witness had been in the habit of signing shipping documents brought before him. It was quite impossible for witness to examine every document brought before him for signature. Witness identified his signature on the bills of lading and polices of insurance produced. Up to the time he received the telegram from the Norddeutscher Lloyd he had no suspicion that the goods to which these documents purported to refer had not been shipped. In reply to the telegram a message was sent by witness's firm. He sent up the witness Harmssen to Mr. Leopold to ask him if he could explain the matter, and it was on Harmssen's report that the reply telegram was sent. The document produced was a copy of the reply telegram written by Harmssen.

His Honour thought they were drifting into hearsay evidence, and suggested that Harmssen should be recalled for a moment.

Harmssen was accordingly brought into the box once more, but could not say of his own knowledge whether the copy produced was actually sent exactly as it appeared there. He gave, however, the general sense of the message, which has been published several times.

Mr. Lowder said that was as far as he could take it. He could not put the document in.

The examination of the witness Wismer was then resumed. He said some of the letters in accused's handwriting were written on old memorandum forms of the firm with the name of the old firm, Ahrens and Co., and not of the new firm Ahrens and Co. Nachfolger, printed on them. Witness had never given accused permission to use the firm's note paper, either old or new, for his private business; he simply had no knowledge of the matter. Witness saw accused about 10 days or a fortnight after the receipt of the telegram. He was then in the German Hospital. Witness did not think he was very ill then; he was on the way to recovery. Witness wanted to speak to him about the general trouble and also about the list of assets. He received a letter in accused's handwriting as follows:—

ENCLOSURE.

DEAR MR. LEOPOLD,—The following telegram has just arrived from Lampson: "Ship goods or send remittance at once to over the total amount. C. M. L. & Co." Yours, etc.,

A. J. DOUGLAS LLOYD.

DEAR MR. WISMER,—Above wire arrived just after you left. From my knowledge of the people I believe them to be satisfied. They only want to push me. I shall wire as follows to-morrow noon, by which time you may have heard something from London: "Deliveries will be completed within (?) ten days. Therefore kindly allow me this time."

P.S.—I know the people and am perfectly certain that the matter is in order.

(Signed) E. LEOPOLD.

That must have reached him between the third and sixth of May; it was not dated. The letter (produced) reached him the last few days of April.

Mr. Terry—I think I must object, as the letter refers to other matters, and may tend to introduce more confusion into an already too complicated case.

His Honour—(After examining the document): No, that must go in. It is a continuation of the evidence.

The letter was read as follows:—

DEAR MR. WISMER,—I thank you for wiring the £5,000, which will, I am sure, satisfy Lampson's for the present. I have several drafts due on the 2nd May, with my brother in London, I think about £3,500, of which he has sold £2,000, leaving a balance of £1,500 which should be paid on Monday. I shall esteem it a great favour if you will instruct London to pay him £1,500. Goods or warrants to be handed to London office. This will present my credit being entirely spoiled at the Chartered Bank. It is bad

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enough now. I assure that I shall do everything to get out of the mess as quickly as possible.

Yours truly, (Signed) E. LEOPOLD.

Leopold had spoken about the matter to Mr. Hoffman, and asked him to wire this sum of £5,000 to cover shipments not gone forward, and to meet drafts which he said were due in London on the 2nd or 3rd May. He promised Mr. Hoffman to pay back the amount in about a week.

His Honour pointed out that this witness could not be asked about a communication made to Mr. Hoffman. Counsel had had Mr. Hoffman in the box already.

Witness, continuing, said he found that the £5,000 was wired on the 2nd May.

Mr. Lowder: How was it that Ahrens and Co. consented to pay money that was payable by the accused?

Witness—We remitted this £5,000 because we were finally the responsible parties owing to our signature of the bills of lading. Besides he promised us to pay back this amount in about a week.

His Honour—To you?—No, to Mr. Hoffman.

Mr. Lowder—During the conversation between yourself and the accused did you inform him that your firm would assume the responsibility for all the goods that had not been shipped?—I did not tell him so, I think, but I assumed that the firm would have to do it.

Have you informed the accused whether or not you have paid the whole amount?—No.

Mr. Lowder said he now intended to ask whether the firm had paid the whole of the bills drawn by the accused on Lampson & Co. Counsel for the defence had asked if the bank had lost anything over these bills, and had been answered in the negative. He submitted that was a foundation for the question.

His Honour asked the witness how he got a list of bills, and witness stated that they got Leopold's book and looked up the amounts of the drafts.

At this point the Court adjourned.

TUESDAY, 13th December, 1898.

The hearing was resumed on Tuesday morning.

Mr. Lowder—With reference to the exhibit last before the Court we have, your Honour, very clear and distinct evidence from Mr. Hoffman taken towards the end of the second day's proceedings.

His Honour read the entries.

Mr. Lowder—I think we have established that the exhibit is in the handwriting of the accused.

His Honour said he understood Mr. Terry did not object on that point.

Mr. Terry—That is so.

His Honour—The question is not whether the list was written by the accused, but the question is as to the admissibility of Mr. Wismer's evidence as to what he said.

The witness, Wismer, recalled, said the list of drafts in the exhibit corresponded with the list in the bills of exchange, with the exception that a sum of £2,000 was put down instead of the two sums of £875 and £1,125.

His Honour—Now, I think, you are entitled to ask what you intended to ask—whether the witness has paid or has caused to be paid the whole of those drafts.

Mr. Lowder put the question to the witness.

Mr. Terry made an objection.

Mr. Lowder—Before that objection is heard it may facilitate matters to ask another question. Did the accused ask you personally to meet those drafts?

Witness—He told me he had not shipped the goods and did not intend to ship the goods, and that we had to meet the drafts.

His Honour—Can you object after that, Mr. Terry?

Mr. Terry—I will not argue the objection. I make a formal objection. I am not quite certain if the objection is well founded, and I will not take up the time of the Court in arguing it. I will simply make a formal objection.

Have you made arrangements to meet all those drafts?—Yes, we have arranged.

Mr. Lowder—I propose to put in this exhibit, Mr. Terry. (To witness): Is this a letter in the handwriting of the accused addressed to Mr. Hoffman?—Yes, from these words, "Dear Mr. Hoffman," it is in his handwriting and signed by him.

Do you recollect receiving it, and at what time?—In the first days of May.

Mr. Lowder read the letter as follows:—

Translation of telegram—"Will the Bank make renewal Monday due? Bank refuse to make loan if not guaranteed. Moseley declines without definite instructions. Remit all you can £1,500.

Dear Mr. WISMER and HOFFMANN,—Above is wire received from my brother. The Bank will apparently make the loan if guaranteed by you. The best way out of the trouble is to remit, which I trust you will be able to do.

Yours, E. LEOPOLD.

Mr. Lowder—In consequence of the requests preferred to you by accused did you despatch this telegram (produced) to London?—Yes, it was despatched at the request of the accused.

Mr. Lowder read a press copy of the translation of the telegram, Mr. Terry making no objection:—

May 2, 1898 (Translation). We have opened credit in your favour with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation £1500. Pay Leopold against warrants. We have opened credit in your favour with Chartered Bank £5000. Lampson.

Mr. Lowder—To whom was that sent?—From Ahrens, Yokohama, to Ahrens, London.

Those are the £1500 and £5000 alluded to in the correspondence which has been put in?—Yes.

Who is the Leopold referred to in the telegram?—Accused's brother in London.

Witness said they received a reply to this telegram from London, and they replied to that. The telegram produced was the reply despatched to London. The telegram read:—

May 4. £1,000 do not pay. Await further instructions.

The paper produced was in the handwriting of the accused. It was received by witness in the first few days of May.

Mr. Lowder read the letter:—

Dear Mr. WISMER,—My brother just wires me that he can manage with £800, therefore please to wire this amount to London, so that I can square off the bills. I thought the matter was in order and told the Bank so. By wiring above I can settle with them here easier.

Yours, E. LEOPOLD.

This was subsequent to the despatch of the last-mentioned wire.

Witness did not wire the £800 as requested. The paper produced was written and signed by the accused, and received by witness about the 8th or 9th May.

Dear Mr. WISMER,—Kindly keep back the advertisement until to-morrow if possible as I wish to inform some of my friends personally. I trust that you will word the advertisement in such a way that I shall not be entirely ruined before the Yokohama community, especially as I am now trying to raise mortgages on the saw mills and other property.

YOURS, E. LEOPOLD.

What was the advertisement referred to in that letter?—It was as to his dismissal from the firm.

The letter produced was in the accused's handwriting. It was addressed to witness. The document enclosed was signed by accused.

Mr. Lowder read the letter as follows:—

Dear Mr. WISMER,—I beg to hand you the list required. The original list which I handed to Mr. Hoffmann was a complete one of my assets and I told him at the time that I owed the Chartered Bank *yen* 54,000 (or 64,000—the first figure being very indistinct). I have therefore made out a new list for the Chartered and have used for them the goods or properties which take longest to realise. You need not tell them that. I have used the Nakamura and Sugamo-cho properties, which are very difficult to sell with the lease to you. I could get any price for the lot provided they were empty. The lighters in course of construction will be two months before we can deliver, also other work. I will get you the title deeds as quickly as possible. I hope to sell the saw mills outright. They will bring at least *yen* 100,000 as a going concern. The land is also well in hand.

E. LEOPOLD.

Attached to this letter was a list of accused's assets, which he stated that he assigned to Ahrens & Co. The list was as follows:—

	YEN.
Phœnix Saw Mills	80,000
Yoshihama-cho shed and lease, let at 40 *yen* a month	1,000
House and Godown in Japanese Town	2,500
Land in Kanazawa	1,100
Paper manufactory in Tokyo	4,000
(These are all in Mr. Uyeda's name)	
Yoshida Shinden, land, outlay on loans	37,000
(In Messrs. Uyeda's and Gisa's name)	
Claim London Assurance Company	30,000
Various unsold stocks in London	30,000
Sundry amounts owing to me	3,000
Shares	12,000
Skins, coal, wood, and other goods unsold	36,000
No. 59 furniture, dwelling house and offices	3,500
Total	240,100

Besides this he (the accused) assigned all profits made on the above businesses, estimated to amount to between *yen* 60,000 and *yen* 70,000.

Mr. Lowder (to Mr. Terry)—Here are some other letters from the prosecution. We do not propose to put them in, unless you would like them put in. They have not been alluded to, but they somewhat bear upon the evidence that has been given.

Mr. Terry, after examining the letters, handed them back without comment.

Mr. Lowder—I show witness a document with certain other documents attached, and ask him by whom they are signed.

Witness: This letter is signed by the accused. The documents are also signed by the accused. The letter is addressed to Lampsons and was sent back from London. It was received in Yokohama about two or three days ago, may be four or five by the American Mail, the last steamer from San Francisco.

Mr. Lowder—I propose to put the letter in.

His Honour—You can't resist that, I suppose, Mr. Terry?

Mr. Terry—I don't object.

Mr. Lowder then read the letter:—

Yokohama, 6th May, 1898.

Messrs. C. M. LAMPSON & Co., London.

DEAR SIRS,—I am in receipt of your letter of 1st April, and enclose copies of telegrams which have passed between us.

Resale of Goods.—I wired you on the 25th ult., asking whether prices would be greatly affected by the war rumours and also mentioning that I had held the goods back on this account. In the meantime I must confirm my telegram of the 29th in which I mentioned that I could resell my whole stock at the following prices:—

Tanuki 3/8
Marten 5/9
Sable 9/6

These goods will go to the Chinese market exclusively, and so will not clash with your interests at all. The prices mentioned include your commission of 5 per cent. and I thank you for your permission to do so. I have been for the last month laid up with pneumonia in the German Hospital, and my health is such that I am forced to retire from business, and go home to Europe. Therefore my lengthy telegram, which I hope was explicit. Previous to the pneumonia I was suffering from chest and lung troubles, and fearing that holding large stocks of unsold furs in London would cause too much anxiety I decided upon this step, and, receiving this offer, I thought I had better clear out my stock. You will have seen from my telegram that I have remitted £5000 through Ahrens, and I mentioned in the same wire that further remittances would be sent directly deliveries took place. Your other wire asking me to remit in full was duly received, but I think that you will readily understand that deliveries in such a large stock as mine necessarily take time. I therefore telegraphed asking for a fortnight's grace, by which time the deliveries will be, I expect, completed. Since this sale has taken place, prices for the goods mentioned have declined considerably and large stocks of Tanuki are practically unsaleable, the natives preferring to pluck the skins for pens in preference to selling them to foreigners. I trust that you have informed the Norddeutscher Lloyd of the reason for the delay in shipping.

I am closing up my business here as mentioned above on account of ill-health, and feel exceedingly pleased that this sale was consummated, as it takes a load of responsibility off my mind, which in my weak state I was scarcely able to bear. I hope to close this transaction in the time mentioned in my last telegram and trust that everything will be in order.

I remain, dear sir, yours faithfully,

E. LEOPOLD.

April 25th, 1898

[Copy of Telegrams.]

Leopold to Lampson and Co. War will it a effect prices? How much do you expect? Last prices fully maintained locally. Shipments delayed. Suspend claims Lloyd. Wait my letter.

Lampson to Leopold, April 29th.—War is not likely to affect prices, stock is exhausted. We must insist upon immediate shipment.

Leopold to Lampson, April 29th.—Can resell whole stock locally for Chinese market at following prices. Tanuki 38; Marten 5-9, sable 9/6 less 6 per cent. commission to you. Request permission to do so on account ill-health which forces me to retire from business.—Leopold.

Lampson to Leopold, May 3.—Ship goods or send remittances at once to cover the total amount.—C.M.L. and Co.

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Leopold to Lampson, May 2;—Thanks, have have arranged resale. Have remitted £5,000 T.T. through Ahrens; further remittances follow as soon deliveries are made.—Leopold.

Mr. Lowder—We have asked for the production of the reply to that letter.

Mr. Terry—I don't think we have it here.

Cross-examined by Mr. Terry—Witness had only one interview with Leopold at the hospital. That was after Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Harmssen had come back and reported their interview. Witness went to the hospital in consequence of what they said, especially with regard to the list of assets. His conversation with Leopold was partly on the basis of what had been reported to him. Witness had seen the list of 133 missing packages of furs before he went to the hospital. The list of drafts was handed witness by Hoffmann. Witness did not show it to Leopold. Afterwards witness had various talks with Leopold about his drafts that remained uncovered and Leopold asked him to meet them. Leopold's explanations as to why he had not shipped goods always differed; he might have given many explanations about them. Witness could not remember any one explanation.

Have you any recollection of his giving as explanation losses he had incurred in outside enterprises?—I don't remember whether he did or not.

I suppose you thought this matter of non-shipment had been discussed sufficiently by Mr. Hoffmann and Mr. Harmssen?—Yes. I chiefly spoke about the list of assets.

Was either of these lists of assets handed to you directly by accused?—No.

You asked him, I suppose, particularly about items of those assets?—Yes.

Did he explain to you that all those landed properties were held in Japanese hands?—Yes.

He spoke to you of the saw mills, of course. Did he tell you whether his business had been profitable or not?—I don't recollect.

Did he tell you the amount of money he had put into the saw mill?—No. I think he told me they were his own property.

As to any of those items mentioned there did he in any case say what he had paid for them?—No.

Or how much he had invested in any form in those businesses?—No.

You simply asked him what they were worth? You did not take the trouble to enquire?—I took his word. I asked him when he could realise them.

He promised to realise them as soon as he could?—So he said.

Do you remember the Yoshida Shinden land? In that case he explained to you that he had put in 37,000 *yen*?—No, he did not explain personally. He has put it in his list of assets, but I had not that at that time.

Did he explain to you that this land was mortgaged to a Japanese for 6,000 *yen*?—No, I found that out from a Japanese lawyer.

And hasn't he explained to you that that prevented him from realising?—No, he has not.

He has assigned part of these assets to you, has he not?—Yes, but that has been placed to another debt. That has nothing to do with this.

He offered to transfer the Yoshida Shinden land to you, did he not, but you declined as you did not want to take up the mortgage?—I don't recollect.

Do you remember any talk with Mr. Leopold, probably late last year or early this year—do you recollect asking him, "Why are you getting bills of lading in that way. I suppose it is for convenience at the bank?"—I could not say for certain.

Then you think there might have been some talk of that?—No, I can't remember.

Don't you recollect even speaking to him in any way about these bills, or that he was getting advances from the bank?—No, I know nothing about his advances.

Did you not know generally that he was selling documentary drafts to the bank?—No, I didn't know it.

Did Leopold ever explain to you what became of the money for goods not sent forward?—No, I don't know.

When you were talking with him, you or Mr. Hoffman or Mr. Harmssen spoke of those drafts, and of course you understood that he had got that money from the bank?—Yes.

Did you ever ask him what he had done with that money?—I don't know what he has done with it.

But did you ask him?—I may have asked him

Don't you recollect as a matter of fact you did ask him?—I don't recollect, but I may have asked him to make as quick as possible to get us back the money.

But that isn't the question. Didn't you ask him what he had done with this money?—I don't recollect.

Is it possible?—It may be. I don't recollect.

You asked him to raise money for you as soon as he could?—Yes.

And you discussed the means?—I may have done so.

Didn't it occur to you that he might pay you back some of this money he got from the bank?—I hoped so.

But didn't you ask him?—I may have.

But didn't you?—I can't recollect.

Do you happen to know whether the Chartered Bank seized some of Mr. Leopold's furs?—Yes.

Do you know the value?—No.

Not even the approximate value?—No.

When was this?—It might be the end of May or the beginning of June. It may have been earlier than that.

It might have been 6,000 or 7,000 dollars worth?—I don't know.

Did Mr. Leopold assign as a reason for not shipping furs any sudden rise in the price of furs here?—I don't know anything about the prices of furs.

By Mr. Martin (a Juror)—The word "Lampson" in the telegram signified that Ahrens & Co. in London should pay £5,000 to Messrs. Lampson & Co.

James Maclean, accountant of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Yokohama, said he was acquainted with the accused. He had an account with the Bank, and from time to time drew cheques against that account. Witness produced cheques from 31st December last year to 28th April this year. The cheque dated 9th February was in favour of the Russo Chinese Bank for 28,000 *yen*. It was endorsed by Browne and Co., agents for the Russo-Chinese Bank. Witness brought with him examined copies of extracts from the Bank ledgers containing particulars of the account with accused from June, 1897, to June, 1898. He had examined the entries personally; they were exact copies of the entries in the Bank books. On February 14th there was an entry of 28,091 *yen* to the credit of Ahrens and Co. That was a mistake; it should have been Leopold. Witness found out the mistake and adjusted it. Through this mistake there was an apparent overdraft, but no real overdraft during that month. On the 31st December, 1897, during a portion of the day the account was at debit by 40,750 *yen*, but during the day Leopold paid in in sterling the equivalent of 42,816 *yen*, showing at the close of day a balance of 1 540 *yen*. On the 22nd February there was an overdraft caused by Leopold's credit from Lampson having been exhausted. Leopold sent in a bill for £2,000 on Lampson, but the credit would only admit of £1,125, and for the balance Leopold had to wire to Lampson to get an extension of the credit. The advice arrived in the course of the next day. From the 1st to 4th March there was a small overdraft, but it was cleared off, and after that there was no overdraft for more than a part of the day, except the final one of *yen* 151·97, which still existed. Leopold then drew a cheque for 1500 *yen* when he had only 1300 *yen* odd to his credit, producing an overdraft of 151·97 *yen*, this, however, being reduced by the allowance of interest to 146 47 *yen*. Witness was shown the bills of exchange sold by accused to the Bank, and said that Leopold could have received cash for any of them if he had asked for cash. If his account had been overdrawn at any time the Bank would still have purchased his bills. Witness had practically the same authority as to buying bills as the manager had. He should not have credited the accused with the amounts of the bills except as against documents.

By Mr. Terry—Mr. Leopold's account was overdrawn all through 1897, often for substantial amounts. Witness only arrived the first of this year, and so knew no details. The cheque to the Russo-Chinese Bank was paid through the Chartered Bank. With regard to the particular draft of 31st December the Bank would have insisted, if he had asked to be paid in cash, on the money going to Leopold's account to clear off his overdraft. Witness had full authority to allow overdrafts. Witness saw the bills first, and then passed them on to Fraser. The manager made the decision as to whether the bills should be bought. When the Bank had bought the bills they were sent to London, and were then presented for acceptance. As soon as Mr. Lampson paid the bills he got the documents. This was a pretty general method of doing business—all over the Far East. If the documents appeared in order it was not necessary to enquire further. He believed there were one or two small amounts to Leopold's credit during the present year, apart from these particular transactions. In January there were amounts of 2,500 *yen* and 1,100 *yen* on February 24th 8,000 *yen*, the proceeds of a bill, and in March a total of about 10,000 *yen*.

By the Judge—The manager made the contracts, but the Bank would afterwards buy certain bills of certain denomination without reference to the manager. Instructions were given to Mr. Fraser, and if the bills were in order they were passed and put to Leopold's credit without the manager having seen them. Witness examined them before they left the office.

William Kirtland Wilson, a partner in Browne and Company, said in February last that company were acting as agents of the Russo-Chinese Bank in Yokohama. Witness was handed the cheque dated February 9th and identified his signature on the back of it. The accounts of the Russo-Chinese Bank were kept by a current account with the Chartered Bank. A letter was here handed witness, but he said he did not know the signature of the accused.

Harrison was recalled to prove the signature.

The letter was then read:—

Feb. 9th, 1898.

Messrs. Browne & Co.
Agents Russo-Chinese Bank.

Dear Sirs,—I shall feel obliged by your transmitting the following telegram on my account either literally or in cipher to your manager at London, it being distinctly understood that the same be sent entirely at my risk, and that your bank is not to be held liable either for any mistake or omission which may happen in the transmission of the message, or from its misinterpretation when received. The cost of the message I will defray upon application.

Yours Faithfully, E. Leopold.

Pay C. E. Leopold and Co., 24 Cecil Street, Charing Cross Road, London.

£5,500 (five thousand five hundred pounds sterling) only.

The amount was wired to the Russo-Chinese Bank at Shanghai, and thence to London. The Bank were recouped by Leopold's cheques.

Mr. Terry—Do you know for what purpose Mr. Leopold was sending this money to London?

Witness—I have no idea.

Mr. Terry—That is all.

Edwin Manifold Janion, accountant of the Chartered Bank, said he had been in Yokohama since February 24th this year. He knew Leopold. He was one of the constituents of the Bank. In February, 1898, the Chartered Bank kept the account of the Russo-Chinese Bank. The cheque produced was for 28,000 *yen* dated 9th February drawn by Leopold in favour of the Russo-Chinese Bank, and endorsed by Browne and Co. The account produced was taken one of the Bank's books. On February 9th there were two entries to the debit of accused, 430 *yen*, and 26,432 *yen*. The signature on the cheque produced (that of February 9th) was Leopold's. The slip produced was a slip from the Russo-Chinese Bank dated February 9th, paying into the Chartered Bank 54,432 *yen* to the credit of their account. It was made up of a cheque on the Chartered Bank for 26,432 *yen* and another for 28,000 *yen* on the Hongkong Bank—both drawn by accused. The cheque on themselves was debited to Leopold's account and the cheque on the Hongkong Bank paid into that Bank the same day. The document produced was a paying in slip dated February 1st for 17,000 *yen* to the credit of Leopold's account. This partly referred to a cheque on the Hongkong Bank, for 11,000 *yen*, drawn by Leopold, and the rest to cheques on Japanese Banks. On February 19th there was a record of a telegraphic transfer for 55,565 *yen* to London in favour of C. E. Leopold. This was signed by Leopold. The transfer was made through the Chartered Bank at the request of the accused.

By Mr. Terry—During all the time to which the account referred the account was over-drawn and the sum paid in merely went to reduce the overdraft.

Herbert Maurice Bevis, Manager in Yokohama of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, was examined by Mr. Lowder. He stated that the bills of exchange produced were bills he had given instructions should be purchased on the security of bills of lading and other documents. The whole of the bills were purchased.

By Mr. Terry: The firm of Lampson and Co. were a firm of excellent reputation and high credit. The bills were all at four months.

If Mr. Lampson's credit had been simply "You may buy Leopold's bill and I will accept them" your security would have been as good as if you had the documents?—I should prefer the documents.

You were quite willing to lend money on the joint security of Leopold and Lampson?—No, I don't say that. I had the documents, and they represented what seemed to be a *bona fide* transaction. If they had not been accompanied by documents they would not have been in accordance with the original terms, and they would not have been accepted.

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Mr. Marten (a Juror) pointed out to the witness that on the bill of lading it was stated that the goods would be forwarded by that or a subsequent steamer. The witness could not say whether cargo for which bills had been accepted by the Bank had been shut out on any particular voyage; he presumed such cases might occur. He should suppose he would have some notice in such cases, but so far as he could remember he had never had any. He should not take it that the words in the bill of lading meant that the shipping might be postponed for an indefinite time.

By the Judge—He regarded a bill with documents with greater confidence than a bill without documents.

By Mr. Terry—The existence of documents would show him that the bill was a business bill bill and not an accommodation bill.

Mr. Litchfield: That closes the case for the prosecution, my lord. (To Mr. Terry). Do you intend to call any witnesses, Mr. Terry?

Mr. Terry: I do not.

The Court adjourned till ten o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, December 14th.

The hearing was resumed on Wednesday morning.

On the Court assembling the Judge asked Mr. Lowder if he understood aright that only a portion of the cheques on the Chartered Bank and the account were put in, but that the whole of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank cheques were put in.

Mr. Lowder—That is so, my lord.

Mr. Terry said he had no objection to them being put in, but there was a question he should have asked if he had known that they were actually put in. He should have asked Mr. Maclean, as to general cheques which were marked "Payable to cash," whether that implied that they were necessarily paid to Mr. Leopold in person.

Mr. Maclean was accordingly recalled. In answer to the question he said it did not necessarily imply that the cheques were paid to Leopold in person. The endorsement on them would probably be that of the person who received the money.

His Honour—If the proceeds of these bills had not been put to Leopold's account would there have been any money to pay these cheques if they were paid over the counter?—No.

Mr. Litchfield then rose to address the court. He said it was now his duty to sum up the evidence against the accused. Before proceeding to that he should like them to put from their minds anything that they might have heard before they came into Court, and confine themselves to the evidence itself. Counsel for the defence had on the opening day laid some foundation for the imputation that the firm of Ahrens and Co. had some knowledge of the accused's proceedings. No serious examination on that point had taken place, though some mild suggestion had been made that they had knowledge of the matter before the month of April; but there was nothing that could in any way establish the fact of such knowledge existing before that period. He would proceed to define the offence of fraud. Fraud was defined as deceiving a man so as to expose him to injury or to risk of injury. The question was—did Leopold for his own profit falsely state that he had shipped certain specific furs and thereby expose the Bank to risk of injury? The question as to what he obtained from that fraud would be another question. If Leopold for his own profit made this false statement to the Bank he (Mr. Litchfield) contended that he acted fraudulently and it would be no answer for him to say or to suggest that he meant to pay the money back or that he thought Messrs. Lampson and Co. would take up these bills. The question was—were these furs shipped or no? If they were not shipped the Bank was deprived of the security it otherwise would have possessed, a document of title representing furs shipped to London. If those furs were not shipped, and if Leopold represented to the Bank that they were, then he was guilty of fraud. This would be the first point, and the main point, for underlying all the statements in the counts of the indictment the Jury would find that everything came back to this stupendous fact—were these furs shipped or not? The bills of lading, the letters of the accused to the Bank, the policies of insurance, all represented that these furs had been shipped, and it was on those representations that the Bank had bought the accused's bill of exchange in accordance with the credit of Messrs. Lampson and Co. One could usually observe from the cross-examination the line of defence that was to be adopted. Up to the present time he had been unable to discover any specific line of defence in this case. He should consequently have to travel more lengthily than otherwise through a large portion of the evidence of the case, and should also have to address to the Jury considerably more argument that would otherwise have been necessary. If he became wearisome in that respect it would not be his fault. The only indication of a defence he could discover from the cross-examination tended to show that Leopold had said or suggested to Ahrens and Co. that he had been losing money over transactions outside his fur business, that in December last the price of furs had considerably risen, and that accused actually shipped in April furs for which bills of lading had been obtained in December. Mr. Litchfield then dealt in detail with the various counts in the indictment. After speaking of the dates of the alleged shipments he pointed out that a Japanese witness had stated that Mr. Leopold was in the habit of keeping signed bills of lading in his desk. That was a very praiseworthy action in itself, his getting ready bills of lading for goods which he might ship later on. Very praiseworthy, so long as he kept them in his desk, but when he took them to the bank and borrowed money on them it ceased to be praiseworthy and became criminal. There was no harm in a man practising signing cheques for £100,000 and imitating the signature of Baring Brothers, so long as he kept it to himself. There was no harm in a man amusing himself by writing calumnies on his neighbours so long as he did not publish them. It was when he tried to pass the cheque or to publish the calumnies that the acts became criminal. Proceeding, Mr. Litchfield pointed out that in 1897 the accused was indebted to the Bank in the sum of 40,746 *yen*, and he used the money he obtained for the furs bills of exchange to discharge his debt to the Bank. He would call the attention of the Jury to the evidence of Mr. Maclean and Mr. Fraser, who said that he might have been paid in cash for the proceeds of the bills of exchange, though it was possible that on the 31st December, the first date in the indictment, the Bank might have required—or might have expected—him to pay it back to the bank. To avoid the trouble of counting and paying over to him the amount in cash, and his paying it over into another department of the bank again the account was placed to his credit and debited to the bank. It was, however, as much a case of payment of what the accused asked for as if the money had actually been paid over to him. He pointed out that representations made to the employés of the Bank in their capacity of agents were equivalent to representations made to the Bank as a Corporation. Dealing with the case of the cheque to the Russo-Chinese Bank for a telegraphic transfer to Leopold's brother in London, Mr. Litchfield said that even if he was not right in supposing that the payment of the proceeds of the bills in the way he had described was a payment of money, on this count at any rate the accused was emphatically guilty of obtaining 28,000 *yen* for his use and benefit. He submitted also that on the eighth count of the indictment accused was clearly guilty. In regard to the transaction of the 7th April there was clear evidence that money was paid to accused on a cheque drawn by him to pay a bill of exchange in which the Bank was not interested, the bill of that date being only sent them by Lampson & Co. for collection. He admitted that they could not assume that a cheque until presented for payment or cancelled by the banker was the same as money, but he contended that after it had been presented for payment or had been cancelled by the banker it was the equivalent of money. He explained the clearing house system in use among bankers, and submitted that when the accounts of the banks were balanced and the total amounts due from one to another either paid or entered in accounts, that constituted payment of all the cheques included in the total. With regard to the fourth count, charging accused with false pretences against Hoffman, of the firm of Ahrens and Co., Nachf., he pointed out that a false statement might not necessarily be made in words but might be made by the acts of the accused, and he asked them to say that the accused, in laying bills of lading before Hoffman, as manager of the shipping department, did falsely pretend that the goods had been shipped, the bills of lading representing that furs had been shipped in good order and condition. Bills of lading filled in by a Japanese clerk on Leopold's instructions, and returned to Leopold afterwards and presented for signature by the partner when he knew that they did not represent what they purported to represent, viz, that they were to be shipped on or about a certain date—he submitted that the presentation of these bills of lading was a false pretence. A bill of lading was a valuable security within the meaning of the Larceny Act, and the witness Fraser had testified that it was these bills of lading that induced the Bank to purchase Leopold's bills. He thought there was little doubt that they were used and were intended to be used as a valuable security. As to the question of intent to defraud, was this done with the intention of exposing Ahrens and Co. to injury or risk of injury? It was. It caused a claim to be made of the Shipping Company of which they were the agents concerning the non-delivery of the furs, and it resulted in considerable sums having to be paid by Ahrens and Co. to Lampson and Co. for the non-delivery of these furs. They could not pry into the secret thoughts of a man; they could only judge his acts by the actual consequences and by the consequences which seemed probable and natural. The bills of lading were used for purposes of fraud, and had effected a fraud. He submitted that the witness Wismer was a witness of truth and that the line of cross-examination did not in the least shake his testimony. He testified that in one of his conversations with the accused Leopold said, "Ahrens and Co. must take up the bills." That might have been one small fact on which to found an argument that Ahrens and Co. were not altogether unaware of these transactions, but he (Mr. Litchfield) would submit that in face of the evidence—in face of the absolute denial of both Hoffman and Wismer that they were in cognizance of the fact that these bills of lading were being signed without the goods going forwarded—in face of that evidence he submitted that Leopold's remark to Mr. Wismer meant that he knew all along that he was certain that the signature of these bills of lading would recoil on Ahrens & Co., and that they would have to bear the final responsibility. If they agreed with him (Mr. Litchfield) on that point he should confidently submit that there could be no doubt of the actual intention of Leopold to commit these frauds with which he was charged.

The Court then adjourned for tiffin.

On resuming Mr. Terry commenced his speech for the defence. He said this case was not simply one of money. It was a question of a man's future, a man's reputation, a man's ruin perhaps, and under the circumstances he felt it his duty to place before the Jury a large number of points which he considered material, which he could not deal with except at length, and which he asked them to hear as patiently and considerably as they had heard the speeches for the prosecution. He had three preliminary remarks to address to them. The first was as to the scope and nature of the defence on which he relied. They were saved in that case one very disagreeable and perplexing class of questions, viz, as to how far witnesses could be believed. He for the defence accepted all the witnesses for the prosecution as men who spoke the truth so far as they remembered it, and in the main they probably remembered it correctly. He might perhaps except from that general statement the Japanese witness who did not know what "captain's copies" were and perhaps the witness that followed him. There was a man in Mark Twain who set such value on the truth that he never parted with any of it, and possibly that might be the case with one or other of those witnesses. But with these exceptions they had to rely on what the witnesses had told them; the primary questions of the case were not disputed. The question was what were the inferences in fact and law to be drawn from those primary facts. So far as he was concerned with fact he should ask them to draw certain inferences in favour of the accused. In some cases if the inference was a little narrow it was at least solid. He was not going to present Mr. Leopold as a man who had done no wrong. It must be admitted that he had been guilty of exceedingly blameworthy conduct. He would go further than that; he had been guilty of unlawful conduct. He (Mr. Terry) could not deny that. But that was not the question. There were many kinds of conduct which were blameworthy and were against the law, but which did not amount to fraud, and even when they had got into the region of undoubted fraud there were many kinds of conduct which did not come within the province of the criminal law. As to whether the law ought to punish all kinds of blameworthy conduct it was not for them to discuss, and even in criminal fraud there were many kinds of offences, and it was not their province to determine whether a man had done wrong, whether he had committed fraud—which he did not admit in this case—and not even if he had committed criminal fraud, but whether he had committed that branch of crime which was laid down in the indictments against him. He (Mr. Terry) did not say this with any purpose of suggesting that the accused might be guilty of any such other kinds of offences. He simply said this because when a man's conduct appeared to the Jury to be

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blameworthy they sometimes did not consider what was the particular kind of blameworthiness, whether it was that with which he was charged or some other kind. If they were quite certain that Leopold had committed some kind of criminal fraud, and it was not one mentioned in the indictment, they need not be afraid of committing any failure of justice by acquitting him, for there was no reason why he should not be indicted again on new charges. He simply put this before them, not that he admitted that any kind of crime had been committed, but to draw their attention to the fact that that they had to consider the special crime or fraud set down in the indictment and nothing else. They must also assume nothing against the defendant. It was not enough that the prosecution must prove a particular fact, but they must prove every particular fact which it was necessary for them to find out in order to return a verdict against the accused. The question might arise perhaps in the course of the discussion whether during the months of January and February any steamer of the N. D. Lloyd sailed between this port and Hongkong besides the steamer *Hohenzollern*. They might think their verdict depended in some measure on whether there was or was not. If they found it necessary that they must decide that question they must remember that the prosecution must prove every fact that it was necessary to prove. No evidence had been given at all on that subject and the fact must be taken in a manner favourable to the defendant. They could not convict the defendant upon the assumption that there was or was not any such steamer unless it was proved to them. And further they must not decide any question on private information which might have come before them, but simply and solely on the evidence before the court. That particular method of injustice was one which had made the Dreyfus trial a byeword throughout the world. Dreyfus was convicted by a tribunal acting on information which was not put in evidence before it. Those were the first of the preliminary points he wished to put before them—the scope of the defence and the manner in which the case must be proved. The second was the general view which ought to be taken of the case and of Mr. Leopold's conduct. That was important in two ways. In the first place, whatever the result of the trial, he did not wish Mr. Leopold to stand before the community in any worse light than he had done before. The second way in which it was important was that he should have to speaks of a number of particular facts which had been put in evidence, and the view the Jury would take of these facts and the inferences they would draw from them would be largely influenced by the general opinion they formed of Leopold's course and attitude in the matter. Admitting Leopold's transactions were improper transactions, admitting that he had done things which he ought not to have done, there were two possible ways in which they might regard the entire transactions. The first theory was that Leopold laid deep plans of felony with an entire knowledge and a deliberate scheme to defraud for his own benefit. The other view was that his irregularities, his improper conduct, had begun in carelessness, begun in irregular dealings for his own accommodation and for the convenience of his friends, and that owing to circumstances that he (Mr. Terry) should indicate he was led along further than he ever expected, without at any time ever having in his mind the deliberate intention of doing any wrong to anybody. They were all familiar with the stories of men—good men—who had gone wrong, men who had led respectable, upright, honourable lives, who were betayed into one false step, and, never intending to injure anybody, having no doubt that they could make everything right in the end, went on until a crash came. They had these two theories, and only these two. He was going to submit that Leopold never had any deliberate plan of injuring others. In fact he did not think the idea ever clearly presented itself to Leopold's mind. He thought with Leopold's easy-going and careless nature he never realised the gravity of what he was doing. In the first place he would refer them to one fact—the absolute openness with which he did everything. If he had formed a deliberate plan to defraud would he have set the clerks in Ahrens & Co.'s office to write out these incriminating documents and would he keep them in a drawer of his desk where everyone in the office knew they were? From the very beginning did he make the slightest attempt to conceal from anyone what he was doing? In the very form of the documents sent to the bank there was matter which would have exposed him to very awkward questions in the ordinary course of events, and he (Mr. Terry) did not understand why certain questions were not asked him. He (counsel) had no doubt in his own mind that if Leopold had been asked by Ahrens & Co. or by the Bank what he was doing he would have told them frankly. It was quite plain that he never tried to conceal anything. That was fatal to the theory of a deep-laid plan, but it was quite consistent with the other theory that he had placed before them—that he was led into this course of dealing, which he might have known to be irregular, but the gravity of which he never appreciated. It must be remembered, too, that if he was laying a deliberate plan he had a very limited time at his disposal. Of course if his plan was to cheat, to simply get money for himself, and steal that money and enjoy it, it was evident that he must leave Yokohama. The utmost time he could reckon on was two or three months. He might perhaps reckon on three months before the matter was exposed. He knew it was a criminal scheme of fraud, and he must have intended to make all that he could by rushing drafts through the bank in a short time and then going away. The theory was inconsistent with his staying in Japan up to April and with his sending in March to Lampsons a large sum of money in part-payment of shipments which he had failed to make. Lampson's drew on him for a large sum and he paid the bill.

His Honour—The facts are contrary to that. Lampson drew the bill in London in January. Lampson could not have drawn on the 1st January against any of these shipments.

Mr. Terry—He could have drawn against former shipments. But I will change the wording of it. At any rate he sent this money to Lampson, and we know that he began to ship furs in which he was behind. There was no reason why he should have given a cent's worth of that if he had intended to get all he could get. Moreover, after the whole thing was discovered he had several months to go, but in that time he was helping to realise many of his assets as far as he could to make good what he had done. He did not think the Jury would conclude from that that there was any deliberate and intentional scheme of fraud. He believed they would recognise that it was the ordinary case, the common case, the case that occurred every day, of a man beginning irregular practices carelessly and running on until he got more deeply involved than he thought possible without any guilty consciousness of the course of events. It appeared from the evidence of one of the witnesses that as a matter of convenience bills of lading were sometimes prepared and handed in for signature before the firm received the blue forms from the shippers.

Mr. Lowder—I don't recollect it.

His Honour—I must say I don't remember that. (Referring to his notes) All I have is a question to a Japanese witness. "As a matter of accommodation did Mr. Leopold issue bills of lading to shippers before they came with their blue forms?" Answer: "I don't know."

Mr. Terry—That was not the point. It was "Were not bills of lading occasionally made out and sent in for signature before the blue forms came in?"

His Honour—It is not of importance any way.

His Honour—I think you are right—that it is of no importance.

Mr. Terry, continuing, said the witness Fukushima had stated that he had known cases of bills of lading being made out before goods were shipped. Harmssen had said that in the case of certain silk shippers bills of lading had been not only signed but actually delivered to shippers before the goods were shipped.

His Honour—It was very unusual. He said there might have been one case.

Mr. Terry—Yes, he said he only knew of one case. I suggest that it was done in some cases for the accommodation of his friends and certainly for his own accommodation. It was a fair inference that when he began this course he had the goods in his possession ready to ship and he considered it not of very great importance whether the bills were made out to-day or the day after. According to Fukushima this was going on at least as far back as October. It was very probable that it went back farther still. Apparently there was nothing very wrong before December 31st 1897, and yet probably before that time Leopold had taken to the practice of getting out bills of lading before actually shipping goods. They must consider the inherent probability of it all. Before this time it was only a matter of anticipating the actual shipments a little. There was no doubt in his (counsel's) mind, and he thought there would be no doubt in the Jury's.

Mr. Lowder—Really, I must interrupt. The learned counsel has stated several times that "certain things are clear to his mind."

His Honour—It is not allowable, Mr. Terry, by the etiquette of the English bar, for counsel to give their own impressions to the Jury in that way.

Mr. Terry—I beg your pardon. I was not aware of it. I will put the matter differently. Putting these facts altogether, he continued, the probable inference was that up to December Leopold's irregularities simply consisted in issuing bills of lading for goods which were not shipped immediately but which were in fact actually shipped afterwards. Of course it was impossible to say where the goods were at the time. They might have been goods that he had contracted for but had not got delivered. It was an inference that might be drawn with some probability that he might have gone so far as to take out bills of lading with the object of getting money from the bank to pay for the goods. That appeared to be the state of things up to the 31st December—a state of things that could not be justified, but very far short of fraud. In December and January it was quite plain that he took out bills of lading for goods which were not shipped at that time. That included the goods whose general numbers ran from 1 to 105 and therefore the different shipments 46 to 105 which were charged in this indictment and which were not actually shipped. They had evidence to establish another point for the defence theory. Before that Mr. Leopold had been getting advance bills of lading and apparently shipping goods. In December and January he did not ship the goods, but he shipped part of them about the 14th April—part of the first lot 1 to 45, which were excluded from the present indictment. He asked them to draw the inference that if the accused had the goods in his possession he would have shipped them. The inference was that in December and January he went a step farther then he had gone before. He not only took out bills of lading in advance of shipping goods, but he took them out for goods which he had not in his possession, but which he expected to have and intended to ship when he got them. Was there anything in the evidence which could give them a clue as to what it was that stood in Leopold's way and prevented him shipping these goods? It appeared in the evidence—and this was a fact that explained the whole of this miserable business—that Leopold, not content with his legitimate business as clerk to Ahrens & Co. and his export business, was extending himself in various direction. He was exporting wall paper, and must manufacture wall paper, he was interested in a saw mill which appeared to be quite an elaborate affair, in a lighter company, in land speculations, in a coal business. All these businesses were in Japanese hands. He (Mr. Terry) suggested that Leopold, being thus spread out in business, and having got money through selling his bills to the bank to purchase his furs, did not purchase the furs, but found the money drain away in other directions, and in enterprises on which he had very reasonable expectations of counting. The bills on Lampson were four months bills, and the man would say to himself that in four months he could pull himself round and make things all right again. It was improper, and he (Mr. Terry) was not justifying it. About the 1st February Leopold began to pull up. He found he had gone as far as it was safe for him to go. He recommenced his shipments, and sent two large amounts of money home through the Chartered Bank and the Russo-Chinese Bank, and there was a reasonable supposition that this was to make up to Lampson some of the amount of furs which he had not shipped. He found he could not send furs, and must send money. In March he shipped goods by the *Crefeld* which went into the bill of lading issued for the date of April 7th.

Mr. Lowder—I don't follow you.

Mr. Terry—March 7th steamer *Crefeld*. LI in a diamond 98, 195 198. They went into the April bill of lading. Mr. Terry continued that what the evidence would justify the Jury in inferring was that Leopold had taken out bills of lading for his own convenience for goods which he afterwards intended to ship and that in January and February he was unable to ship them. In April he was beginning some shipments when the Chartered Bank seized some of his furs which he would otherwise have shipped. He was beginning to pull up when sickness came. He (Mr. Terry) had given them only a probability, but in the favour of the defendant a reasonable probability was as good as a certainty. The prosecution had to give them certainties, but it was quite enough for the defence if they could present a probable account of the facts in evidence. As to the third point in his preliminary observations, it was regarding the manner in which the case had been put before them in the indictment. There were 12 counts, and the sixth count contained five specifications, which as a matter of strict form were each a separate count. If they regarded them as such they had thus 16 distinct charges against Leopold. There were only seven transactions charged. Six of these referred to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank,

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and the other to Ahrens and Co. The six transactions with the Bank were dated as follows:—December 31st, January 10th, February 9th, February 15th, February 19th, and April 7th. All the counts except the fourth referred to these alleged criminal transactions between Leopold and the Bank. He would speak of these as the Bank counts. The fourth count referred to the alleged transactions between Leopold and Ahrens and Co., represented by Hoffman. The bank counts formed three groups. The first, second, third, and sixth he should distinguish by the name of money counts. They charged that Leopold obtained money by false pretences from the Bank. The second he should distinguish as the Chartered Bank counts. They were seven and eight, and charged that Leopold procured money by a transfer through the Russo-Chinese Bank and the Chartered Bank. The third group comprised the fifth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelvth counts. These did not charge Leopold with obtaining money, but were drawn under a different statute, which dealt with obtaining credit under false pretences. He should speak of these as the credit counts.' This finished his introductory remarks. His main argument would come under four heads. He would speak first of the money counts, then of the different credit counts, then of the Chartered counts, then of the Ahrens count. The money counts were under the 88th section of the Larceny Act. He pointed out that it was necessary for the prosecution to prove that Leopold obtained money by making representations that were false, and that they were made with the intention of defrauding. They must prove every single one of these counts, and he intended to argue that they could not prove one of them. If he could show that any single one of them had not been proved the whole fell to the ground. There was only one representation made that was of importance—the shipment of the furs. In all these counts except the third—in the first, second, and sixth, it was stated that false representations were made to Mr. Bevis. He pointed out that in the evidence it was clearly shown that the bills were handed to Mr. Fraser, that Mr. Bevis made the original contract to buy the bills, but that after that he saw nothing of them except the bill of the 7th April. There was no evidence that these representations were made to Mr. Bevis in person. Mr. Terry proceeded to argue at great length that Mr. Fraser could not be taken to be the agent of Mr. Bevis, that both were servants of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corporation, and that in fact the representations were made to Mr. Fraser and not to Mr. Bevis. He argued also that they could not be said to be made to Mr. Bevis as the representative of the Corporation. The representations reached Mr. Fraser and were considered by him.

His Honour said Mr. Terry might take it from him that he should tell the Jury that these representations did not reach Mr. Bevis.

Mr. Terry—I shall request your Honour to charge the Jury that there is no evidence that these representations came before Mr. Bevis, and that that is fatal to the prosecution.

His Honour—I will make a note of it.

Mr. Terry—Suppose that to be the case—suppose further that as a matter of law representations made to one man cannot be said to be made to another—is that fatal to the case?

His Honour—I will consider the point. In some respects I am with.

Mr. Terry—Your Honour's point is that as a matter of law the representations may be considered as made to the person who would act and has acted on them?

His Honour—Yes, and may be considered as made to a great many other people. Representations made to Mr. Fraser may not have been intended for him at all. There is a distinction between the person whom the representation was intended to reach and the person who received and acted on it. The letter was written to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and was in answer to a letter written by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. To what natural person is the letter to the Corporation addressed?

Mr. Terry—I should say it is not addressed to any natural person at all. If it were a partnership it would different, but the Bank in this instance was a corporate person, and the letter addressed to the Bank must be a letter addressed to it as a person.

His Honour—But it must have been the intention that it would reach some natural person, or it would not be sent.

Mr. Terry—Yes, to some natural person, but there is no ground for any inference, and there is no evidence that he had any particular natural person in mind as the person to whom it was intended to go. His intention was that it should go to any person who was competent to represent the banking company. The person to whom he intended to make the representation is one, and the person to whom he actually made it is quite another. Mr. Leopold wrote that letter and handed it over to the bank, and undoubtedly intended it should be received by some natural person. But there is no reason to suppose he had any particular natural person in his mind. Mr. Terry proceeded to argue that in point of fact the representations were made to Mr. Fraser, and contended that the count was bad and must fail. He claimed a verdict on this series of counts. He then proceeded to the point whether, even if such representations were made, were they false? He pointed out that substantial accuracy was all the law demanded in a man's statements, and it made no practical difference, in the question of false pretences, if goods went forward, whether they went in the steamer named in the bill of lading or in another steamer. The prosecution had proved beyond reasonable doubt that certain furs were not sent by the *Hohenzollern*. Had it proved beyond reasonable doubt that they were not shipped by any other steamer?

His Honour—It is for you to prove that they went by some other steamer if they did not by that steamer. It would be a mistake for me to allow such an argument to be used at all. I will tell the Jury that as to there not having gone by the *Hohenzollern* there is enough evidence. It is very seldom indeed that I interrupt counsel, especially counsel for the defence, and you may be sure that I feel very strongly on that point.

His Honour added that it was the duty of the prosecution to show that the goods had not gone by the steamer that they were represented to have gone by, but they were not called on to prove that they had not gone by any other ship.

Mr. Terry—But when it appears that some did go forward by some other steamer?

His Honour—It would come to this—that they would have to prove that they had not got be by any steamer leaving Yokohama.

Mr. Terry—The fact that proof is not easy is not the question.

His Honour—You may take it from me that I shall tell the Jury so.

Mr. Terry then proceeded to argue on a third point—assuming the goods were never sent forward did the defendant intend to defraud? He dealt with the point at great length and quoted two cases Queen v. Garret and Peak v. Gurney for his Honour's consideration of the points of law involved.

The Court then rose.

THURSDAY, 15th December, 1898.

On the Court reassembling on Thursday morning Mr. Terry resumed his address for the defence. He continued his argument that "intention" must be held to include a wish as well as an expectation of the result produced. He argued that carelessness, even gross carelessness, was not in law intent. He quoted a case against the directors of a bank for misrepresentation, in which the jury found that the statements made were false, and found that the directors were guilty of gross negligence, but acquitted them of intent to defraud. Intent to defraud was rather a complicated state of mind. In the first place there must be an intent to make a representation; in the second place an attempt to bring the representation to the person or class of persons for whom it was intended; in the third place there must be an intent that the representation should be understood in a particular sense, on which point he would speak bye and bye; the fourth point was that it should be believed; the fifth that there was a knowledge or belief that it was false. These points were involved in the word intent. To make it intent to defraud they had to go into other considerations—an intent that it should be acted upon, and the fact that its being so acted upon produced a certain result. He had already spoken incidentally of one point. It must be proved that the defendent intended to make a representation to Mr. Bevis. He should show that he had no such intention; that he intended legally to make his representations to the Bank, and practically to any person competent to attend to it, and not to Mr. Bevis at all. He would deal first with Leopold's intention as to the meaning which he intended the documents to convey to the bank. In all representations there were three meanings to be considered—the intended meaning, the accepted meaning, which might be entirely different from each other, and the proper or true meaning, which might be different from either. When they were speaking of intent to defraud they must remember that intended meaning was the only meaning that was of any importance. Defendant made a representation to the Bank which the Bank understood to mean that the goods were actually shipped. He (Mr. Terry) might admit for the present that was a reasonable construction for the Bank to put upon it. But he thought that the fact would show that the defendant had no intention to put this construction upon it. The bills of lading showed on their faces in some cases that the goods had not been shipped. He pointed out that the custom of putting copies of the bill of lading on board the ship before she left port was well known in the mercantile world, and it was to be presumed that it was well-known to the officers of the Bank, or, at any rate, that Leopold presumed it to be well-known. When Leopold presented on December 31st bills of lading for the steamer *Hohenzollern*, which left on December 25th, it was evident that the steamer must have left without one of her proper documents, and therefore, by inference, the goods had not been shipped. If Leopold was concocting schemes of fraud would he have sent to the Bank documents which on the face of them might have led to very awkward inquiries? It would be extremely natural for the Bank to send for him and ask him what the document meant. If he had been laying a scheme of fraud he would have foreseen this, and if these bills of lading had been purely fraudulent he would have avoided the chance of detection, by seeing that his documents bore the proper date. It must be remembered that he was acquainted with the whole course of shipping business, and it must be inferred that he could not have overlooked such a very dangerous fact as that these papers bore on them the intimation that the goods had not gone forward by the *Hohenzollern* on the 25th. Mr. Terry pointed out that the words of the bill of lading were to go forward "by the *Hohenzollern* or other steamer," not "and other steamer," which left a clear alternative that the goods might go by the *Hohenzollern* or by some other ship. Mr. Terry then went on to argue that the Bank had been lenient before the period in question in its dealings with Mr. Leopold, and had allowed him for six months previous to December a very large overdraft. He was allowed to draw cheques against Lampson's bills before he put them into the Bank, and it would be very natural on his part if he argued that if the Bank was willing to cash cheques first and take his bills afterwards, they would not be likely to make any serious objections if he presented bills of lading and sold his bills before he actually shipped goods. He (Mr. Terry) submitted that when he presented these bills of lading Leopold intended to make the shipments, but that he was prevented from making them. It was of course gross carelessness, outrageous carelessness, but he argued that Leopold did not intend that the Bank should draw the inference that goods had been shipped on December 25th for which bills of lading were signed on December 31st and similarly with other dates. The more probable inference was that he had no definite or clear intention at all, supposing the Bank would not mind whether he obtained the money on the goods a few days sooner or later. There was possibly room for a doubt whether the Bank ought to have put the construction on the bills that they did, viz., that the goods had been shipped, but at any rate there was room for the supposition that Leopold had no intention that they should bear that construction. In the next place did the accused intend the representations should be acted upon? Undoubtedly he did intend that the Bank should act upon them, but he did not intend that either Lampson or Ahrens and Company or any other person should act upon them. If the intention was held to be criminal it could only be held as an intention with reference to the Bank. In the next place, as to the intent to produce a certain result—did Leopold intend that the Bank should not get the security for its loan that it appeared to have? The loan was not one to Leopold, but to Lampson, in the sense that Lampson was liable in the first place for the amount of the bills. Lampson was bound to accept the bills of exchange whether the furs were shipped or not. Therefore the value of the Bank's security was not impaired as far as Lampson was concerned. He argued this point at great length, and quoted the decision of an American Court in a case which he held to be analagous. He contended that the bills, although mercantile bills, gave no more security to the Bank than the credit of Lampson and Leopold. The documents did not increase the security, nor had the bank the security of the furs, for during the greater part of the life of the bills the documents and the furs had passed out of the control of the Bank. There was no intention to defraud, then, for two reasons. First the intention to defraud would mean that Leopold intended the Bank to understand that the goods had been shipped. If Leopold intended to ship them by the next steamer the Court would direct them that that was not fraud.

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His Honour—No, I will not—I think it right you should understand that I shall not accept that proposition. His Honour pointed out that the representation made was not that the goods would be shipped *in futuro*, but that they had been shipped. The bills represented that the goods had either been shipped on board the *Hohenzollern*, or that they had been received by the agents of the *Hohenzollern* for shipment.

Mr. Terry claimed that if the bills contained simply the representation that the goods would be shipped that would not be fraudulent. He did not think there was any difference between himself and the Court on the question of law; they might differ on questions of fact.

His Honour—I should be misleading you, Mr. Terry, if I said that. Do I understand you to argue that these bills mean that the goods may be received from Ahrens and Co. for subsequent shipment, or that they have been received?

Mr. Terry—I think they simply meant that the goods may be forwarded by a subsequent steamer.

His Honour—Do you wish to argue that a bill of lading is capable of the representation that Mr. Leopold has promised to give Ahrens and Co. to cases of furs for shipment, or that he has given them?

Mr. Terry—I think it is capable of several meanings. The particular point which I asserted was that the intention in Leopold's mind was no more than to convey to the Bank a statement that these were goods either shipped by the last steamer or to be shipped by the next steamer.

His Honour—And that they were at the time in question where?

Mr. Terry—In that particular meaning it would not say where they were. I am not arguing the true and reasonable meaning. I say that, considering Mr. Leopold's habits of dealing, considering his unbusinesslike methods, it is a reasonable view that he intended no more than to assert that they had been or were going to be put forward.

His Honour—Do you contend that it is a reasonable and possible explanation that Mr. Leopold intended and expected the Bank to believe that the goods had not gone, and that Ahrens and Co., as agents of the steamship company, had no control over them.

Mr. Terry—The view I presented to the Jury was that he had in fact no clear expectation of any kind in his mind, that he had no firm and definite intention to represent to the Bank that the goods had not been shipped, that he did not ask the question of himself what the Bank would understand by this, and that as far as his intention went it did not extend to making any statement whatever as to the past or present situation of the goods.

After further discussion of the same point the Court adjourned for tiffin.

On resuming, Mr. Terry argued once more the point that the representations were not made to Mr. Bevis, but to Mr. Fraser, and that Mr. Fraser could not be regarded as Mr. Bevis's Agent. He contended at great length, with regard to the money counts of the indictment, that it was not proved that Leopold had obtained money from the Bank. The money was credited to him, and a certain disposition was made of the amount with which he was credited. The crediting of him with that amount was not a payment of money, it was a mere promise of payment. The promise of a bank was more valuable than the promise of an individual, but there was no difference legally between the promise of a bank and the promise of the poorest beach coomber on the Bund. The entry in the Bank's books did not amount to a payment of money to Leopold. Mr. Terry then addressed himself to the Chartered Bank counts. With regard to the eighth count he objected that it was invalid on the ground that it did not mention the name of the person to whom the representations were made.

His Honour—Mr. Crown Prosecutor, what have you to say to that? (After reference to books) Look at this case of Queen *v.* Sowerby.

Mr. Litchfield looked at the case, and then remarked that a Corporation had a right to be represented by one of its public officers, and he submitted that a representation made to a Corporation was essentially a representation made to its chief officer or one of its public officers. In this case it was made to the manager of the Bank.

His Honour—Yes, but where does the indictment name the manager?

Mr. Litchfield—It doesn't mention him. This count is drawn differently from the other counts. His letter for the advance was addressed to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

His Honour—But you do not say that he pretended ■ the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. In the third count you do, but in this count you don't. Must you not put in the indictment that he did falsely pretend to somebody?

Mr. Litchfield added a few words, but his Honour cut his remarks short with: The indictment ought to say that the representations were addressed to some one and also that they were received by some one, and I shall accordingly quash that count of the indictment.

Mr. Terry then addressed himself to the remaining Chartered Bank count—the seventh. He argued that it was not proved that any money was paid to the Russo-Chinese Bank at all. The evidence showed that the money was not paid to the Russo-Chinese Bank, but to the Chartered Bank for the use of the defendant. The party mentioned in the indictment ought to have been the Chartered Bank and not the Russo-Chinese Bank. The count was under the 89th. Section of the Larceny Act., which laid down that money paid to a third person for the use of the defendant should be considered as money paid to the defendant. He argued, however, that no money was paid, that it was simply an adjustment of credits, a setting off of one debt against another, and that was not a payment of money.

Mr. Terry then proceeded to discuss the credit counts, the fifth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelvth. He pointed out that these were brought under a different Statute, the Debtors' Act, and that though no fraudulent intent was alleged in the wording of the count he took it for granted that such fraudulent intent was inferred. He repeated the arguments he had already made use of in considering the money counts to the effect that Leopold did not make his representations as alleged to Mr. Bevis. He submitted that objection must be fatal to these counts also. As to the question of incurring liability alleged in the indictment he pointed out that it was alleged that Leopold incurred a certain liability in *yen*. He (Mr. Terry) had particularly asked Mr. Fraser about that, and he had replied that in case of the bill not being accepted in London and coming back to Leopold for payment he could not state what sum in *yen* would have to be paid. It was a contingent liability to pay in sterling the amount of the bill if dishonoured. The amount of that sterling liability could not be exactly known, and the amount to be paid in *yen* could not be known at all. The statute directed that the sum for which the accused incurred liability should be stated in exact figures of gold and silver coins or banknotes, and therefore when the indictment stated that the defendant incurred a liability for a fixed sum in *yen* and Mr. Fraser testified that that was only the price at which they bought his bill, and that the liability he incurred could not be stated exactly, he contended the actual liability was not proved. That inference was fatal, he thought, to the count. What was alleged was that defendant incurred liability for a fixed, definite sum in *yen*, and what was proved was that he incurred a contingent liability for a sum in sterling which was not known. Mr. Terry went on to speak of the nature of the liability incurred. It was not a liability, but a possibility of liability. If the bill was duly honoured—as it in fact was—there would never have been a question of liability at all, but for the present case.

His Honour—Was he not under immediate liability to repay the money, and to be sued if the actual facts were known?

Mr. Terry—Yes, on one condition—that they rescinded the contract.

His Honour—He was under a liability to do it, and they did not require him to rescind the contract. Would not suing him be rescission itself?

Mr. Terry argued that the rescission and the handing back of the draft were necessary.

His Honour—You mean immediately they sent the draft to Europe their power of suing the accused was suspended?

Mr. Terry—As long as the money is in the bank they could not sue.

His Honour—There I am with you. As to the 40,000 *yen* they could not sue, but they could sue for anything he got in respect to that credit.

Mr. Terry—They could not sue him without he had got it?

His Honour—They did not require to sue him as long as they had not parted with their money.

Mr. Terry—They evidently did not require, but they could not possibly do it. They had no basis for suing.

Mr. Terry continued to argue on the question of credit, trying to show that instead of the Bank being the creditor of Leopold Leopold was actually the creditor of the Bank.

His Honour, however, emphatically dissented from this view, and said he should tell the jury to dissent from it. If Mr. Terry thought he was doing any good he could of course go on.

Mr. Terry—In this instance, your Honour, I shall go on.

The argument was accordingly continued and it was not till five that Mr. Terry left the question, and addressed himself to the last remaining count, that referring to the alleged false representation to Huffman.

Shortly after five the Jury asked for a recess of ten minutes.

At the conclusion of this Mr. Terry entered on the discussion of the Ahrens count, urging that as Ahrens were not the parties legally responsible they could not be subjects of an attempt to defraud. It was true that they had met part of these bills, but they had done that for business reasons and not because they were legally liable.

Mr. Terry's argument was still unfinished when the Court rose about six o'clock. He stated that he should take about twenty minutes in the morning.

The Judge—Say an hour and a half.

FRIDAY, 16th DECEMBER, 1898.

The hearing was resumed on Friday morning.

On the Court reassembling Mr. Terry continued his argument on the Ahrens count, contending that Ahrens and Co. were not liable under the bills of exchange, and that therefore Leopold could not be held to have defrauded them. It might be urged that Ahrens and Co. came under the German law, and not under the English law, but in that case the German law must be proved. If it were proved that Ahrens and Co. were legally defrauded it must be proved that Leopold had an intention to defraud them. It was legally impossible to intend a result which was legally impossible. The Bank was the only person to whom the injury could be done, if any could be intended, and any injury that might follow to Ahrens & Co. was only a subsequent injury removed beyond the question of intent. With regard to another point, it was suggested in the argument for the prosecution that the crediting of money to Leopold and placing it in satisfaction of his existing debt to the bank was equivalent to paying money over the counter and his paying it back.

His Honour—You need not trouble yourself with that.

Mr. Terry said he must next refer to his statement that the money counts were not good under section 89 of the Larceny Act, which provided that in cases where money was paid to anyone else than the defendant the name of the person to whom it was paid must be alleged. In regard to the credit counts he contended that in charges of obtaining credit fraudulently the credit must be a credit in which the defendant was the trusted party, and not one in which the Bank gave him credit. He then summarised his general claims as follows:—On the money count, I make the following claims: That it is not proved that any representations were made to Mr. Bevis. That on the question of intent to defraud there is at least room for a reasonable doubt as to the intended meaning of the representation, and as to the effect intended to be produced on the bank—whether the bank did not get in substance what it intended to get—and that under the doctrine in *Queen v. Garrett* there can be an intent to defraud anybody except the bank. That there is no evidence that Mr. Leopold obtained any money—first that the credit on the books of the bank was not money; secondly because it was not proved that any one of Mr. Leopold's cheques was paid in money—

His Honour—I am against you there, Mr. Terry.

Mr. Terry—I am not arguing now, I am simply stating my arguments. In the third place, that the payment to any other person is not proved under this count because the names of the payes are not alleged. These are my arguments on the money counts. On the seventh count my claims are as follows:—That no representations were made to Mr. Bevis: that intention to defraud has not been proved as before; that there is no evidence that money was paid to the Russo-Chinese Bank for Mr. Leopold; that the clearing house transaction with the Chartered Bank did not amount to the payment of money—there was no evidence that the Russo-Chinese Bank ever obtained more than a book credit with the Chartered Bank; that the payment of the Chartered Bank for the use of the Russo-Chinese Bank will not support the allegation that money was paid to the Russo-Chinese Bank—the name of the actual payee must be given. On the credit counts my claims are as follows:—That no representations were made to Mr. Bevis, and that Mr. Bevis did not buy the bills, that the defendant did not incur the liability alleged in the indictment or any liability in the sense of the statute and that the credit on the books of the Bank was not a credit within the meaning of the statute. On the Ahrens count my claims are that the intent to defraud is not proved because (1st) there is some evidence that Mr. Leopold supposed that the firm knew what he was doing; (2nd) that Ahrens and Co. did not incur any liability and therefore could not be legally defrauded, and therefore as a matter of

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law Leopold could not intend to defraud them; (3rd) that if Mr. Leopold had any fraudulent intent it did not extend beyond the obtaining of money from the Bank.

His Honour asked Mr. Terry to repeat his definition of intent to defraud.

This Mr. Terry did at length.

His Honour—There is one point that has not been mentioned by the prosecution, Mr. Terry. Suppose that I come to the conclusion that your argument on the subject of the representation to Mr. Bevis is correct, is the accused entitled to acquittal?

Mr. Terry—Without doubt. The question might then arise—

His Honour—I think you probably understand me.

Mr. Terry—The question may then arise whether the indictment can be amended.

His Honour—No. But I can tell them to find him guilty on some other offence. It is the question of attempt.

Mr. Terry—I am glad your Honour drew my attention to that. I had that question in my mind, but it escaped me. With the money counts, the question of whether the defendant attempted to obtain money from the Bank I think would not at all affect that point. If the indictment had charged him not with obtaining money, but with attempting to obtain money, it would be necessary to prove that he made false pretences, and, if they were alleged to be made to a person to whom they were not made it would be as much an acquittal for the attempt as for obtaining. In either case it must be alleged that he made false pretences to some person who must be named in the indictment correctly. I do not see that it makes any difference at all between the attempt and the actual accomplishment.

His Honour drew Mr. Terry's attention to a case in which a man was held guilty of attempting to injure another by means of a letter, though the letter never reached its destination.

Mr. Terry—In this case he intended that the letter should reach the person. But in the case of Leopold there is no evidence that the defendant intended that the letter should reach Bevis at all. He simply intended that it should go to some agent of the Bank, to any natural person competent to receive them.

Mr. Terry concluded his address, which had extended altogether over some eleven hours, by thanking the Jury for their patient and thoughtful attention to the case.

The Judge, in summing up, said that owing to the thorough manner in which the case had been presented his duties were made light, and he hoped to be able to discharge them without very much further claim on their time. There were twelve counts in the indictment, of which the eighth had already been struck out, and of the remaining eleven he should at present ask their attention to only four. The first he should consider was the fourth, which, taking the nomenclature of the learned counsel for the defence, he should describe as the Ahrens count. That was the count with regard to the signing of the bills of lading. In that count the prisoner was charged with inducing Hoffman to write the name of the firm of Ahrens and Co. on two separate bills of lading. He was charged with doing so by false pretences, and it was also charged that he intended to use the bills of lading as a valuable security and that he did so with intent to defraud Ahrens and Co. Now it was not, and it could not be denied, that the accused procured the signature of Ahrens and Co., by Hoffman. Though there was no written representation there were acts of conduct to prove it, and there was no doubt that by sending in bills of lading in the ordinary course to be signed they were procured to be signed. Indeed this was not denied. By these bills of lading accused made a representation that the goods were either shipped or had gone to the Pier Company for shipment. It was suggested that there was some evidence that the accused might possibly not have meant that. The grounds on which that had been suggested were, he understood, that the accused kept back the Captain's copies of the bills of lading, and put them in his drawer, and it was proved in evidence that one person at any rate in the office knew what he was doing, and it was suggested that the accused may possibly have inferred from that fact that it would be known to others in the office, and that it had come to Mr. Hoffman's notice, and that in sending in the bills of lading Mr. Hoffman would really not think that the goods had been shipped at all or might not think so. That was denied by Mr. Huffman, and also by Mr. Harmssen, and they had to weigh the probability of it. Did the accused honestly believe that time after time when he sent in bills of lading to the partners' office that those partners understood that they were signing bills of lading for goods which had not been shipped? To attribute such a belief to the accused would be startling. Whether that effect was produced on his mind it was for the Jury to determine, but it was impossible for a Judge in stating the facts of the case not to give some indication of his own mind. As to the question of intent to defraud it was, as counsel pointed out, impossible to give direct evidence of the prisoner's state of mind: they could only judge by circumstantial evidence. As a matter of fact did the prisoner in this case intend to defraud Ahrens and Co.? They might dismiss at once from their minds the question of whether Ahrens and Co. were not legally liable. There was no question but that Ahrens and Co. felt themselves in a position in which they were compelled to pay money in consequence of having signed these bills of lading. As a matter of fact they were injured by the action of the accused, and injured very materially from the moment these bills went to the bank. The accused's act submitted them to risk of loss certainly, it was calculated to injure them in many ways. Next, did accused intend it? They must first dismiss from their minds all question of whether he wished it. Of course the accused did not wish to injure his employers: what he wished was to get money. The general presumption of the law was in favour of innocence in the absence of evidence of guilt, but as men seldom did unlawful acts with innocent intentions the law inferred that every unlawful act was done with unlawful intention unless the contrary were proved. The counsel for the accused had admitted that these acts were highly improper and unlawful. The law presumed that what was unlawful was intended to be unlawful unless the contrary appeared. The presumption, which was as much the presumption of common sense as of law, was that in doing what he did the accused acted with fraudulent intent—that was to say, if they found that he intended Mr. Hoffman to believe that these goods had been shipped he intended that with fraudulent intent. It was presumed that every sane man of full age contemplated the probable and natural consequences of his acts. The fact that the accused intended to pay back the money was no defence whatever to a charge of fraud. Fraud consisted in the injury done at the time by the specified act, and the fact that the person committing the fraud intended to remedy it at some future time was no defence. The motive was no defence. If accused had wanted to supply money to his friends or spend it in charity that would be no answer to the intended fraud. If they found that the natural and probable consequences of the accused's act in obtaining the security of these bills of lading were to injure Ahrens and Co. either pecuniarily or in their credit as merchants, and that the accused contemplated such consequences, or unless they had some evidence that he did not contemplate such consequences, they would find accused guilty. If they found that he intended Mr. Hoffmann to believe that the goods had not been shipped, or he believed that Mr. Hoffmann would believe that they had not been shipped, then they would find him not guilty. If, again, they believed that he intended Mr. Hoffmann to believe that the goods were shipped and they could find any other explanation of his conduct than that he expected injury to happen to Ahrens and Co., then they would find him not guilty. With regard to the first and sixth counts, which were money counts, they could take into consideration with them the Russo-Chinese Bank count. They had this in common, that they charged against the accused that he procured something by false representations. In the first and sixth counts it was alleged that he procured certain sums of money, in the seventh count that he obtained payment of a certain sum of money to other people on his behalf. In the first two it was alleged that he falsely represented to one Herbert Maurice Bevis that he had shipped goods, the said Herbert Maurice Bevis being manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. All he had said in the other case as to the intent to defraud applied here. By accepting the statements as to the furs being shipped when they were not shipped the Bank lost the security it intended to have for a time at any rate—it was placed in a worse position that it understood. The Bank was entitled to determine for itself what amount of security it required, and it required the security of these documents, and if those documents did not represent goods which had been shipped the Bank was in that sense defrauded. If the Bank was not defrauded was anybody defrauded? The three persons who might be defrauded were the Bank, Lampson, and Ahrens and Company, and it did not matter which of the three was actually defrauded. They might put away the question of the prisoner intending to set himself right. He had been unable to set matters right, as it appeared in evidence, and all the persons mentioned were entitled to the knowledge of the facts before they placed themselves in the position in which the act of the prisoner put them. His Honour discussed at length the question whether the prisoner knew the statement was untrue when he made it. In the letter to the Bank he spoke of the goods as "shipped" on board the *Hohenzollern*, and he put it to them to decide whether the prisoner, in making that statement, knew it to be untrue. Dealing with the question to whom the representations were addressed his Honour pointed out that with the exception of the bills of the 7th April it was clear that Mr. Bevis, the manager of the Bank, never considered them, or read the statements contained in the letters on the bill of lading. He was clearly not the person to whom the representations were made as alleged in the indictment, and therefore on the first and sixth counts they would return a verdict of "not guilty" of obtaining money. The same verdict must be given on the 7th count, as to obtaining money to be paid. That did not conclude the matter, however. It was shown that he had attempted to obtain money, and His Honour put it to the Jury that they had to consider whether these representations, though they did not reach Mr. Bevis as manager, yet they might be intended to reach him, and that would be attempting to obtain money by false pretences, presuming them to come to a conclusion that the pretences were false and that Leopold knew them to be false. He pointed out that the mere passing of money from one account to another was not obtaining money, and therefore with regard to the charge of obtaining one amount of 42,816 *yen*, the chief portion of which was absorbed in discharging his indebtedness, they would dismiss that sum from their minds. He did not obtain that sum in the sense of the indictment. But there was a sum of 1,500 *yen* or so over and above in this case, and in the other cases there appeared to be no or practically no indebtedness at the time the sterling was carried to the account. That amount that he drew against by cheque could be deemed the obtaining of money, whether the money was paid over the counter to himself, or to anybody, or by a banker's payment. That also covered the 7th count. He was charged with obtaining money he had paid to the Russo-Chinese Bank. If they had made up their minds in other respects as to that transaction they might take it from him (his Honour) that the money was paid to the Russo-Chinese Bank on behalf of the accused. Those were the only counts which he thought it would be necessary to call their attention to. If they had any reasonable doubt—he did not mean a doubt such as would get them out of the difficulty of deciding in the case—but a doubt on reasonable grounds then they would give the benefit of it to the accused.

The Jury retired at about 10 minutes past one o'clock.

During their absence the Judge called the attention of Mr. Litchfield to the third count and asked him to show cause why it should not be quashed. The money alleged to be obtained was simply set to accused's account to discharge his indebtedness, and he (His Honour) suggested that was not obtaining money.

Mr. Litchfield could offer no valed objection, and the count was quashed.

His Honour then asked Mr. Litchfield to discuss the point raised by Mr. Terry as to the counts under the Debtors' Act charging accused with contracting a liability for a certain sum in *yen*. His Honour pointed out that the liability actually was for an indefinite sum of money in sterling, while the indictment said that it was for a certain sum in *yen*.

Mr. Litchfield suggested various amendments, but the Judge declined to accept them.

The Jury returned into Court at 1.35 p.m.

The Clerk of the Court—Gentlemen of the Jury, have you considered your verdict?

The Foreman (Mr. Martin)—We have.

The Clerk—And do you find the accused guilty or not guilty? On the fourth count first?

The Foreman—Guilty.

The Clerk—That is the verdict of you all.

The Foreman—It is.

The Clerk—On the first, sixth, and seventh counts?

The Foreman—We find him guilty of obtaining money by false pretences.

The Judge—Do you find him guilty of obtaining money, or of attempting to obtain money?

The Foreman—Guilty of obtaining.

The Judge—I am afraid you misunderstood me. I told you he could not be guilty of obtaining money on this count. He could be found guilty not of the offence charged, but of an attempt.

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The Foreman—We have certainly misunderstood.

His Honour—Gentlemen, it is this way. It is quite clear that the letter never reached Mr. Bevis in the sense that he personally acted upon it. It is quite clear that you take the meaning to be that the latter was sent to Mr. Bevis with the purpose of getting money, and in that case there was an attempt to obtain money. Under this sixth count if you find him guilty that is the only proper form of your verdict. He did obtain the money, but he did not obtain it through the particular process charged in the indictment. He attempted to obtain it by that process, but the process did not go right through, with the result that as a matter of law we have to say he did not get it in that particular way. You cannot find him guilty of obtaining money on representations to Mr. Bevis unless you find as a matter of fact that they reached Mr. Bevis and were attended to by him.

The Foreman—We discussed that point.

His Honour—And you adhere to it? In order to find him guilty on these counts you must say that the representations went to Mr. Bevis, and I have told you they did not.

Mr. Baldwin—As a matter of law we took it that it was so.

His Honour—You have to take it from me that you cannot find him guilty of obtaining by any construction. The only proper verdict is one of not guilty of obtaining, and guilty of attempting to obtain.

The Foreman—Our opinion was founded on your definition of obtaining money. Our construction of the law was that it was intended for Mr. Bevis as manager of the Bank.

His Honour—Yes, that was the intention, and therefore the moment the letter was sent there was an attempt to get it in that way. But although the money was afterwards obtained it was in law obtained in some other way. The defendant attempted to obtain it by making a mental impression on Mr. Bevis, but in order to find him guilty of obtaining money by that letter you have to find that Mr. Bevis received it and personally acted upon it. And he did not receive it. It is clear from the evidence that he hadn't it at all. You may take it from me that the only proper verdict is not guilty of obtaining, but guilty of attempting to obtain.

The Foreman expressed a desire to retire again.

Mr. Terry—I should like—

His Honour—No, you cannot speak now, Mr. Terry.

Mr. Terry—But, your Honour—

His Honour—No, you cannot speak while the Jury is in the Court.

The Jury then retired.

After their withdrawal Mr. Terry said he should like to ask the Judge to give a proper charge to the Jury. From the remarks that one Juryman made it was evident that they were under the impression that there was some question of legal intendment for them to decide. He thought it would be better if the Judge charged that it was only a question of fact and not of legal intendment that they had to decide.

His Honour—I pointed out that ■ them over and over again.

Mr. Terry—Yes, but still from the remark of Mr. Baldwin it is quite evident you did not get it into Mr. Baldwin's head. I should like your Honour to recall the Jury and tell them there is no intendment of law whatever, but it is a question of fact. I ask this as a proper thing to be done. There is a chance that the prisoner may be prejudiced by the misunderstanding in the minds of the Jury.

His Honour—I will see. I heard the remark of Mr. Baldwin, but I understood it in a different way.

Mr. Litchfield said he would accept a verdict of not guilty in the counts under the Debtors' Act.

The Jury returned after about ten minutes' further consideration and found the accused guilty on the first and sixth counts of attempting to obtain money.

His Honour—I have been asked to say that the matter of the letter to the Bank was left to you as a matter of fact and not as a matter of law. Do you find that is the proper meaning of the addressing of that letter to the Bank—its proper interpretation as a matter of fact is that it was intended to be given to the manager and his staff?

The Foreman—Yes, certainly.

Mr. Litchfield—In the second count I shall ask you to instruct the Jury to return a verdict of not guilty. The third count is quashed, and we ask for a verdict of not guilty in the 5th, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelvth counts.

The verdict was entered accordingly.

The Clerk (to the prisoner)—Charles Emil Leopold, have you anything to say why judgment should not be passed upon you?

Prisoner—No.

His Honour—Charles Emil Leopold, the judgment of this Court is that you be imprisoned for two years with hard labour, and that such imprisonment take place in the Government prison at Hongkong, and that until such time as you are removed there you be imprisoned and kept to hard labour in Her Majesty's Gaol in this place. That is the judgment of the Court on the fourth count. On the first count it is the judgment of this Court that you be imprisoned for one year and that such imprisonment run concurrently with the imprisonment for which you have already received sentence. On the sixth count you are sentenced to one year's imprisonment with hard labour to commence after the termination of the term of imprisonment for which you have been sentenced on the first count, but that shall also run concurrently with the imprisonment to which you have been sentenced on the fourth count. That your imprisonment on the fourth count do commence from the 6th December ended last, being the day on which you first came upon your trial, and that the others shall follow accordingly. The result is, as I hope you will have understood—this is no part of my judgment but to explain the matter to you—that these sentences which have been passed upon you concurrently do not increase the sentence that was first pronounced. The substance of it all is that you are to be imprisoned for two years with hard labour.

The prisoner, who took the matter very quietly, was then removed by the gaoler.

The Judge dismissed the Jury with thanks for the patient attention they had given to the case, and told them that they would be excused from service for a year.

NIPPON RACE CLUB.

The annual meeting of this Club was held at Keil's Building on Friday afternoon. Dr. Wheeler presided, and there were also present:—Messrs. W. B. Walter, T. Thomas, R. D. Robison, V. Blad, M. H. R. Harris, W. W. Till, B. H Pearson, G. Phillip, A. J. Easton, W. F. Mitchell, and K. Kingdon.

THE REPORT.

The Secretary (Mr. J. E. Beale) having read the minutes, Dr. Wheeler presented the report and accounts, which were as follows:—

The Committee have again the pleasure of congratulating the members of the Club on a successful year; the popularity of the N. R. C. continues, as shown by the Honorary Treasurer's account for 1898. Members' subscriptions have increased from *Yen* 3,160 in 1897 to *Yen* 3,475. The sum of *Yen* 2,436.50 has been expended on improvements and repairs in addition to *Yen* 2,387.50 for the purchase of the plot of ground mentioned in the last report. The Club has been fortunate in receiving no less than six presented prizes, including two from His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, during the year, and your Committee thank the donors for their liberality. In spite of the fact mentioned above, the Club gave *Yen* 12,600 in prize money against *Yen* 12,310 during 1897. The year closes with a credit balance of *Yen* 5,187.46, the balance last year being *Yen* 4,884.87. Your Committeee have entered into a contract for increasing the present Stand accommodation, the cost of which will be *Yen* 3,500. The Club now possesses two plots of ground, one measuring 248 tsubo, the other 484 tsubo, both situated on the West side of the grand stand. The title deeds are at present in the name of a Japanese. The Club has also 1,400 tsubo on the North-west boundary of the carriage paddock, on lease for a term of 20 years, and has paid the rent for half this period. The Bureau of Imperial Estates has generously granted the Club free of charge the use of two plots of ground measuring 1,039 tsubo, the eastern portion of the present paddock, on which stalls have been erected. Fourteen China Griffins have been ordered from Shanghai. Country-breds, however, are difficult to obtain on reasonable terms and there is very little chance of supplying willing purchasers with a new batch for the Spring meeting. This will necessitate altering the skeleton programme. The difficulty members of the Club experience in purchasing horses bred in Japan, suitable for racing purposes, threatens to be the most serious the Club has had to encounter for years. The Club was organized with the object of "improving the breed and encouraging the breeding of horses in Japan," but although racing members are willing to pay fair prices for suitable animals, there are none to be had. Hitherto the Government farms have assisted the N. R. C. by supplying young animals at a moderate price, but this channel apparently is no longer to be depended upon. In accordance with Rule 4 the Committee now retire.

THE NIPPON RACE CLUB IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE HONORARY TREASURER FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Dr.		Yen.
To Purchase of Ground as mentioned in last report		2,387.50
„ Rent of Race-course for 1898		750.00
„ Rent of Additional Ground and Expenses with Transfer		195.95
„ Rent of New Carriage Paddock (Rent in advance for 10 years paid and October, 1897)		—
„ Monban's Wages, keeping of the Course, etc.		670.51
„ Repairs to Grand Stand, Stables, Fences and Rails		522 80
„ Additions:—		
16 New Stalls	510.00	
„ Other additions and alterations	1,413 38	1,913.38
„ Expenses in connection with Meetings		840 96
„ Printing, including Racebooks, and Advertising		824.31
„ Late Secretary's Salary, first half year		100 00
„ Secretary's Salary, second half year, to 31st Dec., 1898		150.00
„ Collector's Fee, one year, to 31st Dec., 1898		100 00
„ Fire Insurance (*yen* 8,000) on Grand Stand, Stables, and Pari Mutuel, one year, to 20th Nov., 1899		95 00
„ Prizes, Spring Meeting—half forfeits added, entries for Champions deducted		5.775 00
„ Prizes, Autumn Meeting—half forfeits added, entries for Champions deducted		6,825 00
„ Hospital Expenses for a boy hurt at the Autumn Meeting		192 00
„ Cost of 8 China Ponies, Spring, 1898	1,297 86	
„ Cost of 14 China Ponies, Autumn, 1898	2,270.49	3 568 35
„ Balance:—		
Fixed Deposit in H. ■ S.B.C.	1,500.00	
Cash in Hand	3 687.46	5.187.46
		30 098 22

Cr.		Yen.
By Balance brought forward		4,884.87
„ Members' Subscriptions		3.475 00
„ Entries, Spring Meeting		3.115 00
„ „ Autumn „		3.375.00
„ Rent of Stalls, & Jockey's Licences, Spring Meeting		700 00
„ Rent of Stalls, & Jockey's Licences, Autumn Meeting		770.00
„ Gate Money & Sale of Race Books, Spring Meeting		1,672.30
„ Gate Money & Sale of Race Books, Autumn Meeting		1.561.65
„ Pari Mutuel, Spring Meeting		1,747 80
„ „ Autumn „		3,004 97
„ Lotteries, Spring Meeting		1,019.20
„ „ Autumn „		1.210 44
„ Rent of Refreshment Rooms, Spring and Autumn Meetings		100 00
„ Registration of Name and Colours		7 00
„ Fine under Rule 96		10.00
„ Interest on Current Account with H. & S.B.C. (to 30th June, 1898)		70.13
„ Interest on *yen* 1,500 per cent. Fixed Deposit in H. ■ S.B.C., one year		60 00
„ Received for ■ China Ponies, Spring, 1898	1,200	
„ Received for 14 China Ponies, Autumn, 1898	2,065	3.265.00
= Surplus from Gymkhana		49 86
		30,098.23

E & O. E.

Yokohama, December 8th, 1898.

V. Blad, Hon. Treasurer.

Subscription and Vouchers examined with the books found correct.

S. Warming.

Mr. Pearson proposed, and Mr. Robison seconded, that the accounts be taken as read. This was carried.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE.

The election of the Executive Committee was then proceeded with, the Chairman stating that he believed the retiring members would be willing

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Mr. TILL suggested that Mr. Mori might be selected to take the place vacated by Mr. R. Rinoiye on the Committee.

The ballot resulted as follows:—Messrs. W. W. Till, Mori, E. Knaff, T. Thomas, V. Blad, A. J. Easton, and J. C. Nicholson.

THE COUNTRY-BRED CLASSES.

Mr. TILL said, with reference to the paragraph in the report with reference to country breds, he had been in hopes that they would be able to obtain a batch of country breds by the assistance of Mr. Mori, but from what he had heard that afternoon he was afraid it would be impossible. They could only get eight ponies, five of which were half-bred and three three-quarter bred, to be delivered in Yokohama for $150. They could get 15 quarter breds, but he thought it was no good trying these.

In reply to a question, Mr. TILL said the Committee had decided to strike out the Maiden races next year, as there appeared to be no chance of filling them. There was nothing for them, and apparently nothing to be had.

Mr. ROBISON thought if the maiden races were left in some people would try to get horses. He proposed that three races be reserved for country bred maidens.

Mr. KINGDON seconded.

Mr. TILL suggested that a proviso should be added "provided the new lot of three years olds do not fill."

It appeared that the feeling of the meeting was against accepting the country breds offered, as several subscribers declined to accept half breds.

Mr. ROBISON therefore withdrew his proposition as a motion, and left it as a suggestion to the Committee.

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. MITCHELL called attention to the very unsatisfactory condition of the road to the Race-course, of which he heard many complaints. He believed the Committee were taking steps in the matter.

Mr. TILL said the Committee were negotiating with the Kencho with the view of making a road. If not successful, they must do it at their own expense. They had not got a reply yet from the Kencho. The Committee were quite unanimous as to the necessity of doing it.

Mr. ROBISON pointed out that there was no entrance for ladies to the stand in case of rain. They had to walk across the grass, which was not pleasant. He suggested an entrance from the paddock to the stand.

It was pointed out that this was impracticable in view of the present traffic arrangements.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the matter should be left to the incoming committee.

Mr. KINGDON suggested that there should be one race for members' nonwinners at the next meeting. It would encourage members to ride.

The meeting then adjourned, a vote of thanks being passed to the Committee for their services, and to the Vice-President.

THE AMERICAN COLONIES.

The American people have taken the great plunge. They have decided to accept a great and widely divided Colonial Empire, which, under an irresistible though inexplicable historic law, will expand and expand until their destiny is accomplished. Their attitude seems to puzzle the Continent and some strict legists here, but it is not, we think, unintelligible or even obscure. They have already annexed Hawaii, which is in no sense an island of America, and will govern it, we presume, as a Territory, that is, through its people subject to the general control of Congress. They have avowedly annexed Porto Rico, and will, we imagine, after a short interval, make of that a Territory also, though they may for a year or two leave it to be reduced to perfect order by military agents. They have not annexed Cuba for three reasons,—first, because they do not intend to pay her Debt; secondly, because they do not know how far her population will prove loyal; and thirdly, because they do not wish to leave a half-savage mass of half-castes and negroes to govern themselves and the white men. They will wait till the island grows calm, and fills up, as it will do, with Americans and American-Italians; and meanwhile they will remain "in military occupation," will govern the island with a strong hand, and will, of course, remain answerable to the world for its conduct and its destiny. They will have no option about that last matter, and we do not believe they will claim one. A derelict island is impossible. Finally, they have through the President instructed their Peace Commissioners to claim the whole of the Philippine Islands, offering at the same time to pay a sum equal to the local Debt, *not* as compensation for districts not actually in their possession—that is a grotesque suggestion when the history of colonial conquest is considered—but in payment for certain rights of property, as apart from dominion, possessed by the Spanish Government. As Spain is unable to create a fleet which can defeat the American squadrons, she must perforce submit, and will, we imagine, do so without very keen reluctance. The pride of Spain suffers cruelly; but her statesmen have long been sick of the burdens imposed by the colonies, while her people who valued them, have been disenchanted by the intolerable weight which their defence has added to the burden of conscription. How the islands are to be governed is not as yet decided; but as they contain eight or nine millions of people, they will doubtless be controlled, under one fiction or another, by picked men from West Point, and a Civil Service slowly organised for judicial and fiscal administration. At all events they will be governed from Washington, and the Americans start, therefore, on their new career in full possession of Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii, the Ladrones, and the Philippines as dependencies, all of them of one character, that is, islands defensible by sea power only, but difficult to govern because all occupied by dark labouring populations ruled, guided, and to a large extent taxed by dominant white castes.

To govern such possessions so peopled, wisely, with a certain vivifying gentleness, and yet through decrees from above, is very difficult work, as we discovered when we began it, and before an experience marked by many failures had taught us a sound tradition; and the Americans will find that the task will produce many changes, both in their internal organisation and their dominant ideas. They must, for example, as they already admit, greatly strengthen their Navy, and thus modify their relation to all the Powers of Europe, which, with all their enormous armaments, stand in great awe of powerful fighting fleets. They talk already of the British Fleet as a "menace to mankind," and now here is a second, possibly as strong a sea-Power, about to manifest itself and its strength in the business of the world. The Americans will be unable, with their new position, to abstain from "interfering" in European politics, and will probably, with their possessions, be indisposed to abstain. Then they must have a much larger regular Army, for the security which their rule will give to person and property in their colonies will attract large and diversified populations, and to keep them quiet they must have troops which can be used at a moment's notice, without the delays and excitement and lavish expenditure attendant on volunteering. Moreover, half these troops must be dark men, negroes, half-castes, Tagals, and, we should say, Mahommedan Malays, who are amongst the bravest men in the world. The islands, whether in the Caribbean Sea or the Pacific, cannot support, even if they are well governed, the cost of American soldiers by the ten thousand, nor will American opinion lightly regard the necessary expenditure of life on the islands which it will take half a century to render fairly healthy for white men. To make such dark troops into trustworthy auxiliaries they must be governed in a way which Americans have yet to learn, and, above all, be exempted from the first from any insult or any ridicule on the ground of colour. The dark races fear and, in a way, reverence, the white one, but without giving up their own impression that they also are God's creatures, entitled both to self-respect and to personal vanity. Individual American officers have displayed great aptitude for organising dark regiments both at home and in China; but Washington will now have to establish a tradition by the help of which ordinary officers may do this work nearly as well as picked men. And, finally the Americans will have to acquire that wonderful, to us almost inexplicable, English tolerance which alone enable Englishmen to avoid incessant collisions with their millions of dark subjects. They have, by a miracle of good luck, this tolerance already as regard religion, holding as they do a conviction that no man's faith can be the business of the State; but they have to acquire it as regards many moral questions, polygamy for example, many questions of grade, as dark race being at heart democratic, and some few fiscal questions of high importance, the aversion of dark men, for example, to any new kind of direct taxation. The most completely popular rebellion we ever had to face in India was caused by a rate which all Englishmen and Americans pay without a murmur. That our kinsfolk will learn all these lessons in time we have no doubt, but the learning will be slow, and will be attended at first with failures which will tax their splendid patience, and the resourcefulness and openness of mind which they have hitherto displayed in every department of life except the political. Then trouble will be to believe that schemes for securing social order which work admirably in Massachusetts will hardly work in Cuba and Hawaii, and will produce nothing but wild disorder in Luzon and Mindanao.

We wonder greatly if the American Colonial Dominion will pay its own expenses. It should, for most of it is fertile, and some of it, Porto Rico and Luzon, for example, extraordinarily productive. Nevertheless, we are not quite sure. The Spanish soldier costs little beyond his keep, while the American soldier is a more expensive article even than our own. A tropical Civil Service, again, to be pure, and to be composed of picked men, must be highly paid, and must be provided with pensions, which become in time a serious burden on the Treasury. A colony, too, which is a mass of islands like the Philippines, demands a good many officials, for every island not provided with them sinks rapidly into anarchy. And lastly, the colonies are in want of public works, railways, roads, harbours, healthy barracks, quays, and lighthouses, and the amount which can be spent on those "necessities of civilisation" is almost limitless. The colonies may cost a good deal of money for some years, and though the Union can pay anything, we are not quite sure of its willingness to export treasure. We also can pay anything if we try, but we are very unwilling to pay either for India or the Colonies. The Americans have not shown themselves very willing to accept debts, and were obviously relieved when General Merritt reported that there was for the present money enough in Manila to pay everybody. The taxation of the islands will have to be made searching, and to include direct as well as indirect imposts; and we should not be surprised to find that the first ground of quarrel between the islanders and their new rulers was the weight of the financial burden. The natives will grow rich very soon, and be able to pay any reasonable demands; but they do not like taxation, and the only mode of resisting it with which they have hitherto been acquainted is murderous insurrection.—*The Spectator*.

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the figure originally taken seemed excessive, and to that end general standards were given for each division of the empire. Finally, it was proposed that six per cent. be taken as the rate of interest universally: in other words, that the value of land should be considered as 16⅔ years' purchase of the rent obtained for it. In many cases the rate now taken is lower than 6, and, of course, the assessed value of the land in terms of the rent is correspondingly higher.

Several questions were asked with regard to this Bill, and the Government Delegate, Mr. Megata, gave full explanations. A difference of opinion arose as to whether the Bill should be handed to the Special Committee charged with the duty of reporting upon the Land-Tax Amendment Bill, or whether an independent Committee should be appointed. Mr. Hoshi Toru moved that, in view of the importance of the Bill, the members of the various special and standing committees should be summoned from their rooms, in order that the matter might be decided by a full House. That having been done, the President announced that an open ballot would be taken to decide between the two proposals. The result was that 146 voted for handing the Bill to the Special Committee of 27 which was to be nominated for the purpose of reporting on the Land Tax Bill, and 127 voted for a separate committee.

4. A private Bill for amending the Law of the Administrative Court. According to the language as it now stands, the cases falling within the jurisdiction of the Court are set forth specifically (*rekki shugi*). The consequence is that the Law, owing to excessive minuteness, is defective in comprehensiveness. The Bill proposes to change the specific enumeration for a general enumeration (*gaikwatsu-shugi*), for, with things as they are at present, many cases fall beyond the jurisdiction of either the common courts or the Administrative Court.

5. A private Bill for amending the Barrister's Law, in the sense of improving the status of Barristers.

6. A private Bill for amending the Business Tax Regulations. The proposed amendments do not extend to the system of taxation but only affect the rates. The latter are lowered throughout in the amendments, and the taxes on rental values of premises (*chintai kakaku*) and on employés (*jugiyo-sha*) are abolished. The Bill was handed to the Special Committee entrusted with the duty of reporting upon No. 5.

The House rose at 3.40 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 12TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers met at 10.10 a.m., and passed the Supplementary Budget for presenting 20 million *yen* from the Indemnity to the Imperial Estates; the Bill for amending the Law relating to Grants in Aid of the Families of deceased Officials, and the Bill for changing the boundaries of Ibaraki and Chiba Prefectures. Baron Funakoshi, formerly Governor of Chiba, delivered a long speech in support of the last measure.

The House rose at 10.55 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.15 p.m.

THE ASHIO MINE QUESTION.

Mr. Nakamura, Vice-Minister of the Army, asked permission to offer an explanation. Mr. Tanaka Shozo, when speaking with reference to a Question about the Ashio Mine, presented by him on the 10th instant, had alleged that military men had trampled the people under the feet of their horses. He desired to declare that such an allegation was absolutely baseless.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN FORMOSA.

Mr. Takagi Masatoshi presented a question with regard to the expenses of military operations for restoring good order in Formosa. He wanted to know why the appropriations for that purpose were included in the Budget for 1899-1900, instead of being embodied in a supplementary budget for the present year. Japan's reputation was greatly injured by her failure to administer Formosa, and this procrastination in the matter of finance seemed to indicate that the Government took a very light view of its responsibilities. They might indeed reply that repeated failures to bring a new budget into existence had hampered their accounts, but such an excuse could not have any validity, for the fate of the general Budget was independent of the fate of a supplementary budget. If Japan wanted to be regarded as a serious country; in other words, if she desired to establish for herself a character such as would enable her to conduct her foreign relations satisfactorily, the best thing she could do was to correct the incompetence of the military in Formosa and to amend the whole system.

MILITARY SECRETS.

The Bill for the better Preservation of Military Secrets, as sent down from the House of Peers, was then read for the first time. The Government Delegate explained that the laws now in force only provided punishments for violations of trust which had actually been committed and were of no efficiency for preventive purposes. Hence the Bill now before the House.

After a few questions the Bill was handed to a special committee.

MR. TANAKA SHOZO EXPELLED.

At this point Mr. Tanaka Shozo announced a desire to reply to the remarks made by the Vice-Minister of War at the commencement of the sitting.

The President ruled that such a course would not be in order, but Mr. Tanaka angrily disputed the ruling, and severely censured the President. The latter remaining firm, Mr. Tanaka shouted:—"Has the Minister of War told a falsehood or has Tanaka Shozo tried to deceive the people? Which is the more credible?"

The President thereupon ordered Mr. Tanaka to withdraw from the Chamber, and Mr. Tanaka obeyed, calling out in a loud voice as he left the hall, "I desire nothing better."

NEW BILLS.

The Bill, sent down from the Peers, for extending the system of Military Courts Martial to Formosa, was then read and handed to a Special Committee.

Several Government Bills relating to changes in methods of account for the purpose of greater financial convenience, were then read and handed to Special Committees.

The House rose at 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers met at 10.10 a.m.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Mr. Chisaka presented a question with reference to an appropriation from the Indemnity to form a capital fund in aid of primary education. The Houses of the Diet had voted a Representation to the Government in that sense during the ninth session, and petitions had been received from all parts of the country. It might be truly said that the nation's wish was unanimous. But the Government had not taken any step to give practical effect to the views embodied in the Representation, and as the final disposition of the remainder of the Indemnity was now at hand, the signatories of the Question desired to know what view was entertained by the Cabinet.

FORMOSA.

The Order of the Day having been taken, a favourable report was presented by the Special Committee on the Government Bill for continuing, until 1905, the operative force of Law No. 63 of 1896, by which legislative competence is vested in the Governor General of Formosa.

Mr. Izawa opposed the Bill. He contended that the administrative methods hitherto adopted in Formosa had been a failure; that the manner of dealing with the insurgents had been faulty; that the pardon recently granted to rebels by the Governor General had been a violation of the Imperial Prerogative, and that the House might reasonably expect the substitution of some new and improved system for the old and defective one.

Mr. Mizuno, while not denying the force of the criticisms which the administration of Formosa evoked, saw no reason to reject this Bill.

Dr. Goto, Chief of the Civil Bureau in Formosa, offered some explanations, and the House passed the First Reading, but decided not to proceed with the Second Reading at once.

THE GIFT TO THE THRONE ACCEPTED

The President announced that he had been summoned to the Palace that morning, and had received the following message for transmission to the House:—

> With reference to the transfer of a portion of the Indemnity to the Imperial Estates, We approve the reverence and sincerity of the House of Peers.

NEW BILLS.

The Government Bill for amending the Law relating to free grants of land in Hokkaido, having been recommended by the Special Committee for approval, was passed through all its Readings.

A Government Bill embodying a project of Nationalization Law, similar to that introduced in the last session of the Diet but not passed owing to time, was then introduced briefly by Professor Hozumi, Government Delegate, and handed to a Special Committee, as was also a Government Bill relating to an amendment of the Peers Law.

The House rose at 11.35 a.m.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.15 p.m.

THE GIFT TO THE THRONE.

The Vice-President—Mr. Motoda Hajime—read an Imperial Message couched in the same terms as that delivered to the House of Peers in the forenoon.

A HEATED DEBATE.

Mr. Kudo Kokan presented a Question with reference to the dispersal of the Anti-Land-Tax Union Meeting at the Maple Club that morning. He said that, just as Viscount Tani was about to deliver an address, the Shiba Police Inspector had ordered the meeting to dissolve on the ground that its proceedings were inimical to public order. How was such an extraordinary act to be explained? The present condition of the national finance demanded the closest consideration and the fullest discussion by all parties in the State. Count Okuma and many other distinguished persons had attended the meeting for the purpose of debating on the soundest economical measures to be taken at this juncture. In what respect was such a meeting inimical to public order? And how did it happen that precisely similar meetings held in the Imperial Hotel for the purpose of hearing Marquis Ito's financial views, were not ordered to disperse for the same reason? If the action taken that morning by the police was merely a blunder on the part of an Inspector, the matter would assume a comparatively trivial aspect, though the punishment of the Inspector would not altogether absolve the Cabinet employing him. But if he had acted under instructions from the Government, then such a Government was no longer worthy of confidence. Incidents of this nature could not fail to bring discredit upon Japanese civilization in the eyes of foreign nations. All faith in the integrity of the Cabinet would be lost, and innumerable abuses might be expected to spring up from innumerable quarters. He could not for his own part believe that procedure so arbitrary and improper had the sanction of the Ministry, but assuredly it was necessary that the responsibility should be definitely ascertained. If, indeed, the Cabinet had been cognizant of the Police Inspector's action, then he ventured to say that they were under no obligation to be governed by a Ministry which set the constitution at naught.

Mr. Momma Shokei rose to speak, but the Vice-President announced that the Order of the Day must be taken.

Mr. Momma explained that he had a right to

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speak. He had sought the Vice-President's permission prior to Mr. Kudo's speech, and the Vice-President had desired him to wait.

SCENES OF DISORDER.

The Vice-President ruled Mr. Momma to be out of order, and called upon the chairman of the Special Committee to present his report with reference to the first Bill on the Order of the Day, but Mr. Momma declined to resume his seat and continued to address the House in a loud voice, declaring the Vice-President's ruling improper. Several members cried out that the Vice-President was wrong, and voices were raised from the Peers' Box in the Gallery encouraging Mr. Momma to proceed. The latter grew more excited and defiant, so that the Vice-President finally ordered him to withdraw. He refused to obey the order, and resisted a sergeant who approached to enforce it. Mr. Sato Kyoshi, who sat beside him, assisted to obstruct the sergeant. Four or five sergeants now came up, and several members approached, among them Mr. Nakamura Yaroku, who undertook to demonstrate that when the sergeants were directed to remove a member seated between two others, they must not disturb either of the latter, but must climb over or under the middle of the desk to get at the recalcitrant member. The House gradually fell into a state of confusion, and the Vice-President, unable to re-assert his authority, ordered a recess.

When the House re-assembled 30 minutes later, the Vice-President explained that Mr. Momma had asked permission to make a motion at the beginning of the sitting, but not until after permission had been given to Mr. Kudo Kokan. He (the Vice-President) had therefore desired Mr. Momma to postpone his motion until after Mr. Kudo's speech, whereupon Mr. Momma had withdrawn the motion, thereby renouncing any right which he might otherwise have claimed. Under the circumstances the Order of the Day had been announced immediately on the conclusion of Mr. Kudo's remarks, and after the announcement it was of course out order for any member to address the House on an irrelevant subject. In view of what had occurred, he felt it to be his duty to hand Mr. Momma to the Disciplinary Committee, and to suspend the sitting (2.35 p.m.)

JAPANESE LITERATURE.

By Clay MacCauley.

[Note.—This paper, read in part at a meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society, October 21st last, has as its basis an article compiled by the present writer for the "Warner Library of the World's Best Literature" recently published in New York, U.S.A. This paper, however, differs from the latter in the arrangement of its materials, and especially by the incorporation in it of much further exposition and of quite a number of new illustrative translations of Japanese writings. In putting this larger compilation into permanent form the writer wishes to say that his work should not be considered as being at all commensurate to his theme: it is merely a sketch-composition that may serve to show the general reader who does not have access to the special student's libraries, somewhat of the kinds of literature, distinctively Japanese, that the Japanese have produced in their career as a lettered people. As a rule the writer has accredited at proper places the respective authors with the materials taken from their works, but he wishes here to acknowledge in general much unaccredited help gained from the studies of W. G. Aston, Esq., Prof. B. H. Chamberlain and Sir Ernest Satow.]

Civilization in Japan bears date from a time much more recent than that generally ascribed to it. The uncritical writers who first made Japan known to Western peoples accepted the historical traditions treasured by the Japanese as a record of fact. In the popular imaginings of the West, consequently, Japan is a land which for at least twenty-five centuries an organized society, under a monarchy of unbroken descent, possessed of a relatively high though unique culture in the sciences and arts, has had place and development. But, during the last twenty years, competent students have discovered that Japanese civilization is comparatively modern. They cannot carry its authentic history much farther back than about half-way over the course that has been usually allowed for it. No reliance can be placed upon any date or report in Japanese tradition prior to near the opening of the fifth Christian century. Undoubtedly there was, as in all other lands, some basis for long-established tradition; but the glimpses of Japan and its people obtained through the Chinese and Korean annals of the early Christian centuries disclose the inhabitants of these islands, not with an organized State and society, peaceful, prosperous, and learned, but as segregated into clans or tribes practically barbarous and wholly illiterate; the clan occupying the peninsula east of the present cities of Kyōto and Osaka having then become leader and prospective sovereign. Certainly before the third Christian century was well advanced there was no knowledge whatever of letters in Japan; and certainly too, for a long time after the art of writing had been brought into the country there was no popular use or knowledge of the art.

I.
Historical Sketch

The knowledge of letters was in all probability introduced into Japan by Korean immigrants. Their language and writing were Chinese. In the fourth century there may have been among the Japanese some learners of this new knowledge. The Japanese claim positively that in the fifth century their national traditions, hitherto transmitted orally, were written down by adepts in the new art. But whatever may be true of the earlier centuries, it is perfectly clear that in the first half of the sixth century many scholars came to these islands from the continent, and were given positions of trust in the administration of the dominant government in Yamato; and that from the year 552 A.D., with the acceptance of Buddhism by those highest in authority, and the full inflow of Chinese influence upon society, literature in Japan began to have permanent place and power.

But literature in Japan and Japanese literature are two quite different things. They are as unlike as the Latin writings of mediæval Germany and the German writings of later times. Japanese literature, which only is the theme of this paper, does not date from the notable acquisition by the Japanese of a knowledge of letters. Not with that, nor for a long time afterwards, was any serious attempt made among them to express in writing the language of the people. In all probability this was not done until towards the end of the seventh century. The higher officials of State and of the Church—the new Buddhism—had a monopoly of learning; and their writings prior to the eighth century were, so far as is known, wholly Chinese in word and in form. But as the eighth century opened, a medium for the production of a Japanese literature was receiving shape. A kind of script devised from Chinese ideographs for the purpose of expressing Japanese speech was coming into use: that is, Chinese characters were being written for the sake of their phonetic values; their sounds, not their meanings, reproducing Japanese words, and sentences. In this so-called *manyō-kana* the first material embodied was in all probability that for which verbatim transliteration was necessary, such as ancient prayers and songs. With this phonetic writing a literature distinctively Japanese was made possible, and had its beginnings.

Archaic Writings.

700-900 A.D.

1. Kojiki.—The earliest Japanese literary product now existing, excepting possibly a small fragment of ancient chronicles called the "Kiujiki," is a marvel-bearing summary of treasured tradition, known as the "Kojiki" or "Record of Old Things" written by imperial command and completed in the year 712. The "Kojiki" is a professed history of creation, of the Divine genesis of the imperial family of Japan, and of the career of this "people of the gods" into the early part of the century preceding its composition. To the student of Japanese literature the "Kojiki" is especially valuable, because in it are preserved the oldest known products of the purely literary impulses of the Japanese. Long before the Japanese could write, they could sing; and there is good reason to accept the songs given in the "Kojiki" at heritages from the much farther past.

Illustrative Translations.

Why Universal Darkness Once Reigned.

[From the "Kojiki," compiled in 711-12 by Yasumaro, a high official of the Imperial Court. The "Kojiki" (Record of Ancient Matters) is the sacred book of Shintōism, and thus practically the Bible of Japan. The whole work has been translated into English by Basil Hall Chamberlain.]

As the Great and Grand Goddess Amaterasu [Sun goddess] sat in her sacred work-room, seeing to the weaving of the Grand Garments of the Gods, her brother Haya-Susano-o made a hole in the roof, and dropped down through it a Heavenly Piebald Horse which he had flayed backwards; at whose aspect the maidens weaving the Heavenly Garments were so much alarmed that they died. . . . At this sight was the Great and Grand Goddess Amaterasu so much terrified that, closing behind her the door of the Rocky Abode of Heaven, she made it fast and disappeared. Then was the whole High Plain of Heaven darkened, and darkened was the Middle Land of Reed-Plains [*i.e.* Japan], in such wise that perpetual night prevailed. And the clamour of the myriad evil spirits was like unto the buzzing of flies in the fifth moon, and all manner of calamities did everywhere arise. Therefore did the eight myriad Gods assemble in a Divine Assembly on the banks of the river Amenoyasu, and bid the God Omoikane devise a plan. And Her Grandeur Ame-no-Uzume, binding up her sleeve with the Heavenly Moss from Mount Ame-no-Kagu, and braiding the Heavenly Masaki in her hair, and bearing in her hands the leaves of the bamboo grass from Mount Ame-no-Kagu, did set a platform before the door of the Heavenly Abode, and stamp on it until it resounded. Then did the High Plain of of Heaven tremble, and the eight myriad Gods did laugh in chorus. Then the Great and Grand Goddess Amaterasu was filled with amazement, and setting ajar the door of the Rocky Abode of Heaven,

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spake thus from the inside: "Methought that my retirement would darken the Plain of Heaven, and that darkened would be the whole Middle Land of Reed-Plains. How then cometh it to pass that Ame-no-Uzume thus frolics, and that all the eight myriad Gods do laugh?" To which Ame-no-Uzume replied: "If we laugh and rejoice, 'tis because there is here a Goddess more illustrious than thou" And as she spake, their Grandeurs Ame-no-Koyane and Futotama brought out the mirror, and respectively showed the same to the Great and Grand Goddess Amaterasu, who, ever more and more amazed, gradually came forth from the door to gaze upon it; whereupon the God Ame-no-Tajikarao, who had been lying in ambush, took her by the hand and drew her out. . . . And so when the Great and Grand Goddess Amaterasu had come forth, light was restored both to the High Plain of Heaven and to the Middle Land of Reed-Plains.

AN ANCIENT LOVE SONG.

[This song, paraphrased, by the present writer from the literal translation of it by Prof. Chamberlain given in the "Kojiki," is one of the very oldest of extant Japanese versifications. An attempt has been here made to render into English the peculiar alternating five and seven syllable metre of Japanese verse].

The Deity-of-Eight-Thousand-Spears went forth to woo the Princess of Nuna-kawa in the land of Koshi and sang a song before her house. Then the Princess of Nuna-kawa, without yet opening the door, sang from the inside, saying:—

Yachi hoko no
Kami no mikoto
Nuye kusa no
Me ni shi areba
Waga kokoro
Urasu no tori so
Ima koso wa
Chidori ni arame
Nochi wa
Nadori ni aramu wo
Inochi wa
Na shite tamai so.

Of Eight Thousand Spears
Thou the August Deity!
Like a drooping plant
I, a tender maiden, am:
And my fluttering heart
Like to bird upon the strand;—
Like the sanderling,
Timid bird that, startled, flees.
But the hour will come
When compliant it will be.
So, upon thy life,
Do not deign to yield to death.

2. NIHONGI—Within nine years after the appearance of the "Kojiki" another compilation of national tradition was made, bringing the story of the nation down to the close of the seventh century. This work (year 720) is called "Nihongi" or Japanese Chronicles. But it is almost wholly Chinese in language and in construction. Its special value, considered as part of Japanese literature, lies in its preservation of some old Japanese verse.

Illustrative Translations.

WHY THE SUN AND THE MOON DO NOT SHINE TOGETHER.

[From the "Nihongi" (Chronicles of Japan): a rendering and amplification, for the chief part in Chinese, of the "Kojiki," completed under the direction of Prince Toneri and Ono Yasumaro in 720. The "Nihongi" is the popular embodiment of ancient tradition. The following extract is taken from the translation of the whole work made by W. G. Aston, Esq.]

Now when Ama-terasu no Oho-kami (Sun Goddess) was already in Heaven, she said:—"I hear that in the Central country of reed-plains (Japan) there is the Deity Uke-mochi no Kami (Goddess of Food). Do thou, Tsuki-yomi no Mikoto (Moon God) go and wait upon her." Tsuki-yomi no Mikoto, on receiving this command, descended and went to the place where Uke-mochi no Kami was. Hereupon Uke-mochi no Kami turned her head towards the land, and forthwith from her mouth there came boiled rice: she faced the sea, and again there came from her mouth things broad of fin and things narrow of fin. She faced the mountains and again there came from her mouth things rough of hair and things soft of hair. These things were all prepared and set out on one hundred tables for his entertainment. Then Tsuki-yomi no Mikoto became flushed with anger, and said:—"Filthy! Nasty! That thou should dare to feed me with things disgorged from thy mouth." So he drew his sword and slew her, and then returned and made his report, relating all the circumstances. Upon this Ama-terasu no Oho-kami was exceedingly angry, and said:—"Thou art a wicked Deity. I must not see thee face to face." So they were separated by one day and one night, and dwelt apart.

IN PRAISE OF THE DRAGON FLY.

[This ode, taken from W. G. Aston's translation of the "Nihongi," is ascribed to the Emperor Yūriaku, A.D. 460. But, says Mr. Aston, —"It is not to be supposed that the Emperors actually composed these verses themselves, nor perhaps any others ascribed to them in the 'Nihongi.' The hand of the Court-poet is plain in the honorific epithets and forms given to him therein."]

The Emperor made a progress to Kahakami no Ono, where he commanded the forest wardens to drive the wild beasts. He lay in wait hoping to shoot them himself, when a gad-fly came swiftly flying. Then a dragon-fly flew thither suddenly, bit the gad-fly and went away with it. The Emperor was pleased at its attention and commanded his Minsters, saying:—"Do ye on Our behalf compose an ode in praise of this dragon-fly." As none of the Ministers made so bold as to compose an ode, the Emperor forthwith composed a short piece, saying:—

These tidings some one
Told in the Great Presence,
How in Yamato
On the Peak of Omura
Four-footed game was lying:
The Great Lord,
When he heard this,
Stood at his throne
Entwined with jewels,
Stood at his throne
Entwined with cloth:
Waiting for the game,
Whilst I remained
Waiting for the wild boar;
Whilst I was standing
My arm in the fleshy part,
Was stung by a gad-fly:
But soon a dragon-fly
That gad-fly did bite.
Even a creeping insect
Waits upon the Great Lord.
Thy form it will bear,
O Yamato, land of the dragon fly.
* * * * *
That in this wise
It should be famous
The Heaven-filling
Land of Yamato
Was called the Land of the Dragon fly.

3. NORITO—Among the important remains of the beginnings of Japanese literature are some prayers used in the ritual (*norito*) of Shintōism. When these ancient expressions of this ethnic religion were first put into written form is not known. Their appearance as literature however, certainly took place as early as the tenth century, and, says, Sir Ernest Satow in an article on the "Norito," it is "likely that the *norito* as we have received them, had been transmitted orally, without any material alteration, for generations before they came to be written down."

Illustrative Translation

PRAYING FOR HARVEST.

[This *norito* is ascribed by Mabuchi to the reign of the Emperor Kō-in 770-781. It was celebrated on the 4th day of the 2nd month of the year. Sir Ernest Satow, from whose translation the following extract is taken, remarks that "whether this ritual date from the extremely vague epoch to which Mabuchi ascribes it, there seems sufficient internal evidence that it owes its origin to a very remote period of antiquity."]

He (the Mikado) says:—"I declare in the presence of the sovran Gods of the Harvest. If the sovran gods will bestow in many bundled ears and in luxuriant ears the late-ripening harvest which they will bestow, the late-ripening harvest which will be produced by the dripping of foam from the arms and by drawing the mud together between the opposing thighs, then I will fulfil their praises by setting-up the first fruits in a thousand ears and many hundred ears, raising-high the beer-jars; filling and ranging-in-rows the bellies of the beer-jars, *I will present them* (*i.e. the first fruits*) in juice and in ear. As to things which grow in the great-field-plain,—sweet herbs and bitter herbs; as to things which dwell in the blue-sea-plain,—things wide of fin and things narrow of fin, down to the weeds of the offing and weeds of the shore: and as to CLOTHES—with bright cloth, glittering cloth, soft cloth and coarse cloth will I fulfil praises. And having furnished a white horse, a white boar, and a white cock, and the various kinds of things in the presence of the sovran god of the HARVEST. I fulfil his praises *by setting up* the OFFERINGS of the sovran GRAND-CHILD'S augustness" (*i.e.* Amaterasu, the Sun-goddess).

4. MANYOSHIU.—The chief depository, however, of Japanese literature in its beginnings is the treasury of poems gathered during the Nara Era (completed about 760),—the "Manyōshū" or "Collection of Myriad Leaves." In these books the choicest utterances in Japanese verse then existing were garnered. They remain now an invaluable memorial of the intellectual awakening that followed Japan's first historic intercourse with Korea and China.

Illustrative Translations.

URASHIMA TARO.

[From the "Manyōshū," a collection of ancient verse compiled about 760, by Prince Moroe and the poet Yakamochi. This poem, relating the adventures of "the Japanese Rip Van Winkle," is supposed to be much older than the eighth century. Translation by W. G. Aston.]

When the days of spring were hazy,
I went forth upon the beach of Suminoe;
And as I watched the fishing-boats rock to and fro
I bethought me of the tale of old:
[How] the son of Urashima of Midzunoe,
Proud of his skill in catching the *katsuwo* and *tai*,
For seven days not even coming home,
Rowing on beyond the bounds of the ocean,
Where with a daughter of the god of the sea

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He chanced to meet as he rowed onwards.
When with mutual endearments their love had
been crowned,
They plighted their troths, and went to the
immortal land,
Where hand in hand both entered
Into a stately mansion, within the precinct
Of the palace of the god of the sea,
There to remain for everlasting,
Never growing old, nor ever dying.
But this was the speech which was addressed
to his spouse
By the foolish man of this world:—
"For a little while I would return home,
And speak to my father and my mother;
To-morrow I will come back."
When he had said so, this was the speech of
his spouse;
"If thou art to return again to the immortal
land
And live with me as now,
Open not this casket at all."
Much did she impress this on him;
But he, having returned to Suminoe,
Though he looked for his house,
No house could he see;
Though he looked for his native village,
No village could he see.
"This is strange," said he; thereupon this was
his thought:
"In the space of three years since I came forth
from my home,
Can the house have vanished without even the
fence being left?
If I opened this casket and saw the result,
Should my house exist as before?"
Opening a little the jewel-casket,
A white cloud came forth from it
And spread away towards the immortal land.
He ran, he shouted, he waved his sleeves,
He rolled upon the earth, and ground his feet
together.
Meanwhile, of a sudden, his vigour decayed and
departed:
His body that had been young grew wrinkled;
His hair, too, that had been black grew white;
Also his breath became feebler night by night;
Afterwards, at last his life departed:
And of the son of Urashima of Midzunoe,
The dwelling-place I can see.
In the immortal land
He might have continued to dwell,
But of his own natural disposition:
How foolish was he, this wight!

A MAIDEN'S LAMENT.

[From the Manyōshū written by Lady Sakanōe, 700-750, daughter of a prime minister and wife of the Viceroy of the Island of Shikoku. Her writings are much praised. This poem, together with the five poems following, all from the (Manyōshū), are translations by B. H. Chamberlain—parts of his admirable work the "Classical Poetry of the Japanese."]

Full o't he sware with accents true and tender,
"Though years roll by, my love shall ne'er
wax old!"
And so to him my heart I did surrender,
Clear as a mirror of pure burnished gold;
And from that day, unlike the seaweed bending
To every wave raised by the autumn gust,
Firm stood my heart, on him alone depending.
As the bold seaman in his ship doth trust.
Is it some cruel god that hath bereft me?
Or hath some mortal stolen away his heart?
No word, no letter since the day he left me;
Nor more he cometh, ne'er again to part!
In vain I weep, in helpless, hopeless sorrow,
From earliest morn until the close of day;
In vain, till radiant dawn brings back the morrow,
I sigh the weary, weary nights away.
No need to tell how young I am, and slender—
A little maid that in thy palm could lie:
Still for some message comforting and tender
I pace the room in sad expectancy.

HUSBAND AND WIFE

[Author unknown.]

WIFE

While other women's husbands ride
Along the road in proud array,
My husband up the rough hillside
On foot must wend his weary way.
The grievous sight with bitter pain
My bosom fills, and many a tear
Steals down my cheek, and I would fain
Do aught to help my husband dear.
Come! take the mirror and the veil,
My mother's parting gifts to me;
In barter they must sure avail
To buy a horse to carry thee!

HUSBAND

An I should purchase me a horse,
Must not my wife still sadly walk?
No, no! though stony is our course,
We'll trudge along and sweetly talk.

MY CHILDREN

[Written by Yamagami no Okura, governor of the province of Chikuzen,—700-750.]

What use to me the gold and silver hoard?
What use to me the gems most rich and
rare?
Brighter by far—ay! bright beyond com-
pare—
The joys my children to my heart afford?

ELEGY

[Written by a poet named Nibi, of whom nothing is known.]

The gulls that twitter on the rush grown shore
When fall the shades of night,
That o'er the waves in loving pairs do soar
When shines the morning light,—
'Tis said e'en these poor birds delight
To nestle each beneath his darling's wing
That, gently fluttering,
Through the dark hours wards off the hoar-
frost's might.

Like to the stream that finds
The downward path it never may retrace,
Like to the shapeless winds,
Poor mortals pass away without a trace:
So she I love has left her place,
And in a corner of my widowed couch,
Wrapped in the robe she wove me, I must
crouch
Far from her fond embrace.

TO A FRIEND.

[Written by Hitomaro, probably without a peer among Japan's ancient poets. Hitomaro was not of high rank among nobles, though of imperial descent. He became a provincial officer, and died, it is said, in the year 737.]

Japan is not a land where men need pray,
For 'tis itself divine;
Yet do I lift my voice in prayer, and say,
"May every joy be thine!

"And may I too, if thou those joys attain,
Live on to see thee blest!"
Such the fond prayer that, like the restless
main,
Will rise within my breast

ODE TO FUJI YAMA.

[The name of the writer of this ode is not known.]

There on the border, where the land of Kai
Doth touch the frontier of Suruga's land,
A beauteous province stretched on either
hand,
See Fuji-yama rear his head on high!

The clouds of heaven in reverent wonder pause,
Nor may the birds those giddy heights essay,
Where melt thy snows amid thy fires away,
Or thy fierce fires lie quenched beneath thy
snows.

What name might fitly tell, what accents sing,
Thine awful, godlike grandeur? 'Tis thy
breast
That holdeth Narusawa's flood at rest,
Thy side whence Fujikawa's waters spring.

Great Fuji-yama, towering to the sky!
A treasure art thou given to mortal man,
A god-protector watching o'er Japan;
On thee forever let me feast mine eye!

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

JAPONICIZING CHRISTIANITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have been much interested in Will Pattillo's paper in opposition to Mr. Takahashi's view of Japonicizing Christianity, as it appeared in the late number of the *Japan Mail*. It gives me some ideas of religious controversies that are going on between Japanese Christians and Foreign missionaries. Unfortunately I am not acquainted with Mr. Takahashi's view of the Japanisation of Christianity, and therefore I am not in the least qualified to judge of the dispute between the two well-known writers. But while reading Will Pattillo's communication in the *Japan Mail*, I fancied that he had not spent much time in studying what he wrote. Perhaps he might have had some prejudices which prevented him from penetrating into the fundamental ideas of Oriental religions, and also into the moral habit of the Japanese. Thus he speaks as if the moral idea of Love were strictly a Christian monopoly. But we had, several centuries before Christ, the Golden Rule of Universal Brotherhood inscribed in Dharmapada and also in Lung Yu. I quote a few words from the Dharmapada scripture:—

"Let a man overcome anger by love, let him overcome greediness by liberality, and the liar by truth."

"Hatred does not cease by hatred at any time; hatred ceases by Love."

"If a man does what is good; let him do it again, let him delight in it."

And let me quote some more from Lung Yu:—

"Do not to others that which you do not like others to do to yourself."

"Treat your enemy as if he were even your friend."

Again, in speaking of the spirit of a Samurai, the writer astonishes me by quoting a dramatic expression: *Kataki wo utazu ni shinu no ga zannen desu*—I regret to die without slaying my enemy. Why does he not quote real Japanese maxims such as—*Bushi ni nishin nashi*—the Samurai has no double mind; *Kannin wa kannin naranu kannin suruga kannin*—Magnanimity is magnanimity, to pardon an unpardonable mistake is magnanimity; *Shuteki wo miru nao ryobu no gotoku subeshi*—Regard your enemy as a good friend?

Finally, by quoting the Rev. Narayen Sheshadri upon four weaknesses of Hindoism, Will Pattillo says that the same indictment might be made against all religions in Japan. But does Christianity give an entirely consistent account of God? Is the doctrine of the Trinity a logically consistent conception? Is the doctrine of creation a consistent view of God's work? There is a perpetual change in the world, but not creation. There is causation, or a circle of causes, but not an ultimate cause. For a final cause as such is a logical impossibility, as it ends in self-contradiction.

Does Christianity give a correct view of sin? The story of original sin is a mere poetical narration. According to the rational interpretation, that which is forsaken by God is said to be sin. But how can we conceive Absolute as exclusive of sin, without committing ourselves to the error of self-contradiction? That Absolute which excludes relative is not true Absolute.

Is the doctrine of atonement a consistent view of the process of salvation? Is it not a relic of the ancient custom of sacrifice? To the rational mind, atonement as such is not in the least a successful process for lifting man from imperfection.

As to the Christian view of the future world, it seems to us a poetical conception. To us Nirvana is supposed to be the world to come, and our rational conception of Nirvana is freedom from all limitations, and to find heaven on this earth is to attain the state of Uyonehan in which the accomplished is said to be an Arhat. To us the process of salvation is intellectual, moral, and religious discipline, and the end of salvation is to find oneself in God. Our conception of God is real Absolute, harmonious, wholly free from all. Therefore if Christianity

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be so rationalized as to remove all relics of ancient superstitions peculiar to the Occident, I am glad to say that the Christian missionary would be able to find, in a single morning, millions and millions of sympathisers in this country.

Yours obedient servant,

K. NAKAMURA.

Nagoya, Dec. 7th, 1898.

THE LATE MR. HOOPER.

Had Mr. F. H. Hooper lived until the 15th inst. the tale of his years would only have reached 36. He came to Japan some 15 years ago and for about a twelvemonth or so was with the Chartered Bank. On severing his connection with that institution he entered the office of Messrs. Flint, Kilby, & Co., where he remained until the end, a thoroughly trusted and valued servant. The deceased took a great interest in aquatics and used to row till some years ago, when he was warned of a weakness of the heart, and after that became an ardent supporter of the Mosquito Yacht Club. Before leaving England, Mr. Hooper was a Naval Volunteer. Only a fortnight ago he received the news, by telegram, of the death of his aged mother, to whom he was deeply attached. Amongst his immediate friends his death was not wholly unexpected, as although he was at the office as late as Friday last, the possibility of a suddenly fatal access of his malady could never be lost sight of. Several brothers and sisters reside in England and one brother is a resident of Melbourne, to whom he was contemplating a visit to avoid the winter here, for there can be no doubt that the recent cold aggravated his complaint. The funeral took place on Tuesday morning and was the occasion for many displays of respect and esteem.

AN IMPORTANT CASE FOR FOREIGNERS.

The hearing of the charge against a Japanese trader named Nakagawa Ichitaro, living at Oiamachi, 2-chome, Yokohama, who was prosecuted by Messrs. Klingen and Seux, No. 177, Settlement, was recently concluded. The criminal action was rejected, the court holding that the accused had only incurred a debt. It was stated that the accused on the 13th August purchased indigo valued at *yen* 1,003.79 from the foreign firm, and paid the amount by a cheque on the Mitsui Bank on the 15th of the same month. When the foreign firm presented the cheque it was found that the accused had no cash in the bank to meet it. The firm thereupon brought a charge of fraud against Nakagawa.

OPENING OF THE Y. C. AND A. C. PAVILION.

Fortune has at length smiled upon the Committee of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club and allowed the long deferred opening of the new Pavilion to take place. Saturday turned out a glorious day, after the heavy rain of the previous night, and though the ground was heavy for the football players and the track soft in places for the bicyclists, the meeting must be pronounced a success. In the morning only a handful of ladies were present to inspire "the kids" on to victory over "the crocks," but in the afternoon the fairer section of Yokohama society turned out in force, making, with the bunting and decorations on the new building, a very bright and pleasing picture. The decorations, by the way, deserve particular mention. The design of Mr. C. M. Duff, Vice-President of the Club, they were carried out by the ground-man and his eldest son, the floral portions being the work entirely of the latter. Along the whole front, in chrysanthemums, ran the sentiment—"May the pleasures of Sportsmen never know an end." Above this was the monogram of the Club worked in a floral medallion and surrounded by the H. & S. Bank, our great bowler of those days, and also of C. M. Duff, our present great wicket-keeper (cheers). It also recalls the names of R. D. Walker, one of the best all round cricketers of his time, of his brother I. D. Walker, the famous Harrow captain, who passed away only the other day; Lord Harris, and many others well known at home on the tented field. The next epoch was 1884, when the energy of Edgar Abbott (applause) whose portrait you now see on the wall, organized and carried through the amalgamation scheme which has proved such a success. His pavilion lasted down to the present time and the present building, which I think you will all agree with me is worthy of the Club and of Yokohama.—(Cheers). I have always had great faith in the old saying about a sound mind in a sound body, and believing as I do that the cricket-ground has exercised and will continue to exercise a great influence for good on the young men of Yokohama, I think it is deserving of the hearty support of all the heads of houses in the place (loud applause)—and also of everyone who takes an interest in the welfare of the community.—(Applause). With these remarks, gentlemen, I again declare the New Pavilion opened, and ask you to drink great and continued prosperity to the Y. C. & A. C.—(Loud and long continued applause).

Mr. N. P. KINGDON, who humourously described himself as the youngest member of the Club, remarked that the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club had always been fortunate in having good men at their head and he hoped they would always have such a good man as their President (Cheers).

Mr. D. BLAKE next rose and said he had great pleasure in presenting to their President, Mr. Mollison, a very slight token of their esteem and appreciation of the manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the Club during the present year. He would say that during the erection of this building Mr. Mollison had taken the deepest interest in all its affairs and had assumed upon himself a great amount of work which he (the speaker) feared others in his position would have failed to undertake (applause). Though there were only a few members of the Committee they thought it better to present this slight token on behalf of the Committee, rather than get up a subscription among the members. He had great pleasure in presenting a small medal to Mr. Mollison and in asking the company to drink with him to their worthy President (loud cheers).

The toast was heartily drunk and all present joined in singing "He's a jolly goood fellow."

Mr. Mollison thanked Mr. Blake and the other members of the Committee most heartily for the very unexpected token of their friendship and good will. He had certainly taken a great interest in the Cricket Club and should continue to do so, so long as he lived, and as he had been more than 30 years in Yokohama it looked as if he should live and die in the place. He saw around him many with whom he had joined in the sports of the old days, not the least being Mr. Kingdon, for whom he rode the famous pony Montezuma in the sixties. Dr. Wheeler was a keen sportsman in those days, and Mr. Dodds also a few years later, while still later he could remember Mr. Kilby making his mark on the rifle range at 600 yards. While he was glad to see the old people about and to recall what they had done, he was also glad to see that the youngsters had made their mark that day. He concluding by thanking them most heartily (cheers).

Mr. F. E. White proposed the toast of their worthy Vice-President (Mr. Duff) saying that he had spent much time over the pavilion and was responsible for the beautiful decorations in that room (cheers.)

The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Mr. Duff said he could assure them it had been a very great pleasure to him to do anything for the Club, but there were many others equally willing to do so, and it was by their help that he had been able to assist the Club. As the younger members were now coming up he hoped they would show the same enthusiasm in the coming season as they had shown in the present one, and he was sure if they would do so the Club would be a great success in every way. (Cheers).

The speech-making, which had been commendably brief, being at an end, the company went downstairs, giving place to the ladies, to view

THE FOOTBALL MATCH.

The football match began shortly before eleven o'clock in the presence of but few spectators. The teams were:—

UNDER 21.

GOAL.

E. Powys.

BACKS.

A. Kingdon, W. McGerrow.

HALF-BACKS.

D. Weed, E. Fladgeley, J. E. Moss (Capt.)

FORWARDS.

J. F. Drummond, W. J. White, H. Kilby, K. van R. Smith, E. Kilby

OVER 21.

GOAL.

F. E. White.

BACKS.

F. J. Lias, G. Allcock.

HALFBACKS.

W. Goddard, E. Barnard, T. S. Forrest.

FORWARDS.

B. Hyde Pearson, H. R. Mair, H. Bethell, H. S. Goddard, W. Mason

Mr. E. Flint Kilby and Mr. E. B. Clarke officiated as linesmen and Mr. F. Gillett as umpire. The juveniles were the first to score, the ball going in off Lias and badly missed by White. Five minutes later Mair equalised. Play was very even, but the youngsters showed much the better combination, their extreme lightness being most against them. During the second half they made innumerable shots at goal, but the wind carried the leather over the bar time and again. Luck was with them in the end and they managed to score two more points—though a smarter goal-keeper could have saved the position in the second case. The older men knocked up another goal before the whistle blew, and the game thus ended in a victory for the lads; a well-earned victory too. The goals have to be credited to Drummond (2), and Smith for the youngsters; and Mair and Pearson for "the crocks."

THE TIFFIN.

Some forty members accompanied the President upstairs to tiffin. Mr. Mollison was supported by Dr. Wheeler, Mr. N. P Kingdon, Mr. James Dodds, Mr. E. Flint Kilby, Mr. J. L. O. Eyton, and others; Mr. F. E. White presided at the over-flow table. A capital spread was prepared by Mr. W. N. Wright, of Wright's Hotel, and at the conclusion of the repast, Mr. Mollison rose and said:—

GENTLEMEN,—It is now my pleasing duty to formally declare the new pavilion opened and in handing their trust over to the members I may be permitted on behalf of the committee to express the hope that the building may be found satisfactory in every way and prove a lasting monument (I use the word advisedly) to the growing importance and popularity of the Y.C. & A.C. —(applause). This is only the third cricket pavilion I have helped to open, but as many of you know my experience goes back to the days of no pavilion, when a small band of enthusiastic cricketers, myself amongst them, used to carry their cricketing materials to and from a small green patch in the middle of what was known as the New Swamp, a few hundred yards from where we are now in the direction of the Creek. That was in 1868. In 1870, however, after moving to our present position, but with a much smaller ground, we were able to indulge in a matched for a pavilion, though still carrying our gear to and from the Settlement, and it was not until a few years later that we rose to the dignity of a real pavilion, single storied; but notwithstanding that it answered the purpose for many years, and there we had many good games in the days of the 10th Regt. It was situated on the west side of the ground and is associated in my memory with the advent of W. B. Thomson,

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A. M. Watt. The programme showed a goodly array of entries, but in most events only two started, thus robbing the events of much of their expected interest. The prizes, all presented, were a handsome lot, and were set out on view in the Pavilion during the afternoon. Details:—

ONE MILE NON-WINNERS.

First prize presented by the Captain of the Nippon Bicycle Club; the second by Mr. G. W. Rogers.

E. Powys, jun.... 1
A. Kingdon 2
L. W. Eyton 3

Powys had an easy win. Time, 2 m. 43½ secs.

ONE MILE SCRATCH RACE.

For members of the Tokyo Bicycle Clubs, winners at the late Meeting at Shinobadzu excluded. First Prize presented by Mr. B. Guggenheim, second Mr. T. M. Laffin.

J. Strasser 1
S. Onodera 2
Sugino Shuji 3

Strasser had the race in his hands all the time: a good struggle ensued for second place. Time, 2m. 45 secs.

ONE MILE CHAMPION.

First prize presented by the Sorin Club; second by Mr. R. Ward.

J. M. Scott 1
H. Y. Irwine 2

Irwine was thrown off at the start, and Scott, in a most sportsmanlike fashion, acceded to the race being started afresh. Scott waited on Irwine until the last lap and then came away, winning with ease. Time, 2m. 37¾ secs.

TWO MILE HANDICAP.

(For the Members of the Nippon Bicycle Club.) First Prize presented by Messrs. H. McArthur & Co. Second Mr. C. Glahn.

E. Powys, jun, 175 yards 1
J. M. P. Calliçe, scratch 2

Calliçe caught up Powys and passed him, but in the last lap Powys drew ahead and won as he liked. Time 5m. 53 secs.

SLOW RACE—(50 yards 1 foot track.)

Kobayashi 1
H. Y. Irwine 2

The race was run in two heats, S. Kobayashi winning the first heat and H. Y. Irwine the second. Kobayashi won the final.

CHINAMAN'S RACE.—(Two miles Handicap.)

Prizes presented by the Chinese Community.

Cock Eye, scratch 1
C. Su Kong, 100 yards... 0

Only Cock Eye and C. Su Kong started. This was another "slow race," the pace being very lazy. Cock Eye quickly worked his way ahead, and, though he was passed momentarily on the last lap but one, he went away again, and in the last lap had to go slow to enable his rival to make any show at all. Time, 7 min. 4 sec.

FIVE MILE CHAMPION RACE.

First prize presented by Mr. F. S. James; second prize, Columbia Medal presented by Mr. E. H. Tuska.

J. M. Scott 1
H. Y. Irwine 2
A. Kaneko 0

Kaneko was leading as they passed the pavilion the first time, closely followed by Irwine, who in the next lap drew ahead, and Scott also passed Kaneko, who in the third lap had dropped completely out of the running. From this point the race was simply between Irwine and Scott. For almost the whole of the distance Scott hung on to Irwine's wheel, and just on rounding the eastern corner came away, and won by ten yards. It was a very game race. Time, 13 54½. The time was good considering the heavy state of the track.

WEIGHT AND AGE RACE.—(Mile Handicap).

(For riders over 40 years if weighing 200 lbs., or 50 years if weighing less than 200). First prize presented by Mr. A. H. Dare, second prize presented Mr. "Anheuser."

Pat Peacock, Scratch 1
R. Ward, Scratch 2
H. B. Haskell, 75 yards 3

Haskell dropped out at the beginning of the second lap. Ward was then leading, with Peacock close up. In the last lap Peacock went ahead, and won with great ease. The race excited huge interest, and the winner was most enthusiastically cheered. Time, 3 min. 24 secs.

EGG AND SPOON RACE, ONE LAP.—(in fancy costume).

First Prize for winner presented by Mr. Z. Iseya; second prize, for best costume, presented by Mr. P. Peacock.

This might be called the "tortoise and hair" race, for four of the runners were got up in Japanese costumes with fearful and wonderful topknots (in full *rouin* costume in fact), while the fifth was a real picture of "old Brer Tarrypin." The tortoise did not get the same luck as in Æsop's time, for Powys won the race, riding the lap with egg and spoon intact, and took first prize. Collaco (the tortoise) took the prize for the best costume.

LAP RACE, FIVE LAPS, Two spurting lines per lap. Prize presented by Mr. Andreis.

J. M. Scott 1
J. Strasser 2
Sugino Shuji 0

Scott led all the way, and won by a third of a lap. Strasser was second all the way. Irwine fell out in the first lap, coming to grief over his machine.

At the conclusion of the sports, the winners assembled in the upper room of the Pavilion, where Mrs. J. P. Mollison awaited them. Mr. J. L. O. Eyton introduced the various successful riders and Mrs. Mollison addressed a few appropriate remarks to each as he received his prize. Mr. Eyton then thanked her and asked her acceptance of a lovely bouquet. Mrs. Mollison then said:—"Before separating I would just like to say how pleased I am to be able to assist, in however small a way, on such an occasion as the opening of this new Pavilion. I know the Cricket Ground has been a pet hobby of my husband's ever since I came to Japan, 18 years ago, and although he has spent a great deal of time over the Pavilion I think, judging by the result, it has been time well spent and I feel proud of his work; also that he should have had an efficient and willing assistant in my brother Charlie, Mr. Duff. I think the members have every reason to be proud of their new Pavilion, and that it does credit alike to the Club and to Yokohama. I am sure all the ladies present will join me in wishing everlasting prosperity to the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Clubs nor must we forget to thank Mr. Eyton and the Members of the Nippon Bicycle Club for the delightful afternoon's amusement they have given us.

Cheers, including the inevitable "tigers," were then given for Mrs. Mollison, for the President of the Club, and for Mr. Duff—thus bringing a most successful and happy day to an end.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Queen has conferred a distinguished mark of honour on the widow of Capt. Findlay, of the 79th Highlanders, who was killed at the Battle of Atbara. A son has just been born, and the Queen's attention having been called to the fact, Her Majesty has expressed a wish to stand as its godmother, and that the child should be called Victor Alexander. Her Majesty has also presented the child with a christening cloak.

From the reporters' point of view, says the *Globe*, there has hardly ever been a more difficult case to deal with than the Hooley bankruptcy proceedings. The debtor speaks in so low a tone, despite the repeated protests of Bench and Bar, blurts out the names of important individuals with such peculiar pronunciation, that it is almost inevitable that mistakes should occur.

Five members of the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers now grace Kobe by their presence. These gentlemen, along with Mr. Gordon Brown, a frequent visitor to the port, dined together at the Beach House, Tarumi, last Saturday and had an enjoyable time. They were Mr. A. C. Sim (1863-66), Mr. R. Home Cook (1868-72) Mr. A. Gordon Brown (1877-83), Mr. G. Bruce Webster (1878-83), Mr. A. W. Crombie (1893-94), Mr. W. G. Peter (1895-6).

Surgeon-Captain Jameson tells an interesting story of Colonel Slogget's recovery from a very severe wound received in the battle of Omdurman. He was shot through the lungs, and his name actually appeared in the casualty list among the dead. However, a more careful examination was made, and the Medical Staff discovered that life was not really extinct. Immediately the wound was treated by Lord Lister's antiseptic method, with the result that it healed in three days, and in a month Colonel Slogget had entirely recovered.

CHINESE NEWS.

The *Universal Gazette* says that the British professor of the Military School in Wuchang has resigned his post to leave for England, and it is reported that a Japanese instructor will be engaged in his stead.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* announces that Mr. Pritchard Morgan, M.P., has succeeded in obtaining a concession of all the mineral rights in the province of Szechuan, the largest and probably the richest province of China. If this be true, what are we to think of the recent telegrams announcing that France had demanded these very privileges in Szechuan?

According to a Tientsin dispatch published in a Shanghai contemporary, Li Hung-chang took away with him sixteen students for service on the Yellow River Commission. They were selected partly from the Engineer Cadet Corps of the Tientsin Military Academy and partly from the engineering school attached to the Kaiping Colliery at Tongshan. This corps will be set to work at surveying and drawing maps of the whole course of the Yellow River, in the provinces of Honan and Shantung, for presentation hereafter to the Empress Dowager. General Tcheng Ki-tong, of Shanghai, who was to have had charge of the administration of the new Chinese Bund, has also joined the ex-Viceroy's staff, as well as several foreigners.

News comes from Peking that four more eunuchs of the Palace suspected of belonging to the "Emperor's clique," as opposed to the Empress Dowager's, were arrested by the latter's command and, after having been tortured before the Chief Eunuch's Court, were, on the 20th ultimo, handed over to the Board of Punishments to be exiled to Kashgaria "after the Empress Dowager's birthday festivities." This sentence of banishment, says the *N. C. Daily News*, may be taken as an act of exceeding leniency on the part of the Empress Dowager whose practice has been generally to order delinquent eunuchs to be beaten to death whenever handed over to the tender mercies of the Chief Eunuch's Court.

According to a Chungking dispatch, the invitation of the Szechuan Petroleum and Mining Exploitation Co. of that city to the coal and charcoal guilds to meet the former to consult as to the future operations of the Company, as already noted by the *North China Daily News*, raised quite a storm among the ranks of the guild people, who offered a determined opposition to the Company on the ground that it will ruin the present organisations by putting coal on the market at ridiculously low prices. Threats were freely made the other day to bring into Chungking a few thousand miners and charcoal burners to interview the Company's Board of Managers who, by the way, consist of wealthy Szechuan notables, viz: a Hanlin named Sung and two others of Taotai rank. This rather alarmed the latter and a proclamation was accordingly issued by them to the effect that "their future work was only to develop such mines as had already been abandoned in the province or such

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unopened ones as had been discovered by their employés; and that none that were being worked by private individuals or companies would be touched or interfered with." This, however does not seem to have pacified the guild men who are alleged to have declared that "as the Empress Dowager is in power now, all foreign-modelled institutions must be tabooed and the Central Government would only be too pleased to hear of the destruction of the 'Foreign Company.'" This is a warning to foreign companies of all kinds in Szechuan.

The scene of the murder of the Rev. M. Fleming, of the China Inland Mission, was outside a village called Tsungnanchang, forty *li* from Panghai, on the road to Kueiyangfu. He had just relieved Mr. Bolton, of the same mission, who was sick, and was starting on a preaching tour when he heard that a Chinese village had been burned by robbers, which proved to be quite correct. Up to this time he had noticed no hostility towards himself. On the 28th of October a Chingping official named Liu arrived and a few days later told one of the *tsai* (*yamên* runners) to tell Mr. Fleming he wished to see him. This the *tsai* neglected to do, sending another man, without the official's cards, in his place. Mr. Fleming, thinking an official would not send a man without his card, did not go. Liu almost immediately left Panghai. On the 1st of November, a military official, also named Liu, arrived in Panghai with a number of soldiers who surrounded the mission, and broke the signboards and some flower pots. A *tsungyeh* with several soldiers then went to the house, banged at the door and demanded admittance on the pretence that Mr. Fleming had some firearms secreted there for which he wished to search. To this Mr. Fleming naturally objected; but upon being urged by Mr. Pan, the schoolmaster, he opened the door and let them in. The search was made without success and the intruders went away. Fearing for the safety of his own and his two native companions life, Mr. Fleming determined to leave Panghai. This they did on Nov. 4th, intending to reach Kueiyang. They started in good time and reached Tsungnanchang about 12 o'clock, where they rested an hour and had lunch. Starting again they struck the main road to Kueiyang but had no sooner got out of the village than they noticed they were followed by a number of men, the foremost being armed with a big cavalry sword. They had hardly gone half a *li* when the man with the sword attacked the evangelist, killing him almost instantly. Mr. Fleming, who was riding on a mule, at once dismounted and went to his assistance, but the murderer turned on him, calling at the same time on his companions, who rushed on with cries of "Kill," slashing fiercely at him with their knives. Mr. Fleming closed with his assailant and this was the last that Mr. Pan saw of him for he (Pan) ran for his life and managed to escape, arriving in Kueiyang on the 11th of November.

THE CHRIST CHURCH MEETING.

PRESENT CHURCH LOT TO BE DISPOSED OF.

A meeting of seatholders in Christ Church, Yokohama, was held on Thursday afternoon, to vote upon a proposition to the following effect:—

"That the present Church Lots be sold and replaced by a suitable site on the Bluff, if by so doing a clear gain of *yen* 10,000, can be secured towards the cost of building a new Church and Parsonage.

"If Buildings suitable for a Parsonage exist on any Bluff Lot acquired the value of such Buildings to be calculated in the *yen* 10,000, above referred to."

There were present, Messrs. Jas. Walter (in the Chair), W. W Till, R. D Robison, E. Rogers, E. J. Moss, C. G. Wilson, the Rev. E. C. Irwine, Dr. T. H. Triplet, Messrs. E. Whitall, A. J. Gaffe, G. Syme Thomson, E. Flint Kilby, Tom Thomas, W. Rose, W. K. Wilson, E Nicholson, C. H. Pearson, W. B. Walter, Jas. Martin, the Rev. W. T. Austin, Messrs. J. Dudds, F. S. James, E. A. Leather, H. J. Healing, J. R. Parsons, N. P. Kingdon, C. V. Sale, N. F. Smith, J. D. Hutchison, W. F. Mitchell, H. M. Arnould, A. Woolley, J. G. H. Schurr, K. Wilson, H. J. Sharp, and G. W. Rogers.

The meeting, which was perhaps the most representative held in Yokohama for a long time past, was called to order about 4.15 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN described the object that had called the meeting together, the reasons for calling it, etc. He then quoted from a circular that had been issued to the seatholders:—

The following is the Clause in the Trust Deed relating to the power of Seatholders to vote—"Any person residing in Yokohama 6 months, and paying *yen* 20 a year, or whatever is the annual rent for one sitting (before the meeting is called) may vote at a meeting. Vote to be settled by the majority of those present, who can make rules if not inconsistent with the maintenance and support of the Church or Buildings, Chaplain, and celebration of Divine Services."

From the above it will be seen that a series of sittings in the same name only entitles the holder to one vote.

Seatholders must vote in person and not by proxy.

Only the proposition before the meeting could be discussed, all other matter being out of order. The Chairman then described what steps had been taken by the Church Rebuilding Committee and the Church Committee in the matter; and the legal right that the seatholders had to dispose of the property under the trust deed. At the request of several present he read at length the report of Mr. J. Conder, the architect who had reported upon the condition of the present building, and which practically amounted to a condemnation of the structure owing to its age and general decay. It was, in his opinion, within the bounds of possibility that a violent wind or a more severe earthquake than usual might have serious consequences for the building, more particularly the side aisle. The Church Rebuilding Committee, meeting on October 19, also reported that it "was not worth repairing the present building;" and that "the erection of a new church was absolutely necessary."

Before Mr. KILBY was asked to move the proposition, questions were asked as to the amount of money now in the hands of the Church Rebuilding Committee. It was announced that *yen* 14,300 had been promised (of which about *yen* 11,000 had been paid in) and interest on this sum brought it up to about *yen* 15,000.

Mr. E. FLINT KILBY, then rose and said—The objections to the removal of the site appear to be principally on account of doing away with old associations and for the reason that the ground having been consecrated it should not be devoted to secular purposes. Whilst sympathising with those who hold these views, it must be remembered that so far as old associations are concerned these must necessarily be destroyed by the pulling down of the present building, a course which seems inevitable, in view of the unfavourable report on the structure itself. There can be no doubt but that this building is unworthy of the Service to which it is dedicated and that it must be replaced by a more suitable building, both more suitable for the Services of the Church and worthier of the larger interests now represented at this Port as against those at the time it was built. The Church itself is a consecrated building, but it must be pulled down and thereby destroyed, and when by force of circumstances such a course is permissible with the Church, cannot it justly be permitted to dispose of the ground on which it stood? Another reason advanced for retaining the present site is the greater convenience it affords in its proximity to the hatoba and hotels for seafaring men and for visitors. There may be some reason in this, but if the comparatively small percentage of our congregation drawn from these sources is borne in mind and that only a percentage of this percentage would be affected by the change, this reason does not seem worth great consideration and it is entirely a matter of opinion whether the aggregate attendance of visitors would be adversely affected by the change. When the Church was built 36 years ago, there was no Bluff concession and all using the Church lived in the Settlement, but now this is entirely changed. The residential portion of Yokohama has been transferred to the Bluff and the tendency will be more and more in that direction. It is even safe to predict that many residents will go further afield than the present Bluff limits, making a Settlement Church even further from their homes than at present. If these points are so evident with a Church built 36 years ago, do they not apply with great force to a Church to be built now and to last for 50 years or more to come? If the Settlement is chosen for a site for the new Church why we not see it in a few years in the same position as many of our London Churches, quite away from any of the congregation attending its services? If it were a question to-day of the erection of a Church, there is no doubt but that it would be built on the Bluff and that the Settlement as a site would scarcely be considered. The present site is not a quiet one and there is no safeguard but that at some time it might be even noisier than it is if, for instance, the adjacent property were required for manufacturing premises or tea-firing godowns. The great possibility of the transfer of sites leading to a substantial pecuniary advantage is also a good reason for the change. There seems no doubt but that a considerable amount may be secured by this transfer and this added to the *yen* 15,000 already subscribed, would warrant the rebuilding of the Church to be speedily commenced. On this point further and more definite information can be given by our Chairman. A reference to the list of seatholders would show that about 80 per cent. of those using the Church are Bluff Residents and in the opinion of many the greatest reason of all would be the increased attendance at our services which should ensue. The question of the power of the Trustees to dispose of the present site has been thoroughly gone into. It is found that the lots were purchased from the Japanese Government, that the title deed is on exactly the same terms as other lots in the Settlement and a legal opinion has been given that the Trustees have power of sale with a view to replace the site by one elsewhere. The decision of the matter rests with the seatholders and is one on which there may be some difference of opinion, but is also one on which the minority should be bound by the vote of the majority and all do their utmost to further the interests of the Church, irrespective of the site that may be chosen.

A long discussion ensued, in the course of which it developed that the meeting was in favour of moving the Church to the Bluff if a reasonable profit on the sale or exchange of sites could be made. The sum set down in the proposition, *yen* 10,000, was deemed much too small; and it was subsequently pointed out that the figure was merely the minimum one. Mr. Till argued that if only 10,000 *yen* were made, where was the money coming from to build the new church: the profit should be more in the neighbourhood of 45,000 *yen* when the relative values of Bluff and Settlement property were taken in account.

Mr. ROBISON thought that the proposition should be altered to read "if in opinion of the Church Committee it be deemed desirable to rebuild the Church on another site."

Mr. KILBY said that the onus of disposing of the property should be thrown on the seatholders.

Mr. F. S. JAMES thought the figure *yen* 10,000 was too small.—(Hear, hear.) It should be 20,000 *yen* or 25,000 *yen*.

Mr. TILL—I quite agree with Mr. James.—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. MITCHELL—I second Mr. Kilby's proposition.

Mr. TILL, after some further discussion, moved an amendment that for 10,000 *yen*, 25,000 *yen* be substituted. It would strengthen the hands of the Committee.—(Hear, hear.) Mr. F. S. JAMES seconded, but eventually the figure was reduced to *yen* 20,000.

Mr. W. B. WALTER, in the course of the subsequent discussion, drew attention to the fact that a church on the Bluff would be more exposed to damage by typhoons and earthquakes than would a similar edifice in the Settlement.

After some further talk the Chairman read Mr. Till's amendment as follows:—

"That the present Church Lots be sold and replaced by a suitable site on the Bluff if by so doing a clear gain of *Yen* 20,000, can be secured towards the cost of building a new Church and Parsonage.

"If Buildings suitable for a Parsonage exist on any Bluff Lot acquired the value of such Buildings to be calculated in the *Yen* 20,000, above referred to."

Of the 32 seatholders present, 28 voted for the amendment and none against. The amendment thus became the substantive proposition and was declared carried.

Mr. DODDS asked with whom the power of disposing of the property and rebuilding the Church rested.

Mr. KILBY—The Trustees.

The CHAIRMAN ruled that the subject could not be brought before the meeting.

Mr. ROBISON moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Church Committee, and the building Committee, which was carried, and the meeting dispersed.

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TELEGRAMS.

THE LOSS OF THE "YAYEYAMA MARU."

(From our own Correspondent.)

Kobe, Dec. 15.

I learn from a passenger who has just arrived here by the N.P. steamer *Victoria*, that the *Yayeyama Maru* was entering Moji harbour at full speed at one a.m. on the 13th, when the strong tide rendered her unmanageable and she was swept right across the *Brindisi's* stem, carrying away one anchor. Both vessels began drifting and the *Brindisi* slipped her anchor, hoping to get clear. But both steamers were carried down the harbour on to the *Toyo Maru*, where the *Yayeyama* sank at five o'clock. The *Brindisi* grappled the *Toyo Maru*, whose anchors luckily held.

The *Yayeyama* is lying in 27 feet of water, and the bridge is visible. No lives were lost.

The night before last the *Glenturret* was carried down on to a Blue-funnel boat and some plates were damaged.

(From the "Japan Times.")

EFFECT OF BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH.

London, Dec. 9.

Sir Edmund Monson's speech at the Chamber of Commerce banquet is deeply resented in France, it being considered a violation of diplomatic usage.

The *Times* believes that the French are stubbornly refusing to admit the claims of Egypt and Britain to the Nile basin, hence Sir E. Monson's warning.

OPENING OF THE REICHSTAG.

The Emperor William, in opening the Reichstag, announced forthcoming Bills providing for an increase in the army, and preventing the terrorizing of workmen willing to work.

ANTI-ENGLISH SPIRIT OF FRENCH PRESS.

The French papers are delighted at the absence from Emperor William's and President McKinley's speeches of any reference to special ententes with Britain.

SIRDAR RETURNS TO EGYPT.

Lord Kitchener has started for Egypt.

PEACE CONFERENCE TERMINATED.

London, Dec. 10.

The Paris Commission has terminated and the Hispano-American treaty has been drafted, six months being allowed for ratification. The President of the Spanish Commissioners read a protest declaring that Spain has been obliged to yield to brute force.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

The Court of Cassation has ordered the postponement of the Court-martial against Col. Picquart.

The Dreyfusite papers are now asserting that the late Colonel Henry was the real traitor and Major Esterhazy his accomplice.

CHAMBERLAIN ON BRITISH RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND FRANCE.

Speaking at Wakefield, Mr. Chamberlain said that the future regarding France was still unsettled. Referring to the situation in China he believed that an agreement with Russia was desirable, even necessary, if very serious complications were to be avoided.

London, December 14.

Strong rumours are current that Dreyfus will shortly be brought to Paris. During an uproarious sitting of the Chamber, the Socialist Gouset accused the general staff of indiscretion, and fisticuffs ensued between several Dreyfusites and Anti-Dreyfusites.

SPANISH-AMERICAN PEACE TREATY SIGNED.

London, Dec. 12.

The peace treaty between America and Spain was signed at Paris on the 10th. The *Times'* Washington correspondent states that President McKinley favours selling the Philippines after their cession, but retaining Luzon as a coaling station.

CAPE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRITISH NAVY.

A telegram from Cape Town says that the proposal for a contribution to the British Navy has passed both Houses of the Cape Parliament.

DEATH OF AN EMINENT NOVELIST.

The death is announced of the popular novelist William Black.

PHILIPPINES NOT TO BE SOLD.

London, Dec. 13.

The Washington Cabinet denies that the sale of the Philippines is contemplated.

COMING CANADIAN TEA DUTY.

The *Times* Ottawa correspondent wires that it is expected that the next session of the Canadian Parliament will impose a duty on tea amounting to five cents per pound.

CRETAN CHRISTIANS SURRENDER ARMS.

The Christians of Crete have publicly surrendered their arms at Canea.

GERMANY AND ENGLAND.

London, Dec. 14.

Herr von Bulow, in a speech in the Reichstag on foreign affairs, said there were all sorts of questions and many points whereon Germany can go with England and does gladly go with her, while completely maintaining her other valuable connections.

BRITISH ARMY MOVEMENTS.

The Welsh Fusiliers have left Crete for Hongkong.

FRENCH FINANCE.

London, Dec. 15.

The French Government, in deference to the Budget Committee, has waived the proposed state guarantee of any part of the Tonkin railway loan.

THE BRITISH LIBERAL PARTY.

Sir William Harcourt has written to the Right. Hon. J. Morley resigning the Liberal leadership. He states he cannot continue to lead a party rent by sectional disputes and personal interests. The papers consider the position of the Liberal party serious.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF CUBA.

General Brooke has been appointed Military Governor of Cuba, with control over the civil and military administration.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Peking, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.

The Empress-Dowager, hearing that Kang Yu-wei addressed a letter to the Foreign Representatives urging them to interfere in China's domestic affairs, was highly incensed, and sent a secret mandate to the Tsung-li Yamên, which thereupon instructed the Chinese Representative in Tokyo to contrive the seizure of Kang, dead or alive.

The French Minister in Peking is adopting a most peremptory course with reference to the missionary affair, but the Representatives of Germany and England are showing much moderation, and have not yet preferred any demands.

In the middle of last month, mining operations by French citizens for gold-dust at Niuyun in Szechuan were opposed by the people of the locality and a disturbance ensued. Since that time, France has shown a disposition to send troops into the interior of China. The threat now made by the French Minister that a military expedition will be despatched *vid* Yunnan to Szechuan, though ostensibly on account of the missionary trouble, is really connected with the mining affair.

Later.

The German Representative showed himself calm at first, and asked only for the punishment of the officials and others responsible for the outrage committed against a German missionary, but the Chinese Government having shown itself evasive and dilatory, the Minister became angry and proceeded this morning to the Tsung-li Yamen, where he stated that, unless his demands were complied with, the troops now quartered on the island of Tsing at Kiao chou would be sent to the place where the outrage occurred to exact reparation.

France, entertaining the designs above referred to in the matter of mines, has included in her demands a provision that the privilege of mining in Yunnan and Szechuan should be granted to her.

The detachments of eight different nationalities now stationed in Peking for the protection of the Legations are to be formed into a battalion to-morrow morning, and will proceed to Sishang to engage in manœuvres.

Peking, Dec. 10.

The Chinese Government has decided on the arrest of all Reformists throughout the provinces, and instructions in that sense have been issued to the governors. The decision was come to on the 7th inst. by the Ministers of State, the moving spirit being Mr. Gunkee. The Reformists in the South are in great excitement. The discharge of Messrs. Wong Tong wu and Ju Tai-chong, it is said, originated in a charge that they had assisted the movements of the Reformists. It is reported that the Representatives of some of the Powers may offer advice to the Government.

France has threatened the Chinese Government that if the missionaries detained are not restored by the 13th inst., troops will be despatched from Tongking.

Infectious disease has appeared amongst the Russian troops at Peking.

MAIL STEAMERS

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M. Co.	Shantung 1	F. Dec 16
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric 2	Su. Dec. 18
America	P. & O Co.	Coptic 3	Su. Dec. 18
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	M. Dec. 19
Hongkong	P. & O Co.	Steamer	M. Dec. 19
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	W Dec. 21
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru 4	Sa. Dec. 24
Hongkong	M. M Co.	———	W. Dec 28
Hongkong	C. P. R Co	Em. of Japan	Th. Dec. 29
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City R. Janeiro	Sa. Dec. 31
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	Tu. Jan. 3

1 Left San Francisco on the 23rd ult.
2 Left Nagasaki on the 15th inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 30th ult.
4 Left Hongkong on the 15th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. Dec. 19
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Dec. 19
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. Dec. 20
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	S lazie	W. Dec. 21
Shanghai	B. V. S.	Saikio Maru	W. Dec. 21
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	F. Dec 23
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Tu. D c. 27
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Dec. 28
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	·. Dec. 30
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City R. Janeiro	Tu. Jan. 3
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	W. Jan. 4

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at Wright's Hotel on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 398.

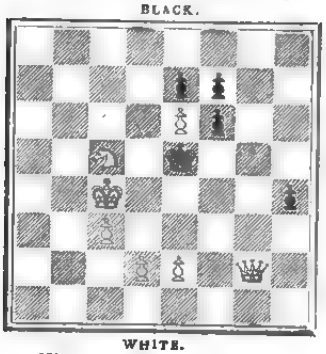
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—K to B 2	1—P takes Q
2—Kt to Kt 6 mate	
	1—P takes B
2—Kt to Kt 5 mate	
	1—P to K 6 ch
2—Kt takes P mate	
	1—K to B 5
2—Kt to Q 2 mate	
	1—K to K 3
2—Kt to Kt 5 mate	
	1—P to B 5
2—Q to B 5 mate	

Correct solutions received from W.H.S. and Marco.

PROBLEM No. 402.

By H. A. DAHL, Christiania, Norway.
Fourth Prize *B. C. M.* Tourney.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in three moves.

GAME No. 462.

THE VIENNA CONGRESS.

We have here what *The Field* called one of Dr. Tarrasch's best, and it is certainly one of the best in the great tourney. The notes, with the two exceptions named, are by the German master, J. Mieses:—

QUEEN'S GAMBIT EVADED.

White—Mr. Burn.	Black—Dr. Tarrasch.
1—P to Q 4	1—P to Q 4
2—P to Q B 4	2—P to K 3
3—Q Kt to B 3	3—P to Q B 3
4—P to K 3	

Theoretical error. 4—K Kt to ■ 3 is correct; then Black's reply would be unfavourable. As it is, the posting of B at Q 3, for White or Black, is of prime importance in the "Stonewall."

	4—K B to Q 3 !
5—Kt to B 3	5—P to K B 4
6—K B to K 2	

Not best. By 6—Kt to K 5, followed by P to K B 4, would have been produced a species of "Counter Stonewall."

	6—Q Kt to Q 2
7—Castles	7—Q to K B 3 !
8—K Kt to ■ sq	

The plan to break up the adverse "Stonewall" is proved incapable of accomplishment. For 9—P to K B 4 is better.

	8—Q to K R 3
9—P to ■ Kt 3 ?	9—P to K Kt 4 !
10—P to K B 3	10—K Kt to K 2
11—P to K 4	11—P to K B 5
12—P to K 5	12—K B to B 2
13—P to K Kt 4	13—Q to K Kt 2

The tendency of Black is never to permit P to Q B 5. If White play that now.

14—.....	14—P to Q Kt 3
15—P to Q Kt 4	15—P takes Q B P
16—P takes Q B P	16—Kt takes K P !
17—Q P takes Kt	17—B takes P, and

wins. Tarrasch, in an unsurpassable manner has made use of all the minute weaknesses of his opponent, and has acquired a decidedly superior position. The whole game is a masterpeice of modern chess strategy.

14—K R to B 2	14—P to K R 4 !
15—R to Kt 2	15—K Kt to Kt 3
16—Kt P takes R P	16—K R takes P
17—K B to Q 3	17—K Kt to R 5
18—R to Q B 2	

If 18—R to K Kt 4, Q to K R 3; 19. Q to Q B 2, Q P takes P; 20—K B takes P, K B to Kt 3, and remains with the advantage. White's game goes to smash on account of the weakness at his Q 4. 19. ■ to K 4 would have been somewhat better.

	18—Q P takes P
19—K B takes P	19—K Kt to B 4
20—K to R sq.	20—Q B to Kt 3
21—K B takes P	

White has nothing better. There is to be considered here the fine variation, 21—R to Q to 2. Kt takes K P !; 22—P takes Kt, and Black mates in four moves! Dr. Tarrasch ends the game quite as energetically as elegantly.

	21—K Kt takes P
22—K B to Kt 4	22—R to R sq.
23—K R to Q 2	23—Q Kt takes P !
24—K B takes ■	24—Q R takes B
25—K R takes Kt	25—K B takes R
26—Q takes K B	26—K R takes P (ch)
27—K to Kt sq.	27—Q to R sq. !
28—Q B takes P	28—Kt P takes B
29—Q Kt to K 4	29—R to R 8 (ch)
30—K to B 2	30—Kt to Kt 5 (ch)

and White surrended.**

** "This game should, at some future time, be given a place in the textbooks, not only on account of the purely classical style of play on the part of Black, but also with regard to its high theoretical importance."—Mieses.

a"* Assuredly a splendid specimen of mingled chess depths and brilliancy."—J. D. Seguin.

GAME No. 463.

Played by correspondence between the Edinburgh and Glasgow Chess Clubs:—

BODEN-KIESERITSKY GAMBIT.

White—(Edinburgh). Black—(Glasgow).

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	25 Q B2ch	K B2
2 B B4(a)	Kt KB3	26 B B5	Kt R3
3 Kt KB3	KtxP	27 B Kt6ch	K Ksq
4 Kt B3	KtxKt(b)	28 BxR	QxB
5 QPxKt	P KB3	29 B Q3	Q Kt4
6 Castles	Q K2	30 R K2	K B2
7 R Ksq	P Q3(c)	31 QxP	QxQ
8 Kt Q4	P KKt3	32 BxQ	P R3
9 P B4	P KKt2	33 R K7ch	K K3
10 Q B3	K Q-q(d)	34 R R7	R KB-q
11 P QKt3	P B3	35 B K6	R B3
12 B R3	K B2	36 RxP	Kt B4
13 QR Q-q	■ R-q	37 P KR4	Kt K5
14 Q K3(e)	■ Kt5(f)	38 P R5	K B4
15 R Q2(g)	Q Q2	39 ■ R8	KtxP
16 P KR3	B B4	40 R KK 8	Kt K7ch
17 K-xB	PxKt	41 K R2	Kt B5
18 Q Kt3	P Q4	42 P KKt4	Kt K3
19 PxP	PxP	43 K K3	K Kt5
20 RxP(h)	BxR	44 P R6	Kt B-q
21 QxBch	K Kt3	45 P R7	KtxP
22 Q Q4ch	K B2	46 BxKt	K R6
23 Q B4ch	K Kt3	47 R Kt7	Resigns
24 B K2	P QR4(i)		

Notes, by Mr. D. Y. Mills.

(a) Played for the express purpose of bringing on the subsequent variation.

(b) Kt to Q B 3, leaving the Kt en prise, gives Black a good game.

(c) Had P to Q B 3 been played the sacrifice of the ■ was intended.

(d) Is there any necessity for this? Why not P to Q B 3 at once.

(e) The choice was between this and Q to Kt 3.

(f) P to Q R 3 might have led to the following continuation:—15—P takes P, P takes P; 16 R to K ■ sq, B to B 3; 17—R takes B, Q takes R; 13—R to K ■ sq, Q takes R ch, followed by P takes Kt.

(g) White also gets a good game by P to K R 3 at once, as Black cannot keep the exchange.

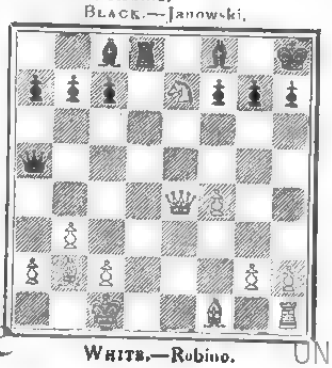
(h) A perfectly sound sacrifice, winning in all variations.

(i) Kt to Q R 3 gives a better chance of resistance; the text move loses the exchange at once, and leaves Black with a hopeless ending.

END-GAME FROM ACTUAL PLAY.

A brilliant end-game from Paris from a game played at the Café de la Regence, Paris between Janowski and M. Robino.

BLACK.—Janowski.



WHITE.—Robino.

Black, having the move, won in the following brilliant manner:—

1—.....	1—B to K B 4 !
2—Kt takes B	2—Q to Q 7 ch
3—Kt to Kt sq	3—Q to Q 8 ch
4—B to Q B sq	4—Q takes Q B ch
5—K takes Q	5—B to R 6 ch
6—K to Kt sq	6—R to Q 8, mate.

—*La Strategie.*

NOTES.

Janowski and Showalter have met at last at the Manhattan Chess Club, says an American Exchange, and settled all the details of their chess match. They will play until one of them has won seven games, and seven games will be played each fortnight. The contest will take places at the Manhattan Chess Club. As Showalter could not begin playing for another day or two the directors of the club engaged Janowski for a simultaneous exhibition, which was given one evening.

Janowski is said to be a smaller man than his pictures would give one the impression. He has a very dark complexion, heavy eyebrows, but large and frank eyes; a most cordial, though at first diffident manner—a man whose presence does not give evidence of the great talent he possesses, but in action exhibiting a picturesqueness and confidence in himself that indicate the source of his success. He speaks only French and German, a few words of English, not enough to permit of conversation; but his manner is so pleasant that lack of conversation without an interpreter seemed not a bar to cordiality. He classes Harry N. Pillsbury, the American champion, and Emanuel Lasker, the world's champion, above Dr. Tarrasch and thinks that he and the great champion are about equal in strength just below the other two. He thinks Lasker is a sounder player than Pillsbury, but Pillsbury possesses greater powers of combination than the world's champion. In a match, he thinks Lasker would have slightly the better chance, because of his conservatism. Despite his modest admission that he considers the others above him, he said he did not fear any of them and would not be averse to matches with them.

In the following amusing skit a writer in the *Charleston News* assumes the prophetic role with a success not usually attendant upon such efforts:—"Accounts from the international game between Spain and America now going on are very interesting. The first game of the series was the one between Dewey and Montojo. The former offered what will henceforth be known as the Dewey Gambit, which the Spaniard accepted. Very early in the game the latter tried to get his Castles to bear, but to no purpose. By a series of brilliant moves the American player had his adversary at a disadvantage, which he followed up in fine shape. The game lasted a little over two hours, with a victory for the American, in which he lost not a single piece. The second game, now in progress, is a consultation game. It is Sampson and Schley *v.* Cervera and Villamil. The Spaniards had the opening move, and essayed a Ruy Lopez. So far they have played it skilfully, but among experts the betting is heavy that the Americans will win. The whole world is watching this game with intense interest. From last accounts, which are meagre, the American players had gained a slight advantage in position. As it is a match for the best two out of three, the chances are that this will be the last game of the series."

YOKOHAMA CHESS CLUB.

There is nothing of interest to record in the Y. C.C. Nearly three months have elapsed since the beginning of the season but we regret to say, not a single match or tournament has been played so far, the attendance at the meetings being very meagre all though. This is very different to what it was last year, when the club had a most successful season, owing largely to the exceptional efforts on the part of the secretary. That gentleman seems to be unable to devote quite so much time and attention to Chess matters this year and it is to be hoped that the officers will take matters in hand energetically and by regularly attending the meetings themselves set a good example to the members. A last effort should be made to successfully conclude the handicap tournament arranged by the secretary. A challenge tournament, a consultation game, or the like, should follow soon and last, not least, a championship match. Mr. Friedlander is liable to be challenged any time after 1st January. What we should like to see is a contest between him and the ex-champion, Mr. Griffin. These two players have never met over the board in any serious game and a match between them should attract a great deal of interest and liven up matters in the Y. C. C.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Hugh McCulloch (6), U.S. Despatch Vessel, 1,280, Capt. C. L. Hooper, 9th Dec.,—Kobe, 8th Dec.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, N. Ohno, 9th December,—Shanghai via ports, 3rd Dec., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Astec, American steamer, 2,303, G. Trask, 11th December,—San Francisco, 15th Nov., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 11th Dec.,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 9th Dec., Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Heidelberg, German steamer, 2,145, Schuder, 12th Dec.,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 4th Dec., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, J. F. Allen, 12th December,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 11th Dec., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ningchow, British steamer, 1,735, W. H. Cross, 13th Dec.,—Portland, Oregon, 12th November, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Martha, German steamer, 1,640, M. W. Kruzfeldt, 14th Dec.,—Cebu, Sugar.—Crasser & Co.

Salasie, French steamer, 2,089, Negre, 15th Dec.,—Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 14th Dec., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, K. Soyeda, 15th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, 14th December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Polyphemus, Dutch steamer, 1,747, Robinson, 15th Dec.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 14th Dec., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Elphinstone, British steamer, 1,146, Abbott, 16th Dec.,—Sailed for Kobe 14th, but put back to port, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,682, W. Townsend, 10th Dec.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 2,422, W. B. Seabury, 10th December,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Belgic, British steamer, 2,695, J. H. Rinder, 10th December,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Orient, Austrian steamer, 1,496, A. Valentin, 11th Dec.,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Armenia, German steamer, 3,469, Magin, 12th Dec.,—Hamburg, Bremen, and Antwerp via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Rossia (28), Russian Cruiser, 12,130, Captain Domujiroff, 12th Dec.,—Port Arthur via Nagasaki.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 12th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Astec, American steamer, 2,303, G. Trask, 13th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,053, S. Kawamura, 13th Dec.,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Elphinstone, British steamer, 1,146, Abbott, 13th Dec.,—London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Satsuma Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,157, N. Ohno, 14th Dec.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 14th Dec.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, J. F. Allen, 15th Dec.,—Seattle, Washington, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hugh McCulloch (6), U.S. Despatch Vessel, 1,280, Capt. C. L. Hooper, 15th Dec.,—San Francisco via Honolulu.

Hector, British steamer, 3,005, John Barr, 15th December,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, C. Young, 15th Dec.,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

King Edward, British ship, 1,657, H. Rhode, 16th December,—Royal Roads, Ballast.—Sale & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Riojun Maru*, from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. C. M. Hicks, Mr. J. H. G. Riley, Mr. G. P. Nilson, Miss Hisa Nagano, and Mr. J. H. Mittiner, in cabin; 76 Japanese, and 41 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. R. Inouye, Mr. N. Tomikawa, and Mrs. S. Sumitomo, in cabin; Mr. N. Watanabe, Mr. J. Kurihara, and Mr. Y. Hiratsuka, in second class, 13 Japanese, one European, and 12 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. A. Churchill, Capt. Impey, Lt.-Col. Churchill, and Mr. Leemann, in cabin; Mr. Chuck Ting, Mr. Lap Chee, and Mr. Wong Kin Tong, in second class; 7 Chinese, and 1 Japanese woman, in deck.

Per French steamer *Salasie*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Kodama, Mr. Mahanich, Mr. Cheodoroff, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. Marshall, Miss Cunliffe, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Kieue, Mr. Losada, Mr. Ponai, Mr. Makin, Mr. and Mrs. Wall and 2 infants, Mr. P. Pastmann, Mr. Eylenbosen, Mr. Zehling, Mr. du Castillo, Mr. Zendo, Mr. and Mrs. Schneider, Mr. Riego, Mr. Luna, and Mr. Mattin, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Sanuki Maru*, for London via ports:—Com. K. Saito, Inspector Surgeon R. Kito, Com. K. Kitano, Lieut.-Com. I. Yamanaka, Paymaster G. Saito, Lieut. T. Harazuchi, Chief Eng. K. Kaneko, Lieut. T. Yamanaka, Sub-Lieut. Y. Yamanaka, Sub-Lieut. T. Yamashita, Eng. K. Kimura, (all I.J.N.), Mr. and Mrs. T. W. McIlraith, Mr. J. Kobu, Rev. Andronik, and Mr. T. Tanaka, in cabin; Petty Officers A. Takeyasu, K. Murakami, M. Yamashita, R. Yamakawa, (I.J.N.), Mr. K. Wada, Mr. M. Sakai, and Mr. Ernest Carrère, in second class; 226 Japanese crew (I.J.N.) in steerage.

Per American steamer *China*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Captain F. A. Astrom, Dr. A. Graham Bell and valet, Mrs. A. Graham Bell, Miss Bell, Miss Marian H. Bell, Mr. C. Bremer, Captain W. P. Biddle, U.S.N., Mr. Yuen Chong, Mrs. W. B. Curtis, Sub-Lieut. Coube, I.R.N., Prof. and Mrs. Garrett Droppers and infant, Miss M. L. Delaplaine, Miss Delaplaine, Captain Frank Fisher, Capt. W. Gordon, Mr. H. Green, Miss E. Garner, Mr. Hayter, Mr. R. Heyl, Mr. Mr. N. Isono, Mr. A. Krayer, Mr. L. J. G Kuhlwein, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Kingsford, Capt. J. E. Lombard, U.S.N., Mrs. J. Lewis, Mrs. C. Mertens, Dr. W. B. McGill and infant, Miss Myrtle McGill, Miss Stella McGill, Mr. K. Nakashima, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Nichols, Surgeon Pokrowsky, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Phillips, Lieut. Ponzanoff, I.R.N., Mr. [redacted] Quackenbush, Major A. Falkner von Sonnenburg, Mr. F. Stahler, Captain E. F. X. M. Seguin, Lieut. O. L. M. Seguin, H.I.H. Grand Duke Cyril Wladimirowitch of Russia and valet, Mr. A. B. Waryholtz, and H.E. Mauricio Wollheim, Mexican Minister, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgic*, for Hongkong via ports:—Lt. J. P. Morton, U.S.N., Lieut. A. P. Niblack, U.S.N., Mr. W. Vehling, Mr. W. L. Littlefield, Lt. P. W. Hanrigan, U.S.N., Dr. James Soughton, U.S.N., Lt. W. P. Elliott, U.S.N., Mr. T. D. McKay, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Whitehouse, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Hall, Mrs. E. W. Leiper, Miss H. Penney, Mrs. Line, Mrs. Doutenbach and infant, Mr. H. Collbran, Mr. M. Levy, Rev. and Mrs. Tatum and child, Lt. Chas. E. Fox, U.S.N., Mr. W. E. Mitchell, Lt. Bull, U.S.N., Lt. C. E. Vreeland, U.S.N., Mr. R. Leiman, Mr. L. Ladow, Mr. A. F. Algie, Mr. W. H. Bell, Mr. E. Bedloe, Lt.-Commander C. C. Connell, U.S.N., Ensign H. H. Hough, U.S.N., Lt. Wm. Boone, U.S.N., Lt. Jas. Donald, U.S.N., Rev. M. McKenzie, Mrs. McKenzie and two children, Mr. O. D. Jerauld, Mr. F. W. Gotch, Mr. T. W. Chang and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Junkin and two children, and Lt. W. S. Overton, U.S.A., in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Satsuma Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Commander A. Matsumoto, I.J.N., and Commander K. Kajikawa, I.J.N., in cabin; Mr. K. Suzuki, in second class.

CARGOES.

The following are the shipments tea and silk per N. Y. K. steamer *Yamaguchi Maru*, for Seattle, Wash.:—

TEA.

FROM.	KINGSTON.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MONTREAL.	BOSTON.	TOTAL.
Shanghai ...	—	571	659	1,145	570	2,945
Hiogo	87	484	580	25	—	1,176
Yokohama ...	—	938	1,166	—	—	2,134
Hongkong ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	87	1,993	2,435	1,170	570	6,255

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai	—	—	—	—
Hongkong ...	—	30	—	30
Yokohama ...	—	1,147	—	1,147
Total.....	—	1,177	—	1,177

Per American steamer *China*, for San Francisco 10th Dec.:—

TEA.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	CHICAGO.	MONTREAL.	ST. LOUIS.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
Shanghai.	103	—	1,533	—	—	—	1,636
Amoy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokama ...	75	—	—	—	—	—	75
Hongkong	66	600	—	—	554	—	1,220
Total...	241	600	1,533	—	554	—	2,931

SILK.

	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Shanghai.....	—	200	—	200
Hongkong	—	50	—	50
Yokohama	—	561	—	561
Total	—	711	—	711

The following were the silk shippers per P. M. steamer *China*, for San Francisco, Dec. 10:—

	Bales.
Siber, Brennwald & Co.	134
Vivanti Bros.	92
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	86
Ulysse, Pila & Co.	80
Sieber & Co.	75
Nabholz & Co.	50
Robison & Co.	12
Herbert Dent & Co.	4
Doshinsha	28
Total	561

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS

Business cannot still be called active, though there are inquiries for some lines. Prices are nominally as last week.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.55 to 2.85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 21 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches,.	1.60 to 2.30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches,.	2.00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	PER PIECE.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 20 yards	0.28 to 0.40
Mousseline de Laine—Crops, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15½ to 0.32½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per lb	0.35 to 0.67½
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches,.	0.80 to 2.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.12½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	44.50 to 45.50
Nos. 1/60, Plain	64.00 to 65.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	76.00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Uroach	18.25 —
Chinese	18.25 —

METALS.

Prices are nominally at last week's level. Buyers' offers are still not high enough to tempt large sales.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch. and upward	4.00 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.65
Sheet Iron	5.00 to 5.20
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.25 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	0.05 to 4.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.20 to 6.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to ½ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The market is firm at last week's prices.

American	$2.18 to 2.20
Russian	2.15 to 2.17
Langkat	1.95

SUGAR.

Last week's prices are, on the whole, maintained, and a steady business has been done.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.20 to 5.35
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.60

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Brown Dailong	4.20 to 4.25
Brown Canton	5.90 to 5.60
White Java and Penang	6.80 to 7.00
White Refined	7.95 to 9.85

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Some fairly extensive purchases have been made in the course of the week.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den	$900
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	845 to 855
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	830 to 840
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	820 to 830
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	870
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	840 to 845
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	805 to 815
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	780
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	850
Kakedas—No. 1	810
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	770
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is quite unactive and quotations are only nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	108 ■ 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	67½ to 70
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Bushu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi—Joshu, Good	■ to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	50 to 55
Kibiso—Filature, Best	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	75 to 80
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

The market is quite lifeless, and prices are simply nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal.
Choice	Nominal.
Finest	29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

EXCHANGE.

There has been no alteration made in rates silver from London being ⅛ higher, but no change in sterling from China.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0⅝
— — Bills on demand	2/0⅞
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅞
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅞
— — 6 months' sight	2/0⅞
On Paris—Bank sight	256½
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	261
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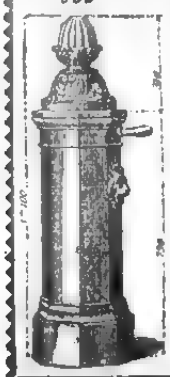

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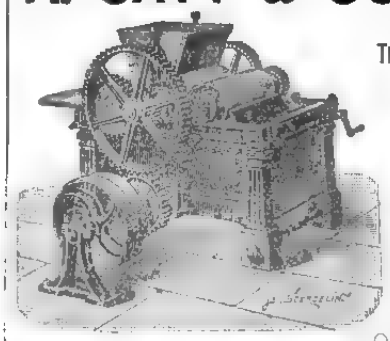

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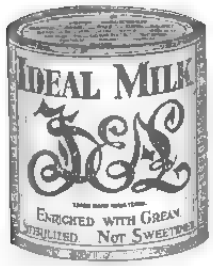

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 26.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, DECEMBER 24TH, 1898. 明治三十一年十二月廿四日 VOL. XXX.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, DEC. 24TH, 1898.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MARQUIS NAKAMIKADO is dead.

THE death is announced of Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, M.P.

THE Cricket Club dance last Tuesday evening proved very enjoyable.

THE French Chamber of Deputies passed the Indo-Chinese Railway Loan Bill.

THE *Irresistible*, a sister ship to the *Formidable*, has been launched at Chatham.

THE Chugoku Railway has been completed and was opened to traffic on the 21st inst.

MR JUSTICE HAWKINS, at the age of 81, retires from the Queen's Bench Division.

SNOW fell in Yokohama on Thursday evening. This is decidedly early for the season.

A protocol has been signed at Paris extending six months the term for ratifying the Niger Convention.

A MEDICINE vendor named Yoshihara Gentoku and his wife, living in Nagao village, Gumma, have been murdered. Their faces were covered with serious wounds. The murderer is still at large.

THE Land Tax Bill passed the House of Representatives, as amended by the Committee, on Wednesday.

SINCE the 10th inst., the issue of convertible notes by the Nippon Bank has been increased by over *yen* 2,800,000.

AT Baba station on the Tokaido on the 7th inst. a train collided with another and some damage was done to the track.

THE boatswain of the British ship *Troop* has been arrested on a charge of setting fire to that vessel on the 14th inst.

IT is reported that there are now 25 prisoners under sentence of death, and they will be executed by the 25th inst.

BRO. VIVIAN R. BOWDEN was installed Worshipful Master of the Yokohama Lodge, No. 1092, E.C., on Wednesday evening.

ON Wednesday evening, Herr Junker's Quartett party gave a most delightful Chamber Music Concert at the Public Hall.

ON the 20th fire broke out at a house occupied by a farmer at Toyotama gori, Takaido village, Tokyo, and destroyed two houses.

MAJOR MARCHAND'S party evacuated Fashoda on the 11th and are marching to Sobat. The Egyptian troops immediately occupied the fort.

THE Saké brewers in Osaka have decided to take joint action to reduce by one-half the quantity of their output, in opposition to the new tax.

A MAN was found, on the 20th, at 6 p.m., on the railway near Kanasugi, Tokyo. His body was fearfully mangled. It is believed to be a case of suicide.

H.I.M. THE EMPEROR sent presents of fish and *saké* to all the Cabinet Ministers as soon as it was known that the Land Tax Bill had passed the Lower House.

A YOUNG couple named Okamoto Seiko and Mushu Kaku, guests at the hotel Seiki, Kobikicho, Tokyo, committed suicide on the 14th by taking a dose of morphine.

LIEUT. YENDO and suite, who have been appointed to bring out the new torpedo-boat-destroyer constructed in England, are to leave Yokohama to-day by the steamer *Hakata Maru*.

ABOUT 8 o'clock on Saturday night Yamamoto Kikujiro (29), living at Tomioka monzen, Fukagawa, Tokyo, committed suicide by jumping into the river from Moegi bridge.

M. CAMBON, in receiving the French Colony in London, defined his task as defending the interests of France by proving that the interests of Great Britain and France were not irreconcilable.

AT the half-yearly meeting of the North-Borneo Company, the chairman said that the gross surplus for the half year was 80,000 dollars, and that things were prosperous all round, the prospect of development being excellent.

OVER 6,000 villagers, in Nitikawa-gori, Toyama Prefecture, proceeded to the office of the Governor to complain of the increase of the land tax. The police authorities advised them to retire and elect a committee to frame resolutions of protest. The villagers say the increase of the land tax will prevent their earning a livelihood.

RECENTLY a fire occurred in the coal mine at Otsuji, Fukuoka Prefecture, and it is still burning. The damage is estimated at about *yen* 600,000. The mine was producing over 500 tons per day.

MR. SHIMADA SABURO, one of the founders of the Progressist (*Kaishin to*) Party in 1881, has severed his connection, his views on the Land Tax increase being opposed to the position taken by the Party.

A HANDSOME woman, aged about 23 years, attempted suicide this week by cutting her throat with a knife in a train on the Kyushu Railway, near Udo station. She was prevented by passengers, and arrested.

ON the 15th inst. a man named Yamada Hikotaro (25) living at Meguro-mura, near Tokyo, murdered a gambler named Ono Sekichi (41), using a large fish knife. A gambling quarrel was the cause of the affair.

ACCORDING to a trader in Manila who recently arrived at Yokohama, business there is now almost suspended and traders are disinclined to make further contracts, fearing that the natives will oppose the U.S. Authorities.

ON the 20th inst., the new Chinese Minister to Tokyo proceeded to the Palace and had an audience of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. He presented his credentials and a decoration from the Chinese Emperor.

THE *Times* learns that Sir William Harcourt's resignation of the Liberal leadership is irrevocable, and believes that the trouble is largely due to Sir William's dislike of imperialism, which many influential Liberals favour.

A ROBBER recently entered the house occupied by a man named Miura Yoshikiyo, Minami-Futabacho, Houjo, Tokyo. Miura was absent and the robber tied up the wife while he made away with a quantity of money and clothes.

THREE men named Furukawa (45), Kamizawa (41), living at Kami Nibancho Kojimachi, and Hasegawa (46) living at Naka Kachimachi, Shitaya, Tokyo, on the 17th were arrested on a charge of having forged 5 *sen* nickel pieces.

THE Anti-anarchist Conference threatens to end in a failure. The representatives of Britain, Belgium, and Switzerland have declined to accept the proposal to surrender foreign anarchists on the demand of their Governments.

DURING the late stormy weather the famous Buddhist Temple of Choko, at Nagaoka, in Echigo province, was struck by lightning. The temple was built many hundred years ago and escaped the calamities of the wars of the Restoration.

JAPANESE who have been in the United States have organized a Club called the American Friendship Society, the members now numbering over 60. On the 18th inst. they held a meeting at the Maple Club, Shiba Park, and dined together.

THE Japanese vessel *Shinsei Maru*, after taking 53 tons of coal from the steamer *Kinai Maru* in Yokohama harbour, and while on the way to Tokyo, met a heavy gale and was wrecked. One of the crew was rescued by the *Matayoshi Maru*, but two others were drowned.

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THE BANK OF JAPAN.

Two Government Bills were submitted to the House of Representatives on the 16th instant; one for increasing the Security Reserve and note-issuing power of the Bank from 85 million *yen* to 120 millions; the other for taxing the Bank. The details of the measures will be easily understood by referring to our report of the proceedings in the Lower House. The Security Reserve of the Bank is not a specie reserve. The Bank can, of course, issue any number of notes against which it holds a corresponding amount of specie. But against other securities—as public bonds, negotiable paper, and so on—it can not issue more than 80 million *yen* without the special sanction of the Minister of State for Finance, and on all over-issues thus sanctioned a tax of five per cent. has to be paid. We are not surprised that it has been thought advisable to extend the limit to 120 millions. The volume of Japan's currency is exceptionally small in proportion to her population, and the steadily growing bulk of her commercial transactions must have created a demand for some increase of the media of exchange, whatever relief has been afforded by cheques and clearing houses. Apprehension appears to be entertained in some quarters that an addition to the volume of the currency will have the effect of driving prices above their already high level of appreciation. Such a fear has no practical importance unless the point of "saturation" has already been reached; in other words, unless the hypothesis on which the Government's Bill is based be entirely unfounded, an idea which can hardly be entertained seeing that the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce is emphatically in favour of the measure. As to the taxation measure, an impost amounting to six per cent. of the paid-up capital, together with three-tenths of the net profits remaining after the allotment of dividends, seems, at first sight, very heavy. But we have to remember that the bill referred to above practically increases the Bank's resources to the extent of 35 million *yen*. In short, it gets 35 million *yen* gratis, on which it ought to be able to realize an average net profit of at least 4 per cent., thus receiving an additional income of 1,400,000 *yen*, which is 6 per cent. on 24 million *yen*, approximately, and the Bank's capital is 30 millions. These figures materially alter the complexion of the tax. The Imperial Estate holds a large number of the Bank's shares, and we shall probably find it stated in some quarters that whereas the Diet makes, with one hand, an addition of 20 millions to the Estate, it cuts away with the other a solid slice of revenue by means of this tax on the Bank of Japan. There is not much reason to expect, however, that the fine dividends paid by the Bank will undergo any diminution because of the tax. Briefly speaking, what happens is that the Bank receives from the State a loan of 35 million *yen* in perpetuity at 6 per cent. interest, and although the time will come when a Japanese Bank can not afford to take funds at that rate, all Japanese Banks would be pleased to do so now, as may be inferred from the fact that they are willing to pay 7 per cent. on fixed deposits.

The Budget for 1899-1900 shows that the Treasury expects to realize 1,237,000 *yen* from the tax which the Bank of Japan will have to pay. We have already explained the scheme of taxation. It is this:—If c be the paid up capital, then $\frac{4}{100}c$ goes, in the first place, to the shareholders out of the net profits; next, $\frac{8}{100}c$ goes to the Government, and finally the remainder becomes available for increasing the dividend to the shareholders and augmenting the reserves, provided that $\frac{3}{10}$ of the sum carried to the reserves must be handed to the Government as a further payment of tax. It will be perceived at once that the estimated yield (1,237,000 *yen*) of the tax represents 4 per cent. (1,200,000) of the paid-up capital, together with $\frac{3}{10}$ of 123,333 *yen*, in round numbers. Hence the Government's forecast of the Bank's net profits is 2,523,333 *yen* annually. But, as a matter of fact, the Bank's returns for the past three years show net profits of 3,849,850 *yen* in 1896; 14,578,512 *yen* in 1897, and 1,980,750 *yen* in the first half of 1898. The year 1897 need not be considered, for the immense profit then realized was due to the exceptional fact that the Bank was able to re-write various assets in terms of the newly fixed gold currency, thus doubling their nominal value. On the whole, 4 million *yen* seems to be a fair estimate of the Bank's net annual profits, without taking into account the increased income it ought to receive from the 35 million *yen* worth of convertible notes which it will now be entitled to add to its issues. Hence the Government's estimate is a puzzle which, in the absence of information, we can not solve.

But we agree wholly with the *Jiji Shimpo* that the method of levying the tax is radically bad in principle. The *Jiji's* reasons, indeed, do not seem to go beyond the fact that the Bank, in return for its note-issuing privileges, has to perform many troublesome and costly functions for which no special allowance is made to it. That is true no doubt. What we see, however, is that a tax on profits is faulty for two reasons; first, because it makes the shareholders unwilling to strengthen the reserves; and secondly because it deprives the Bank's officers of incentive to work. The former point becomes plain when we observe that although, if the shareholders had received a dividend of 8 or 10 per cent. they would be willing enough to make considerable additions to the reserves, they certainly will not be willing to do so if they have received only 4 per cent., especially when thirty per cent. of the sum carried to the reserves is taken by the tax-collector. The second point is equally plain when we remember that all the net profits which exceed 4 per cent. and fall short of 10 per cent. of the paid-up capital go to the tax. In other words, unless a profit of over 10 per cent. can be realized, the shareholders will not get more than 4 per cent., and unless the officials can see their way to making more than 10 per cent., they will feel that they are working merely for the sake of the tax. Surely such a method of taxation is radically bad? Would it not be a much sounder and more logical form of procedure to tax the Bank's issues of notes—say, 1½ per cent.? Hitherto the Bank's issues have been limited to 85 million *yen*, but it is now proposed to extend the limit to 120 millions. If the latter point was reached, the Bank's net profits would probably aggregate something like 5 millions annually, and it could afford to pay 1,800,000 *yen* as tax. If the issues remained at 85 millions and the profits as they are now, namely, 4 millions, the tax, at the rate of 1½ per cent., would be 1,275,000 *yen*. To tax the profits, especially when the rate of tax is so heavy, seems like hanging a mill-stone round the neck of the worker.

STORMY TIMES.

There appears to be a good deal of electricity in the air just at present. Mr. Momma's escapade in the House of Representatives on Thursday week; the attack on Mr. Shigeno the following day, and Mr. Tanaka's subsequent war-dance in the chamber—these were not the only "lurid" incidents of the time. Two members went for each other in a corridor of the House and two constables did the same outside the vestibule. The members were Messrs. Koyama and Chida. Meeting Mr. Chida, Mr. Koyama remarked in a casual kind of way:—"So you have been bribed." "What you mean by that?" said Chida. "Bah! It's in the newspapers," retorted Koyama, receiving at once a not unnatural slap on the cheek. Then there was a flare-up, and sergeants had to unlock the combatants. As for the constables, one appears to have reprimanded the other, and the argument speedily took the form of caps flying and swords waving, while *jinrikisha* coolies cheered on the combatants and vastly enjoyed the joke.

Messrs. Tanaka and Momma have been granted an interval for reflection. The former has been suspended for 7 days and the latter for 3. Tanaka had only a few minutes in the House on Saturday, but he distinguished himself by rising and gravely proposing an amendment that the estimates for the Army be cut down by 30 million *yen* and those for the Navy increased by 10 millions. It would have been just as relevant had he suggested a diminution of the fares for *jinrikisha*, so far as the business before the House was concerned; but he had entered the chamber after the opening of the sitting, and having only a vague idea that some budget of some kind was on the *tapis*, he ventilated his amendment on the off chance of its being in order. He was vastly tickled when the House laughed at him, and evidently thought it all a capital joke. We suspect, however, that Mr. Tanaka is getting to the end of his tether. He is a favorite with all his acquaintances outside the House, and there never has been the most shadowy accusation preferred against his sincerity and benevolence. But he can't keep his temper, and the newspapers are at last beginning to say ugly things about him. The *Jiji Shimpo* remarks that his extraordinary antics are due in great part to the habit into which the members have fallen of calling him "*shugiin no meibutsu*" (one of the celebrities of the House), whereas they ought to call him a madman: Tanaka's licence to disgrace the House will lose its efficiency if views of that kind prevail.

The stalwart politician who smashed Mr. Shigeno's head last Friday week was a certain Saito, aged 26. He belongs to Fukushima prefecture, which is Mr. Shigeno's constituency. Saito read in a local paper that the member had changed from an opponent to an advocate of increasing the Land Tax, and he determined to proceed to Tokyo and make inquiries. In Tokyo he obtained confirmation of the

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story, but it nevertheless seemed advisable to visit the House of Representatives and interview Mr. Shigeno. Saito took with him a bar of iron wrapped in a towel and hidden in his breast, from which it may be presumed that he had a special kind of interview in mind. Arriving at the vestibule of the House, he asked for Mr. Shigeno, and just at that moment the latter happened to come out. Saito probably inferred that heaven had taken charge of the business, for he at once proceeded to bash Mr. Shigeno's head, though he claims that he thereby did violence to his original intention.

Independent journals ridicule the notion that any comparison can be instituted between the meeting at the Imperial Hotel when Marquis Ito spoke and the assembly at the Maple Club on the 15th instant. The Ito affair bore no resemblance whatever to a political meeting. It was simply a *réunion* to welcome Marquis Ito, hear an account of his experiences in China and a statement of his financial opinions, and afterwards entertain him at dinner. There were no proposals, no resolutions, no announcement of a political purpose, nor anything in the shape of a demonstration. The meeting at the Maple Club, on the contrary, was not only a political meeting but an agitation in the fullest sense of the word. It was convoked by means of a violently worded political manifesto. Its object was to pass resolutions of an intimidating character, and to rouse an anti-Government crusade. The association (*Hi-chiso-sō ka Domeikai*) by which the meeting was organized, consisted of men who had signed a pledge of union the preamble of which ran thus:—"Inasmuch as we consider that every advocate of increasing the Land Tax is a public enemy of the majority of the people, we hereby swear, &c." Further, the advertisement published in the press over the signatures of Viscount Tani and Mr. Tomita, convening the meeting, said:—"The Government's Bill for increasing the Land Tax has already been submitted to the House of Representatives, is now in the hands of a special committee and will soon come up for discussion. It is a supremely nefarious and contemptible scheme to trample under foot the wishes of the multitude opposed to increasing the Land Tax. Therefore the crisis has come when every sincere and upright man must join a strong league to oppose such doings." If a meeting convened by means of such an advertisement, organized by men avowing such principles and such a purpose, and open to everybody choosing to join a campaign against the Government, is not a political meeting in the most unequivocal sense of the term, one may well ask what constitutes a political meeting. Viscount Tani and Mr. Tomita must have known beyond all possibility of doubt that no meeting of the kind could be lawfully held unless due notice was given to the police, and if their failure to give notice was not deliberately inspired by a desire to compel police interference and thus accentuate the agitation, started by themselves, they must be phenomenally unfit to engage in political movements of any kind.

The trial of Capt. Toulmin for the murder of a ship's compradore, excited much interest among Chinese in Canton, and precautions had to be taken by the U.S.S. *Concord* in anticipation of a riot.

COUNT OKUMA.

Count Okuma, speaking at a meeting of the Anti-Land-tax League, said that he had several times warned the country's leading statesmen against attempting to increase the Land Tax. Last April, he met Marquis Ito at a garden party given by Mr. Okura Kihachiro. The Cabinet of which the Marquis was then the head were understood to be framing a Budget including an increase of the Land Tax. Count Okuma took the opportunity to advise Marquis Ito that the step would prove disastrous. Again, in May, the two statesmen met at the British Legation. The Cabinet had then presented the Budget. Count Okuma strongly recommended its withdrawal, pointing out that public opinion was evidently opposed to it, and that the Matsukata Cabinet had virtually made shipwreck on the same rock. But the counsel was ignored and the Cabinet fell. Then, finally, on November 9th, Count Okuma met Marquis Yamagata at the Palace, and repeated his warning as to the trend of public opinion. But again the warning was ignored and the Cabinet have introduced a Land Tax Bill. Count Okuma left his hearers to predict the sequel of this chapter of history.

Evidently, from the above, Count Okuma intends to justify his own secession from the cause of Land Tax increase by pleading that he finds himself opposed to public opinion. Such a reason is always sufficient from a political point of view, and the only question is, has he gauged public opinion correctly? That we shall soon know. Whatever be the immediate result, however, it is a matter of keen regret, we think, in Japan's best interests, that one of her principal statesmen should have led his Party to turn their backs on her most signal financial advantage. By developing the Land Tax system she is in a position to place her finances on the soundest and most scientific basis, and if she deliberately sacrifices such an opportunity, she will injure her economical prospects materially. Count Okuma argues that this Land Tax problem divides the nation into two camps; the industrials and traders occupying one, and the agriculturists the other. He characterises it, in short, as a conflict between town and country. Such reasoning is strange. If the Land Tax were properly assessed, the inhabitants of the urban districts would have to bear precisely the same burden in proportion to their wealth as the inhabitants of the rural districts. There is no distinction of town and country in the matter.

FORMOSA-FOOCHOW CABLE.

The question as to the ownership of the cable between Formosa and Foochow has been at last settled. When Lord Li completed the transfer of Formosa to Japan in 1895, he included the cable among the island's assets, but the implementing of that part of the agreement proved very difficult, and a working agreement seems to have been only now concluded, Japan agreeing to pay a hundred thousand *yen* for the cable. We understand that the arrangement is unconditional: no privileges in the use of the cable are reserved to Chinese subjects, whether official or private.

FOREIGN MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN JAPAN.

A bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by one of the members, providing for the organization of Associations of Medical Men, and interdicting the practice of medicine by any person not a member of such an association. Approval of the measure has been announced by the Government Delegate, and in the statement of reasons attached to the bill we find an explanation that the measure is considered necessary in view of the operation of the Revised Treaties and the possible advent of foreign medical practitioners, concerning whose qualifications the general public can have no knowledge, nor any means of obtaining knowledge. In short, the Associations are to assume functions partially similar to those discharged by the College of Surgeons in England, for although they can not grant licenses to practise, they will endorse the diplomas held by desiring practitioners. This, we presume, is the method devised for judging the qualifications of foreign physicians or surgeons who may seek to practise in Japan after the complete opening of the country. Some method is obviously necessary, for it would be clearly out of the question to give an entirely free hand to any one and every one. Recklessness of that kind is not shown by any civilized country. The plan proposed should work well enough unless it is disfigured by some vexatious rules, but we may reasonably hope that such will not be the case.

STUDENTS ABROAD.

The Budget now in the hands of the Lower House makes provision for the maintenance of 75 students abroad, against 50, the number hitherto supported by the State. This increase is welcomed by vernacular newspapers, but is not considered sufficient. They allege that at least 100 ought to have the advantage of completing their education in Europe or America, and they advance as a principal reason the argument that a great want of school-teachers is felt in Japan. The cause of education has not received any of the fostering care bestowed on other institutions, especially the Army and Navy, in recent years, and the nation is beginning to be sharply conscious of the great imperfections of its educational machinery. Universities must soon be established in Kiushiu and also in the north of the empire, and the schools will have to be enlarged everywhere. Nothing presses more urgently, therefore, than the provision of an increased number of school teachers. Such is the view of vernacular newspapers. But to outsiders it seems that the main defect in Japan's educational programme is the terribly inadequate remuneration paid to her school-teachers. A cook or a house-servant is incomparably better off in the great majority of cases than a teacher in a school. It is hopeless to expect that good men will adopt a profession offering such wretched prospects, and as for students who have had the benefit of education abroad, we should think that, under present circumstances, pedagogy is the last form of employment they would select.

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STATE PURCHASE OF PRIVATE RAILWAYS.

The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, through its President, Mr. Shibusawa Yeiichi, has addressed a Representation to the Government and a Petition to each House of the Diet, urging the advisability of the State's purchasing the four principal private railways. This action on the part of the Chamber is not new. It took similar steps in the time of the Matsukata Cabinet and the last session of the Diet, but the dissolution of the Lower House and the subsequent resignation of the Cabinet defeated the Chamber's purpose. The Representation and the Petitions now forwarded are duplicates of those previously presented, but the Chamber appends a strongly worded covering document, in which it declares that the reasons formerly operative are to-day more urgent than ever, and that not an hour should be lost in carrying out the project.

The Government is already face to face with the necessity of making a large appeal to the foreign money market. A sum of 170 million *yen*, in round figures, has still to be raised in connexion with the *post-bellum* programme and the scheme of railway expansion. If to this we add 150 millions—the general estimate is 200 millions—on account of the State purchase of the four principal private roads, the total sum to be raised abroad becomes 320 million *yen*. The interest on that amount is 12,800,000 *yen*, if the loan can be floated at 4 per cent., and 16 million *yen* if 5 per cent. has to be paid. In other words, 12½ million *yen* now spent annually in the country would flow out of it. Of course, after a time, the greater part of the borrowed money would begin to be productive. Roughly speaking, that would be the case with fully 200 millions out of the 320, and if 6 per cent. were earned on the 200 millions, the interest on the foreign debt would give no trouble. But these borrowings abroad are not entirely *couleur de rose*. We do mean to suggest that the money market would be tightened or that anything like depression would result from the operation. On the contrary, about 250 millions of the borrowed funds would be spent in the country during the next 15 years, so that, if 12½ millions had to be sent abroad in payment of interest, some 17 millions would go into circulation at home, and the difference would more than suffice to perpetuate and accentuate the era of inflated prices. But there is another aspect of the matter. If 320 millions be borrowed abroad at 4 per cent., with a preliminary period of 5 years and a redemption period of 50 years, the country will find, at the end of the time, that it has handed back 711 millions in principal and interest to its creditors, thus paying a clear sum of 391 millions for accommodation to the extent of 320 millions. Of course there is still another aspect. Suppose that 70 millions of the borrowed money are devoted to unproductive purposes—military and naval armaments—and 250 millions to productive enterprises which give an average net return of 5 per cent. during 45 years of the 55 year period. Then the total earnings of the various enterprises would aggregate 560 millions, omitting fractions, and so it would appear that the clear gain on the whole transaction is 151 millions. Still nothing can alter the fact that, in the sequel of such a transaction, 391 million *yen* would have flowed out of the country, from which it appears that such operations are not to be undertaken with a light heart.

It is satisfactory to find the *Jiji Shimpo* raising its powerful voice on behalf of progress in the management of railways and of Tokyo's municipal affairs. Tokyo is asleep. The citizens seem quite unconscious of the villainous state of the streets and of the utter absence of improvement in means of communication. As for Japanese railways, the *Jiji* justly says that they have never advanced one step since the time of their construction, with the exception of the Sanyo road, whose direction show a certain measure of enterprise. The trains creep along at the same slow pace as of old. The miserable oil lamps of ancient days still defy the traveller to read by their light, and the carriages present an unaltered aspect of conservative comfortlessness. The public will open its eyes one of these days.

THE CABINET AND POLITICAL PARTIES.

There is a good deal of excitement about the dispersal of the Anti-Land-Tax Meeting at the Maple Club on the 15th instant, but the excitement is based on a misapprehension which some of the Opposition organs do not hesitate to encourage. The truth is now proved to be precisely what we supposed and stated in our last issue, namely, that the police took action, not because they considered the meeting to be prejudicial to public peace and good order, but because the promoters had failed to comply with the Law which requires that 24 hours' notice shall be given of a political meeting. That being the case, the whole affair becomes perfectly simple and explicable, so far as the police are concerned, though it is by no means easy to understand why the promoters of the meeting were guilty of neglect, the inevitable consequences of which they ought to have plainly foreseen. It is most humiliating and unfortunate that men in the positions occupied by Count Okuma and Viscount Tani should be brought into apparent collision with the police owing to such singular carelessness on the part of their political associates.

A STRANGE DOUBT.

There is a difference of opinion among the members of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce (Japanese) as to the interpretation of the Anglo-Japanese Revised Treaty. The Treaty provides for an import duty of 15 per cent. on sugar, but says that if the Japanese Government find it necessary to impose a tax on home-grown sugar, the foreign article shall be liable to the same tax. One section of the Chamber interprets that to mean that any tax imposed on Japanese sugar may be imposed on foreign sugar in addition to the Conventional duty of 15 per cent. The other section says, no; the impost levied on the foreign staple can never exceed that levied on the domestic. Information has been sought from the Departments of Finance and Foreign Affairs, but as Mr. Taguchi observes in the *Keizai Zasshi*, there is really no room for money.

COUNT ITAGAKI.

Count Itagaki has just expressed himself in the clearest terms on the subject of the Army and the Navy. He says that, since Japan is an island and since her policy is defensive, it may seem, at first sight, sufficient that she should have a strong navy. But it is a prime essential of defensive competence that a country should be able to assume the offensive on occasion. To do that, Japan must have a powerful army. Besides, her chances of obtaining an ally depend chiefly on the strength of her army. Her position confers upon her the unique advantage of being able to utilize her military force in East Asia. Even Russia, immense as is her military organization, would experience the greatest difficulty in placing an expeditionary force in Far-Eastern regions, to which Japan, on the contrary, has comparatively easy access. Hence Japan's value as an ally depends upon her army, and since she must be prepared to play a useful rôle in any alliance, she can not neglect her land forces. Count Itagaki alludes to China, to the Philippines, to Fukien, to Formosa and to Hokkaido as regions where an exercise of military strength might be needed, and he also refers to the celebrated speech of Mr. Chamberlain, where the Secretary of State for the Colonies said that England wanted a strong military ally. He does not actually allege that Mr. Chamberlain is to be interpreted as referring to Japan, but he certainly conveys that impression to his hearers—the members of the Pro-Land-Tax League.

THE BUSINESS TAX.

In the context of our comments on the Bank of Japan's Tax we may refer again to the bill for amending the Business Tax Law, now in the hands of a Committee of the House of Representatives. The proposed amendment is commendable in that it provides for a division of capital, and thus guarantees a foreign insurance firm which has a branch only in Japan against the injustice of having to pay a tax upon capital not used in the business of the branch. But it is much to be desired that the House of Representatives should take the opportunity of amending the tax radically. No policy can be worse than that of encouraging an insurance office to work with a small paid-up capital. The advantage that insurers have in taking out policies with the great foreign firms which keep branches in Japan is that the whole of the firm's capital is available for the payment of losses. In connexion with that the argument may be urged, of course, that the larger the capital available, the greater the inducement to insurers, and the greater the corresponding ability and obligation of a firm to pay taxes. But the same proposition may be re-stated thus:—The sounder the basis of an insurance company's organization, the more heavily it should be fined by the State; which is plainly an extravagant principle. Impartial persons must admit that a somewhat unjust element would be introduced into the competition between foreign and Japanese insurance companies if the former were allowed to attract clients in Japan by displaying a capital which is not really involved in their Japanese business. But would not that difficulty be met by levying the tax on the transactions

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actually undertaken—say a stamp on each policy, the value of the stamp proportionate to the sum inscribed? Then the larger the business transacted the greater the amount of the tax, and the pernicious policy would be avoided of penalizing a company because it deserves public credit. Besides, the present system has another flagrant blemish: the tax is virtually inelastic. An intelligently conceived tax ought to grow *pari passú* with the development of its source. But when a tax is levied in the form of a per-centage of a firm's paid-up capital, the amount of the tax remains invariable through all time, though the firm's business may multiply a thousand or ten thousand per cent. No one can pretend to discover any elements of sound finance in a system of that kind. We invite Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, or some other of the really able and liberal financiers in the House of Representatives, to take up this subject, if they can divert their attention for a moment from that unhappy Land Tax. The levying of imposts upon an insurance company's paid-up capital is a system that does no credit whatever to Japan's financial legislators.

VARIOUS ROUTES TO ONE GOAL.

There is a Chinese proverb which, translated literally, means "four in the morning and three at night" (*chōshi bosan*). An unintelligible aphorism as it stands, its pithiness is admirable when we get at the meaning. The origin is that a monkey trainer informed an ape of his intention to give it 3 cakes every morning and 4 every night. The news threw the ape into a state of furious discontent, whereupon the trainer amended the phrase and said, "Ah, then you shall have 4 in the morning and 3 at night," which appeased the animal at once. *Chōshi bosan* is the nearest equivalent we know for "six of one and half-a-dozen of the other." It is very cleverly applied by the *Tokyo Asahi* to the agitators against an increase of the Land Tax. They profess to be working in the people's interests but their programme is simply one of *chōsi bosan*, for if they propose to leave the Land Tax undisturbed, they are obliged to seek sources of additional revenue in increases of other taxes. Seven have to be obtained somehow or other, whether four come from this side and three from that, or *vice versá*, and it really seems as though these agitators estimated the intelligence of the nation by about the same standard as the monkey-trainer applied to the brains of the ape.

PEKING GOVERNMENT AND KANG YU-WEI.

Whatever the public may have thought of the story that the Empress Dowager had instructed the Chinese Representative in Tokyo to effect the seizure of Kang Yu-wei, dead or alive, Kang and his friends in Japan appear to attach some credit to it. Kang has decided, it is said, to hasten his departure for the United States or England, and his fellow-thinkers in Kobe have suspended the publication of the *To-a Ho-Kwan*. We doubt whether the arm of the Empress-Dowager is long enough to reach Japan, yet there is certainly an anti-progressive section among the Chinese in this country, and, on the whole, people would breathe more freely if Kang were safely out of the country.

JOURNALISTS, MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, AND DRUGGISTS.

This week two Bills were presented by the Government to the House of Peers, dealing with questions which have excited a great deal of unnecessary controversy. The first was a measure to amend the Press Law so as to remove the provision restricting journalistic enterprise to Japanese subjects. We have often said that a step of that kind would certainly be taken by the Government in due season, just as we predicted in bygone years that long before the time came for foreigners to pass under Japanese jurisdiction, the objectionable clauses in the Press Law, enabling the Administration to suppress or suspend a newspaper without reference to a court of law, would be rescinded. Our confidence was ridiculed by critics who had no disposition to read the signs of the times correctly, and they will probably now elaborate some ingenuous excuse for their scepticism. But facts are stubborn things. Nothing could have been more misleading and unfair than the construction put upon the action of the Diet and the Government in connexion with the drafting of the latest revision of the Press Law. It was first alleged that a new Article had been inserted specially designed to exclude foreigners from journalistic enterprise in Japan, and when we showed that the so-called new Article had been a part of the old Law enacted years previously, the critics, instead of confessing their egregious blunder, took refuge in the subterfuge that the Diet's failure to change the Article indicated a resolve to exclude foreigners In truth the Law was enacted solely for Japanese subjects, and no thought whatever had been taken of foreigners. But there are always persons who read their own animus into the action of others. We shall be curious to see what they say now. Perhaps, with that graceful tact which renders all their recommendations so effective and welcome, they will allege that their own clamour was the means of bringing about this procedure on the part of the Government. To be consistent they must take that line, for it would never do to credit the Diet or the Government with any liberal initiative.

The second of the two bills is for enabling foreigners or Japanese who have graduated at a druggists' college or school abroad, or received a license to practise as druggists in a foreign country, to obtain, by virtue of their foreign qualification, a license to practise their profession in Japan. A similar clause exists in the Medical Diploma Law with regard to physicians and surgeons. Hence duly qualified foreigners will have no occasion to pass any examination in order to pursue the profession of medicine or dispensing in Japan. In the face of this legislation, some people may fail to see what occasion exists for the private bill now before the House of Representatives, providing for the organization of medical associations, and interdicting the practice of medicine by any one not a member of such an association. It will seem at first sight that the association device is advisable only in the absence of any other machinery to protect the people against foreign quacks or charlatans. But there is another view of the case. What is to prevent a foreigner, who has neither diploma nor license, from settling in some provincial town and setting up there as a physician or surgeon? If a man desires to engage in a deception of that kind, he will carefully refrain from making himself known to the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister will not have any easy means of obtaining knowledge about him. The local association will constitute an excellent safeguard against anything of that kind. A practitioner who has obtained the prescribed license from the Home Department will have no difficulty in gaining admission to the association, and the mere fact of his failing to register his name will at once stamp him as unqualified, while, on the other hand, the local Japanese practitioners, being themselves members of the association, will at once know whether he has joined it. The plan seems to us excellently practical and simple.

UNVEILING OF SAIGO'S STATUE.

On the forenoon of the 18th instant at 10 a.m. the ceremony of unveiling the bronze statue of Saigo Takamori was performed in Uyeno Park. There was a great crowd of spectators, for although a space for the promoters and the specially invited guests had been curtained off, the chief incident of the proceedings was, of course, perfectly visible from without the partition. The Prime Minister, all the other Members of the Cabinet, the British Representative, the Vice-Ministers of State, and a number of other notables were present. Admiral Viscount Kabayama opened the proceedings by reading an account of the steps taken to collect money for making the statue—which cost 22,500 *yen*—and for organizing the affair. The project had been started ten years ago, and would have been consummated at a much earlier date had not the war with China intervened. The Emperor had subscribed liberally, and the projectors had met with a warm response in all quarters. Then Admiral Count Kawamura, who had been the great Saigo's pupil, who regarded him as a father, and yet had been compelled by duty to take a leading part in the campaign against him, spoke with deep feeling of all the noble deeds of the great soldier, statesman, and patriot; described the infinite tenderness and benevolence of his disposition, and said that in handing over to charitable institutions the balance of the fund they had collected, the promoters knew that they would be acting in accordance with the hero's wishes. Field Marshal Marquis Yamagata next read a short but beautifully composed and touching account of Saigo's life and services; and Count Katsu, who had left his sick room to attend, added his tribute to the memory of one who, though he fell fighting against the Government, was recognised by his countrymen as an unswervingly loyal soldier. The unveiling ceremony was now performed by Lady Sakura, daughter of Marquis Saigo, the Guards Band playing and the multitude sending up a mighty cheer. It is just 21 years since Saigo died, heading the great rebellion which cost thousands of lives and shook the Government to its foundations. But the nation has never misinterpreted his motives, and its heart is with the men who, if the dictates of duty and loyalty condemned them to fight to the death against their beloved chief and revered teacher, have now the deep comfort of having on his tomb the tribute of a united people's gratitude and affection.

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POLITICS.

There is, of course, an aftermath of recrimination now that the fight is over. The Opposition journals insist that the day was won by bribery, and it is possible that they have some truth on their side, for the independent *Asahi*, though congratulating the country that a contest of such magnitude was comparatively free from any objectionable feature, thinks that the "almighty dollar" did make its appearance on the scene at the last moment, but only at the last moment and within a very narrow sphere. The Progressists do not take their beating overmuch to heart. They comfort themselves with the reflection that if they could not defeat the Land-Tax Bill, they managed, at all events, to bring about a considerable modification of its provisions; but we must confess that such a theory is scarcely acceptable. The changes made in the Government's programme were entirely due to the necessity of conciliating the recalcitrant Liberals, and had no connexion, so far as we understand, with the agitation got up by the Progressists. It is noticeable that the *Jimmin* (Liberal organ) emphatically denies that the country-people have shown themselves hostile to an increase of of the Land Tax. On the contrary, several constituencies intimated their endorsement of the measure. Nevertheless the Liberals have thought it prudent to publish a kind of apology in which they claim that they were influenced solely by patriotic motives in supporting an unwelcome increase of the people's burdens.

On the whole very little has been heard of the *Soshi* on the present occasion. He has gone out of fashion, and the country can afford to dispense with him. But on the day when the Bill came up for discussion in the Lower House, it seemed for a moment as if a free fight would take place among young men who, having escorted some of the members to the House, were waiting outside to hear the result of the voting. One of them had recourse to a knife to settle a discussion. He did not make a very effective use of the weapon, but his act had almost precipated a general collision when the police succeeded in asserting their authority.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AUDIT.

The enemies of Viscount Watanabe Noboru, President of the Board of Audit, have at length carried their point. He has resigned his post and it is expected that his resignation will be accepted in a few days. It was tendered some time ago, according to Tokyo journals, but could not be conveniently accepted pending the complete auditing of last year's settled accounts. An Address to the Throne impeaching the Viscount is among the measures awaiting discussion by the House of Representatives. We presume that his resignation will close the incident. The charge against Viscount Watanabe is that he exercised his authority in an arbitrary and unjustifiable manner to bring about the removal of certain members of the Board over which he presides. On more than one occasion questions have been asked on the subject in the House of Peers, and it constituted one of the recognised weapons of the Opposition when the Matsukata Cabinet was in office last year.

THE "HITACHI MARU."

We all remember how much talk there was some months ago about the *Hitachi Maru*, which was built at the Mitsu Bishi Dock in Nagasaki, and how there were rumours of bad riveting and slovenly work such as rendered it difficult to get the vessel passed by Lloyd's surveyor. As a matter of fact she was passed, and passed with flying colours, we believe, by an expert specially summoned from England to examine her before her final transfer to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. But that did not entirely dispel the suspicions which had been created by local talk. We have been curious, therefore, to learn what impression the ship would make when she reached England and how her maiden voyage thither would be achieved. Written reports have now been received, and it appears from them that the *Hitachi* behaved excellently on the voyage. Her engines worked from first to last without a hitch, driving her well in advance of her scheduled time, and her cargo was turned out without a damaged package, so that the substantial nature of her construction is placed beyond doubt. Lloyd's Committee took advantage of her presence in London to have her examined afloat by two of their principal surveyors, and in a letter subsequently addressed to the Mitsu Bishi Company in Nagasaki, the Secretary of the Committee says:—"The vessel was found to be in good condition and efficient in every respect, and the surveyors were able to make a very satisfactory report to the Committee." We also note that Captain Brown, who has superintended the building of numerous steamers for Japan in England and Scotland, writes that he considers the *Hitachi Maru* to "compare favourably in every way with sister-ships built on the Clyde." The *Hitachi* having been the first large steamer constructed in Japan, these reports have considerable interest.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

Statements which have appeared in our local contemporaries with regard to the Japanese Diet seem to be based on a misunderstanding. The Diet is accused of laziness and perfunctoriness because it has not met on several days since its official opening, and because, when it does meet, its sittings are short. But the fact is that, in the early days of the session, the business done by each House in full conclave is necessarily small, not because of any antipathy to work, but because the great majority of the members are engaged in committee duties. There are standing committees and special committees. The standing committees are the Budget Committee (45 members), the Petitions Committee (25 members) and the Disciplinary Committee (25 members). The last-named committee has generally very little to do, but the Petitions Committee has to hold long sittings every day throughout the session, and the Budget Committee, during the first fifteen days of the sessions, sits all day, and sometimes late into the night. Thus seventy members of the Lower House are fully occupied. Then there are the special committees. Every Government bill must, as a matter of law, be handed to a special committee for examination, and, pending the receipt of the committee's report, no debate or other action can take place in the House. All important private bills are also handed to special committees, and as a special committee consists at least of 9 members, it is easy to see that by the time that fifteen or twenty bills have been handed to committees, the number of members not engaged in committee work is insignificant. Thus when we read that the House of Representatives, or the House of Peers, does not meet, it is not to be inferred that the members are idling. The fact is that they are in the committee rooms, working with much greater assiduity for a much longer time than they would be working were they in their places in their House. As soon as the special committees or the Budget Committee are prepared to present their reports, then and not till then there is business for the Houses. Hence at the beginning of the session several days occur when there is no reason for the Houses to sit.

PNEUMATIC RAILWAYS.

"I was glad to learn"—writes a correspondent—"from one of your recent issues that we are to have street railways—probably efficient—in Tokyo. But I am surprised that you describe the old cylinder-and-piston locomotive, where compressed air is merely used instead of steam, as "the new American scheme." It was used in England at least 50 years ago, at first chiefly for road carriages, but afterwards for tram-cars and also for railways. It had varying success for a long time, the great trouble being the extreme coldness of the suddenly released exhaust, which caused snow and ice to form in all the pipes beyond the cylinders. Mr. W. D. Scott Moncrief designed an engine which was intended to overcome this difficulty. I can not recall the date, but I remember that when I first met him, about 15 or 20 years ago, he spoke of his invention as a thing of the past, and grumbled that the public had not appreciated it, but had taken to another type of compressed-air locomotive, which he considered vastly inferior. Of course that is a common wail of the inventor. I mention it merely to show that in, say, 1880, the compressed-air locomotive was regarded as an old established fact. It was a much discussed question twenty years ago whether compressed-air should not be used instead of steam in the underground railways of London, so as to ensure relief from the foul sulphurous atmosphere caused by the coal-burning engine. Probably compressed-air would have won the day but for vested interests, factors which, as experience shows, would array themselves at any moment against the theory of gravitation. I entertain no doubt that the Americans have made improvements in compressed-air engines, for I think they beat us in inventiveness. But let them not claim the Earth. They must get back to some period prior to 1840 before they can be regarded as the inventors of compressed-air engines. If they have managed in any way to compensate for the "tapering off" of the pressure, they have certainly done a great thing. I should not be surprised to find that the alleged improvements are mainly due to the vast increase of knowledge acquired during the past few years about the manufacture and use of mild steel."

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LAND LEASES IN HYOGO.

We read in Kobe journals that the Japanese Government has cancelled the time-restriction hitherto imposed on the leasing of land by foreigners within certain limits outside the Hiogo Settlement, and we read also that this act is regarded as an acknowledgment that the restriction was in contravention of the Treaty. Such an inference seems quite erroneous. The facts are very simple. In 1867, a Convention was concluded which contained, among other provisions, a clause indicating a certain area of land for the uses of foreign settlers, and in 1868 the conditions under which the land was to be acquired and the form of lease were embodied in supplementary documents. The lease contained the words "in perpetuity," and, of course, its character was never called in question. But subsequently to the conclusion of the above Convention, an agreement was made between the Foreign Representatives and the Japanese Government with reference to lands *outside the Settlement*. It was decided that foreigners should be at liberty to lease such lands also—within designated limits, of course—; but whereas, with regard to land within the Settlement, distinct provisions as to the manner of sale, the annual rent, the form of title deed, and so on were laid down, no precautions of the kind were taken by the parties to the subsequent agreement relative to land *outside the Settlement*. The whole arrangement in the latter case was embodied in the words, "foreigners and Japanese may in future make agreements between themselves and at their own convenience for leasing land or houses." Further, it was expressly stipulated that from the arrangement with regard to land outside the Settlement "must be excepted the Concession (Settlement) ground prepared under the Convention of May, 1868," and while, on the one hand, foreign land-holders within the Settlement were required to pay a fixed and special rent to the Local Authorities, foreign lessees outside the Settlement, on the other hand, were placed upon the same footing as Japanese subjects with regard to municipal charges and Government Land Tax. Here, then, was a very clearly defined state of affairs: a certain area within which foreigners might acquire land under perpetual leases and subject to well-defined conditions, and a certain other area within which "foreigners and Japanese might make arrangements between themselves at their own convenience." Did the latter arrangement confer on foreigners the right of making perpetual leases? Did it confer on them any right independent of the laws of Japan? Obviously not. What it did was to place them on exactly the same footing as Japanese subjects for purposes of land-leasing within the designated area outside the Settlement. Japanese were bound to obey the laws of Japan in all transactions between themselves as to land-leasing and land-tenure within that area, and the diplomatic arrangement did not give them any title to disregard those laws in transactions with foreigners. *Inside* the Settlement, leases in perpetuity were explicitly obtainable under the distinct terms of the Convention, but *outside* the Settlement the arrangements as to land leases were explicitly excepted from the operation of the Convention. Now the general law of Japan fixes 20 years as the maximum term for an ordinary land-lease, but local custom used to have the force of law in these matters, and the local custom in Hyogo Prefecture being 25 years, the Governor of the Prefecture in 1884 issued a Notification in that sense for the guidance of the local authorities. To that decree strong exception was taken by certain foreigners in later years. They contended, first, that it was a distinct violation of the Convention; and secondly, that its bad faith was accentuated by the surreptitious nature of the act, the Notification having been issued "secretly." A secret notification issued by a Governor of a Prefecture is not easily conceivable; yet in that very remarkable document, the Kobe Memorial of last spring, the Japanese Government was plainly charged with "secretly issuing instructions to the Prefectural Authorities" in violation of the Convention. Apparently this accusation of secrecy is based wholly on the fact that the Notification was not communicated to the Foreign Consuls. But there was no manner of reason why it should be communicated. The agreement as to land-leasing outside the Settlement did not invest the Foreign Consuls with any manner of competence to supervise the nature of the leases. Their function was limited to "sealing and registering" the leases "as a proof of validity." On the other hand, when it was laid down that foreigners and Japanese might make agreements between themselves at their own convenience, no reasonable person can pretend to think that the limits of the convenience of Japanese subjects were extended so as to stretch beyond the purview of the laws of their country. Their natural obligation to observe those laws did not cease to be binding simply because they received permission to lease their lands to foreigners. The charge of secrecy, then, falls to the ground. There was no necessity to communicate the Notification to the Consuls, nor any concealment in the failure to communicate it. The charge of violating the Convention is dispelled by the same argument. The Convention was not in question at all, but only a subsequent agreement relating to special lands; an agreement which, as we have shown, did not confer any special privilege whatever as to the nature of the leases; did not entitle foreigners to obtain land within the extra-settlement area on terms which would have been illegal for Japanese subjects. There being, then, no violation of treaty, or convention, or agreement, the course now adopted by the Japanese Government can not be regarded as an acknowledgement that there was a violation. The new Civil Code of Japan has replaced all the old laws on the subject of land leasing, and in the new Civil Code it is provided that leases may be made for an unlimited period. It is true that the system is called *chijō ken*, which, being translated "superficies," presents a new-fangled and therefore suspicious aspect to fine old conservatives whose habit is to look askance at everything unfamiliar. None the less, leasing pure and simple is what the Code provides for, and the Japanese Government has evidently concluded that the most liberal way of treating the representations made on the subject of the extra settlement lands at Hyogo would be to allow foreigners to enjoy there at once the privileges which they will enjoy throughout the whole empire when the Revised Treaties go into operation. It is a question of only six months at any rate, and about such trifles a wise administration does not hesitate. Certainly the more tactful and gracious method of accepting the concession would be to acknowledge its liberality, instead of construing it as a confession that "a serious infraction of treaty rights" had taken place. Had the Japanese Government anticipated such a construction, it would not have been justified in making the concession.

NEW JAPANESE SETTLEMENT IN TIENTSIN.

It was stipulated in the new Treaty of Commerce, concluded between Japan and China in 1896, that a portion of ground should be given by the Chinese Government to form a Japanese settlement in Tientsin, distinct from the other foreign settlements already existing there. Various conferences were subsequently held to arrange the details of the grant, and the final agreement appears in the *Official Gazette* of the 15th instant. The site chosen is on the bank of the river and has a length of 283 yards. An additional area is also designated for purposes of provisional expansion hereafter. The leases are to be perpetual. Six copies have to be made and lodged with various officials, and the ground rent is one cash per *mow*. It is provided that any Chinese now residing within the fixed limits may remain there, unless the land occupied by them is required, but in the latter contingency they must remove within two months of the receipt of due notice. The purchase price of the land is not to be a matter of bargain between the Chinese holders and the Japanese settlers, but will be determined by officials of both sides appointed for the purpose. Provisions are, of course, inserted with reference to graves. These, when they contain the bodies of common people, must be removed if the purchaser of the land so desires, but the grave of a person of quality may not be disturbed unless the family to which it belongs is willing. An allowance of 10 taels is to be made to a Chinese householder who is required to remove, and there is an understanding about the building of a tramway as well as about various other matters to which we need not allude in detail.

DESTRUCTION OF THE JAPAN SILK FACTORY.

A telegram from Osaka announces the destruction by fire, at 8 a.m. on the 20th instant, of the Nihon Senshi Kaisha's factory in the Dempo-mura suburb of Osaka. The Company has a capital of a million *yen*, four hundred thousand of which is paid up, and the buildings destroyed are said to have covered an area of a thousand *tsubo*. The factory and the buildings connected with it were consumed, and one of the employes is missing. Fortunately the godowns escaped, so that the stock of raw materials and manufactured goods was saved, but the loss was nevertheless heavy, being estimated at 200,000 *yen*. Insurance had been effected with the Meiji Fire Insurance Company, the Nihon Insurance, and the Tokyo Fire Insurance Company for 55,000 *yen* each, and with the Yokohama Fire Insurance Company for 35,000 *yen*.

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SUBJECTIVE VILLAINY.

"An analysis of the reasons actuating the members who voted for the bill would make a curious story if it could be got at." That is the verdict of a local English journal with reference to the recent debate and division in the House of Representatives on the measure for increasing the Land Tax. It is a conclusive verdict, being avowedly based on unprocurable evidence. "I could prove this fellow to be a villain if any proof were forthcoming" says the critic. No one can fail to be struck with the consciousness of ability embodied in such a judgment. The writer knows by long experience what "curious stories" he can construct for blasting the reputation of the Japanese if only some slender materials are forthcoming, and, in the absence of materials, he falls back upon the finely artistic device of hinting at what might be done were there any tangible means of doing it. This method has large possibilities, and it has also the merit of novelty. One of an audience listening to a lecture or watching a public performance of some kind, turns to his companions and says of the performer or lecturer:—"I could tell you a curious story of that fellow's life if I knew anything about his career." The persons to whom he addresses himself can not fail to be impressed. They experience a creeping sensation and contemplate the hypothetical rascal under a wholly changed aspect. He has now become in their eyes an evil mystery, and all feel vaguely convinced that they are the depositories of secret information which, though it can not be definitely proclaimed to his destruction, suffices to damn him effectually. Yes, the method is grand. It is the best way yet discovered for giving a dog a bad name, and the only moral equipment required is that we should have learned to regard our fellow creatures as dogs, which faculty was long ago developed in the subtle critic quoted above with regard to the Japanese branch of the human race.

THE EMPEROR AND THE CABINET.

It is stated that the Emperor sent a present of wine and fish, *more Japonico*, to each member of the Cabinet, after the passing of the Land Tax Bill; from which some people infer that His Majesty is gratified at the success of the measure. We should be disposed, however, to construe the act as an evidence that the conclusion of the weary contest between the Administration and the Legislature is welcomed by the Sovereign. For the vote on the 20th instant may fairly be considered as an end of the fight, for the present at all events.

PRINCE IWAKURA.

Rumours are circulated by Tokyo newspapers to the effect that Prince Iwakura has tendered his resignation of his post in the Imperial Household, and has left Tokyo. Our contemporaries add an explanation which appears to be purely hypothetical, namely, that the Prince used the advantages offered by his position at Court for political purposes, especially in connexion with the Land Tax Bill, which he opposed, and that he consequently finds his relations with the present Cabinet somewhat strained. We give the story for what it may be worth.

MR. SHIMADA SABURO.

Mr. Shimada Saburo has withdrawn from the Progressist Party. That result has long been considered probable, but might have been postponed permanently in view of the recent split between the Progressists and the Liberals, had not the question of the Land Tax entered an acute phase. Mr. Shimada has always advocated the advisability of recourse to the Land Tax as a means of obtaining additional revenue, and, the Progressists having now definitely constituted themselves opponents of the Tax, he could not conscientiously remain in their ranks. His friend Mr. Taguchi resigned from the Party some time ago for the same reason, and these two brilliant and influential men now stand independent. We have often heard it stated by Japanese statesmen that neither Mr. Shimada nor Mr. Taguchi is well fitted for party politics. Both are such scrupulously upright men that to make any sacrifice of conscience at the shrine of political expediency would be unbearably repugnant to them. Yet this step of Mr. Shimada's must have cost him a painful effort. He was one of the founders of the Progressist Party in 1881, and ever since that time he has defended its cause and fought its battles with not less loyalty than ability. He is a great speaker, and his high reputation makes him a tower of strength to any side which he espouses. The loss that the Progressists suffer by his defection is very serious.

THE LATE MR. ISONO.

A religious ceremony on a large scale was performed, according to Buddhist rites, on the 14th instant, at the temple Zōjō-ji, in Shiba, to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Mr. Isono Hakaru, late proprietor of the well-known firm of Meiji-ya in Yokohama, and founder of the firm H. Isono and Company in Tokyo. Among those who assisted at the ceremony were Dr. Hamao, formerly Minister of State for Education, Professor Kikuchi, President of the Imperial University, Mr. Masujima, Mr. Iwashita, Mr. Toyokawa, Mr. Suyenobu, Mr. Dōsei, and Mr. Ikeda. Altogether there were more than a hundred present. Mr. Isono was one of a group of brilliant students, all of whom have made their mark. It is satisfactory to know that the two firms founded by him are now flourishing under the management of Mr. Yonei Genjiro, a relative of the deceased gentleman.

THE EMPEROR'S PROMISE.

One of the statements constantly and confidently advanced by the opponents of land-tax increase, is that the Emperor publicly pledged himself, in 1873, to reduce the tax ultimately to one per cent. of the assessed value of the land. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* conclusively disposes of that fallacy. It shows that the celebrated Rescript of 1873 contained no reference whatever to the Land Tax. The intention as to one per cent. was published in a Government Notification (No. 272) of that year. It was not a pledge, but simply a declaration of intention. Further, the Notification of 1873 was distinctly superseded by the Land Tax Regulations promulgated in 1885 under Imperial Ordinance No. 8. People appear to labour under a strange delusion upon that point.

HERR JUNKER'S CONCERT.

The "Junker String-quartet" made its first appearance on Wednesday evening, before a fair audience in the Vestibule of the Public Hall. Chamber-concerts exhibit a specially delicate and refined branch of music; they appeal to the connoisseur, rather than to the flâneur: and it is no matter of surprise if the counter-attractions and festivities of Christmas-week had their effect upon the attendance.

With regard to the personnel of the quartet-party:—first comes the chief—Herr Junker—who shows to the best advantage when holding the violin. Then Mr. R. Schmid—an amateur who plays like an artist and adorns everything which he touches—was Herr Junker's worthy vis-à-vis: while the inner parts were efficiently filled by Messrs. H. A. Poole and F. Schmid, the Mendelssohn and Haydn selections being well within their powers. We, at all times, bow with reverence before the great talent of the Tokyo *virtuoso*—Professor von Koeber—and were delighted to see and hear him again in Yokohama.

The programme (besides the well-known specimens of Haydn and Mendelssohn) contained a goodly proportion of the modern romantic school: including examples of the sombre rhapsodical Chopin—the eccentric yet sometimes charming Grieg—the earnest Brahms, whose claims to rank as a classic are not universally recognised—and the distinguished violinist Ries, who knew how to write for his instrument. These numbers were all well done; Herren Junker and von Koeber shining pre-eminently in their respective solos, while the ensemble playing was distinctly good and effective. Altogether the instrumental work was a fine display of executive ability, and well merited the applause bestowed upon it. Mrs. James Walter and Mr. R. Seel contributed songs with marked success, and Professor Von Koeber increased our debt of gratitude by playing the accompaniments throughout the evening.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

1.—String Quartet in "B Major" ..... MENDELSSOHN.
Herr JUNKER, Messrs. POOLE, F. SCHMID, and R. SCHMID

2.—Aria....."Rinaldo"..... HÄNDEL.
Mrs. JAMES WALTER.

3.—Piano Solo.....Scherzo..... CHOPIN.
Prof. VON KOEBER.

4.—Sonata in "F Major" for Piano and Violin..... GRIEG.
Prof. VON KOEBER and Herr JUNKER.

PART II.

1.—Trio in "C Minor"..... BRAHMS.
Prof. VON KOEBER, Herr JUNKER, and Mr. R. SCHMID

2.—Vocal Solo..."Da neig ich unter den Bäumen"... MENDELSSOHN.
Mr. R. SEEL.

3.—Violin Solo from the "G Major" Suite
(a) "Andante Appassionato" } F. RIES.
(b) "Perpetuo Mobile" ..... }
Herr JUNKER.

4.—String Quartet
(a) Variations from the "Kaiser Quartet"..... HAYDN.
(b) Andante Cantabile... TCHAIKOWSKY.
(c) Canzonetta ..... MENDELSSOHN.

On Thursday, at 3.50 p.m., fire broke out in the kitchen at Messrs. Winkler's and Company, No. 256, Settlement. Superintendent Morgin, with the Brigade men and two hose-reels and a steamer turned out promptly and with the assistance of the Police Brigade the fire was put out in an hour. The origin of the fire was probably the overheating of the stove pipe, which is placed too near the wooden wall. Messrs. Winkler have addressed a cordial letter of thanks to the Brigade for their services.

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TREATY "RIGHTS."

IT seems probable that until the Revised Treaties actually go into operation, the newspaper-reading public will continue to be entertained with theories, many of which are more amusing than instructive, as to the conditions likely to prevail when that *bête noir*, Japanese jurisdiction, becomes an accomplished fact. The latest of these theories emanates from Kobe—an active manufactory of all kinds of delusions at present—and has been copied with apparent approval into the columns of Yokohama journals. It is this:—

> It is provided in clause 4 of the Diplomatic Note attached to the German Treaty "that all rights acquired before or under the Treaty by nationals of the one party in the territories of the other shall remain unchanged after the expiry of the Treaty." That is to say, if any foreigner in Japan has obtained such a right as consists in a medical practice, or in the publication or editing of a newspaper, or in teaching a school, any legislation which aims at depriving him of the right would, by virtue of the most favoured-nation clause, be an infringement of the Treaties. Thus foreigners, though they owe no thanks to the British plenipotentiaries in this matter, are doubly protected by other Treaties—not only in the exercise of their professions, but in that of any private right which they may secured previous to the Treaties going into operation.

The "Treaty" referred to in the German Note is, we need scarcely say, the Revised Treaty, and one intention of the clause quoted is to guarantee perennial security of tenure to foreigners with regard to lands leased to them in perpetuity under the old Treaties. There never was any intention, of course, on the part of the Japanese Government to interfere with such tenure. The British Revised Treaty contains a perfectly clear clause on the subject in Art. XVII., where it is provided that, on the incorporation of the foreign Settlements into Japanese communes, "existing leases in perpetuity under which property is now held in the said Settlements shall be confirmed, and no conditions whatsoever other than those contained in such existing leases shall be imposed in respect of such property." That should certainly suffice for all practical purposes, since the unconditional confirmation of a perpetual lease constitutes an engagement for all time. But it might conceivably be argued that no promises contained in a treaty remain valid after its expiration, and that, consequently, the question of the foreign land-holder will again come upon the tapis at the end of twelve years from July 16th, 1898. To guard against that somewhat chimerical contingency the German negotiators inserted the words quoted above, namely, that "all rights acquired *before the Treaty* shall remain unchanged *after its expiry*." But we find also the words, "all rights acquired under the Treaty," and that is certainly an important provision. The Treaty confers many privileges which the foreign resident would be very much chagrined to lose twelve years hence. He would not like, for example, to have limits once more imposed on his area of free travel and residence; or to be forbidden to bury his dead according to the ritual of his own creed; or to be taxed more highly than Japanese subjects; or to become liable to conscription; or to have to pay heavier duties than Japanese importers, and so on. The British negotiators took these things for granted. They assumed that Japan, having entered the comity of nations, would not resort to any illiberal methods unworthy of her new association even after she had ceased to be bound by treaty. But it must be confessed that the example set by the Occidental members of the comity of nations is not such as to suggest very lofty ideals to an Oriental state. They do not all extend a hearty welcome to one another's subjects and citizens, or make things perfectly comfortable for every stranger within their gates. Hence it was, on the whole, prudent that the German negotiators should obtain from Japan some distinct pledge as to her treatment of foreigners after the Revised Treaties cease to be operative; that is to say, after July 16th, 1911. The clause quoted above embodies such a pledge and nothing more. It relates wholly to events subsequent to the expiry of the Revised Treaties. We are unable to conceive by what extraordinary confusion of ideas the clause is read as applying to the period during the operation of the Revised Treaties. Such blundering and careless interpretations of the plainest English, though they demonstrate the untrustworthiness of the interpretor, tend to confuse the public, for people are generally readier to accept the explanation of a treaty or of a law as given by a commentator than to examine the original and find out its meaning by the aid of their own intelligence. When the German negotiators asked Japan to promise that she would not deprive foreigners after 1911 of any of the privileges textually granted or practically confirmed by the Revised Treaties which become operative in 1899, they certainly could not have supposed that any one would be so ignorant of the meaning of language as to apply the promise to the period antecedent to 1911.

PASSING OF THE LAND TAX BILL.

THE Lower House passed the Land Tax Bill by a vote of 161 against 134. Since the first session in 1891, we do not remember any occasion when the members mustered in such force, there being only 5 absentees out of the whole 300, and one of them was Mr. TANAKA SHOZO who is under sentence of suspension. The Opposition made a gallant struggle, but it was a forlorn hope from the outset. The public, however, had not anticipated a majority so large as 27 in favour of the Bill even in its modified form. Up to the evening of the 19th, the organs of the Progressists spoke as if the Liberals were in danger of disruption, and neither side claimed any such superiority as the voting showed. On the 19th, however, six members seceded from the Progressist Party. Two of them were representatives of Tokyo constituencies, who doubtless found that by continuing to oppose the Bill, they would be acting contrary to the wishes of their constituents. On the same day the Liberals issued a long manifesto, justifying their conduct in voting for an increase of the Tax. The contents of the document can easily be imagined by our readers. The debate on the Bills—Reassessment and Land Tax—would have been quite unworthy of the occasion in a Western Parliament, but the fact is that the question had been thoroughly threshed out long before it came up for decision, and a lengthy discussion would have been mere waste of words. The changes made in the Land Tax Bill reduce the expected revenue from 14,550,000 *yen* to 7,070,000 *yen* in 1899-1900, and from 17,000,000 *yen* to 8,470,000 *yen* in 1900-1901. These figures include a diminution of 3 millions under the operation of the Government's Reassessment Bill. Moreover, the period of the Land Tax Bill's operation is limited to 5 years, whereas the Reassessment measure is to remain in force perpetually. Hence, if this programme be adhered to, there will be a loss of revenue amounting to 11½ million *yen* in 1904 5, namely, 3 million *yen* under the Reassessment Bill and 8½ million *yen* owing to the lapse of the Land Tax Bill. But of course the increased Land Tax has come to stay. It remains to be seen what measures the Government will adopt to make up the deficiency of 7½ millions in 1899-1900, and 8½ millions in 1900-1901.

SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The leading columns of the vernacular press throughout the week have been filled with discussions about the proposed increase of the Land Tax. Nothing else seems to be considered worthy of attention at the moment. The various writers still maintain a semblance of examining the proposal on its merits, but it has obviously fallen to the level of a party question, and to reproduce the arguments advanced on either side would merely weary our readers. Not a single ray of new light has been shed on the subject. Count Okuma's statements to a journalist, which we have already given in full, contain everything that is to be said on behalf of the opponents of the Tax, and the contentions of its advocates having been set forth long ago, are now simply iterated and re-iterated *ad nauseam*. We therefore omit our usual weekly summary of the Press.

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MR. JOHN BARRETT.

Mr. John Barrett, recently United States' Representative in Siam, is turning his stay in Japan to most useful account. He lectured on the afternoon of the 21st at the Waseda Semmon Gakko, and it is announced that on Sunday, the 25th, at 1 p.m., he will speak at a meeting of the Oriental Society in the hall of the Educational Society at Kanda. The Japanese are much interested at present in the prospects of commercial intercourse between their country and Siam, a subject about which Mr. Barrett can doubtless give a great deal of valuable information.

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Philatelists' Almanack for 1899: London, J. M. PALMER.

WE wonder wherein lies the attraction of a postage stamp. It is seldom a beautiful object, either technically or artistically, and in order to possess any value in the philatelists' eyes, it must have ceased to be capable of performing the only function for which it came into existence, namely, carrying a letter to a given destination. Yet of all the fancies that ever influenced human beings, none has been more potent, none more permanent, than the fancy for collecting old postage stamps. Fashion exhibits strange freaks from time to time, and if the originators of some fashions could be discovered, they ought to be put in the pillory. Who was it, for example, that first conceived the idea of hanging up dinner plates as though they were pictures? The practice offends all sense of propriety, and has been carried to an excess that constitutes a veritable outrage. A grand specimen of porcelain, attractive as a study in decorative designing and colour effects, has, doubtless, many claims to be raised to the rank of a picture. But to plaster the walls of a salon with meritless, defective examples of utterly mediocre wares, as is a common habit now-a-days, must be regarded as one of the most senseless of extravagances. Stamp-collecting has at all events the advantage of being an unobtrusive mania. Its victims do not parade their foible with the offensive confidence of the plate-hanging householder. It may also be urged on their behalf that the larger their collection, the wider their knowledge of geography. But they don't collect for the sake of studying geography. That is pretty certain. Neither have we ever heard one of them dilate upon the beauties of a stamp. Rarity seems to be the prime factor of value. In Mr. J. M. Palmer's "Philatelist's Almanack" for 1899, we read of certain stamps which are "regarded as marvellous and most valuable specimens." What is the matter with them! What entitles them to such enthusiastic epithets? Why simply that only 200 of them exist, and their limited number is due to a misprint which was discovered after these 200 had been struck. The memorable event happened last February at the Kurachi City Post-office. Two sheets, containing ten rows of twenty stamps each were misprinted, and of these Mr. Palmer, "after the severest competition obtained eighty-four specimens, which rise in value every day, for as the reputation spreads the enquiries are almost overwhelming, I having kept them on purpose." It would not be easy to devise a more striking illustration of the intellectual and artistic motives of the philatelist. Mr. Palmer guarding in his imposing four-storeyed warehouse in the Strand these eighty-four Kurachi misprints, which are daily rising in reputation and for which he is almost overwhelmed with enquiries—that is a picture which only a philatelist can truly appreciate. However, if we can not enter into the spirit of the stamp-collector, we can at all events see that the "Philatelist's Almanack" must be a highly useful publication to those interested in such matters, and for their sake we regret that the enterprising Mr. Palmer talks of ceasing to issue the little volume.

Fairy Tales from Japan, by Miss SUSAN BALLARD.

MISS SUSAN BALLARD, of the St. Hilda's Mission in Tokyo, has just published a most attractive volume of Japanese "Fairy Tales." The authoress calls them translations, but they are entirely free from any of the peculiarities of style that so often disfigure work of that kind. There is a preface by Mrs. Isabella C. Bishop, and there are two prefatory parts; the first a short essay on the Shinto cult and the Buddhist creed, and the second—which, to our thinking, is not by any means the least interesting portion of the volume—, "a true story for my child-readers," giving a touching and beautiful account of Miss Ballard's experiences in a small town near the base of Fuji-san, where she seems to have passed some years of her missionary life. The so-called "fairy tales" would not all belong to that category according to the Japanese definition, for although "Momotaro," "The old man who made the Trees blossom" "Kachi-kachi Mountain," and the "Man with the Wen" are certainly fairly tales in the approved acceptation of the word, the "Magic Mirror" is simply an exquisitely pathetic story of a girl's love for her dead mother, and as for the adventures of "Hiko-hoho-demi-no-Mikoto," and "the Sword of the Assembled Clouds of Heaven," one might as well include among English fairy tales the history of the sun and moon of Joshua, the Apostles' wonderful fishing, the Pillars of Fire and Cloud, or the piling up of the Red Sea. More wonderful, indeed, than any fairy tale is the faculty so many of us possess, the faculty of accepting implicitly all the miracles of our own religions, and rejecting as mere myths the miraculous legends of every foreign faith. These points will matter little, however, to Anglo-Saxons for whom Miss Ballard writes. Her volume can not fail to delight a great many young folks, and a great many old too, for the matter of that. It is printed by the Religious Tract Society of London, but the illustrations are Japanese, and the cover is a Japanese design of much beauty. We presume that the book is to be obtained in Japan, and we strongly recommend it to our English readers.

Who's Who, Edited by DOUGLAS SLADEN.

"WHO'S WHO" continues to occupy its old place in public esteem. It is now in the fiftieth year of its existence and the second of its new issue under the editorship of Mr. Douglas Sladen, who has evidently brought a large amount of ability and enterprise to the work. The book steadily grows in size. It to-day contains no less than 846 pages of closely written matter, and is certainly the most exhaustive and compact record now published of the notabilities of Great Britain. Many useful tables are given at the beginning, and altogether we do not see how any one can afford to be without such a work.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers did not meet, the Standing and Special Committees alone assembling.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.05 p.m.

THE LATE SCENES OF DISORDER.

The President, Mr. Kataoka, who had been absent for some days owing to illness, referred briefly to the events of the preceding day. He considered it very regrettable that the work of legislation should have been suspended owing to want of order in the House, and he expressed a hope that the members would assist him to preserve the discipline essential to the discharge of business.

Mr. Fujisawa desired to call the President's attention to what had happened in the last session. The Vice-President had, in the first place, suspended the sitting on the ground that the House was disorderly. When the House re-assembled, half an hour later, the Vice-President, after announcing that one of the members should be handed over to the Disciplinary Committee, had immediatly declared the sitting closed, without even giving out the business for the following day. There was nothing in the Rules to warrant such procedure. The 73rd, and 74th Articles of the Standing Orders provided that the President might declare the sitting closed if the business on the Order of the Day had been completed, or, even before it was completed, if the usual hour for closing, namely, six o'clock, had come. No other case was contemplated. Further, it was distinctly laid down that, by way of preliminary to the rising of the House, the President should notify the Order of the Day. It appeared, therefore, that the action of the Vice-President had been irregular and unwarrantable, an insult to the House, and an unlawful interruption of its business. There was no doubt that it lay within the President's discretion to suspend the sitting if such a course was necessary for the preservation of good order. But when the House re-assembled after its recess on the preceding day, there had not been any symptoms of disorder, and from no point of view did a satisfactory explanation of the Vice-President's action present itself.

Mr. Mitamura spoke in a similar sense, and the House began to show signs of impatience at the close of his remarks.

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro wanted to know what they were doing. He had heard something about calling attention to something, but they appeared to be having a kind of debate without any question before the House. So far as yesterday's events were concerned, the author of the disturbance had been handed over to the Disciplinary Committee, and his case was now being investigated. The House had nothing to do but to await the result of the inquiry. He understood one of the last speakers to complain that the business of the House had been interrupted on the preceding day, but it seemed to him that these gentlemen were successfully endeavouring to interrupt the business themselves to-day. If they had any motion to make, let them make it manfully, and fight the matter out.

Mr. Sato attempted to speak, but was interrupted by cries of "Needless," "Needless."

The President said that the action taken by the Vice-President on the preceding day had been in accordance with Art. III of the Law of the Houses, which provided that, when the House was in a state of excitement, and it was found difficult to maintain order, the President should have power either to close the

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meeting for the day or to suspend it. As for the closure of the sitting without any notification of the Order for the following day, there was a precedent for that course.

Mr. Fujisawa denied that the Article quoted had been applicable. The House was not in a disorderly condition when it re-assembled after suspension. There were no signs of excitement, nor any indications that order would be difficult to maintain. The Vice President he would not say ran away, but, at any rate, advanced to the rear.

The President saw no reason to add anything to his previous explanation.

Mr. Hoshi Toru said that the instance of closing the sitting without giving out the order of the following day had occurred under the presidency of Dr. Hatoyama Kazuo. He suggested that the facts should be read to the House from the Records.

Mr. Oaka Ikuzo attempted to speak in defence of the Vice President, but could not obtain a hearing.

Mr. Tanaka Shozo had not intended to take any part in this discussion, but found it impossible to remain quiet when a jurisconsult like Mr. Hoshi Toru advanced such propositions. A bad precedent was always a bad precedent. The fact that a mistake had been made once did not justify its repetition. If the President did not correct his own errors, the House was unable to correct them.

OUTRAGE WITHIN THE PRECINCTS.

The President, taking advantage of a moment of calm, announced that the Order of the Day would now be proceeded with, but before any progress could be made, a report was handed to him, which he read to the House. It was to the effect that Mr. Shigeno Kinjuro, a member of the House, had just been attacked on the steps leading to the entrance, and had received a contused wound on the head, 3 inches long and penetrating to the skull.

Mr. Hayashida, the Chief Secretary, read the medical report about the injury.

Mr. Hoshi Toru asked whether the author of the outrage had been apprehended.

The President replied that he had been arrested instanter.

Mr. Hoshi expressed sympathy with Mr. Shigeno. Doubtless his assailant had been "a fellow of the opposite party" (*kantai-to no yatsura*).

Mr. Tanaka Shozo sprang to his feet and cried out that such rude expressions were intolerable. He called upon the President to take proper measures for Mr. Hoshi's restraint.

MR. TANAKA AGAIN EXPELLED.

The President making no response, Mr. Tanaka hastened towards the rostrum, calling out "Deal with him, deal with him;" and, finally ascending the dais, seized the President's arm. The President ordered him to withdraw from the Chamber. Mr. Tana continued his clamour, and when the sergeants came to enforce the order, he resisted violently, repeating his demand, and shouting "we must know what Mr. Hoshi means." He was finally pushed out through the door behind the President's seat, struggling and vociferating all the while.

TANAKA SHOZO HANDED OVER FOR DISCIPLINE.

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro intimated that he desired to introduce an urgency motion for handing Mr. Tanaka to the Disciplinary Committee, and he asked permission to have the Order changed for the purpose of debating his proposal.

This action elicited numerous exclamation of assent and dissent from all parts of the House, and the President announced that an unsigned ballot would be taken to decide whether the Order should be changed. The result of the ballot was that 145 voted for changing the Order and 135 against it

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro then formally moved that Mr. Tanaka Shozo be handed over to the Disciplinary Committee. He reminded the House that when Mr. Takata Sanaye had been attacked outside the precincts of the Diet, the Party to which he belonged (the Progressists) had not hesitated to declare in the House their belief that his assailant was a member of the *Ri-tō* (Government Party). If Mr Hoshi had been betrayed into a corresponding expression of suspicion in the present case, that did not constitute any justification of Mr. Tanaka's singularly violent conduct; above all, of his unpardonable procedure in mounting the dais and actually laying hands on the President. Such an act was a gross violation of the sanctity of the House and must be duly punished.

An unsigned ballot was taken at once, the President announcing that no discussion would be permitted. The result was that 145 voted for the motion and 140 against it.

NEW BILLS.

The Order of the Day having been resumed, the Special Committee reported unanimously in opposition to the Government Bill for amending the Silk Conditioning Warehouse Law, in the sense of abolishing the Kobe Warehouse, and the House voted against the Second Reading, without any discussion.

Two Government Bills sent down from the Upper House—one for amending the Law of Grants in Aid of deceased Officials' Families, and one for changing the Boundaries between Chiba and Ibaraki Prefectures—were then handed to Special Committees.

A Government Bill for levying Tonnage Dues on Foreign or Domestic Ships entering Japanese Ports was then read and handed to a Special Committee. The chief provisions of the proposed Law are that vessels entering a Japanese port must pay dues of 10 *sen* per registered ton (Japanese measurement), but that a single payment of 30 *sen* per ton will entitle a vessel to free entry for one year. The dues must be paid by the master of the ship to the Custom House on her entry, and failure to pay will involve liability to a fine of three times the amount of the defalcation. Vessels putting into a port through stress of weather or owing to injury received at sea are to be exempt from the payment, and the Superintendent of Customs is to have the right of taking the measure of a ship at any time. The date of the Law's operation is to be fixed by Imperial Ordinance. In the Statement of Reasons appended to the Bill, it is explained that the clearance payments hitherto levied on ships have been irrespective of the carrying capacity of the vessel, which is manifestly unjust.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

The next Bill on the Order was a Government measure for increasing the Security Reserve of the Bank of Japan from 85 million *yen* to 120 millions, a change which simultaneously confers on the Bank the privilege of making an additional issue of 35 million *yen* of untaxed convertible notes. The Bill does not disturb the privilege already enjoyed by the Bank of making unsecured issues on payment of a tax of 5 per cent. The reasons assigned for increasing the Security Reserve, and therefore the volume of the convertible paper currency, are (1) growth of the economical society; (2) expansion of national territory; (3) increase of population, and (4) the change of the currency system to a gold basis. The Bill was handed to a Special Committee.

A Government Bill was then introduced for taxing the Bank of Japan, on the ground that the enlarged note-issuing power granted to it by the Bill just read would greatly increase its profits, and the State had a right to share those profits. The tax is to be imposed in two ways. In the first place, the Treasury is to receive, out of the Bank's net profits, 6 per cent. of its paid up capital, provided that the dividend to shareholders does not fall below 4 per cent. of the said capital. Secondly, the Bank is to pay to the Government one-third of the sum remaining after it has made the minimum appropriation on account of its reserves against losses and for the equalization of dividends. The latter point requires a word of explanation. The present Regulations of the Bank do not prescribe any limit of dividend, or fix any ratio between total net profits and sums carried to reserves. They merely provide that out of the sum available for reserve purposes after the dividend has been subtracted from the net profits, at least one-tenth must be carried to the reserves for covering losses and equalizing dividends, the other nine-tenths being, of course, available to swell the general reserve or the next year's account. Hence it will be seen that the scheme of taxation projected by the Bill is simply this —six per cent. on the paid-up capital out of the sum appropriated to dividend, and three-tenths of the remaining net profits. The tax is to be imposed from January 1st, 1899. The Bill was handed to the Special Committee charged with the duty of reporting on the previous Bill with regard to the Bank's Security Reserve and note-issuing power.

MEDICAL MEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

A Bill was then introduced by Mr. Suzuki Manjuro for organizing Medical Men's Associations (*Ishi-Kai*) in the cities, prefectures, districts, and divisions; the names of members to be published in the *Official Gazette* and entered in local registers on payment of a registration fee of three *yen*; no one to be allowed to practise medicine unless he is a member of such an association; and the penalty for any violation of the Association's rules to be determined by the Minister of State for Home Affairs in consultation with the President of the Central Sanitary Bureau, on receipt of a report from the Local Governor covering a resolution passed at a general meeting of the association to which the offending member belongs. The appended statement of reasons says that the measure is necessary in view of the operation of the Revised Treaties and the probable advent of foreign medical practitioners, concerning whose qualifications some method of supervision and verification must be provided in the interests of the public.

Dr. Hasegawa Tai, Government Delegate and President of the Central Sanitary Bureau, stated that the proposed measure had the Government's approval.

The Bill was handed to a Special Committee, and the House rose at 3.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers did not meet.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.07 p.m., and received the report of the Budget Committee with reference to four supplementary budgets for the current fiscal year, all of which were passed without debate.

The Bill sent down by the House of Peers for amending the Law with reference to the Registration of Lands in Hokkaido granted to Immigrants, was then handed to a special committee.

THE SUSPENDED MEMBERS.

Mr. Nishihara Seito, on behalf of Disciplinary Committee, reported that the Committee had considered the cases of Mr. Momma and Mr. Tanaka Shōzo, and had decided that Mr. Momma, having created a disturbance in the House, should be suspended for 7 days, and that Mr. Tanaka Shōzo, having been guilty of an offence against the dignity of the House, should be suspended for 14 days.

Dr. Hatoyama moved that the House, following precedent, should go into secret session to consider these recommendations.

Mr. Hoshi Toru thought that, in view of the importance of the subject, it should be placed on the Order of the Day, and discussed after due notice.

The House adopted Dr. Hatoyama's motion, and went into secret session at 1 40 p.m. The sitting was re-opened at 4 45 p.m., when it was found that the House had reduced the sentences of the Disciplinary Committee to 3 days in the case of Mr. Momma and 7 days in that of Mr. Tanaka.

The House rose at 4.50 p.m.

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MONDAY, NOV. 19TH, 1898.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers met at 10.20 a.m.

AMENDING THE PRESS LAW.

The first Bill on the Order was a Government measure for amending the Press Law so that the 6th Article should read:—"No person under the full age of 21 and not actually a resident of Japan may become publisher, editor, or printer, &c.," thus rescinding the restriction as to nationality in the existing Law.

The Government Delegate explained that this change in the Law was desirable in view of the impending operation of the Revised Treaties, so that foreigners might enjoy the privilege of engaging in newspaper enterprise in Japan.

No questions were asked, and the Bill was handed to a special committee.

FOREIGN CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.

The second Bill was a Government measure for amending the Chemists' and Druggists' Regulations, so as to read:—"Any person who, having attained the full age of 20 years, has graduated from the druggists' section of a foreign university, or from a druggists' school, or who possesses a druggists' license entitling him to practise in a foreign country, may apply for a license to practise in Japan by virtue of the said certificate of graduation or license to practise; and the Minister of State for Home Affairs, after examining the said documents, may grant a license, without requiring the applicant to pass any examination."

In the Statement of Reasons appended to the Bill it was explained that the object of the proposed amendment was to bring the Chemists' and Druggists' Regulations into accord with the Regulations for Medical Diplomas, the 14th Article of which says:—"Any person who has graduated from the medical section of a foreign university or from a medical school, or who possesses a license to practise medicine in a foreign country, may apply for a license to practise in Japan by virtue of the said certificate of graduation of license to practise, and the Minister of State for Home Affairs, after examining the said documents, may grant a license without requiring the applicant to pass an examination."

The Government Delegate explained that this measure also was requisite in view of the operation of the Revised Treaties, and the Bill was handed to a Special Committee.

NATIONALIZATION BILL.

Viscount Tani, Chairman of the Special Committee, having reported favourably on the Nationalization Bill, it was passed through its Second and Third Readings without debate.

FORMOSA.

The Second Reading of the Bill for extending for five years the operation period of Law No. 63 of 1896, by which legislative competence is vested in the Governor-General of Formosa, was then taken. Mr. Izawa proposed an amendment, not of the Bill, but of the Law itself, and this provoked a long debate, the Government's supporters contending that a motion to amend the text of a law was not in order when the only question before the House was whether the operative period of the law should be extended; and the Opposition claiming, with considerable heat and insistence, that when they were invited to consider the advisability of keeping a law in force or allowing it to become inoperative, there could be no doubt about the propriety of proposing amendments of the law itself. In an amended form they were willing to extend its period of operation, but in its present form they must vote against it. The debate lasted nearly two hours, but the only interesting point elicited was a statement by Dr. Goto, head of the Civil Government in Formosa, that a sum of 14,000 *yen* had been distributed among the bandits who made act of submission, and that 7,000 *yen* had been spent on the construction of roads, in which work they were employed.

The House rejected Mr. Izawa's amendment and voted the Second Reading. Another motion by the same member for the throwing out of the Bill was also negatived by a large majority, and the Third Reading was passed.

OTHER MATTERS.

A private Bill for granting special immunity in respect of Land Tax to inundated regions, having been approved by the Government Delegate provided that the resulting loss of revenue did not exceed 500,000 *yen*, was handed to a special Committee.

The Supplementary Budgets for the fiscal year 1898-9, sent up from the Lower House, were handed to the Budget Committee, with instructions to report on them in a week, and the House rose at 1.40 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House of Representatives met at 1.10 p.m.

BUDGETS AND GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

The Chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. Kurihara, having reported favourably on a Supplementary Budget for 1897-8, it was passed without debate.

The following Government Bills were then handed to special committees:—

A Bill for bringing the inhabitants of Hokkaido, Okinawa, Ogasawara, and the Seven Islands of Izu within the purview of the punitive classes of the Indirect National Tax Law.

A Bill for abolishing the system of official purchases of sugar in Okinawa (Riukiu). According to the appended statement of Reasons, it has long been the custom for the Government to purchase certain qualities of sugar from the islanders, and having deducted therefrom the amount of the tax on barley and beans, to hand over the remainder to the islanders, the sugar being subsequently sold and the proceeds lodged in the Treasury. But the system was now found to have an injurious effect on free competition, and the Government desired to discontinue it after March 31st, 1899.

The Bill for abolishing the tax imposed in Okinawa Prefecture on vessels spreading more than a certain area of canvas was then passed through its Second and Third Reading.

PRIVATE BILLS.

A private Bill was introduced, by Mr. Shigeoka Kungoro, for making an amendment in the appendix to the General Statutory Tariff, in the sense of abolishing the import duty upon salted fish (kangyo). Mr. Shigeoka said that the number of Japanese who proceeded to the coasts of Siberia and Karafuto was increasing every year. Great quantities of salted fish were sent back to Japan by these enterprising men, and a correspondingly large and growing export of Japanese products was taking place to the same regions. The duty which the new Tariff proposed to put upon salted fish would have the effect of killing the industry and therefore also closing one market for Japanese goods.

The Bill was handed to a Special Committee.

Mr. Kimura and some other Independent and Progressist members, introduced a Bill for re-assessing the taxable value of land. They contended that greatly improved facilities of communication had rendered the price of rice and the rate of interest virtually uniform throughout Japan, and that no reason existed why a uniform system of re-assessment should not be adopted so as to remove the existing inequalities of incidence. Therefore they proposed that the price of rice and the amount of produce should be determined by taking the average of the 6 years from 1894 to 1897, omitting the year of greatest yield and lowest price as well as the year of least yield and highest price, and that when all necessary deductions had been made on account of expenses —due attention being paid to the increased price of fertilizers—, the taxable value of the land should be found by regarding the net produce as six per cent. of that value. They expected that the resulting value would be five or six times the present figure, and they proposed that the tax should be fixed at 1.3 per cent.

The Bill was handed to the Land Tax Committee, and the House rose at 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 20TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers did not meet.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.05 p.m.

FINAL READINGS.

The following two bills were passed through their Second and Third Readings:—

Bill for extending the Military Court-martial System to Formosa.

Bill for the better Preservation of Military Secrets.

With regard to the latter Bill, Mr. Takagi Masatoshi called attention to the fact that a person travelling by rail from Nagaura to Yokosuka can see not only the forts on the latter place, but also the number of ships undergoing repair in the Docks. Did the Government intend to change the route of the line, or would some other precaution be adopted, as it was obviously impossible to forbid foreigners to travel by the railway?

The Vice-Minister of War replied that the question was of considerable importance, and he preferred to answer it at a future date in writing.

STUDENTS ABROAD.

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro introduced a Representation urging that 50 students should be sent abroad annually at the expense of the State to acquire practical instruction. The period of instruction should be ten years, and for the first four years the number should be increased by 50 annually until a maximum of 200 was reached, after which the number would remain constant for six years, and from the 11th year the students should return at the rate of 50 per annum. Allowing 250 *yen* a year for each student, the total outlay for 50 would be only 12,500 *yen*.

The Representation was handed to a special committee.

THE LAND TAX.

Mr. Ooka Ikuzo, Chairman of the Special Committee on the Government Land Tax and Reassessment Bills, as well as on Mr. Kimura's Re assessment Bill, reported that, since its appointment on the 12th instant, the Committee had had several sessions, and on two occasions had obtained the attendance of the Minister of State for Finance. Finally, by a vote of 14 to 12, the Committee had adopted certain amendments, namely, (1) the reduction of the proposed increase of Tax from 1.5 per cent. to 0.8 per cent. in the case of rural districts, and the raising of the increase to 2.5 per cent. in the case of urban lands, thus making the total rate for rural lands 3 3 per cent., and that for urban lands 5 per cent.; (2) the limitation of the period of increase to 5 years, inasmuch as only 7 years remained of the period of exceptional outlays on account of the *post-bellum* programme, the last two years of which period would require only trifling outlays, and inasmuch as, in 5 years time, the income from customs duties would probably show a great growth; (3) the addition of a clause providing that the altered rate should not go into force until after the reassessment of the taxable value of the land, and that it should be levied on the reassessed value; and (4) the inclusion of the island of Tsushima, Nagasaki Prefecture, in the scheme of reassessment. With regard to the Reassessment Bill, it was, in effect, identical with measures which had received the endorsement of the House ever since the 2nd session, and the majority of the Committee had found no difficulty in approving it. The difference between the Government's Bill and Mr. Kimura's Bill was that the former went on the principle of putting down the elevated points in the value of the land and the latter on the principle of raising the depressions. Hence the adoption of the Government's measure involved the rejection of that of Mr. Kimura. Concerning the arithmetic of the Committee's amendments, the broad facts were that whereas the Government's plan would add 14½ million *yen* to the revenue in 1899-1900 and

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17 millions in subsequent years, the Committee's scheme would give an addition of only 7 millions in 1899-1900 and 8¼ millions in subsequent years, and after 1904 the burden of the Land Tax would become 3 millions less than it is at present. He moved that, as a matter of urgency, the Order of the Day be changed for the purpose of debating these Bills at once.

Mr. Hoshi Toru seconded the proposal for urgency, and moved that the Reassessment Bill be taken first

At this stage the Ministers of State, with the exception of Marquis Yamagata, entered the House.

Several members asked questions, Mr. Kudo Kokan making himself conspicuous by the number of his queries and the persistence with which he pressed them. He repeatedly asked Count Matsukata to explain what measures the Government contemplated taking to make up the deficiency which would result if the Committee's amendments were passed, but Count Matsukata declined to say more than that it would depend upon the nature of the vote. The House finally grew impatient of this questioning and proceeded to debate the Bills, the Order of the Day having been changed and Mr. Hoshi's motion, as to the sequence of deliberation, passed.

Mr. Taketomi Takitoshi, in a long speech, presented a report on behalf of the minority of the committee. He repudiated the idea that the opponents of Land Tax increase were unwilling to vote the funds necessary for the progress of national affairs, and declared that the whole question was how to provide funds, not whether they should be provided. The first point to be determined was whether the expenditure of 223 million *yen* included in the Budget was a proper figure. Pending the settlement of that point, it was not possible to form a really intelligent judgment about methods of augmenting the revenue. But even if they agreed that such an outlay was inevitable, the Land Tax would still be an unwise source of additional income, for a tax on land was radically bad. It was an impost not sanctioned by sound principles of national economy. Its effect, briefly speaking, was to impoverish the agricultural classes for the sake of enriching the merchants employed by the Government. There were 20 millions of agricultural folks in the Empire, and upon their prosperity depended the prosperity of the country. If they were in straitened circumstances, the consequences became at once apparent in the towns, and were also felt by the railways, the telegraphs, the post offices, and in many other directions. As for the contention that the proposed increase of tax would fall chiefly on the land-owners and would be little felt by the tenants, the fact was that the number of large land-owners was incomparably smaller than the number of those whose holdings were barely sufficient to support them. Theorists had a great deal to say about the taxes paid by the nation in former times, but their whole argument was vitiated by failure to appreciate the differences between the era of feudalism and the era of constitutional government. It was quite beside the mark to contend that the Land Tax levied under the rule of the Tokugawa was heavier than the Tax levied to day, for in Tokugawa times men paid taxes blindly as a kind of tribute to their superiors, whereas now they paid them for a definite purpose approved by themselves. Further, the Emperor himself had promised publicly in the year 1873 that the Land Tax should be gradually reduced to one per cent. of the value of the Land. They were told that by increasing the Tax the finances would be placed on a sound footing, but such a proposition could not be reconciled with the fact that a tax which depends on the yield of land is eminently unreliable, being subject to fluctuations in connexion with numerous causes. Taxes ought to be imposed on the actual income of the tax-payer, not on the source of his income. In no other country was the land required to bear such burdens as in Japan. If they examined the statistics of Occidental States, they would find that the Land Tax never exceeded $\frac{1}{21}$ of the total public revenue, whereas in Japan it was ¼. Could it be asserted of such States that their finances were not on a sound footing? If they made the proposed addition, even of only 0.8 per cent., the market price of land would immediately fall by 20 per cent. He then elaborated the point that the communes were already taxed above their strength for purposes of local expenditure, and that to increase their contributions to the Central Treasury would involve the collapse of local autonomy. Altogether he did not hesitate to denounce the Government's scheme as ill-considered and senseless. This vacillating condition of the Finance Minister's mind was well illustrated by the record of his attitude towards the tax, for he had gradually agreed to shift his ground first from 4 per cent. to 3.3; then from perpetuity to 7 years, and finally from 7 years to 5.

Mr. Taguchi Ukichi spoke in favour of the measure, and traversed Mr. Taketomi's statements from point to point. He showed that in Europe, and especially in England, the land contributes largely to the income of the State, and that in feudal days it constituted a chief source of local income. It was quite impossible for Japan to derive her revenue from indirect taxation, as was the case in England, and, according to the most advanced theories of political economy, she was very fortunate in being able to rely on the land. As a matter of fact, the result of the change in the system of currency and of the re-assessments twice effected in recent years was that the Land Tax had been reduced to about one-third of its original figure, and on no principle of equity could it be contended that the public treasury was not entitled to a share of this unearned increment. With regard to the contention that the burden of any addition would fall chiefly on the tenant farmer not on the landlord, it was hardly necessary to expose a fallacy which a student of a primary school could detect at once. As between the *Sake* Tax and the Land Tax, the former bore much more heavily on the inferior classes than the latter. He had heard with astonishment that funds to defray local expenditures were derived chiefly from the Land Tax, and that if the latter were increased for the purposes of the central Treasury, the system of local autonomy would collapse. In point of fact, as the House well knew, local expenditures were defrayed almost entirely from the House Tax, the Business Tax, and the Miscellaneous Tax. Attention must be called, also, to a serious error in Mr. Taketomi's speech. He had averred that an Imperial Rescript issued in 1873 contained a promise to reduce the Land Tax gradually to 1 per cent. No such promise could be found in any Rescript. A Government Notification of 1873 did contain a statement of intention to reduce the Tax as other imposts increased, but the Notification had been superseded by one of more recent date.

At this point the closure was put and carried.

Mr. Hoshi Toru proposed that the voting be by unsigned ballots.

Dr. Hatoyama proposed that the ballots be signed.

A division being taken on this point, showed 157 in favour of Mr. Hoshi's proposition, and 138 against it. The announcement of the numbers was received with loud cheering as an indication of the voting on the Bills themselves.

An open ballot was then taken as to whether the Bill for Reassessing the Taxable Value of the Land should be read a second time, when 166 voted for the Second Reading and 129 against. The Second Reading was taken at once and the Bill was finally passed.

The ballot for the Second Reading of the Land Tax Bill, as amended by the Special Committee, resulted in 161 "ayes" and 134 "noes," and the members of the Opposition, seeing that their cause was completely lost, trooped out of the chamber, so that the final ballot on the Bill resulted in 151 votes for it and only 15 against.

The President announced that the House would not meet on the following day, and the session closed at 7.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22ND.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers met at 10.10 a.m., and, having received reports from Special Committees on the following measures, passed them with scarcely any debate or opposition :—

NEW BILLS PASSED.

Supplementary Budget No. 4 for the 31st year of *Meiji* (1898-9), (sent up from the Lower House) providing a sum of 100,000 *yen* as the purchase price of the submarine cable between Formosa and Foochow; and a sum of 900 *yen* by way of payment for the three remaining months of the fiscal year at the rate of 300 *yen* monthly, to the Great Eastern Telegraph Company in consideration of working the cable.

Bill (sent up from the Lower House) for amending the Chemists and Druggists' Regulations.

Bill (sent up from the Lower House) for Special Remission of the Land Tax in the case of inundated districts.

Concerning this measure, the Government Delegate said that the loss of revenue involved would not exceed 210,000 *yen*.

OTHER MATTERS.

The following bills were handed to Special Committees :—

Bill (sent up from the Lower House) for extending to Okinawa, Hokkaido, Ogasawara, and the Seven Islands of Izu, the System of dealing with Transgressions of the Indirect Taxation Regulations.

Bill (sent up from the Lower House) for abolishing the Shipping Tax in Okinawa.

The President having obtained sanction for placing upon the Order of the following day the two bills sent up from the Lower House for increasing the Land Tax and Reassessing the Taxable Value of Land, the House rose at 10.35 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.10 p.m., and proceeded at once to receive the report of the Special Committee on the Bill for increasing the *Saké* Tax, together with five correlated Bills.

THE SAKÉ TAX.

Mr. Otsu Junichiro, on behalf of the Committee, reported that all the Bills were recommended for the House's approval, with slight amendments. Briefly speaking, the Governments' proposals were to move the tax 12 *yen* per *koku* in the case of Refined *Sake*, Sweet *Sake*, and White *Sake* which had hitherto been subjected to an import of 7 *yen* only, and also to levy 12 *yen* a *koku* on Unrefined *Sake* instead of the 6 *yen* now levied. The tax on spirits and alcohol was to be raised from 8 *yen* a *koku* to 13 *yen*; the private brewing of *Sake* for domestic use was to be altogether interdicted, and licenses for brewing fermented liquors were not to be granted to persons manufacturing less than 100 *koku* of refined *sake*, 50 of Unrefined, or 5 of Spirits or Alcohol annually.

Mr. Takagi Masatoshi pleaded for a reduction of these rates, especially in the case of Unrefined *Sake*. The agricultural classes, he said, were about to be called on to pay an increased tax on their land, and it seemed hard that they should have to pay a greatly increased price for their favourite beverage also; a beverage which might be regarded as one of their articles of diet. What added to the hardship of the new legislation was that the private brewing of domestic *sake* was to be interdicted, whereas it was upon liquor thus brewed that the lower orders chiefly depended. He moved that the rate be lowered to 11 *yen* for Refined *Sake* and 10 for Unrefined.

Mr. Otsu Junichiro, though in the name of the Committee he had reported favorably on the Bills, was also desirous of seeing the rate reduced. The Government Delegate had stated that the Treasury needed from this source 23 million *yen* of additional revenue, and it appeared that such an amount could be obtained by

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fixing the tax at 11 *yen* for both Refined and Unrefined *Sake*. The rates designated in the Bill would probably give an augmented revenue of 30 millions, and there did not appear to be any reason for raising more revenue than was actually required. He moved that the 12 *yen* per *koku* set forth in the Bill be altered to 11 *yen*.

Both of these amendments were rejected by the House, and after some debate on minor points, the whole series of bills were passed as presented by the Government, with the trifling alterations suggested by the Special Committee.

OTHER BILLS.

The Bill (sent down from the Upper House, for remitting the Registration Tax under certain circumstances in the case of Land granted to Hokkaido Immigrants) was then passed without opposition.

The General Budget for 1899-1900 stood next on the Order, but the House, having decided to postpone its consideration until the following day, rose at 2.50 p.m.

JAPANESE LITERATURE.

By Clay MacCauley.

Archaic Writings.

5. KOKINSHIU—But the *manyokana*, as a means for Japanese literary expression, was altogether too cumbersome and difficult for continued and enlarged use. Consequently, as writing in the language of the people increased, the ideographs that had been utilized for phonetic purposes became simpler and more conventional. At about the time the "Manyōshū was finished, from among these ideographs two syllabaries, the *katakana* (757), and the *hiragana* (834), were formed, and a free writing of the Japanese language at last became possible. These syllabaries were gradually extended in use, and at the close of the ninth century gained honoured recognition as the medium for embodying Japanese speech by their adoption in the writing of the preface to, and in the transcription of, a new collection of poems made under imperial order: the "Kokinshū," or "Ancient and Modern Songs" (905). These poems show at its full fruition whatever poetic excellence the Japanese people have gained. They are to-day the most studied and most quoted of all the many gatherings from Japanese song.

Illustrative Translations.

Spring.

[These verses and the three following stanzas are taken from the "Kokinshū," B H. Chamberlain's translation. The "Kokinshū" (Collection of Songs Ancient and Modern) was compiled 905-922, by Kino Tsurayuki and others. Sosei, the writer of these verses on Spring, was a Buddhist abbot living in the latter part of the ninth century.]

Amid the branches of the silvery bowers
The nightingale doth sing: perchance he knows
That spring hath come, and takes the later snows
For the white petals of the plum's sweet flowers.

Summer.

[Written by Henjō, who was a Buddhist bishop and one of the leading men of his time 830-890. Prior to his taking the vows of religion Henjō was prominent in court circles, and was married. The poet Sosei was his son.]

O Lotos leaf! I dreamt that the wide earth
Held naught more pure than thee,—held naught more true:
Why then, when on thee rolls a drop of dew,
Pretend that 'tis a gem of priceless worth?

Autumn.

[By Chisato. Vice-governor of Iyo, etc.; a prolific writer,—850-900]

A thousand thoughts of tender vague regret
Crowd on my soul, what time I stand and gaze
On the soft-shining autumn moon; and yet
Not to me only speaks her silvery haze.

Winter.

[Tsurayuki, the writer of these lines, was probably the leading poet of his day,—880-950 He compiled the "Kokinshū" He was also the first master of Japanese written prose. His preface to the "Kokinshū." and his diary the "Tosa Nikki," marked the beginning of a new age in Japanese literature.]

When falls the snow, lo! every herb and tree,
That in seclusion through the wintry hours
Long time had been held fast, breaks forth in flowers
That ne'er in spring were known upon the lea.

6. HYAKUNIN-ISSHIU — Among many collections of Japanese verse there is one called the "Hyakunin-isshū," or "Single Songs of a Hundred Poets," which, though gathered probably as late as the thirteenth century, may be noticed here because it contains many excellent specimens of the versification, distinctive in Japanese literature, written in much more ancient times. Tradition ascribes the collection to Teikakeo (Sadaiye Fujiwara) a poet living at the time of the reign of the Emperor Shijō. One among several stories told of the collection runs that in the month of May, 1235 (the second year of Bunreki) the poet was asked by a relative, Utsunomiya Yasaburo, to write some poems for the decoration of *shōji* in his new country house at Ogura, a village near Kyoto. Sadaiye choosing them at random in memory and not on account of their exceptional excellence, wrote down this series of verses. Another tradition is that the poet chose the poems as decoration for *shōji* in his own house at Ogura. They consist each of a single stanza made up normally of but thirty-one syllables arranged in five measures; the first and third measures being, as a rule, in five, the second, fourth and fifth in seven syllables. This "Century of Songs" in time became well known; and now in the form of a game at cards the songs are familiar in most Japanese households.

Illustrative Translations.

1. An Emperor's Sympathy.

[The first ten of the "Hyakunin-isshū" are here given. They are from an unpublished translation of the work by the present writer. The metre of the Japanese originals, with a trochaic cadence, has been preserved in the translations, and, as far as possible, faithful renderings of their meanings made.

The first poem is ascribed to the Emperor Tenchi, 668 672. It is supposed to be an expression of his sympathy with his subjects to whom had fallen the hard lot of being workers in the rice-fields The temporary huts built by them at harvest time did not protect the laborers from the season's fogs and rains. The Emperor, in imagination, had sought shelter in one of these huts.]

Aki no ta no
Kario no iu no
Toma wo arami
Waga koromete wa
Tsuyu ni nuretsutsu.

In the shelter shed
Of an autumn rice-field, roofed
Loosely with coarse-rushes,—
While my garment's sleeves grow wet
With the moisture dripping through.

2. Mount Ama no Kagu:—A Picture.

[Ascribed to the Empress Jitō.—690 696. In summer Mount Ama no Kagu, rising near Nara, was often white with clothing spread on it to dry by the people of the villages lying at its base, The Empress with that scene in mind wrote her song. It may be descriptive of a late fallen snow on the mountain]

Haru sugite
Natsu kinikerashi
Shirotae no
Koromo hosu teu (chō)
Ama no Kagu yama.

Spring, it seems, has passed
And the summer come again,
For the silk-white robes,
So 'tis said, are spread to dry
On the "Mount of Heaven's Perfume."

3. A Song of Longing.

[Written by Hitomaro Kakinomoto, who flourished at the close of the seventh and early in the eighth centuries. This song contains a good illustration of the "Pillow word" and "the Preface," so common in Japanese verse. The first three lines, or "part," of the song serve no other purpose than to introduce the longing lament of the last two lines, or "part." An instructive paper on the unique characteristics of Japanese verse, written by Prof. Chamberlain, is published in the fifth volume of the "Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan"]

Ashibiki no
Yamadori no o no
Shitari o no
Naka naka shi yo wo
Hitori ka mo nen.

Ah! the foot-drawn trail
Of the mountain pheasant's tail,
Hung like drooping branch!
Through this long, long dragging night,
Must I keep my couch alone?

4. Beauty made Perfect.

[Akahito of Yamabe, writer of this song, lived a few years later than Hitomaro, and shares with him the reputation of greatest excellence among the poets of ancient times. In these verses the poet intends to call to mind the lovely landscape of the coast of Tago, made complete in beauty as one of its parts, Mount Fuji, receives a covering of snow]

Tago no ura
Ni uchi idete mireba
Shirotae no
Fuji no taka ne ni
Yuki wa furitsutsu.

When to Tagu's coast
I my way have ta'en and see
Perfect whiteness laid
On Mount Fuji's lofty peak
By the drift of falling snow!

5.—The Stag's Cry in Autumn.

[Written by Sarumaru by office Tayu (an office at a Shintō shrine). The song tells of the deepening of autumn's melancholy by the plaintive cry of a stag heard from the depths of mountain forests.]

Oku yama ni
Momiji fumi wake
Naku shika no
Koye kiku toki so
Aki wa kanashiki.

In the mountain-depths,
Treading through the crimson leaves,
Cries the wandering stag.
When I hear the lonely cry,
Sad, how sad, the autumn is!

6.—A Winter Midnight in the Palace Court.

[Yakamochi, by office Chūnagon, or Imperial Adviser, is much esteemed for his poetic ability. He flourished towards the close of the eighth century. In these verses he notes the far advance of the night, by the increase of frost on the timbers of the "Magpie Bridge." This bridge was a passage in the Court of the Imperial Palace to which the name, applied by popular superstition to the "Milky Way" of the skies, was given.]

Kasasagi no
Wataseru hashi ni
Oku shimo no
Shiroki wo mireba
Yo so fuke ni keru.

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If the "Magpie Bridge"
—Bridge by skill of magpies spanned—
White with frost I see;—
With a deep laid frost made white;—
Late, I know, has grown the night.

7. A THOUGHT OF HOME.

[Written by Nakamaro of Abe at a farewell party given to him by some friends in China on his return to his home near Nara, Japan.]

Ama-no-hara
Furi sake mireba
Kasuga nasu
Mikasa no yama ni
Ide shi tsuki ka mo.

In the "Plain of Heaven,"
When I look, a moon I see.
In Kasuga land,
On the Mount of Mikasa,
Has the same moon there appeared?

8. A BUDDHIST'S QUESTION.

[The priest Kisen, writer of these verses, lived at Mount Uji not far from the capital city, Kyoto. The nearness in pronunciation of the *ushi* (gloom) to that of the word Uji (name of his home) prompted him to carry on his serious reflections by means of a pun, a device very common in Japanese verse. His home is pleasant, and peaceful. Why has it been so misnamed? Or, why, indeed, are men pessimists concerning the world?]

Waga io wa
Miyako no tatsumi
Shika zo sumu
Yo wo uchi yama to
Hito wa iu (iu) nari.

At my humble home,
South-east from the capital,
Live the timid deer.
Yet, this pleasant world of mine, (ours,)
Men have named a "Mount of Gloom."

9. VANITY OF VANITIES.

[Written by Komachi, of Ono, a famous poet living in the middle of the ninth century, 834-880. She was also famous for her beauty. In this poem Komachi plays upon the resemblance between the sounds of the words *naga ame*, "long rain," and *nagame* "gazing," or "long looking.' She associates also her beauty with a flower's colour. As the latter perishes under the long rains, so her beauty has passed while she has given her time to trivial things.]

Hana no iro wa
Utsuri ni keri na
Itazura ni
Waga mi yo ni furu
Nagame seshi ma ni.

Colour of the flower
Has already passed away,
While on trivial things
Vainly I have set my gaze,
In my journey through the world.

10. AT THE OZAKA BARRIER.

[Just before reaching Kyoto on the Tōkaidō, one passes Ozaka, an important hill road crossing a low ridge, through a narrow valley. In ancient times an imperial Guard House was placed there. Past that barrier travellers to and from Kyoto and the east must go. The poet Semimaru played upon the words *Osaka* (Great Incline) and *Ausaka*, (Meeting Slope), in his picture of the busy scene there.]

Kore ya kono
Yuku mo kaeru mo
Wakarete wa
Shiru mo shiranu mo
Ausaka no seki.

This, see! This is where
Travellers who go or come
Over parted ways,
Friends or strangers, all must meet—
'Tis the gate of "Meeting-Hill."

AGE OF THE PROSE CLASSICS.

900-1200 A.D.

Japanese literature, having received a vehicle adequate to its expression, and indorsement by the highest authority, with the opening of the ninth century entered upon an era lasting for nearly four hundred years; an era in which, with the co-operation of the general maturing culture of the empire, it passed through what is now known as its classic age. During these four centuries the capital of the empire lost the nomadic character it had had from time immemorial. With the removal of the imperial family from Nara in 794, the capital became fixed in Kyoto, to stay there for the next eleven hundred years. Through these four centuries the national development was for the most part serene. The ruling classes entered upon a career of high culture, refinement, and elegance of life, that passed however in the end into an excess of luxury, debilitating effeminacy, and dissipation. During the best part of these memorable centuries Japanese literature as *belles-lettres* culminated; leaving to after times, even to the present day, models for pure Japanese diction. The court nobles of the eleventh and twelfth centuries had abundant leisure for the culture of letters, and they devoted their time to that, and to the pursuit of whatever other refined or luxurious pleasures imagination could devise. For instance, among the many notable intellectual dissipations of the age were reunions at daybreak among the spring flowers, and boat rides during autumnal moonlighted nights, by aristocratic devotees of music and verse who vied with one another in exhibits of their skill with these arts. The culture of literature in the Chinese language never wholly ceased; but from the ninth to the thirteenth centuries the creation of a literature in the language of the people was the chief pastime of the official and aristocratic Japanese. Before the rise of the Shōgunate at the close of the twelfth century, no less than seven great compilations of the poetry of the times were made.

Especially notable among the works of this classic age are the prose writings. Critics call attention first to the diary of a famous poet, Tsurayuki: notes of a journey he made in 935, from Tosa where he was governor, to Kyoto the capital. This diary, the "Tosa Nikki," is said to be not only a simple and attractive story of travel, but to be the best extant embodiment of uncontaminated Japanese speech. Then there remain from the same epoch many "romances" or "tales," *monogatari*, now much studied and valued for their linguistic excellences. Probably the earliest among them, the "Taketori Monogatari," or "Story of a Bamboo Cutter" (850-950) which tells of the fortunes of a Moon-maiden exiled for a while in this world, is said to have, for purity of thought and language, no rival in Japanese or Chinese fiction. The "Ise Monogatari," or "Story of Ise" (850-950), has also admiring critics. Its prose and poetry are both studied as models to-day, its poetry being ranked next to that of the "Kokinshū." The "Sumiyoshi" and the "Yamato Monogatari" (900-1000), too must be named as choice tenth-century classics. The culmination of Japanese classic prose, however, as nearly all critics agree, was reached with the writing of the "Romance of Prince Genji," and the "Book of the Pillow." The "Genji Monogatari" (1003-4), and the "Makura no Sōshi" (1000-1050), both appearing early in the eleventh century. They are the work of two ladies of the court, Murasaki Shikibu and Sei Shōnagon. The "Genji" romance leads all works in Japanese literature in the fluency and grace of its diction; but the "Pillow Book" is said to be matchless in the ease and lightness and general artistic excellence of its literary touch. These works stand as the consummate achievements of the classic age in prose. They mark also the end of this memorable literary epoch. At the close of the twelfth century Japan became a battlefield for civil wars. War and the interests of war became supreme. Learning and letters were gradually relegated to priests, and literature soon ceased to exist. The Chinese language again became the chief vehicle of whatever literary work was done.

Illustrative Translations.

HOW THE SEA WAS CALMED.

[From the "Tosa Nikki;" W. G. Aston's translation. Tsurayuki traced his descent from one of the Mikados. He held office his life throughout. This diary was written in 935, on the return journey from Tosa, a province he had been governing, to Kyōto the capital.]

Meanwhile a sudden gale sprung up, and in spite of all our efforts we fell gradually to leeward, and were in great danger of being sent to the bottom! "This god of Sumiyoshi," said the captain, "is like other gods. What he desires is not any of the fashionable articles of the day. Give him *nusa** as an offering." The captain's advice was taken, and *nusa* were offered; but as the wind, instead of ceasing, only blew harder and harder, and the danger from the storm and sea became more and more imminent, the captain again said, "Because the august heart of the god is not moved for *nusa*, neither does the august ship move: offer to him something in which he will take greater pleasure." In compliance with this advice I thought what it would be best to offer. "Of eyes I have a pair; then let me give to the god my mirror, of which I have only one." The mirror was accordingly flung into the sea, to my very great regret. But no sooner had I done so than the sea itself became as smooth as a mirror.

DISCOVERY OF THE ISLE OF IMMORTAL YOUTH, MOUNT HŌRAI.

[From the "Taketori Monogatari," 850 950; translated by F. Victor Dickins. Authorship unknown, but ascribed to one Minamoto Jun. Materials of the story taken from Chinese and Indian sources. This extract is part of a description of the wanderings of a Japanese Ulysses.]

Then the Ancient fell to busying himself with putting the chamber in order, and after a while went out and accosted the Prince again, saying, "Your servant would fain know what manner of place it may be where grows this tree,—how wonderful a thing it is, and lovely and pleasant to see!" And the Prince answered: "The year before yester-year, on the tenth of the second month, we took boat at Naniwa and sculled out into the ocean, not knowing what track to follow; but I thought to myself, what would be the profit of continuing life if I might not attain the desire of my heart; so pressed we onwards, blown where the wind listed. If we perished even, what mattered it? While we would make what way we could over the sea plain, and perchance thus might we somehow reach the mountain men do call Hōrai. So resolved, we sculled further and further over the heaving waters, until far behind us lay the shores of our own land. And as we wandered thus, now deep in the trough of the sea, we saw its very bottom; now blown by the gale we came to strange lands, where creatures like demons fell upon us and were like to have slain us. Now, knowing neither whence we had come nor whither we tended, we were almost swallowed up by the sea; now, failing

* Pieces of silk carried by worshippers as temple offerings.

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of food we were driven to live upon roots; now again, indescribably terrible beings came forth and would have devoured us; or we had to sustain our bodies by eating of the spoil of the sea. Beneath strange skies were we, and no human creature was there to give us succour; to many diseases fell we prey as we drifted along, knowing not whitherwards, and so tossed we over the sea-plain, letting our boat follow the wind for five hundred days. Then about the hour of the dragon, four hours ere noon, saw we a high hill looming faintly over the watery waste. Long we gazed at it, and marvelled at the majesty of the mountain rising out of the sea. Lofty it was and fair of form, and doubting not it was the mountain we were seeking, our hearts were filled with awe. We plied the oar and coasted it for two days or three, and then we saw a woman arrayed like an angel come forth out of the hills, bearing a silver vessel which she filled with water. So we landed and accosted her, saying, "How call men this mountain?" and she said, "Tis Mount Hōrai;" whereat our hearts were filled with joy.

The Maid of Unai.

[From the "Yamato Monogatari," 900-1000, translated by B. H. Chamberlain. The author of these "Stories of Yamato" (Old Japan) unknown, but said to have been, in part at least, the retired Emperor Kwanzan, 983-985. The stories contain nearly three hundred poems.]

In days of old there dwelt a maiden in the land of Settsu, whose hand was sought in marriage by two lovers. One, Mubara by name, was a native of the same country-side; the other, called Chiku, was a native of the land of Idzumi. The two were alike in years, alike in face, in figure, and in stature; and whereas the maiden thought to accept the wooing of him that should the more dearly love her, lo! it fell out they both loved her with the same love. No sooner faded the light of day than both came to do their courting, and when they sent her gifts the gifts were quite alike. Of neither could it be said that he excelled the other, and the girl meanwhile felt sick at heart. Had they been men of luck-warm devotion, neither would ever have obtained the maiden's hand; but it was because both of them, day after day and month after month, stood before the cottage gate and made evident their affection in ten thousand different ways, that the maiden pined with a divided love. Neither lover's gifts were accepted, and yet both would come and stand, bearing in their hands gifts. The maiden had a father and a mother, and they said to her:—"Sad is it for us to have to bear the burden of thine unseemly conduct in thus carelessly, from month to month and from year to year, causing others to sorrow. If thou will accept the one, after a little time the other's love will cease." The maiden made answer, "That likewise was my thought. But the sameness of the love of both has made me altogether sick at heart. Alas! what shall I do?"

Now in olden days the people dwelt in houses raised on platforms built out into the river Ikuta. So the girl's father and mother summoning to their presence the two lovers, spake thus: "Our child is pining with a love divided by the equal ardour of your worships. But to-day we intend, by whatever means, to fix her choice. One of you showeth his devotion by coming hither from a distant home: the other is our neighbour, but his love is boundless. This one and that are alike worthy of our pitying regard." Both the lovers heard these words with respectful joy; and the father and mother continued:—"What we have further in our minds to say is this: Floating on our river is a water-bird. Draw your bows at it; and to him that shall strike it will we have the honour to present daughter." "Well thought!" replied the lovers twain; and drawing their bows at the same instant, one struck the bird in the head and the other in the tail, so that neither could claim to be the better marksman. Sick with love, the maiden cried out:

"Enough, enough! Yon swiftly-flowing wave
Shall free my soul from her long anxious strife;
Men call fair Settsu's stream the stream of life,
But in that stream shall be the maiden's grave!"

and with these words, let herself fall down into the river from the platform that overlooked it.

While the father and mother, frantic with grief, were raving and shouting, the two lovers plunged together into the stream. One caught hold of the maiden's foot and the other of her hand, and the three sank together and perished in the flood. Terrible was the grief of the girl's father and mother, as, amid tears and lamentations, they lifted her body out of the water and prepared to give it burial. The parents of the two lovers likewise came to the spot, and dug for their sons graves beside the grave of the maiden. But the father and mother of him that dwelt in the same country-side raised an outcry, saying, "That he who belongs to the same land should be buried in the same place, is just. But how shall it be lawful for an alien to desecrate our soil?' So the parents of him that dwelt in Idzumi laded a junk with Idzumi earth, in which, having brought it to the spot, they laid their son. And to this day the maiden's grave stands there in the middle, and the graves of her lovers on either side.

Court Festivals in the Eleventh Century.

[From the "Makura no Sōshi," 1000-1050; W. G. Aston's translation. The author, Sei Shōnagon, was a direct descendant from a Mikado, and was for some time chief lady-in-waiting to the Empress. With the death of her mistress in the year 1000 she left the court, entered a convent, and there composed this "Pillow Book," a masterpiece in Japanese prose.]

What delightful anniversaries festivals are! Each one brings its special pleasures, but none to my mind is so enjoyable as New Year's Day. It is early spring time then, when the weather is settled, and the morning breaks serenely. A quiet haze is spread over hill and dale, which the sun disperses when he rises, and shows the dewdrops sparkling in his rosy beams. The world seems glad and happy, and in the shining faces of the neighbours, glowing from the frosty air of morning, content and peace is plainly written. How pleasant it is to watch them as they pass, in holiday attire, intent on making their congratulations to their master, and ignorant the while that their very lightness of heart is an unconscious compliment to themselves.

It is the 7th day of the month when people, tempted by the fineness of the weather, go out in company to pick the *wakana* (wild pot-herbs). The snow is off the ground and great is the excitement amongst the ladies of the court, who have so seldom the opportunity of a country trip. What fun to watch the farmers' wives and daughters, arrayed in all their hoarded finery, and riding in their wagons (made clean for the occasion) as they come to see the races in the court-yard of the palace. It is most diverting to observe their faces from our grated windows. How prim and proper they appear, all unconscious of the shock their dignity will get when the wagon jolts across the huge beam at the bottom of the gate, and knocks their pretty heads together, disarranging their hair, and worse still, mayhap, breaking their combs. But that is after all a trifle when compared to their alarm if a horse so much as neighs. On this account the gallants of the court amuse themselves by slyly goading the horses with spear and arrow point, to make them rear and plunge, and frighten the wenches home in fear and trembling. How silly too the men-at-arms look, their foolish faces painted with dabs of white here and there upon their swarthy cheeks, like patches of snow left on a hillside from a thaw.

Then there is the 15th of the first month, when appointments for the next four years are made. How eagerly candidates for office rush here and there through falling snow and sleet, with their memorials in their hands? Some have the jaunty air and confidence of youth; but others, more experienced, are weary and dejected-looking. How the old white-headed suitors crave an audience of the ladies of the palace, and babble to them of their fitness for the places they seek. Ah! little do they suspect when they have turned their backs what mirth they have occasioned! How the ladies mimic them—whining and drawling!

On the Character of Women.

[From the 'Genji Monogatari,' 1004, paraphrased by Kenchō Suyematsu. This romance of Prince Genji was written by Murasaki Shikibu, a lady of noble birth and a member of the great family of the Fujiwara, who were at the time practically rulers of Japan. It is said that not only does the classic literature of Japan find consummate illustration in this story, but that the history of the time, especially in its social characteristics, is here most vividly set forth.]

"How varied are the characters and the dispositions of women! Some who are youthful and favoured by nature strive almost selfishly to keep themselves with the utmost reserve. If they write harmlessly and innocently, yet at the same time they are choice in their expressions, which have delicate touches of bewitching sentiment, this might possibly make us entertain a suddenly conceived fancy for them; yet they would give us but slight encouragement.

"Among characters differing from the above, some are too full of sentimental sweetness; whenever occasion offers them romance they become spoilt. Such would be decidedly better if they had less sentiment and more sense.

"Others, again, are singularly earnest, indeed—in the performance of their domestic duty; and such, with their hair pushed back, devote themselves like household drudges to household affairs. Man, whose duties generally call him from home all the day, naturally hears and sees the social movements both of public and private life, and notices different things, both good and bad. Of such things he would not like to talk freely with strangers, but only with some one closely allied to him. Indeed, a man may have many things in his mind which cause him to smile or to grieve. Occasionally something of a political nature may irritate him beyond endurance. These matters he would like to talk over with his fair companion, that she might soothe him and sympathize with him. But a woman as above described is often unable to understand him, or does not endeavor to do so; and this only makes him more miserable. At another time he may brood over his hopes and aspirations; but he has no hope of solace. She is not only incapable of sharing these with him, but might carelessly remark, 'What ails you?' How severely would this try the temper of a man!

"If then we clearly see all these, the only suggestion I can make is that the best thing to do is to choose one who is gentle and modest, and strive to guide and educate her according to the best ideal we may think of. This is the best plan; and why should we not do so? Our efforts would not be surely all in vain. But no! A girl whom we thus educate, and who proves to be competent to bear us company, often disappoints us when she is left alone. She may then show her incapability, and her occasional actions may be done in such an unbecoming manner that both good and bad are equally displeasing. Are not all these against us men? Remember, however, that there are some who may not be very agreeable at ordinary times, yet who flash occasionally upon us with a potent and almost irresistible charm."

Thus Suma-no-Kami, though eloquent, not having come to one point or another, remained thoughtful for some minutes, and again resumed.

"After all, as I have once observed, I can only make this suggestion: That we should not too much consider either birth or beauty, but select one who is gentle and tranquil, and consider her to be best suited for our last haven of rest. If in addition she is of fair position, and is blessed with sweetness of temper, we should be delighted with her, and, not trouble

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ourselves to search out or notice any trifling deficiency. And the more so as, if her conscience is clear and pure, calmness and serenity of features can naturally be looked for.

"There are women who are too diffident and too reserved, and carry their generosity to such an extent as to pretend not to be aware even of such annoyances as afford them just grounds of complaint. A time arrives when their sorrows and anxieties become greater than they can bear. Even then, however, they cannot resort to plain speaking and complain; but instead thereof they will fly away to some remote retreat among the mountain hamlets, or to some secluded spot by the seaside, leaving behind them some painful letter or despairing verses, and making themselves mere sad memories of the past. . . .

"Worse than this, the woman—led astray perhaps by ill advice—may even be beguiled into more serious errors. In the depth of her despairing melancholy she will become a nun. Her conscience when she takes the fatal vow may be pure and unsullied, and nothing may seem able to call her back again to the world which she forsook. But as time rolls on, some household servant or aged nurse brings her tidings of the lover who has been unable to cast her out of his heart, and whose tears drop silently when he hears aught about her. Then when she hears of his affections still living, and his heart still yearning, and thinks of the uselessness of the sacrifice she has made voluntarily, she touches the hair on her forehead, and she becomes regretful. She may indeed do her best to persevere in her resolve, but if one single tear bedews her cheek she is no longer strong in the sanctity of her vow. Weakness of this kind would be in the eyes of Buddha more sinful than those offenses which are committed by those who never leave the lay circle at all, and she would eventually wander about in the 'wrong passage.'

"But there are also women who are too self-confident and obtrusive. These, if they discover some slight inconsistency in men, fiercely betray their indignation and behave with arrogance. A man may show a little inconsistency occasionally, but yet his affection may remain; then matters will in time become right again, and they will pass their lives happily together. If therefore the woman cannot show a tolerable amount of patience, this will but add to her unhappiness. She should, above all things, strive not to give way to excitement; and when she experiences any unpleasantness, she should speak of it frankly but with moderation. And if there should be anything worse than unpleasantness, she should even then complain of it in such a way as not to irritate the man. If she guides her conduct on principles such as these, even her very words, her very demeanour, may in all probability increase his sympathy and consideration for her. One's self-denial and the restraint which one imposes upon one's self, often depend on the way in which another behaves to us. The woman who is too indifferent and too forgiving is also inconsiderate. Remember, 'The unmoored boat floats about.' Is it not so."

To-no-Chiūjō quickly nodded assent, as he said:—"Quite true! A woman who has no strength of emotion, no passion of sorrow or of joy, can never be a holder of us. Nay, even jealousy, if not carried to the extent of undue suspicion, is not undesirable. If we ourselves are not in fault, and leave the matter alone, such jealousy may easily be kept within due bounds. But stop," added he suddenly; "some women have to bear, and do bear, every grief that they may encounter, with unmurmuring and suffering patience."

So said Tō no-Chiūjiō, who implied by this allusion that his sister was a woman so circumstanced. But Genji was still dozing, and no remark came from his lips.

Mediæval Literature.

(1200-1600 A. D.)

From the twelfth century to the rise of the Tokugawa Shōgunate in the seventeenth century, the empire passed through its Middle or "Dark." Age. During these five centuries, although numerous writings for political and religious purposes appeared, but little work of importance for the history of Japanese literature was produced. Some collections of verse may be excepted from this judgment. Two bits of prose writing, the "Hōjōki" (1212?) of Chomei and the "Tsure-zure gusa" (1345?) of Yoshida Kenkō have qualities that make them especially noteworthy. The "Hōjōki,"—the meditations of a hermit priest in a mountain hut, written near the beginning of the thirteenth century,—simple, fluent, vivacious, and yet forcible in style,—are esteemed as preserving for the language an excellence like that of the "Makura no Sōshi." And the "Tsure-zure gusa,' or "Weeds of Idleness," short essays composed in the fourteenth century, is the last notable example of the form and speech that gave to the classic age its commanding position in the development of pure Japanese literature. The "Weeds of Idleness," moreover, has the distinction of opening the way for the literary speech that came into full development in the seventeenth century, and has since been the language of the literature of Japan. In these essays, Chinese words were set into Japanese forms of speech without doing violence to Japanese modes of expression. The "Tsure-zure gusa" has thereby the double merit of embodying the highest literary excellence of a past age, and the beginning of a new linguistic development.

Further, the mediæval centuries are of importance to the literature of Japan from the development in them of a form of musical drama called the *Nō no Utai* originating in the ancient sacred dances and temple amusements cared for by the priests,—the only men of letters of the time. These lyric plays are dateless and anonymous, but they have considerable literary worth. Accompanying the severer sacred drama and serving as interludes for them, many comedies, *kyōgen*, written in the ordinary colloquial of the day, were produced. These comic writings possess small literary but much linguistic value.

Illustrative Translations.

Meditations of a Hermit.

[From the "Hōjōki," 1212, translated by J. M. Dixon. The writer, Kamo no Chomei, the son of a priest, disappointed with life, sought seclusion from the world in a ten-feet-square hut (hōjō), on Mt. Ohara. There he made a record of his thoughts, this "Hōjōki," now valued as a literary treasure.]

The water incessantly changes as the stream glides calmly on; the spray that hangs over a cataract appears for a moment only to vanish away. Such is the fate of mankind on this earth and of the houses in which they dwell. If we gaze at a mighty town we behold a succession of walls, surmounted by tiled roofs which vie with one another in loftiness. These have been from generation to generation the abodes of the rich and of the poor, and yet none resist the destructive influence of time. Some are allowed to fall into decay; others are replaced by new structures. Their fate is shared by their inmates. If after the lapse of a long period we return to a familiar locality, we scarcely recognize one in ten of the faces we were accustomed to meet long ago. In the morning we behold the light, and next evening we depart for our long home. Our destiny resembles the foam on the water. Whence came we, and whither are we tending? What things vex us, what things delight us, in this world of unreality? It is impossible truly to say. A house and its occupant, changing perpetually, may well be compared to a morning-glory flecked with dew. Sometimes it happens that the dew evaporates and leaves the flower to die in the first glare of day; sometimes the dew survives the flower, but only for a few hours; before sunset the dew also has disappeared.

Vagrant Reveries.

[From "Tsure-zure Gusa," 1345; translated by C. S. Eby. Yoshida Kenkō, the writer of these "Weeds of Idleness," was a court official, who upon the death of the Mikado entered the priesthood and became a monk. He was poet as well as prose writer; was also a profound student of philosophy and of the Chinese classics.]

If man did not disappear like the dew of the field, or vanish like the mists of Toribe hills, and continued his stay upon earth, then tenderness of heart, sympathy, pity, would perish. The unsettled changeableness of the present sublunary life is vastly to be preferred.

Of all living creatures man is the most long-lived. The ephemeral gnat comes into existence in the morning, and vanishes ere evening falls. The summer cicada knows never a spring or autumn. One year of a man's life in comparison with these things must be considered laborious and long. A life of a thousand years, if passed in discontent and clung to, would seem to fly away as a dream of the night. What profit is there in clinging to a life which results in deformity, and cannot after all continue forever? Longevity produces shame and disgrace. It is better to die before forty years are passed, and thus escape the shame of decrepitude.

A quiet talk with one perfectly of your own turn of mind is a very pleasant thing. It would give one great delight to speak freely with such a friend about things that are pleasant, and about the instability of earthly joys. But no such friendship is possible.

The changes of the seasons are full of things which arouse our souls to deep emotion.

To sit opposite to and converse with a man like oneself in every respect would be as good as sitting by oneself. Two persons in many respects alike could sometimes raise a dispute. And that would be very useful in dissipating the gloomy thoughts of solitude.

To spread open your books under the light of your lamp, and hold communion with men of bygone ages, is surpassingly comfortable.

Japanese poetry is especially charming. Even the toil of an awkward peasant or of a woodman, expressed in poetic form, delights the mind. The name of the terrible wild boar also, when styled '*fusui no toko*," sounds elegant:

Every one says that the autumn is the most affecting season of the year. Perhaps so. But the springtime transformations of nature are more delightful, giving buoyancy to the heart. The warbling of cheery songsters gives signal for the full outburst of spring-tide glory. The wild grass sprouts under the hedge in answer to the mild rays of the kindly sun. The spring advances and the mists melt into translucent air. The flowers seem ready to burst into bloom. But rain and wind still make their reckless attacks, and flowers are shattered to our dismay. The changefulness of the days before the leaves are all green cause us much distress. The past is brought back to our loving memories more by the fragrance of the plum than by the *hana tachibana*,* which is noted in this respect. The pure appearance of the *yamabuki*† and the uncertain condition of the *fuji*‡ cannot be missed without pain.

The heart of man has been compared to flowers; but unlike them, it does not wait for

* A small orange flower. † A kind of yellow wild rose. ‡ Wistaria.

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the blowing of the wind to be scattered abroad. It is so fleeting and changeful.

THE DANCE OF THE MOON FAIRY.

[The beautiful translation by B. H. Chamberlain, of the second and third parts of the lyric drama "Hagoromo" (Robe of Feathers), is an excellent illustration of the mediæval *Nō no Utai*. These dramas bear a striking resemblance to the drama of ancient Greece. In this Hagoromo, a fisherman finds on a tree on Mio beach a feather robe. The robe is claimed by a lovely maiden, a moon fairy, who regains possession of her treasure by showing to the fisherman one of the dances of the immortals.]

Chorus—Where'er we gaze the circling mists are twining:
Perchance e'er now the moon her tendrils fair
Celestial blossoms bear.
Those flowerets tell us that the spring is shining—
Those fresh-blown flowerets in the maiden's hair.

Fairy— Blest hour beyond compare!

Chorus—Heaven hath its joys, but there is beauty here
Blow, blow, ye winds! that the white cloud-belts driven
Around my path may bar my homeward way;
Not yet would I return to heaven,
But here on Mio's pine-clad shore I'd stray,
Or where the moon in bright unclouded glory
Shines on Kiyomi's lea,
And where on Fujiyama's summit hoary
The snows look on the sea,
While breaks the morning merrily!
But of these three, beyond compare
The wave-washed shore of Mio is most fair,
When through the pines the breath of spring is playing.
What barrier rises 'twixt the heaven and earth?
Here too on earth the immortal gods came straying,
And gave our monarchs birth.

Fairy— Who in this empire of the rising sun,
While myriad ages run,
Shall ever rule their bright dominions,

Chorus— E'en when the feathery shock
Of fairies flitting past with silvery pinions
Shall wear away the granite rock!
Oh magic strains that fill our ravished ears!
The fairy sings, and from the cloudy spheres
Chiming in unison, the angels' lutes,
Tablets and cymbals and sweet silvery flutes,
Ring through the heaven that glows with purple hues,
As when Sumēru's western slope endues
The tints of sunset, while the azure wave
From isle to isle the pine-clad shores doth lave.
From Ukishima's slope,—a beauteous storm,—
Whirl down the flowers; and still that magic form,
Those snowy pinions, fluttering in the light,
Ravish our souls with wonder and delight.

Fairy— Hail to the kings that o'er the moon hold sway!
Heaven is their home, and Buddhas too are they.

Chorus—The fairy robes the maiden's limbs endue

Fairy— Are, like the very heavens, of tender blue;

Chorus—Or, like the mists of spring, all silvery white,

Fairy— Fragrant and fair—too fair for mortal sight!

Chorus—Dance on, sweet maiden, through the happy hours!
Dance on, sweet maiden, while the magic flowers
Crowning thy tresses flutter in the wind
Raised by the waving pinions intertwined!
Dance on! for ne'er to mortal dance 'tis given
To vie with that sweet dance thou bring'st from heaven:
And when, cloud-soaring, thou shalt all too soon
Homeward return to the full-shining moon,
Then hear our prayers, and from thy bounteous hand
Pour sevenfold treasures on our happy land;
Bless every coast, refresh each fainting field,
That earth may still her proper increase yield!
But ah! the hour, the hour of parting rings!
Caught by the breeze, the fairy's magic wings
Heavenward do bear her from the pine-clad shore,
Past Ashidaka's heights, and where are spread
The eternal snows on Fujiyama's head,—
Higher and higher to the azure skies,
Till wandering vapours hide her from our eyes!

THE TRUE SAMURAI.

[This illustration of the spirit of the true *samurai* is taken from a mediæval drama entitled "Dwarf Trees," translated by "Shinchi." The drama tells of the award made to a poverty-stricken knight by the *de facto* ruler of Japan, 1190, for great kindness shown to the latter when once abroad in the garb of a mendicant priest. The *samurai* had sacrificed even his dwarf trees to warm his mean-looking guest.]

Tsuneyo—Hail, traveller! Is it true that the troops are gathering towards Kamakura?* Why do such immense numbers now advance to the capital? [*Following in the train.*] Why, here are all the barons and knights of the eight provinces of Adzuma in splendid equipment, all aiming for Kamakura! Their weapons are brilliantly flashing, their armour resplendent with silver and gold, mounted on well-fattened horses, with numerous steeds for relief in the train. Amid them all this poor Tsuneyo cuts a sorry figure, with horse and weapons and all so mean on this rough road. Doubtless they will laugh at me, though my soul is by no means interior. Still this lean, slow horse renders the heart's courage abortive.

Chorus—Though he hastens, hastens, as a quivering willow twig he is so weak, so very weak. Though he twist and pull, the horse is ill-fed; though he beat him and whack his flanks, yet he can scarcely make him budge. There is no better conveyance for him; but he eventually comes in last of all with weary weakly feet.

Saimiōji [*in state in Kamakura*]—Is my attendant there?

Attendant—At your service, my lord.

Saimiōji—Have the troops arrived from all the provinces?

Attendant—All have safely come.

Saimiōji—Among the troops is a single retainer in ragged armour, with rusty spear, and leading himself a starved steed. Go find him and order him into my presence.

Attendant—Your orders shall be executed. [*Goes out.*] Any one there?

Servant—At your service, sir.

Attendant—My lord's orders are that we go out immediately, and find among the troops a samurai in battered armour, with rusty spear, leading a lean horse, and bring him at once into his august presence.

Servant—I will attend to the matter. [*Goes out and hails Tsuneyo.*] Hail! Art thou my man?

Tsuneyo—Why am I called?

Servant—Haste there; come into the presence of our Lord Saimiōji.

Tsuneyo—And am I called in appear in his august presence?

Servant—Most assuredly.

Tsuneyo—Alack, but this is unexpected! You must have mistaken your man.

Servant—Not at all: you are the man intended. The way of it is this: my lord has ordered into his presence the worst looking samurai of all the assembled armies; I have looked well over the hosts, and am sure that there is none that can compare with you for hideous appearance. So it is settled. Come, haste to the palace.

Tsuneyo—What do you say? He wants the worst-looking samurai in the army!

Servant—Most positively; those are the orders.

Tsuneyo—Then I must be the man. Go; say I'm coming.

Servant—Very well.

Tsuneyo [*approaching the palace*]—Verily, this is incomprehensible. Some enemy has accused me of treason, and this being ordered into my lord's presence is but the prelude of having my head taken off. Well, I can do nothing to help it. I will go in at any risk; please show me the way.

Chorus—Then in an instant, suddenly ushered into the midst of assembled soldiers ranged like blazing stars, rank on rank of samurai of the armies, besides many other notables. Their eyes are drawn to him, and many point the scornful finger.

Tsuneyo—What is well sewed may yet be ripped.

Chorus—His old armour and rusty spear are not useless to him, nor cares he for the ridiculous figure he cuts.

[*He appears before Saimiōji.*]

Saimiōji—Ha! That is the man. [*To Tsuneyo.*] Art thou Genzaemon Tsuneyo of Sano, and hast thou forgotten the wandering priest who sought shelter of thee yon snowy night? Thou declaredst then that should trouble arise at Kamakura thou wouldst don thy battered armour, seize thy rusty spear, mount thy shadowy steed, and speed thee first of all to Kamakura. Now thou hast valiantly kept thy word; for this I admire thee. [*To the assembly*] The object of this gathering of vassals in the capital was for no other cause than to test the truth or falsehood of Tsuneyo's words. However, if there is any person here with a grievance to state, let him now plead his cause, and judgment shall be given according to justice and law. But first of all I give judgment in the case of Tsuneyo. His former inheritance in Sano, over thirty counties, must be forthwith returned in him. Moreover, besides this, for that in the cold snowstorm he willingly cut down his precious ornamental trees to warm the stranger guest, in hope of reward in some other world, I now in return for the *ume* [plum], *sakura* [cherry], *matsu* [pine] trees, bestow upon him *Ume*-da in Kaga, *Sakura-i* in Etchu, and *Matsu*-eda in Kōdzuke, three portions as a perpetual inheritance for himself and his heirs to all generations; in testimony whereof I now give official documents signed and sealed.

Chorus—With gladness of heart he accepts the benefactions of his lord.

Tsuneyo—Tsuneyo accepts the gifts.

Chorus—He accepts, and three times makes humble obeisance. O ye who erst laughed him to scorn, look now upon him excelling in honour. The warriors all return to their homes, and among them Tsuneyo, his face all bright with new-found joy. Now riding bravely on a gorgeous steed, away he speeds to his home in Sano of Kamakura with joyous heart.

* The seat of the Shogunate from 1192 to 1455.

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THE DOMINANT NOTE OF THE LAW.

[This is one of the Buddhist "Wasan," or hymns, from the latter part of the sixteenth (?) century, written by a priest, Kwaihan; translation by the present writer. The translation follows the Japanese metre of the *naga uta*, with an anapestic cadence, each line containing two series of alternating five and seven syllable measures. Each line of the Japanese original begins with one of the syllables, in their regular order, of the *I-ro-ha* syllabary, which itself is a song embodying the thought that is the burden of this poem.]

In spending my days chasing things that are trifles,
In sowing the seed of the sixfold migration, *
I pass through the world with my life-purpose baffled.
Since gaining a birth among those that are human,
Just now I have learned that I may become godlike;
So now I seek Buddha's help, trusting the promise.
This world, after all,—it is only a dream-world;
And we, after all, are vain selves with dust mingled.
Our jealousies, angers, and scoffing reproaches
All evils we do, though disguised by our cunning,
At last become massed like the bulk of a mountain,
And we are cast down to "The River of Three Paths"; †
A fitting reward for our self-prompted actions,
Whose ills each must bear, never blaming another.
Live I a long life,—'tis like flashing of lightning.
Live I but one life,—lo! 'tis lived in a dream-world.
Grow I into one life with wife and with children,
The love of such one life abides but a moment.
Think, how to the depths has my heart been affected!
Engrossed by my bonds to a world that is fleeting.
Naught led me to pray,—"*Namu Amida Buddha*;" ‡
As wind to a horse-ear were things of the future;
Reminded of death's blast, I answered, "When comes it?"
The preacher I trusted not; thought he spoke falsely:
And so has my time sped to this very moment.
Desire I thought was for good that would follow;—
Oh! how I lament as I think of what has been.
But yet in this troubled life comes consolation:
Adorable Buddha enlightens the dark way;
Has pity on all those who live in these last days;
To all gives compassion and blessed redemption,
Whose depth or whose height passes ocean or mountain.
To Buddha's salvation so bountiful, boundless,
Thanksgiving forever;—to me it is given.
Up pointing towards heaven, down pointing 'neath heaven, §
The Buddha sheds light upon all who are living.
Now, knowing the Law as the Law has been given,
The blest triple treasure,—Rite, Priesthood, and Buddha, ¶—
I lift up my song, though I sing in a dream-world,
If sorrow and knowing are both the mind's flowering,
If demon or Buddha with each is attendant,
Then let all my faith upon knowing be centred.
Up striving away from "The River of Three Paths,"
A glance at the Fullness Divine of all Goodness
Will gladden my eyes,—the reward of my striving.
Recite then the Prayer;—for by its mere virtue
Your pathway will enter the "Land of the Holy."

(CONTINUED)

* Man must undergo constant migration in the six worlds of 1 Hell, 2 Hungry Souls, 3 Beasts, 4 Disembodied Spirits, 5 Man, 6 Heaven,—until he grasps "the Law," when he will gain "Buddhahood" and be "saved from the evils of existence."

† A river in the underworld over which the souls of the dead must go. Three paths there lead to the realms of "Demons," and the "Hungry Ones."

‡ A sacred phrase by repetition of which salvation may be gained.

§ The attitude taken by the Buddha immediately after his birth into this world.

¶ The three precious things of Buddhism—Law, Church, and Nirvana.

FORMOSA.

Professor W. K. Burton writes as follows from Taihoku (Taipeh):—

We are doing fairly well as regards improvements here, in the north. I have been unable to see any other part of the country, for I have spent the whole of the time since mid-summer here, except for a day or two now and then, in the hospital—a most excellent, and well built and well organized hospital, but only one storey high and situated in the middle of a great swamp! And this in perhaps the most malarial place in the world. I do not know who is responsible for the site. I fear it was Dr. Goto, who was here before I came for the first time.

I have been down with "Formosan fever" which is bad, with acute inflammatory rheumatism which is worse, and with dysentry, which is worst of all. Of 12 of us who were attacked with dysentry in the hospital at the same time, I am the only one alive.

This city (intramural) is likely to become a model city. It is difficult to imagine it the same place that I first saw nearly three years ago, when, in spite of wide principal streets, it was squalid and filthy, the main thoroughfares used as markets for all kinds of indescribable and stinking abominations, the side walks (covered) unusable for their proper purpose as every shop-keeper displayed his goods on the part of the pavement forming the frontage of his shop. The eternal shouting and screeching and chattering of Chinese as they tried to make bargains was quite awful.

Now it is a decent, clean, Japanese town. The Chinese, except for coolies, mostly jinriki-shamen, have simply gone. It is difficult to say why, for no pressure was put on them. Perhaps it was because they were offered very good prices for their property; perhaps, because they resented the regulations about markets in the street, and the monopoly of the side walks (a remarkably good site being given them for a market place just outside the walls); perhaps because of strict vetoes against throwing garbage indiscriminately into the streets &c., &c.; perhaps, because they could not exist away from what seems their natural pigginess. By the way, all pigs get the order of the sack! They have, for the most part, withdrawn themselves to Banka (or Manka), now a suburb which might well be called the "Old Town," as it existed under the name Banka, or Manka, long before Taipeh became the capital. Of all the many Chinese towns I have seen it is about the most squalid and filthy. The Japanese have been tinkering at it, but with little effect, and I think I gave good advice three years ago when I said that it was hopeless; that there was nothing to be done but to destroy it, compensating the proprietors (as has been done in Hongkong, in places) and then looking to do something in the way of establishing a "New Banka."

In the city there are several imposing, if not very beautiful buildings, notably the Post Office (which would—or should—make that of Tokyo blush with shame), the meteorological observatory and the hospital—albeit it is only one story high. There is an efficient sewerage system constructed on scientific principles. If Dr. Goto can carry out his loan scheme, next year will see the beginning of a splendid modern water supply system. Streets are being made that would shame Tokyo—though that is saying mighty little. We *have* a road-roller. It is a legacy from the Chinese. It had been bought, I presume, for the sake of a "squeeze" that some official could make, for I understand that through several years never once did "the wheels go round." When I discovered it, it appeared to be in a pitiably hopeless condition, half buried in the ground. I was surprised, however, to find on examination that no organic disease could be diagnosed, so we got her out of the mud and had her repaired, and now she marches up and down the street proudly accompanied and followed by a vast shouting rubble, mostly children.

Macadam is well enough known here, though Telford is not despised. The streets are being made of broken stones gradnated over a stratum of shingle, no gravel being used except as top-dressing—a mere sprinkling of very small stuff. I think this will turn out model streets, but of course it will take a year or two to know.

At Kelung, water works are nearly completed. At Tamsui water-works were half finished last year, but have "stuck" on account of lack of skilled labour, all that we have being concentrated on Kelung. It is terribly difficult to get skilled labour here, even when offering long contracts and wages which, according to Japanese standards, must be considered extravagant.

What I have said is all about the North. Of the South I hear ugly rumours. I do not believe, however, that things are so bad as some newspapers would make them out to be, for I trace, as the originator, or at least the prompter, the same individual who wrote the absurd "atrocity" letters some three years ago. A trader who has been half-ruined by the coming of the Japanese is naturally bitter against them, and there is no doubt that the old traders (foreign) have been treated very badly indeed in the matter of camphor. One of the principal houses in the Island is about to close, because the embargoes laid on obtaining and exporting camphor, have made trade in camphor impossible or unremunerative.

I think that when I get out of this place I shall write an article—for a magazine, or some other kind of publication—on "Life in a Japanese Hospital." It has been a great experience to me, and has brought me a good deal nearer to the solution of the apparently indeterminate problem as to the true inner nature of the Japanese. The faithful steadfastness to duty of all here—the Doctors and the nurses—the latter perhaps more than any—is simply sublime; I can use no less forcible word.

"YOKOHAMA" LODGE INSTALLATION.

The annual installation meeting of the Yokohama Lodge, No. 1092, E.C., was held at the Masonic Temple on Wednesday evening. Nearly seventy Masons were present, including some 26 Past Masters, and Lodges represented by visitors were scattered as wide apart as Nova Scotia and Bombay. The Ceremony of Installation was carried out by the District Grand Master of Japan, Rt. Wor. Bro. W. H. Stone, and after the Worshipful Master, Bro. Vivian R. Bowden, had been placed in the Chair, he invested his officers as follows:—

A. Woolley	I. P. M.
H. J. Sharp, P.M.	S. W.
F. J. Lias	J. W.
E. C. Fox	Treas.
Rev. E. C. Irwine, P.M.	Sec.
H. A. Ahrens	S. D.
G. Schneider	J. D.
L. Ph. von Hemert	D. of C.
P. Launay	I. G.
G. Delbourgo	Tyler.

About sixty of the Brethren sat down to dinner with Wor. Bro. Bowden. The loyal and other toasts of obligation were given from the Chair, after which Bro. the Rev. E. C. Irwine proposed the toast of the Officers of the District Grand Lodge, in the course of which he pointed out the great moral influence for good that could and should be exerted by Masonry in Japan, as elsewhere in the world. Wor. Bro.

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Alfred Woolley, D.G.S.W., responded. After some music by Bro. W. K. Vincent, Wor. Bro. Woolley proposed the toast of the newly installed Worshipful Master and his officers. In Bro. Bowden, the Lodge honoured a good man and a worthy Mason, who, during his short stay in Japan, had shown the true metal that was in him. He prophesied a successful year for the new Master and his Lodge. Suitable replies were made by the Wor. Master and Wor. Bro. Sharp. The toast of "The Sister Constitutions and Visitors" was submitted in graceful terms by Wor. Bro. E. Flint Kilby, who, after alluding to the strong fraternal bonds that knitted together the Brethren in the various Lodges of Yokohama and Tokyo, and to the sympathetic reception that awaited Masonic visitors to Japan, expressed a hope that the coming year would see a revival of interest in the Craft by the older members who had been active in the years gone by. Wor. Bro. A. R. G. Clark (Star the East, 640. S.C.), Wor. Bro. A. Bellamy Brown (O'Tentosama, 1263 E.C.), Wo . Bro. James (Tokyo, E.C.), Wor. Bro. Gowey (Tacoma), Bro. R. G. E. Forster (Nagasaki), and Wor. Bro. W. Gordon replied. Wor. Bro. H. W. Lea toasted the Immediate Past Master and Retiring Officers of the Lodge in felicitous terms, and the I.P.M. briefly replied. Other toasts included "Our Seafaring Brethren" (Bro. E. C. Fox), "Mothers, Wives, Daughters, and Sisters of Masons" (Bro. F. J. Lias), and "The Tyler's Toast." During the evening songs were contributed by various Brethren, a very enjoyable time being spent.

THE F. C. AND A. C. BALL.

(COMMUNICATED.)

It seems a pity that the Y.C. and A.C. public subscription ball should be allowed to pass with only a line recording the fact that it took place, especially when it was such a conspicuous success both from a social and a dancing point of view, reflecting great credit on the committee. Everybody who cares for such functions was p esent, which means a sufficiency of dancers to keep the floor full of life and gaiety from first to last, and those who were not there have every reason for regret.

The decorations were light but effective: and of course, appropriate; emblems of sport being everywhere in evidence, from the cricket net arranged on the stage as if for practice, and tennis nets draped along the side-walls, with bats wickets, baseball clubs, hocky sticks etc., at intervals, to the picture from the latest Christmas number of the *Illustrated London News* of "the Captain of the Eleven." The flags of Great Britain and America flanked either side of the stage, and lines of bright-coloured flags crossed each other from corner to corner of the ceiling with good effect. In fact, the Hall never presented a more attractive appearance and being less crowded than on the occasion of St. Andrew's Ball, the ladies' dresses—of which quite a number were deserving of special mention—showed off to better advantage. At 11.30 an excellent supper was served, and, when the stage curtain rose, revealing several blazing Old English plum puddings decked with holly, thrills of recollection arose in many breasts of the days of long ago! And who among the gay company did not think, also, of "the Old Folks at Home"! The searching of the puddings for the ring, thimble, and bachelor button gave rise to lots of amusement; and an innovation for such parties here, but a seasonable and happy one, viz. crackers, added greatly to the fun and laughter. After supper dancing was kept up with unusual spirit until 2 o'clock, when a large circle joined hands and sang "God save the Queen," and "Auld Lang Syne," thus bringing a most enjoyable ball to an end. On all sides were heard hopes that the dance would become an annual affair, and many a good wish was expressed for the continued prosperity of the Y. C. & A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FIRE ON BOARD THE "KAIMON KAN."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The "imaginary fire on board H.I.M.S. *Kaimon*" in your paper of the 18th ult., was not altogether imaginary. The *Hainan*, one of the Douglas S.S. Co.'s steamers, on her voyage from Tamsui to Amoy, caught fire on the 26th October last, and it was extinguished with the loss of some lives. As a curious coincidence would have it, the Chinese characters of the ship's name, though different in pronunciation, are exactly the same as those of the Japanese vessel *Kaimon*.

Some Japanese papers, therefore, must have mistaken her for the warship.

Apologizing for the fact that this bit of news from a corner of Taiwan may be "behind time" when it reaches you

I am, yours very truly,

A YOUNG JAPANESE.

Tainan, Formosa, Dec. 6th, 1898.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Mr. C. M. Birnie has been installed R.W.M. of the Nagasaki Lodge, No. 710, S.C.

The Bishop of London announces that he has paid the amount of Mr. Hooley's gift to St. Paul's to the Official Receiver.

Sport says that in 1900 an Indian Eleven will visit England to compete with first-class teams. Mr. J. M. Framji Patel has already approached the leading Parsees and native cricketers.

The introduction of a system of electric tramways in Colombo will shortly be an accomplished fact. The lines and powerhouse are approaching completion. The length of the lines will be about three-and-a-half miles.

The daughter of Mr. J. F. Carnegy, who is in charge of the Pauper Hospital, Penang, was burned to death on the 27th ult. her clothes being set on fire while lighting a match. The little girl was only seven years old.

Mr. Justice Hawkins, who has just retired, is 81 years of age and has been a Judge of the Queen's Bench Division since Nov., 1876. He is one of England's grand old men, for his intellectual vigour, like his bodily powers, is said to be in no way abated by the frosts of his great age.

At Singapore on the 3rd inst., Messrs. McAlister and Co. held an auction sale of the wreck of the British sailing ship *Earl of Hopetoun*, as she now lies in the vicinity of Alceste reef, Gaspar Straits. The vessel was knocked down for $210, and the cargo for $370, to Cheng Toon & Co. on behalf of a Batavia Chinaman.

The action for defamation of character brought against a Mr. Allison by Messrs. Donaldson and Burkinshaw, acting on behalf of the Rajah of Sarawak, again occupied the attention of Mr. Elgam in the Senior Magistrate's Court at Singapore on the 3rd December, having been adjourned from 5th November. The alleged defamatory statements were contained in a book entitled "The Real Pirates of Borneo." The Magistrate said there was no doubt that the whole tone of the book was distinctly libellous on the Rajah of Sarawak as well as on other people. The only thing that could be said in defendant's favour was that no one who read the book could fail to come to the conclusion that the writer was scarcely responsible for his actions and writings. He had not been officially certified to be irresponsible, and he must therefore be held to be liable. A fine of £100 or one month's imprisonment was inflicted. Notice of appeal was given.

CHINESE NEWS.

Colonel de Souza, who was shot by a member of the Macao garrison, died on the 1st.

With reference to Mr. Pritchard Morgan's reported "concession of mining rights in Szechuan," the *N. C. Daily News* understands that the original report regarding them was not quite accurately worded. The mineral rights in Szechuan have actually been granted to an influential Chinese syndicate, which finds a large portion of the necessary capital, and has called in Mr. Pritchard Morgan to assist it both financially and technically. Meanwhile, the French Minister at Peking has already entered a protest against the grant in question. Referring to the matter two days later, our contemporary said:—

We have had an opportunity of perusing the contract entered into by Mr. Pritchard Morgan with reference to the mineral deposits in the province of Szechuan, and we have before us the agreement between the English and French Governments signed by Lord Salisbury and Baron de Courcel in 1896, by which the privileges acquired by either nation in Yunnan and Szechuan are to be extended and rendered common to both Powers and their nationals. This agreement is what is relied upon by the French in their alleged protests; but the contract before us is one between Chinese acting under the direct decree of the Emperor and a British subject, whereby the latter co-operates with the Chinese in the development of the mines of Szechuan for the benefit of the Chinese Government; and after the province has been geologically surveyed and the regulations perfected, the mines will be open for selection by all nationalities alike. We are sure that when the French understand this they will not stand in the way of the development of the resources of China for the general benefit of all.

The Emperor of China is reported to be in perfect health. He speaks little but smiles at times.

The Prince of Yü, whose father died only about six weeks ago, has now had to suffer a financial loss through the burning of his Palace at Peking. The conflagration began at about 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the 27th ultimo and over thirty rooms were destroyed before the fire could be put out. The losses in furniture, etc., are roughly estimated at something over Tls. 40,000, but some very ancient jade, gold, and bronze works of art of priceless value to Chinese connoisseurs are missing, which makes this fire a serious disaster to the young Prince of Yü.

It may not perhaps be known, remarks a Shanghai contemporary, that there are now, or in process of erection, no less than seven factories for the making of smokeless powder in China, viz:—Wuchang, Nanking, Shanghai, Soochow, Haugchow, Canton, and Foochow. It is officially estimated that by the summer of 1899 these factories will be able to turn out about 50,000 catties of smokeless powder per month, and that at the present date of writing the government has ready for immediate use over two million smokeless powder cartridges, one half of which were imported from Europe.

The Yellow River, in its last overflow, inundated thirty-four counties, covering an estimated area of 2,600 square miles.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 3rd inst. says of the audience offered by the Empress Dowager to the wives of the Foreign Representatives at Peking:—"There are many other minor difficulties which, although of vital importance to those concerned, are utterly beneath notice in a public sense, but which convey the impression nevertheless that the real object and significance of the audience is being mistaken. In spite of the indignant disgust at any political significance being attached to it which is displayed in some quarters, the audience remains distinctly a political event, inasmuch as it represents the breaking down of yet one more 'never been before' in China's history, and the creation of a precedent which may have and might have a modicum of importance in China's social future. It foreshadows—remotely per-

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haps, but emphatically—the breaking down of social barriers for women in China and suggests embryonic possibilities for the elevation of women's status in China. It is something that has never been before, and which would probably have been deemed utterly impossible a few years ago; something which represents another hoist out of China's time-honoured ruts, and as such is an important political event. If argument denies it this distinction, we fail to understand in what other light the matter can be regarded, and we certainly conclude from the extreme care being taken in the arrangement of all details, that it is thus viewed in Peking."

Mr. E. H. Lavera, one of the founders and for a long time Chairman of the North China Insurance Company, died at Shanghai on Dec. 12, in his 62nd year.

The following incident, as the *N.-C. Daily News* justly remarks, is surely a record in its class:—In 1864 a Manila watchman named Bugas employed by Messrs. Nicolson & Boyd was allowed sick leave, and Mr. Boyd told him to return when he felt better. On the 12th of December 1898, Bargas called ■ the office of Messrs. Boyd & Co., Lt., to see Mr. P. V. Grant who could identify him, and to report that as he was now quite restored to health, he was anxious to be reinstated in the post he occupied thirty-four years ago!

Lord Charles Beresford had three long and important interviews with the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung ■ Wuchang. At Wuhu on his way down river Lord Charles accepted the invitation of the Viceroy Liu to take passage in the cruiser *Nanshu*, which promptly ran aground, the river being very low. She quickly got off, however. When his lordship arrived at Nanking, the Viceroy gave him a grand and most cordial reception, such an one ■ would be given to a Prince of the reigning dynasty were one to visit Nanking.

The latest news regarding Yü Man-tze that appears in Shanghai papers, is contained in two telegrams. The first is dated Chungking, Dec. 9th, and says:—

Owing to the continued refusal of Yü Man-tze to hand over Father Fleury to the mandarins, Jêu Tai-tai of this city has petitioned Viceroy Kuei to give orders to the troops to begin active operations against the rebels at once. The troops have hitherto been kept inactive owing to the threat of Yü to behead Father Fleury the moment a gun is fired by the troops against the rebels. The rebellion is spreading.

Three days later the following appeared:—

The Chinese General Chou has been captured by Yü Man-tze. There is reason to believe that force will be used to suppress the brigands, but it is not safe to rely upon the troops.

MOSQUITO YACHT CLUB.

The annual meeting of this Club was held at Keil's Building on Tuesday evening, Mr. V. Blad presiding over a small attendance.

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

The report and accounts were as follows:—

Your Committee have the pleasure to submit this, the Third Annual Report of the Mosquito Yacht Club, and to chronicle a successful season, with a satisfactory increase in the number of members.

RACING.—The year under review brought no new additions to the Fleet, and, bearing this fact in mind, in drawing up the Race Fixtures for July and onwards, the Committee decided to make Races for presented prizes only. The racing was keenly contested between the *Nandeska*, *Sodeska*, and *Kodesu*, and the Committee would like to see more boats of the same type in the water.

The thanks of the Club are due to those who so kindly contributed prizes to be sailed for, and in particular, to those absent members who sent us the "*Exiles* Cup" from Hongkong: a detailed list is as follows:—

The "*Sodeska* Cup"...won by	*Nandeska*.	
The "*Commodore's* Cup"	" *Sodeska*.	
The "*Sayonara* Cup."	" *Kodesu*	
The "*O.P.H.*" Cups.	" *Sodeska* and *Nandeska*.	
The Simplex Stockless Anchor and Campbell bitts.....	" *Kodesu*.	
The "*Kodesu* Cup"...	" *Nandeska*.	
The "*Exiles* Cup" ...	" *Nandeska*.	
The "*Committee* Cup"	" *Nandeska*.	

Aborigine was completed at a cost considerably in excess of the original estimate; the Committee have to thank members for the generous support accorded to them, whereby they have been enabled to liquidate all outstanding liabilities, with the exception of *Yen* 167.63 due upon current account.

In view of the impracticability of effecting Insurance upon satisfactory terms, the Committee would suggest the advisability of setting aside the entrance Fees, or a proportion thereof, for a Sinking Fund, to meet extraordinary expenses in connection with the boat.

The *Aborigine* was launched in March, and has been much appreciated by members for bathing and cruising.

The Temple at Tomioka was rented for the summer months, and was well resorted to by members: the refusal of the Temple for next season has been secured.

With sincere wishes for the future success of the Club, your Committee beg to tender herewith their resignation.

V. BLAD, Commodore. F. J. HALL, Honorary Treasurer. S. WARMING, Vice-Commodore. P. S. BENT, Honorary Secretary. J. MCARTHUR.

STATEMENT OF WORKING ACCOUNT OF THE "MOSQUITO YACHT CLUB" FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOV. 30TH, 1898.

Dr.

		Yen.	Yen.
To New Aborigine Account—			
Raising and Transport of Old Boat...	78.00		
H. Ivison — Collecting part of Subscriptions.....	14.00		
Fire Insurance during Building	11.88		
Photographs, Less Sales	21.00		
Cost of New Boat ...	1,547 67	1,672.55	
Donation...1st List..	580.00		
do. ...2nd List..	430 00		
do. ...2 Debentures and Interest.	100.29	1,110.29	562.26
To Aborigine Working Account—			
Wages		147.80	
Sendos' Clothes		26 00	
Working Expenses..		77.01	250.81
To Aborigine Bar Account—			
Cost of Whisky, Soda, Ice, etc.....		40.20	
Chits Collected	33.08		
Profit on Sale of Picnic Photographs...	4.22	37.30	2 90
To Tomioka Account—			
Rent of Temple		87.00	
Sampan hire		15.25	
Charcoal		3 90	
Sundries		1 95	108.10
To General Charges—			
Collecting Subs. 1897		5.12	
Cartridges		3.	
Sundries		6.12	14.24
To Printing and Stationery—			
Annual Meeting, '97. Reports and Advertising		15.50	
Programmes, Postages, etc.....		24 63	40 13
To Flag Account—			
Purchases		12 00	
Sales.....		6.25	5 75
To Debenture Account—			
Final Debenture paid off			50.00
To Interest Account—			
On Overdraft with Chartered Bank ■ 30th September ...			.38
		Yen	1,034.57

Cr.

	Yen.	Yen.
By Balance from last year.....		170.94
By Subscriptions		410.00
By Entrance Fees.....		255.00
By Measurement Fees		3.00
By Entrance Fees to Races	34.00	
Less Fees for Race of 14th May won by "Nandeska"	6.00	28.00
By Balance		167.63
		1,034.57

ASSETS ON NOVEMBER 30TH, 1898.

ASSETS.		Yen.
The "Aborigine" with Moorings, etc. ...		2,500.00
8 Flags at 1.25		10.00
Whisky, etc. in stock		5 75
Furniture, etc. at Tomioka ...Yen 49 44		
Less 25% depreciation ...	12.36	37.08
		2,552.83

E. & O. E.

F. J. HALL, Honorary Treasurer.

Yokohama, December 1st, 1898.

Checked and found correct,

A. R. OWEN.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the cost of the *Aborigine* was very heavy and in spite of liberal donations from all kinds of people, passive as well as active, they had not been able to wipe off the debt entirely. It was reduced to $167, and they hoped to get up some entertainment to clear off the balance. He might suggest that it would be a good thing to recommend to the incoming Committee the formation of a sinking fund for the *Aborigine* in order that if anything happened to her it should not be a total loss.

In answer to a member, the CHAIRMAN and Mr. F. J. HALL pointed out that the 2,500 *yen* set down as the value of the *Aborigine* was what the Committee considered it was worth ■ the Committee. Mr. HALL was confident that they could not replace the boat for that sum.

The report and accounts were passed, on the motion of Mr. SCHELLENBERG.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS.

The CHAIRMAN announced that he and Mr. Warming were going home, and therefore would be unable even if elected to act again as Commodore and Vice-Commodore. As the result of a ballot, Mr. MacArthur was elected Commodore and Mr. Hall Vice-Commodore.

Mr. Hyde Pearson and Mr. Mair were elected on the Committee. Mr. Schellenberg explained that he should not be able to act, as he was going home.

Mr. Owen was elected Hon. Secretary and Mr. Bishop Hon. Treasurer. Mr. Owen declined office at first on the ground of lack of time, but eventually after much pressing agreed to accept conditionally on his being at liberty to resign in case he found it impossible to continue the work.

THE TWO CLUBS.

The SECRETARY (Mr. P. S. Bent) read a correspondence which had passed between the Yokohama Yacht Club and himself. The first letter was received from the Secretary of the Yokohama Yacht Club (Mr. Rose) and suggested that it would be found advantageous to bring the boats of the two clubs together again as far as racing was concerned and suggesting that a Committee of each Club should meet to further this object. The reply of the Mosquito Club Committee was to the effect that the Committee could not see its way to the Committees coming together, but individual members would be encouraged to take part.

The CHAIRMAN mentioned that the matter was laid before racing members, and one boat, the *Nandeska*, joined the other Club and probably one more would be entered next year.

THANKS.

The Committee desired to give thanks to the subscribers and donors of prizes, and to the officers who had taken special interest in the building of the *Aborigine*. Votes of thanks to the Commodore and Vice-Commodore, and the owner of the Hall for the use of the room, were passed.

FIRE ON A SAILING SHIP.

NAVAL BOARD OF INQUIRY.

A Naval Court of Inquiry was held on Tuesday morning at H.B.M's Consulate, Yokohama, the object of investigation being the recent fire on board the sailing ship *Troop*, of Liverpool (Master, ■. J. Fitz) on December 14th. The Court was composed of Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, consul; Mr. Charles Douglas Bennett, Master of the P. and O. *Shanghai*; Mr. James Macfarlane, Master of the *St. Mary's Bay*, sailing ship; and Mr. Harring-

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The Clerk read the report of the Master as to the fire, and his request for an enquiry. He also read the entry in the official log book which declared his belief that the ship was wilfully set on fire.

Mr. Bonar—Is there any one interested who wishes to become a party to the proceeding?

The Master—Yes, sir.

Witnesses were ordered out of Court.

Edwin James Fritz was called. He said he was not on board the ship at the time of the fire. Witness was sleeping at the Imperial Hotel on the 13th, and on the morning of the 14th was notified by the Captain of the *Frankenstein* that the ship was on fire. This was about half-past six a.m. Witness got off as quickly as possible, and when he reached the ship the fire was smouldering, but it had ceased to burn. The men of war's crews were just leaving the ship, having done all that was possible. Mr. Laurence, captain of the ship *John Currier*, was on board, and witness saw him first. The mate afterwards made him a verbal report, and informed him that the fire had broken out at 5.30. It was not usual for witness to be out of the ship. Witness had been to a Masonic Lodge the previous evening, and it was blowing so hard that he could not get back on board the same night. Witness made a report as soon as he could to the Consulate. He made it on what he was told and what he saw. He did not make an entry in the official log at the time; he made the entry that morning (December 20th.) He did not think it was compulsory. He supposed the proper entry had been made in the ship's log at the time; he had made no effort to satisfy himself. The entry in the official log was dated the 14th, and was signed by himself and the mate that morning. The account of the fire was the mate's statement, witness added the particulars of the damage. It was apparent to the eye that there was much damage.

Mr. Bonar—How came you to say, under the date of December 14th, written on December 20th, that "no detailed account can be made until the cargo is out of that part of the ship?

Witness—It is not taken out yet.

Have you any means of saying what is the damage?—I don't know, it was due a great deal to water. I should be prepared to put in a surveyor's report later.

In answer to further questions, witness said his reasons for believing it was a case of incendiarism were based on what he had seen and heard, and from what he found out. He noticed that there had been two distinct fires on both sides of the ship. A kerosene tin found near the fire was brought to witness when he returned on board on the afternoon of the 14th. The chief officer called his attention to it. The first officer also brought him next morning a knife found near the fire.

Mr. Bonar—Is this statement in the log one which you would have made on the 14th or is it one based on what you have heard since?

Witness—I had the opinion in the first place, but I don't know whether I should have expressed it in writing except from what I have heard.

Mr. Bonar—Do you confirm on oath now everything you find in this logbook?

Witness—Yes.

Witness added that there had been no trouble with the crew before the day of the fire. He did not know whether any body had been on board besides the crew on the day before the fire. He could not see how the fire could be accidental, as the hatches were all closed on the day previous. One fire apparently commenced about twenty feet forward of the main hatch on the port side; the other was on the starboard side abreast of the main hatch. A man could get down into the hold by means of the air shaft as well as by the hatches. The boatswain Gorig, and two boys named Scott and Hansen, lived in the room near the air shaft. He could not see how the fire could have occurred unless some one lighted it. The crew had not been working cargo the day before, and so it would have had to smoulder for 48 hours before breaking out. That did not seem possible with such a cargo. Witness produced the kerosene tin found near the fire. When he first saw it he was shown a cut about four inches in length. Witness identified the knife produced. It belonged to the boatswain Gorig. He had fitted it into the cut in the tin, and it fitted the first hole made in the tin. Witness did not connect anyone in particular with the fire. No member of the crew had given any trouble during the voyage; he had every reason to be satisfied with their conduct. The cargo was originally 59,525 cases of oil, and at the time of the fire he had discharged 20,000. Witness could not say whether fire had been set to the ship or to the cargo. There were some sails which were burned. The Surveyor had said the previous day that the damage was probably about £600 or £700. Witness communicated with the owners then on the 15th. They had replied asking the extent of the damage, and he replied on the 19th stating it as nearly as he could.

This concluded the witness's evidence.

Mr. Bonar—The fact of your not having made an entry on the official log at the time and having made it such a long time after the occurrence shows very gross carelessness on your part. The Court has nothing to do with that at the present moment, but it may be the subject of another enquiry. If you are required you will be sent for.

Nelson Arnold Withers, chief officer, said about 5.30 a.m. on December 14th, he received the alarm of fire. He directed the seals to be removed from the hatches, called all hands, and hailed all the ships at hailing distance. He then went down the after hatch, but could not see anything. The smoke was so thick that he was almost suffocated, and he could hardly find his way back. By the time he got on deck a party had arrived on board from the *John Currier*, and a boat's crew from a Japanese man-of-war came aboard shortly after. It was found that there were two separate fires—one on the port side about 15 or 20 feet from the main hatch, and the other close to the hatch on the main side. After the smoke had cleared away they went down, and found sails on each side where the fires were. The one on the port side had got right through the 'tween decks and burned the tops of some of the cases below. The other fire had burned about half way through the 'tween decks. Witness's first impression was that it was not an accidental fire; that it was impossible that sparks from the galley could have reached the spots where the fires were. The fires were put out in about an hour or an hour and a half. Witness sent the steward ashore for the captain 15 or 20 minutes after the fire. The whole of the crew turned to, and worked to put the fire out. The sails were in the same position the day before as at the time of the fire. They were placed there to be repaired. A case was placed there for the repairer to sit on, and witness noticed two tins had been taken out of it when he went down after the fire. He imagined from the appearance of the sails that they had been soaked in oil. Witness made a report to the captain as soon as he came on board. Witness told him there and then that he thought the fire had been done intentionally. Witness told the captain afterwards that he suspected the boatswain Gorig. He thought so because he thought Gorig was the only man capable of doing of it, as he was uneasy in the ship, he was not competent, and was anxious to get out of her. He had heard that Gorig had said that he would get out of the ship in Yokohama and would get his wages too. Witness also heard that when the fire was reported the boatswain said, "Oh, it's happened through those old wet sails taking spontaneous combustion." Witness knew the sails were not wet. There was an air shaft which led to the hold near the boatswain's cabin, and if Gorig did not go down there himself he must have heard anybody who did go down. A boy named Scott showed witness the tin produced. The gash in it would not be broad enough for a sheath knife; he tried a sheath knife first. He then borrowed the boatswain's knife under pretence that he wanted to sharpen a pencil, and he found that the cut in the tin was one which the boatswain's knife would make. Other knives might make such a cut; witness had one himself. Witness told the Captain everything about his suspicions. He also told the boatswain he had lost the knife, and he appeared to be "awful anxious," about it.

By Mr. Bonar—The entry in the official log was signed by him that morning (20th). Witness had also made an entry in his logbook. He started it the night of the fire, and finished it next morning.

Mr. Bonar—You will produce that book this afternoon. Do you not know it is a rule to make an entry in the official log as soon as possible after an occurrence?

Witness—I didn't know it was necessary.

In answer to further questions, witness said he had forgotten whether he showed his entry to the captain, the captain might have seen it if he wished. He had never had a quarrel with the boatswain; he was on reasonably good terms with him.

The court adjourned till two o'clock.

Emil Gorig, boatswain of the ship, said he was on board the vessel on the morning of the 14th. He was awake about five o'clock, and heard someone coming forward. Witness jumped up, and went out but could see nothing. It was not light. He shortly after saw the mate and asked him what was the matter. He said, "There is fire in the ship." Witness asked him what part of the ship, and the reply was "Aft." Witness went back to his room, and called up the boys who slept there, and then went forward to the forecastle to call the crew. They covered up the ventilators to prevent any draught reaching the fire. They then opened the main hatch on the port side, and then tried to get down, but were driven back several times. Men from the *John Currier*, a Japanese man-of-war, and other vessels came to their assistance and they poured water on the fire until they got it under. The air-shaft would not permit of smoke escaping from the hold into witness's room, it was not an ordinary iron ventilator but half sky-light and half air-shaft. Witness's berth would be very nearly on top of the fire or probably about 12 feet above it, but on the other side of the ship. Witness could form no idea of how the fire occurred. He had suggested to his room mates that it might be spontaneous combustion. Witness firmly believed it was accidental. There were only rags, for one thing. He had one other experience, when he found some oiled rags had caught fire of themselves, and if he had not discovered them early that ship might have been set on fire. Witness had some experience in kerosene ships before; he had found that there was always a leakage of the oil. Witness thought no one could get down into the hold the way the hatches were sealed. He did not believe that a man could get down by the air-shaft; it might not be impossible, but it would be very difficult. He never noticed whether the sails, after the fire, were soaked with oil. He recognised the knife produced as his; the mate had borrowed it from him. He had never seen the tin before. He had no special reason to complain of the ship, he had been in a better. He and his mess-mates had always agreed. The tin produced looked as if it were cut but witness knew nothing about it. He did not think it was likely that any man had caused the fire.

R. S. Laurance, master of the American ship *John Currier*, said on the morning of the 14th his chief officer called him and told him the *Troop* was on fire. Witness ordered him to lower the boat and take a crew on board, and dressed and proceeded to the ship himself. He asked assistance from the Japanese and American men-of-war, and also went to the *King Edward*, in whose boat he proceeded to the *Troop*. He found smoke issuing through the hatches and ventilators. Both the crew of the *Troop* and that of witness's ship were pouring water down the hatches. Witness went down the hatches as soon as possible. He found there had been a fire about 30 feet forward of the main hatch, a little on the port side, and another fire on the starboard side near the hatch. The fires were not connected in any way. He saw some cases of kerosene had burned through, and some pieces of sail and the wood of the deck were burning. Witness had had 12 years' experience in a kerosene ship. He thought incendiarism was the chief cause of fire in such ships. He had one ship burned seven years ago at Kobe by two men setting it on fire. He should say a ship could not take fire from the spontaneous combustion of oily rags.

James Matthew, watchman on the *Troop*, said on the morning of December 14th he was on duty. At 5.30 he saw smoke coming out of the main hatch, and he reported it to the mate. Witness then called up the crew. He met the boatswain as he was going to call the crew, but did not speak to him about the fire. He had no idea how the fire originated.

William Scott said he was called out between five and six o'clock and he went out at once. After the fire had been put out witness saw the place where the starboard fire had begun. He noticed two tins of oil in the centre of the fire on top of the sail. The stoppers were out of both of them. He tried to pick them up but they were so hot that he could not touch them, so that he kicked them out of the way. There was oil in them when he kicked them. He should think that something had been put on the sail by the way in which it burned. Witness did not see the fire on the port side at all. Witness found by the mainmast aft of the main hatch, the tin with a cut in it. Witness called to the mate, and showed him the case. The previous Friday or Saturday there was nothing in that place. Witness thought the cut was made by a knife. There was no oil on the ground near the case when he discovered it. He thought a man could get down the air-shaft. He could not say how the fire was caused, but he thought the ship was set on fire intentionally. Witness knew the knife produced. It belonged to the boatswain. The boatswain's bunk was next to the ventilator. Witness did not know whether he should hear the noise of anyone going down the ventilator; he was a very heavy sleeper. He thought a man could get down the ventilator; he himself might be able to do so, but he was not sure.

James Osteen, able seaman, said he was called by the watchman between five and six o'clock, and with others helped to put out the fire. The fire look-

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ed to witness already the work of an incendiary. Witness had heard the boatswain say he would like to drop a pound of dynamite down the pipes. In the excitement of the fire witness cried out, "How could fire have broken out there?" and the boatswain said, "Them wet sails must have took fire spontaneously." Every one knew the sails were dry. Witness knew of no friction between the boatswain, the officers, or the sailors. Witness was on pretty good terms with the boatswain. "They aint no seamen, you know, sir, that isn't growling more or less." (Laughter).

The witness Withers recalled, produced the entry in his log, which was read.

Witness, in answer to Mr. Bonar, said a man named Hagg had told him that the boatswain had said he would set fire to the ship before he left her.

Mr. Bonar—You never said that this morning.

Witness—I never had the chance.

Mr. Bonar—Have you had any conversation with this man since this morning on the subject?

Witness (after hesitation): Yes, I asked him if he was willing to swear that when he came into court.

Nils Hansen, ship's boy, also gave evidence. He said he should have heard the noise of anyone going down the air-shaft. He had never known of anyone going down the air-shaft.

Axel Hagg, another able seaman, was called. He said he once heard the boatswain say he would put fire into the ship before he got out of her, or when he got out of her. The boatswain had said it more than once. Witness did not know what was his reason for saying this.

The Court adjourned till ten o'clock this morning for the evidence of the second mate, the cook, and the carpenter.

The Naval Court sat again on Wednesday morning to enquire into the circumstances of the fire on board the sailing ship *Troop*.

The master, recalled, said he had that morning taken the measurements of the air shaft leading into the hold. He made two men go through the ventilator that morning. One was a very large man. It was not at all difficult to go up and down. Witness always made it a point to keep the ventilator open to air the cargo. It was always open except when it was raining. It was raining the day previous to the accident, but in any rate the ventilator would not be locked. The other day the mate went up and down in witness's presence. A man would probably be noticed going down the ventilator in daylight, as it was in full view of everyone.

S. S. Dunning, an American citizen, master of the sailing ship *George R. Scholfield*, said he went on board the ship the morning of the fire in company with Capt. Fritz. Witness was positive that there were two distinct fires, and that one of them could not have been caused by sparks from the other. Witness at once came to the conclusion that the fires were not accidental, because from his experiences of kerosene ships he knew it was impossible for a fire to smoulder for 48 hours without its being detected. He knew the hatches had been closed for that length of time. He came to the conclusion that a man must have got down the air shaft. He had been carrying kerosene for eight years, but had never had any fires.

Emil Meyer, able seaman on board the *Troop*, said his duties were those of sailmaker. He had been engaged on the work for the last time about 36 hours before the fire broke out. He was prevented from working on account of the rain, which necessitated the closing of the hatches. He left the last sail he was working at on the port side of the ship just near the main match. The sail was dry when he left it, and there was no kerosene about it. He never used a kerosene case to sit upon. He saw the sail after the fire, when it was in pretty poor condition. It appeared to him that something like kerosene oil had been put on the sail. Witness never smoked while he was at his work; he would be forbidden, and he knew so much himself. If the fire were caused by accident it would be a great accident; he did not think it could be accident. He had never heard any one threaten to put the ship on fire. He saw the boatsman and a Russian "chap" whose name he did not remember putting some planks down the hatch the afternoon before the fire.

Henry N. Gilbert, a man of colour, said he was cook on board the *Troop*. He said on the day of the fire he was kneading bread when he heard an alarm of fire. He had seen the fire and he thought it was impossible that it could be caused by sparks from the galley. He had no theory as to the fire.

William Blanchard, second mate, said he ordered the hatch to be opened for a short time on the day before the fire to put some lumber down between decks. The boatswain and a man named Peter did this work. After the fire was extinguished he noticed that there were two separate fires. When the hatch was opened witness was standing near the hatch all the time. If a man had lighted the fire at that time it would have been discovered before. It was impossible that the fire could have been accidental. The boatswain had told witness that he was going to get out of the ship, and would leave no money behind him. That was told witness in a friendly way; witness had had no quarrel with him. The boatswain was not very comfortable in his position; he was incapable of doing what he ought to do. As far as witness knew he was on good terms with the men. Witness had seen the tin and knife produced. The knife would produce such a cut as that on the tin.

A Greek, the carpenter of the *Troop*, whose evidence was interpreted by Mr. Delbourgo, said he had no idea how the fire occurred. He described the alarm, and what took place afterwards.

The boatswain Gorig, recalled, said his knife had not left his possession for a week previous to the fire. He had never missed it. It could not have left his possession without his knowing. He did not think the knife was heavy enough in the back to make a cut like that in the tin. He thought it would leave some mark on the knife. Witness was asked to fit the knife in the cut; and then said he thought such a knife could cause the cut. There were several knives of the kind on board. He did not know until that morning that it was possible for a man to get down the air shaft.

The second mate stated that he wished to add that if anyone else had gone down the air-shaft besides the boatswain he would have been heard by the latter.

The Court retired for about three-quarters of an hour, and on their return into Court the President (Mr. H. A. C. Bonar) read the finding. It was to the effect that the fire resulted from the wilful act of some person or persons unknown, who caused the sail to be saturated with some inflammable substance, and set fire to the ship in two places. The Court attributed the act to some of the members of the crew, but held that there was not sufficient evidence to fix the guilt upon any person or persons. It enjoined the captain and officers to make all possible efforts to find out the guilty party, and ordered the owners of the ship to pay the costs of the enquiry, £12.9s. 2d.

H.B.M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before H. A. C. Bonar, Esq., Consul and Assistant Judge.

THURSDAY, December 22nd.

THE FIRE ON THE "TROOP."

Emil Gorig was charged with wilfully setting fire to the British ship *Troop*, the property of Raymond Parker, of Egremont, Cheshire, on December 14th.

Mr. F. J. Lowder appeared for the prosecution. He said the evidence he should submit would be chiefly circumstantial, as in nearly all cases of arson, and would consist in the negation of any natural predisposing causes. It would be for his Honour to decide whether sufficient evidence had been adduced to put the accused on his trial before a Jury.

Nelson Arnold Withers, mate of the *Troop*, a Canadian by nationality, was then called, and practically repeated the evidence he had given at the Naval Court of Inquiry. He gave the measurements of the airshaft leading to the hold, and said a man could easily get down it. He had gone down it himself at sea without any difficulty. He described the fire, and the result of his investigations after it was extinguished. He said the temperature in the 'tween decks was pretty cold. An iron ship such as the *Troop* was like a refrigerator in cold weather. It was certainly not warm enough to cause a fire. The sails were dry and in good condition, and there was nothing to account for their spontaneous combustion. There were never any oiled rags in the 'tween decks to his knowledge; when such rags were used they were thrown overboard. Witness described the effects of the fire, which he said could not have been caused by sparks from the galley fire. He produced the kerosene tin found below with a cut in it. He said he knew if any of the men had cut the hole they would have used sheath knives and he therefore tried to fit a sheaf knife in the hole. It did not fit at all, and he came to the conclusion that such a knife could not have been used. He tried the knife he borrowed from the boatswain, and found that the cut was one such as might have been made by this knife. He repeated his reasons for suspecting the prisoner.

By prisoner—He had no quarrel with the accused, and no grudge or prejudice against him.

The Court then adjourned for tiffin.

After the interval the master, Edwin John Fritz, deposed that the accused was shipped at New York as a substitute.

William Blanchard, second mate of the *Troop*, said the day before the fire the hatch was opened for a few minutes, and a man called Peter went down. He was there about ten minutes. The hatch was then closed and sealed by the Customs House officer. Witness was at the hatch, and Peter was under his observation the whole time. The seals of the hatch were intact on the morning of the fire. Witness identified the tin and knife produced. The cut could not be made by a sheath knife. The accused had told him several times he did not like the ship, and would leave her without leaving any money behind him. He believed the cut was made by the knife produced.

The prisoner put several questions, which did not, however, appear to have much bearing on the case.

In answer to the Court the witness said when he first saw the fire the sails were blazing, which he did not think would be the case unless they had been impregnated with kerosene or some other inflammable substance. He found two tins of kerosine standing on the sails on the port side with the screws wrenched out of the top, so that the oil could come out if the tins were tilted or thrown down. One of the sails seemed to have been saturated with oil. Witness had no prejudice against or quarrel with the prisoner.

William Scott, ship's boy, also gave evidence. He recognised the knife and tin produced; he found the tin after the fire. The accused was the only man he knew with a knife like this. Three days after the fire accused told him he thought the fire had been caused by spontaneous combustion through the sails being wet.

By prisoner: Prisoner had said to witness in course of conversation that if he were the mate he would get all the knives on board to see if they would fit the cut.

By the Court: Witness might wake and he might not through the noise of a man scrambling up or down the air shaft.

James Osteen, able seaman, an American by nationality, repeated the evidence of the accused's making the suggestion that the wet sails must have taken fire spontaneously. He believed accused must have known that the sails were dry; no sails were put down wet.

Witness believed the knife produced did not belong to accused, but to a seaman called Paul Meihs, belonging to the starboard watch. If it did not he (witness) was badly mistaken. He had seen accused having another knife. All that witness remembered of the night before the fire was that the men of the forecastle were awakened by an irruption of rats, and they had to set to work chasing them. He afterwards thought these rats must have been frightened by the fire.

Axel Haig, a Swede, able seaman on board the *Troop*, said he remembered on one occasion when accused and witness were working and cursing together (laughter). Prisoner said he would like to set fire to the ship. After the fire he and accused were talking about the matter and witness said "How could fire have come aboard the ship?" Accused said it must have come from oiled rags thrown down into the 'tween decks. As a matter of fact no such rags had been thrown there; they were always heaved over the side after being used. The knife produced belonged, witness believed, to Paul Meihs, but was used by the boatswain for some time.

Accused put a number of questions leading up to this "Was I mad when I made remarks about setting fire to the ship?"

Mr. Bonar—By mad you mean angry, of course?

Accused—Yes.

The witness answered the question in the affirmative.

At this point the Court adjourned.

SIR HENRY HAWKINS.

It is always been a matter of surprise that Mr. Justice Hawkins never rose to a higher position among her Majesty's Judges than a seat in the Queen's Bench Division. Perhaps it was his lack of social influence, or else his sturdy independence that trackled to neither political party. Whatever may have been the cause, there can be no doubt that Sir Henry's exceptional gifts never received their full measure of reward at the hands of those who have great offices to bestow. He was the son of a Hertfordshire gentleman, and was born at Hitchin on Sept. 14th, 1817. Having received his education at Bedford Grammar School, he adopted the law as a profession, entering the Middle Temple. He was a very diligent special pleader before his call to the Bar,

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in 1843, and after a year or two rapidly acquired a very large practice as a junior. He attached himself to the Old Home Circuit, and after he obtained his silk gown, in 1858, he was for many years one of its leaders. He also became a Bencher of the Middle Temple. As a junior, Mr. Hawkins was one of the Counsel (with Serjeant Byles) for Sir John Dean Paul, in 1855; and (with Mr. Edwin James) for Simon Bernard, who was tried as accessory to the conspiracy against the life of the Emperor Napoleon, in 1858. After he became a Queen's Counsel he was engaged in nearly every important case that came before the Superior Courts. He was associated with the late Lord Chief Justice Bovill in the great Roupell cases against the claims advanced upon the evidence of Mr. Roupell. In the famous convent case, "Saurin v. Star," tried in 1869, Mr. Hawkins led for the defence; and he was leading Counsel for Mr. W. H. Smith, whose seat for Westminister he successfully defended before Mr. Baron Martin. He was associated with the late Lord Coleridge in the first Tichborne trial, when he particularly distinguished himself by his exhaustive cross-examination of Mr. Baigent. In the prosecution of the Claimant for perjury, Mr. Hawkins led for the Crown, and the skill he displayed in this trial—one of the most protracted and the most remarkable in the annals of jurisprudence—greatly increased his reputation as an advocate. In the Probate Court Mr. Hawkins led the case in support of the will of the late Lord St. Leonards, which he established both before the Judge Ordinary and the Court of Appeal. The Gladstone and Von Reable cases were among his victories in the Divorce Court. Mr. Hawkins was Counsel in numerous election petitions; was engaged for many years in every important compensation case; acted for the Crown in the purchase of lands for the National Defences, for the Royal Commissioners in the purchases of the site for the new Law Courts, for the City of London, and for the Metropolitan Board of Works in the purchase of property required for the Holborn Viaduct, the Thames Embankment, and various new streets; and was Standing Counsel for, and held the general retainer of, the Jockey Club. He was appointed a Judge of the High Court of Justice (Queen's Bench Division) on Nov. 3rd, 1876, and was transferred to the Exchequer Division, when he received the honour of knighthood. And now at the age of 81, he has retired full of years but sturdy still, mentally and physically.

TELEGRAMS.

(From the "Japan Times.")

HARCOURT NOT IN FAVOUR OF IMPERIALISM.

London, Dec. 16.

The *Times* learns that Sir William Harcourt's resignation of the Liberal leadership is irrevocable, and believes that the trouble is largely due to Sir William's dislike of imperialism, which many influential Liberals favour.

THE WEI-HAI-WEI REGIMENT.

The officers for the Wei-hai-wei regiment have started. The regiment is to be enlisted in Shantung province, and will be styled the First Chinese Regiment.

NORTH-BORNEO COMPANY.

At the half-yearly meeting of the North-Borneo Company, the chairman said that the gross surplus for the half year was 80,000 dollars, and that things were prosperous all round, the prospect of development being excellent.

THE "IRRESISTIBLE" LAUNCHED.

The *Irresistible*, a sister ship to the *Formidable*, has been launched at Chatham.

INDO-CHINA RAILWAY LOAN.

The French Chamber of Deputies passed the Indo-Chinese Railway Loan Bill.

THE NIGER CONVENTION.

London, Dec. 17.

A protocol has been signed at Paris extending to six months the term for ratifying the Niger Convention.

THE YUNNAN RAILWAY.

London, Dec. 19.

A Bill has passed the Chamber authorising a Government guarantee for the Yunnan railway loan only.

THE SAN STEFANO MONUMENT.

The Grand Duke Nicholas has arrived at Constantinople to unveil a monument at San Stefano in the presence of the Balkan and Greek delegates. The Turks are irritated at such a display on Ottoman soil recalling the disasters of 1878.

DEATH OF BARON FERDINAND DE ROTHSCHILD.

The death is announced of Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, M.P.

ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS.

London, Dec. 20.

M. Cambon, in receiving the French Colony in London, defined his task as defending the interests of France by proving that the interests of Britain and France were not irreconcilable.

THE BRITISH IN EGYPT.

A strong detachment of Telegraph Engineers has been ordered from Aldershot to sail on special service for Egypt.

COMMAND OF THE CHANNEL SQUADRON.

Admiral Rawson has been appointed Commander of the Channel Squadron.

ANTI-ANARCHIST CONFERENCE A FAILURE.

London, Dec. 21.

The Anti-anarchist Conference threatens to end in a failure. The representatives of Britain, Belgium, and Switzerland have declined to accept the proposal to surrender foreign anarchists on the demand of their Governments.

JUDGE HAWKINS RESIGNS.

Sir Henry Hawkins has resigned his post as Judge in the Queen's Bench Division.

PRINCE GEORGE STARTS FOR CRETE.

Prince George of Greece has started for Crete escorted by the flagships of the four Powers.

EVACUATION OF FASHODA.

Major Marchand's party evacuated Fashoda on the 11th and are marching to Sobat. The Egyptian troops immediately occupied the fort.

(From the "N. C. Daily News.")

ACTIVE RECRUITING.

Peking, December 10.

Amongst the numerous agents sent by the Generalissimo Jung Lu, by order of the Empress Dowager, to recruit men for the various northern army corps, from all parts of the country, are some thirty officers who have been actively enlisting men from Tientsin prefecture and the vicinity of Shanhaikuan. Already, 4,000 men have been enrolled towards the 10,000 required by these recruiting officers, and it is reported that this body of 10,000 men will form the headquarter corps of Jung Lu's command.

A NEW LINE.

Hanchon, North Kiangsu, Dec. 10.

This city was connected by a telegraphic line with the city of Shuchien, yesterday. This has been done to facilitate the communication of famine relief distribution intelligence to headquarters here.

THE FRENCH DEMANDS.

Nanking, December 11.

H.E. Viceroy Liu is still determined to resist the demands of the French, and the cruiser *Descartes* has returned to this city and anchored opposite Haikuan as if waiting for further developments

SENTENCE ON CAPTAIN TOULMIN.

Hongkong, December 13.

Captain Toulmin, who shot the compradore on board his steamer the *Dosing* in the West River, has been sentenced in the U.S. Consular Court at Canton to imprisonment for life.

(From the "Singapore Free Press.")

Penang, Nov. 29th, 11.52 a.m.

A serious police strike has occurred here. Fifty-one constables, besides Corporals, and Lance-Corporals have resigned.

The reason alleged for the resignations is their dissatisfaction with the official treatment accorded them.

(From the "Echo de Chine.")

THE EMPRESS DOWAGER'S RECEPTION.

Peking, 14th December.

On Tuesday H. M. the Empress Dowager received the wives of the Foreign Ministers. She evinced towards them great cordiality, offered them a banquet and a theatrical representation, and presents of rings. H.M. the Emperor was present.

(Official Report).

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

Söul, Dec. 17.

Mr. Li Sa-yuen, Judge, has resigned, and Mr. Yin Chiho has succeeded him. Mr. Li Kung-kong, Superintendent of the Police, has resigned, and is replaced by Mr. Kim Yiu-chow. Messrs. Pak Chan-yang and Yin Yuen-ket have been appointed Councillors of the Cabinet.

Söul, Dec. 19.

Mr. Kim Myong-Kyu has been appointed a Cabinet Councillor and Mr. Sin Sun-tak a high official of the Imperial Household.

Söul, Dec. 20.

The Korean Government has concluded a contract with the French Minister to employ a French gentleman, Mr. Clemoncy as adviser and instructor in postal and telegraphic business; the term of engagement is one year, to be continued afterwards on negotiation between the two parties. The salary is fixed at *yen* 3,600.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

Söul, Dec. 19.

Mr. Pak Chong-yong has been appointed Minister of Finance, and Mr. Yin Yongo-kyung Minister of Education.

FIRE IN HAKODATE HARBOUR.

(From our Correspondent.)

Hakodate, Dec. 21, 9.15 a.m.

A steam launch was totally destroyed by fire last night. The fire broke out at 10 o'clock and was not subdued until this morning. No injury to life is reported. At the time of the fire heavy snow was falling.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru 1	Sa. Dec. 24
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern 2	Sa. Dec. 24
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Indus 3	W. Dec 28
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. Dec. 29
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City R. Janeiro	Sa. Dec. 31
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Jan. 2
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	Tu. Jan. 3
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Th. Jan. 12
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Su. Jan. 15
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Jan. 16

1 Left Nagasaki on the 22nd inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 18th inst.
3 Left Shanghai on the 22nd inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	M. Dec. 26
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Tu. Dec. 27
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Dec. 28
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Dec. 28
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Dec. 30
America	P. M. Co.	City R. Janeiro	Tu. Jan. 3
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Indus	W. Jan. 4
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	W. Jan. 4
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	F. Jan. 13
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Jan. 16
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Tu. Jan. 17

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CHESS.

All Communications to be addressed to the CHESS EDITOR.

The Yokohama Chess Club meets at Wright's Hotel on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 11 p.m.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 399.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Kt to B 4	1—B to B 4
2—Q to R 4	2—K to K 6
3—B to Q 2 mate	if 2—K takes Kt or to B 5
3—B takes B mate	if 2—B takes B
3—Q takes B mate	if 2—Moves Kt or P
3—B takes B ch mate	
	1—K to K 6
2—B to Q 2 ch	2—K to Q 5
3—Q to R 4 mate	
	1—Kt (R 8) moves
2—Kt takes Kt	2—K to K 6
3—Q to Q 2 mate	if 2—Kt to K 7 or R 7
3—Q to Q 3 mate	
	1—P to Q 4
2—Q to B 3 ch	2—K takes Kt
3—Q to K 5 mate	
	1—P to B 4
2—B to B 3 ch	2—K to K 6
3—Kt to Q 5 mate	if 2—K to B 5
3—Q to R 4 mate	
	1—P to B 7
2—Kt to Q 2	2—K to K 6
3—Q to K 4 mate	

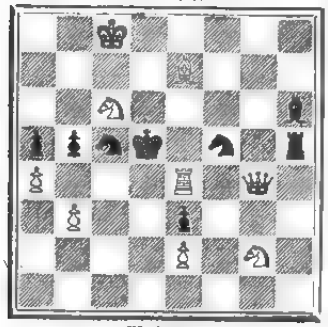
Correct solutions received from W.H. S. only.

PROBLEM No. 403.

By BALBRIUS DNITIU.

From the *Illustrirte Zeitung*, Berlin.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in two moves.

GAME No. 464.

Showalter and Janowski signed articles on Thursday, 17th Nov., and under its terms the match will be played for $750 a side, and at the rate of seven games per fortnight. In case the score of the match should be six a side, the contest will be continued until one player has won ten games, but in case the score should be at any time nine wins each, the match will be considered drawn. The initial game, which was played on the 18th Nov. in the presence of a distinguished company, was secured by the visiting player.

Janowski is proving himself to be too strong for Showalter. The Kentuckian's nearest approach to a victory thus far was the draw he obtained in the third game, played on Thanksgiving-day. The score now stands three game to nothing in favour of Janowski.

The score of the first game follows :—

FIRST GAME, QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White.—Showalter. Black.—Janowski

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	18 P R3	P R3
2 P QB4	P K3	19 B Q3	Kt Ksq
3 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	20 R QB-q	Kt Q2
4 Kt B3	B K2	21 Q Q-q	Kt B4
5 B B4	Castles	22 P QKt4	Kt Q2
6 P K3	P QB4	23 P Kt4	P QR4
7 PxBP	BxP	24 P QKt5	Kt B4
8 Q B2	Kt B3	25 R Ksq	KtxB
9 P QR3	R K-q	26 QxKt	BxP
10 B K-5	P Q5	27 RxB	RxR
11 Castles	P K4	28 QxR	QxKt
12 Kt Q5	B K3	29 Q Q5	Q Q6ch
13 P K4	B QB-q	30 K R2	R QB-q
14 K Ksq	B K2	31 R QKtsq	P R5
15 KtxBch	QxKt	32 P R4	R B6
16 Q R4	P KR3	Resigns,	
17 BxKt	QxB		

FAMOUS MEN WHO PLAYED CHESS.

Walter Pulitzer in *The American Chess Magazine* (November), [illegible] of the famous men of the world who played chess or were interested in the noble game. He begins with Haroun Al Raschid (caliph of Bagdad, 780-809), "who," Mr. Pulitzer says, "must have certainly known the game, to have understood the subtle Chessic reference contained in the following—which was sent to him by Nicephorus (Byzantine Emperor, 822): 'The Empress Irene, into whose place I have succeeded, looked upon you as a Rukh (Rook?) and herself as a mere Pawn, therefore she submitted to pay you a tribute more than double she ought to have extracted from you. All this is owing to female weakness and timidity. Now, however, I insist that you immediately repay me all the money you received from her. If you hesitate, the sword shall settle our account." The great Haroun, being a hot tempered monarch, scribbled (perhaps with a lead pencil) on the back of this missive: 'From Haroun, commander of the Faithful, to the Roman dog Nicephorus: I have read thine epistle, thou son of an infidel mother. My answer thou shalt see, not hear,'—and he was as good as his word, for then and there he marched into Heraclea, laying waste his enemy's territory and forcing him to plead for peace. As to Charlemagne, there is a story of his once having lost his kingdom over a game to Guerinde Montglave. Then, too, the Empress Irene (above referred to) presented the great king with a splendid Chess-board and a set of men,

"It is on record that Canute the Great played. Carlyle in his 'Early Kings of Norway,' relates how during a game between the illustrious Dane and the Earl Alf, some dispute arose which resulted in the Earl throwing over the board, for which rash act he was murdered by Canute's orders. . . .

"Of early English sovereigns there are traditions that King Arthur, William the Conqueror, and Richard I. played. Early English historians have affirmed that it was King Arthur who first introduced Chess into England, and that it was often his wont to play it with the Knights of the famous Round Table, while others have maintained that it was unknown to Britishers until William the First brought it over from Normandy. It is, however, well known that Henry II. and Charles II. were much addicted to the game.

"From England to France (where I have reason to believe Chess, le Axedrez de la Dame, as it was called, was known long before it crossed the Channel), is but a step. Alexander Nickham in his 'De Naturis Rerum' recounts a story about Louis the Sixth (King of France, 1008-37). It appears that Louis the Fat was fleeing from the field of battle after his defeat by Henry I., when a fearless knight pursued him, and, seizing his bridle, exclaimed, 'Hold! the King is my prisoner'; whereupon poor Louis, brandishing his sword in the air, cried, 'Flee, ignorant and insolent knave. In Chess, the King can not be taken,' and split his assailant in twain.

"Besides Louis, it is recorded, that many of the early French kings played the game.

"Alexius I. (Byzantine Emperor from 1001 to 1018) is reported to have played the game as a means of diverting his mind from the concerns of state. So at least says his daughter, the famous Anne Comnena, in her 'Alexiad' (1083).

There was John Huss, the famous Bohemian reformer, who confessed during his imprisonment in 1414, that it was his having played Chess in early life that made him so subject to irritable outbreaks.

One of the most justly celebrated rulers of the thirteenth century was Alfonso X. of Castile, surnamed 'The Wise,' who, first by his causing the Bible to be translated into Castilian, and second by his own great code and other works, did so much for the advancement of the Spanish language and literature. Yet he found time to play Chess, and, what is more, wrote a treatise on it.

Pope Paul II. (born 1468), who excommunicated Henry the Eighth of England, was quite a devotee, and played often with Paolo Boi, the famous Sicilian player, to whom, so the story runs, he once offered a cardinal's hat after having been brilliantly vanquished in the Vatican. But the Sicilian declined this honor. Among the other important personages who met Boi over the Chess board may be mentioned Sebastian, King of Portugal (1557-78), who was a good player and passionately fond of the game.

"It was Liebnitz (born 1046), the famous German philosopher and mathematician, who made that oft-quoted phrase, "Chess is too much of a game for a science, and too much of a science for a game," which unfortunately seems to remain the popular idea of Chess even in this day. John Oliver Hobbes says, 'Artistic Chess is beyond the petty restriction of a science,' and this rings much truer than Liebnitz's narrow dictum, which perhaps he had in mind when he wrote.

"A sincere enthusiast of the royal pastime was Sir William Jones (borne 1740), the first English scholar to master Sanscrit. As a result of his Oriental studies and long residence in India, he was enabled to throw much new light on the origin and early history of the game. Sir William was among the first to venture the since accepted theory that Hindustan is the cradle of chess. His fame as Orientalist and linguist is secure, but he will be remembered as a man remarkable in many respects. There is true poetry in his 'Caissa,' one of the most charming, as it was one of the earliest, of Chess poems.

"Among noted Englishmen of this same period who worshiped at Caissa's shrine, may be mentioned Erskine, Gibbon, Fox, Lord North, and the Duke of Argyll. Francis Bacon played Chess, so did also Walter Scott."

Mr. Pulitzer promises to give us more information along these lines.

PILLSBURY.

The editor of the American *Chess Magazine* is authority for the statement that H. M. Pillsbury has been engaged by him to make an exhibition tour of the American continent, during which the champion will stay in all places, big and little, where chess or checkers are played as far as the time mentioned in the contract, four months, will permit. The start was expected to be made early in December.

Pillsbury, when questioned recently concerning a possible match with Steinitz, said he did not anticipate an early meeting with the veteran, but that such a contest would be agreeable to him if it could be brought about on any reasonable terms. He states that he entertains the kindliest feelings toward the veteran and would let no formalities stand in the way, and incidentally calls attention to the fact that he has never appropriated the title of American champion.

Mr. Steinitz is reported as having said when Pillsbury's remarks were called to his attention that he did not wish to be understood as intending to challenge for a match, nor that he called Pillsbury's title to the American championship into question. If there was a match it would be without any challenges on either side, and brought about by the good offices of the interested parties. If ever he did issue another defi, it would be for nothing less than the world's championship, so long held by him until dethroned by Lasker.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, G. W. Conner, 16th December,—Shanghai via ports, 10th December, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Panton, 17th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 16th Dec., Mails & General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,265. W. H. Cope, 17th December,—Yokosuka, 17th Dec., Ballast.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, Inman Sealby, 18th Dec.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 1st Dec., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 18th December,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 17th Dec., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, D. S. Bailey, 18th Dec.,—Hongkong, 10th December, General.—Dodwell Carlill & Co.

Shiria, German steamer, ——, Hildebrandt, 18th Dec.,—Hamburg via ports, Hongkong, 10th Dec., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Lok Sang, British steamer, 979, W. G. G. Leask, 18th December,—Hongkong, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,103. R. Archibald, 19th December,—Vancouver, B.C., 5th Dec., Mails and General.—C. P. R Co.

Tsinan, British steamer, 1,460, Geo. Ramsay, 19th Dec.,—Australia via ports, Hongkong, 12th December, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Astoria, German steamer, 3,405. Hohn, 20th Dec.—Hamburg via ports, Singapore, 7th Dec. Dec., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Swatow, German steamer, 631. Jespersen, 20th Dec.,—Hongkong, Sugars.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Diomed British steamer, 3,005, Thos. Bartlett, 21st December,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 19th Dec., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Shantung, British steamer, 1,835. H. C. D. Brampton, 21st Dec.,—San Francisco, 23rd Dec., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Tai Sang, British steamer, 1,544, W. E. Sawer, 21st December,—Hongkong, Sugar and General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

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Energia, British steamer, 2,064, E. A. Chaplain, 21st Dec.,—New York via ports, and Vladivostock, 17th Dec, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, H. Pybus, 22nd Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 20th Dec., General.—C. P. R. Co.

Japan, British steamer, 2795. T. Leigh, 22nd Dec.,—London via ports, Hongkong, 16th Dec., Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,661, W. Smith, 22nd Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe 20th Dec., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 22nd December,—Uraga (Dock), 22nd Dec., Ballast.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Benglos, British steamer, 1,933, A. W. S. Thomson, 23rd Dec.,—London via ports, Kobe, 21st Dec., General.—Cornes & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Elphinstone, British steamer, 1,146, Abbott, 17th Dec.,—London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Panton, 17th December,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Heidelberg, German steamer, 2,145, Schuder, 18th Dec.,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, Inman Sealby, 19th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 20th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 20th December,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Lok Sang, British steamer, 979, W. G. G. Leask, 20th December,—Hakodate, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Salazie, French stermer, 2,089, Negre, 21st Dec.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Polyphemus, Dutch steamer, 1,747, Robinson, 21st December,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Mogul, British steamer, 2,354, D. S. Bailey, 22nd Dec.,—New York via ports and Suez Canal, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Siberia, German steamer, ——, Hildebrandt, 22nd Dec.,—Genoa, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Energia, British steamer, 2,064, E. A. Chaplain, 22nd December,—New York via ports, and Suez Canal, General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,678, H. Pybus, 22nd Dec.,—Vancover, B.C., via Honolulu and Victoria, B.C., General.—C. P. R. Co.

Bowhead, Argentine steam-whaler, 240, J. Cook, 22nd December,—Uraga (Dock), Ballast.—American Trading Co.

Shantung, British steamer, 1,835, H. C. D. Frampton, 22nd Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Shanghai, British steamer, 2,163, Bennett, 23rd December,—Kobe, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Martha, German steamer, 1,640, M. W. Kruzfeldt, 23rd Dec.,—Moji, Ballast.—Grosser & Co.

Tsinan, British steamer, 1,460, Geo. Ramsay, 23rd Dec.,—Australia and New Zealand via Kobe, and Hongkong, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. W. M. Rice, Bishop McKim, Madame Watanabe, Mr. I. Fijika, Lt.-Commander McCracken, Mrs. G. W. Bramhall, Mr. Geo. T. Marsh, Mr. A. S. Lee, Mr. W. C. Parsons, Mr. John Mobray, Mr. Frank C. Moore, Miss Elizabeth Himes, Mr. J. W. Himes, Mr. J. R. Stewart, Mrs. A. C. Anderson and two daughters, and Mr. A. C. Williams, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. J. M. Mucai, Mr. S. H. Matsubara, and Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Happer, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. Wm. H. Dalton & Mr. Chas. Du Bourdheen, Mr. Geo. Du Bourdbien, and Mr. Thos Woon, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Bishop Graves and family, Miss H. B. Richmond, Dr. Mary Glenton, Dr. F. A. Robinson, and Com. and Mrs. Geo. A. Rickuell, U.S.N., in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Rosenthal, Mrs. D. W. Warner, Miss I. N. Clayton, Mr. P. D. Carman, Miss Ollie O'Brien, Mrs. J. Stolsenberg, Lt.-Commander and Mrs. McCrackin and family, Lt. P. G. Wedlick, U.S.N., Mr. C. E. Hudde, Lt. T. M. Anderson, and Mrs. G. V. Glover, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from Hongkong via ports:—Miss A. Aoki, Capt. G. C. Sain, U.S.A., Mr. N. Rummemacher, Mr. R. C. Vogel, Mr. Hyde Bowie, Mr. Abenheim, Mr. A. J. McGlew, Mr. J. B. Gomes, Mr. J. Kobo, Dr. R. H. Hussey and servant, Mr. K. Van Gelden, Mr. T. F. Dredge, Miss M. M. Kuhns, Mrs. S. Rummacher, Mr. J. Barrett, Capt. Steele, U.S.A., Mrs. Abenheim, Mr. H. Levy, Rev. H. Loomis, Mr. F. N. Lapan and servant, and Mr. S. Hankin, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Serg. J. F. Rooney, U.S.A., Serg. G. L. Finch, U.S.A., Mr. J. Vaganay, Mr. E. G. Phillips, Miss A. Rood, Mr. W. G. Porter, U.S.A., Mr. R. Santos, Mr. J. Dias, Mr. D. Ibarrez, Mr. M. Torres, Mr. U. A. Lopez, Mr. S. L. Orr, Serg. B. Lambert, U.S.A., Serg. J. F. Wilson, U.S.A., Mr. A. B. Emaniel and servant, Mrs. E. G. Phillips, Mr. C. A. Liebig, U.S.A., Lieut. B. E. Calkins, U.S.V., Mr. P. Diaz, Mr. B. Fernandez, Mr. W. Garcia, Mr. U. Solis, and Mr. E. Tuck, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. E. Backhouse, Mr. Wm. Blanchard, Rev. T. Champness, Mr. T. K. Champness, Mrs. Haig, Mr. Heffer, Mrs. Heffer, Mr. A. Kennedy, Rev. Pedley, Mrs. Pedley and child, Mr. Granville Sharpe, Hon. Sydney Trench, Mr. J. S. Tanner, Miss Thompson, and Miss Hemmingway, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Tai Sang*, from Hongkong:—Lieut. Wheedon, and Mrs. Sawer, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Japan*, from London via ports:—Mr. J. Caserell, and Major A. R. R. Russell, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Tacoma*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Milner, and Mr. Runge, in cabin; 48 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. Vandrey Braddon, Mr. T. Vickers, Mr. A. H. Dare, Mr. H. Rayment, Count Wydenbruck, Mr. and Mrs. Houghton, Mrs. R. Belfield, Miss Belfield, Mrs. and Miss De Burgh Persse, Mr. H. W. Arthur, Mr. A. M. Hicks, Mr. J. Handelman, Mr. and Mrs. R. Abenheim, Dr. Kempte, and Mr. Arratoon, in cabin, 6 Chinese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Hongkong via ports:—Miss Rolton, Miss B. Dale, Dr. A. de Poltes, Mrs. W. P. Hazelton, Mr. S. P. Fenn, Mrs. S. P. Fenn, Mrs. G. C. Lauman, Miss R. Brevoort, Miss S. Williams, Miss. W. E. Perkins, Miss L. McComb, Miss Mills, Mr. C. H. Adams, Mr. C. L. Collins, Miss M. A. Hawley, Miss Hutton Potts, Col. C. L. Jewett, Mr. A. E. Blake, Mrs. R. L. Dibrell, Mr. S. Clark, Mrs. C. Thwaites, Masters Alan Smith and Maurice Walter, Miss S. E. Officer, Mrs. Del Castillo, Mons. H. G. del Castillo, Mr. A. J. McGlew, Mr. J. L. Birley, Mr. J. B. Gomes, and Mr. Mack Baggallay, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Doric*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Lieut.-Col. I. Altamira, Lieut. B. K. Calkins, U.S.A., Mr. P. Diaz, Mr. B. Diaz, Mr. J. Diaz, Mr. T. F. Dredge, Mr. A. H. Emanuel and servant, Sergeant G. L. Finch, U.S.A., Mr. B. Fernandez, Mr. W. Garcia, Mr. D. Ibarrez, Mr. U. S. Lopez, Mr. Chas. Laibig, U.S.A., Sergeant B. Lambert, U.S.A., Mr. and Mrs. Malcom McKenzie, Mr. S. L. Orr, Rev. and Mrs. E. G. Phillips, Mr. W. G. Porter, U.S.A., Miss A. Rood, Sergeant J. F. Rooney, U.S.A., Mr. R. Santos, Mr. J. S. Scott, Mr. U. Solis, Rev. and Mrs. I. F. Smith and 3 children, Mr. E. Tuck, Mr. M. Torres, Mr. J. Vaganay, and Sergeant J. F. Wilson, U.S.A., in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS

Prices are rising in England and trade here is not very brisk, buyers and holders alike awaiting developments before moving seriously. A few small sales of grey shirtings have taken place, but the future does not look bright. In fancy cottons and woollens business is, if anything, a little brisker than it was a week ago.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds, 39 inches	$2 55 to 2.85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds, 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 21 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches	1.60 to 2.30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	2 00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	per yard. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.28 to 0.40
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 21 yards, 31 inches	0.13½ to 0.28½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Dockets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per lb	0.35 to 0.47½

	per piece.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.60 to 1.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2 20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.42½

COTTON YARNS.

	per piece.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 36/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	44.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2 60, Plain	64.00 to 65.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	76.00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2 80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	111.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	per picul.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.25 —
Chinese	16.25 —

METALS.

Business has been limited to a few sales in iron bars and tin plates. The market is quiet.

	per picul.
Round and square ¼ inch. and upward	4.00 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.65
Sheet Iron	5.00 to 5.20
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.25 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	6.05 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.20 to 6.50
Pig Iron, No. 1	2.08 to 2 10
Hoop Iron (¼ to ½ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The market is dull at unchanged prices.

American	$2.18 to 2.20
Russian	2.15 2.17
Langkat	1.95

SUGAR.

Prices for some kinds of new China sugars are 50 *sen* higher. Manilas are unaltered, and the market for white refined is steady.

	per picul.
Brown Takao	$5.20 to 5.25
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.60
Brown Daitong	4.20 to 4.25
Brown Canton	3.90 to 5 60
White Java and Penang	6.80 to 7.00
White Refined	7.95 to 9.85

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Only a moderate foreign business has been done, and prices have weakened slightly. Large purchases, however, have been made by one of the chief Japanese houses. The total settlements since July 1st have been 31,449 piculs, against 39,420 last year. The present stock is 12,096 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den	$930 to 940
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/13 deniers	870 to 880
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	850 to 860
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	870 to 880
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den	870 to 880
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	850 to 860
Re-reels—No. 2½, 14/18 deniers	830 to 840
Re-reels—No. 3, 17/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	860 to 870
Kakedas—No. 1	830 840
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	800 to 810
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is quite unactive and quotations are only nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	67½ to 70
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Bushu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi—Joshu, Good	55 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	50 to 55
Kibiso—Filature, Best	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	75 to 80
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

The stock consists of 3,500 piculs, chiefly inferior grades. Very little business has been done.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal.
Choice	Nominal.
Finest	$29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

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EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, December 22nd.

Rates opened at an advance of $\frac{1}{16}$ all round for sterling, francs, and gold. Silver from London came $\frac{1}{16}$ lower, and has caused rates on China to rule firmer at previous quotations.

Sterling —Bank T.T.	2/0⅜
— — Bills on demand	2/0 7/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 7/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 7/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 9/16
On Paris—Bank sight	256¼ to 7
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	261¼
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49⅜
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅝
On Germany—Bank sight	2.07½
— Private 4 months' sight	2.12½
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4⅛ to 5% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	73½
— Private 10 days' sight	75½
On India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	155
Bar Silver (London)	27⅜

[Messrs. Bisset & Usa's List.]

Yokohama, December 22nd.

The following quotations rule the market in Tokyo to-day:—Serei Kosai 5 per cent. Bonds *yen* 93.50, Ganji Kosai 5 per cent. Bonds *yen* 93.50, Tokyo City 6 per cent. Debentures *yen* 95, Osaka City 6 per cent. Debentures *yen* 94.80, Kyoto City 6 per cent. Debentures *yen* 94.50, Hokuyetsu Railway 10 per cent. Debentures *yen* 97, and Boso Railway 10 per cent. Debentures *yen* 95.

Iron Works are wanted at *yen* 225. Japan Brewery old shares can be had at *yen* 325 and new shares at *yen* 125. Grand Hotels are wanted at *yen* 225. Club Hotels are offering at *yen* 105. Offers of Oriental Hotel Ordinary shares are wanted. Founders' shares can be had at a trifle under the quoted rate. Nagasaki Hotels are offering at *yen* 60. Bretts are wanted at *yen* 9, whilst holders offer shares at *yen* 9.50. North & Raes are enquired for at *yen* 200. Langfeldts are obtainable at *yen* 235. Japan Brewery Debentures at *yen* 108 and Oriental Hotel Debentures at *yen* 110 ex accrued interest in both cases.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50	225 B.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld., $100, Old	325 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. *yen* 50 (*yen* 30 paid up)	125 S.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100	225 B.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100	105 S.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100	110 Sa. & B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Pfrd.), $25	450 S.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., *yen* 100	60 S.
North and Rae, Ld., $100	200 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $10	9.50 S.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100	235 S.
Hugo Gee Co., Ld., $100	120 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	108 S.
Kobe Club 6% Deb., $50	50 B.
Yokohama United Club 8% Deb., $100	100 B.
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	100 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100	110 S.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100	100 N.

Reserve Fund.—1. *yen* 110,000; 2. *yen* 3,700 equalization of dividends and *yen* 30,000 fluctuation of property; 3. *yen* 17,770.891 4. *yen* 16,298.44.

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady, N.=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries.

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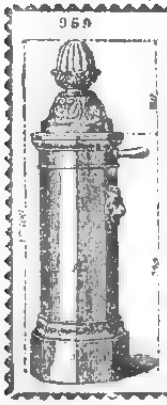

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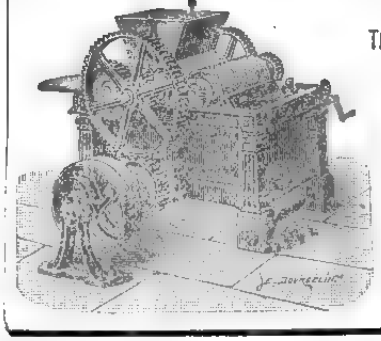

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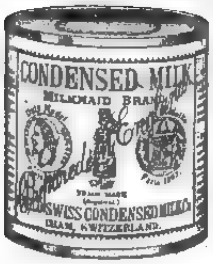

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 27.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, DECEMBER 31ST, 1898. 明治三十一年十二月三十一日 Vol. XXX.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, DEC. 31ST, 1898.

BIRTH.

On the 27th December, at No. 57-A, Bluff, the wife of G. ABILY of a Son.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

WE extend to our readers best wishes for a

Happy and Prosperous New Year.

THE Admirals have finally left Crete.

THE Budget has passed the Lower House.

THE Diet has risen for the New Year holidays.

CHRISTMAS Day was delightfully fine in Yokohama, bright, windless, yet frosty. The Church services were largely attended and greatly enjoyed.

RICE is falling in price all over the empire, but trade is very dull.

THE plague is increasing in Formosa and at Tamatave, Madagascar.

RECENTLY the Mitsui Bank decided to increase its capital to *yen* five millions.

BRO. E. C. FOX has been installed W. M. of the "Star in the East" Lodge, No. 640,

ALTOGETHER 108 deaths from plague have occurred at Tamatave, including one European.

WE chronicle this week the death of the Rev. C. E. Garst, which took place in Tokyo on Wednesday.

THE French Senate has adopted a Bill prescribing the death penalty in the case of officials found guilty of treason in times of peace.

SENOR SAGASTA, Premier of Spain, is suffering from pulmonary catarrh, and his condition is causing anxiety. Spanish stocks are falling.

ACCORDING to a telegram received by the *North China Daily News*, Russia has agreed to the opening of Port Arthur and Talienwan to trade.

THE Tokyo Fire Insurance Company at its general meeting on the 14th or 15th proximo, will declare a dividend of 12 or 13 per cent. per annum.

ILOILO has been surrendered by the Spaniards. At present the Philippines are in possession, but it is expected that American troops will eventually occupy the place.

MR. SUZUKI SHOTO, a prominent poet, died on the 24th inst. He has been suffering since the autumn of last year and was staying at Naka, Awa Province, for his health.

MR. HOSHI, the ex-Minister to Washington, and leader of the Liberal Party, left Tokyo on the 27th for Atami. It is expected he will stay there through the New Year recess.

A THIEF entered the office of the Meiji Coal Mining Company in Fukuoka Prefecture, on the 28th inst, and stole *yen* 13,000 from a small safe and *yen* 1,181.50 from a larger one.

VISCOUNT KATSURA, Minister for War, on the 20th entertained the military *attachés* of the Spanish Legation and the Brazilian Legation, who are leaving for their respective homes.

THE President of the British Chamber of Commerce at Paris, speaking at a dinner, was able to state that the Queen's visit to Nice had been decided on, proving the existence of better diplomatic relations.

H.I.H. THE CROWN PRINCE proceeded to the Palace on the 23rd at 10 A.M., and had an audience of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. On the 25th he left for the detached palace at Numazu

ON Friday at 9.30 A.M., two trains collided at Koyama station, Tochigi Prefecture, and eight passengers received slight injuries. Both engines were seriously damaged. The cause is said to be the negligence of the pointsman.

DURING last month, 2,919 catties of raw silk were exported to the United States and 3,293 to Europe. Of this quantity, 775 catties were shipped by the Co-operative Silk Association, 243 by the Doshin Kaisha, and 34 by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha: the rest was exported by foreign firms.

LIEUT. MANABE, of the 4th Army Division, attempted suicide on the 21st inst. by cutting his throat with a sword. He has been suffering from consumption since February and despaired of ever getting better.

THE Government has introduced a Bill regarding a credit of *yen* 1,800,000 to the Korean Government, the amount being defrayed from the Indemnity. It is said that the money is to be used in the construction of the railway between Söul and Jinsen.

LORD IVEAGH has given a quarter of a million pounds to the Jenner Institute to enable it to extend researches in bacteriology. He also proposes to expend another quarter of a million in improving the insanitary areas in the centre of Dublin.

IT is reported that the business of the Osaka Stock Exchange has been rather worse in the last half-year than in the first six months. A dividend will be declared at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum. Last year the dividend was 26 per cent.

THE Sailors' Union, at a meeting at the Osaka Hotel, decided to protest against the Bill regarding tonnage duties which has been introduced into the Diet. They urge that the measure is much too harsh and will almost stop their business.

SIR Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador at Washington, has been instructed to negotiate with America for the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, preparatory to the conclusion of the treaty guaranteeing the neutrality of the Nicaragua Canal.

A ROBBER entered a house occupied by a woman named Mori Chiyo, in Yocho-machi, Ushigome, Tokyo, on the 21st about 3 A.M. and menacing the occupants with a knife stole a sum of *yen* 7. He was dressed as a student, and looked about 27 years of age.

ON the 23rd Count Itagaki held a tea party at the Imperial Hotel, and entertained wealthy merchants of Tokyo, Liberal and National Unionist members, and some members of the Independent Club who assisted in passing the Land Tax Bill

ON the 20th inst. at midnight fire broke out at the famous Buddhist Temple Jodo-in, Nikko. The flames, fanned by strong winds, got complete hold of the building, but were prevented from spreading to the neighbouring temple. Many valuable treasures were destroyed.

DISPUTES have arisen between the directors and the shareholders of the Furniture Insurance Company, Tokyo, and on the 20th Mr. Mizutani, Judge of the District Court, proceeded to the office of the Company, accompanied by Mr. Hasegawa, the Secretary, to examine the properties. He finally impounded the business books.

THE Japanese Consul at Lyons telegraphs :— On the 23rd inst. a Bill imposing a duty of 9 francs per kilogram on silk (*habutai* excepted), passed the Chamber this week. *Habutai* are to be allowed entry duty free at present. The original rate of duty on *habutai* was francs 2 to 6 per kilogram.

AN auxiliary Treaty between Japan and Germany regarding several articles that will come under the new tariff law was approved by the Privy Council on the 26th inst, and the same afternoon, at 3.30 o'clock, it was ratified by the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs and the German Representative.

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THE BANK OF JAPAN.

The tax which the Government proposes to levy on the Bank of Japan is exciting a good deal of discussion, and some of the figures quoted with reference to the subject would be interesting were it possible to be sure of their accuracy. But whatever may be the trustworthiness of Japanese calculators when they have an abacus in their hands, their method of notification is so defective that mistakes perpetually creep into their printed statements. As to the Bank, its untaxed note issues covered by securities—not specie—are at present limited to 85 million *yen*. But of that total it has to set aside 22 millions for the use of the Treasury, and to lend 5,900,000 without interest to the National Banks, so that 57 millions only remain available for its general business. Moreover, it is required to lend 10 millions to the Specie Bank at 2 per cent., and, of course, it can not keep its issues up to their full limit; the average is some eight millions less than the legal maximum. Taking all these things into account, it will be seen that the Bank receives 200,000 *yen* annually on its loan to the Specie Bank, and that it lends about 40 millions to its general *clientèle* at an average net gain of about 6 per cent. Hence its total net earnings upon its note issues aggregate 2,600,000 *yen*. On the other hand, it has the following special outlays :—

	Yen.
Expenses of transacting the Treasury's business	800,000
Cost of manufacturing convertible notes	200,000
Loss on 42 millions of 5 per-cent. Bonds which it is obliged to keep in its vaults (taking the loss at 3 per cent.)	1,260,000
Total	2,260,000

These figures show a net gain of only 340,000 *yen* annually, or about 1.13 per cent. on the paid-up capital of 30 million *yen*. If, now, the limit of the Bank's note-issues be raised to 120 millions, which would mean 93 millions available for general purposes instead of 58 millions; and if 80 millions are actually used at a net gain of 6 per cent., an addition of 1,800,000 *yen* must be made to the above total of profits, and from that addition we must subtract 1,237,000 *yen*, which the Government proposes to take as tax. Hence, finally the Bank, after paying the tax, will still find that its net income has been swelled by 563,000 *yen* in consequence of its increased note-issuing power, and its dividends should show an improvement of 1.87 per cent. We fail to see how any other conclusion can be formed, though some of our vernacular contemporaries seem to think that the Bank will suffer a great hardship under the proposed scheme of taxation. The plain fact, as we stated at the outset, is that the Bank receives an additional capital of 35 million *yen* at 3.54 per cent. approximately, and if the leading bank in Japan counts that a hardship, it must be in a very exceptional condition.

THE CABINET.

The *Asahi* talks confidently of Cabinet changes having for their object the organization of a coalition ministry. Our contemporary does not imply that the Liberals are pressing for anything of the kind, but it regards such a result as the natural outcome of the situation, and says that the nation would be glad to see it, as giving promise of a stable Cabinet.

A DIRTY HANDED POLITICIAN.

A story is going the round of the vernacular newspapers about Mr. Koyama Kiunosuke, a member of the House of Representatives. Mr. Koyama was the gentleman who recently accused a fellow-member of having been bribed, and received a slap in the face by way of reply, the result being a flare-up in one of the corridors of the House. He is a disciple of Mr. Nakai Tokusuke, who also had a seat in the House in former years, and who went by the name of the Rousseau of Japan. Mr. Nakai, according to common report, obtained his seat by the assistance of the Yeta of Osaka, and not infrequently came down to the House in such a condition that sleep rather than legislation occupied his attention. He had a fine free fancy, and a charmingly frank habit of openly acknowledging incidents which most men would prefer to bury fathoms deep. Mr. Koyama was a member of the Progressist Party quite recently. The story is that he received four thousand *ren*—two thousand in ready money and two thousand in securities—to desert his Party, and presumably to vote for the Land-Tax Bill. He took the money, and then sent in his resignation from the Progressist Party, saying that he was really too poor to neglect such a wind-fall, but that he hoped to return to his allegiance by-and-by. Thereafter he calmly proceeded to the House and voted against the Land-Tax Bill, explaining that he had been paid to leave the ranks of the Progressists, but that there had not been any stipulation about the Land Bill! The newspapers call him a worthy disciple of Nakai Tokusuke.

The *Yorozu Choho* alleges that it has interviewed Mr. Koyama, and gives his verbatim account of the bribery incident. "If I hadn't taken the money," he is represented as saying, "some other rotten fellow (*fuhai-kan*) would have got it. Besides, if there were plenty of men like me, bribery would be out of the question. It wouldn't pay to give big sums to fellows who fobbed the coin and didn't rat after all. The fool for his pains in this case is Oyamada Shinzo" (one of the Highest-tax-payers members of the House of Peers). "He invited me to a tea-house on the evening of the 19th and gave me the money. There were other rotten fellows there and I told them to take what they could get and do nothing for it. Oyamada wanted to force me to return the coin because I voted the wrong way, but I soon made him change his tune. I heard that the Government had half of the interest on the Emperor's 20 million *yen* to spend on buying members. Why shouldn't I get some of the money?" The papers suggest that Koyama should be ostracized. Turned out of the House and criminally prosecuted would be nearer the mark. But what is the man? A lunatic, or a liar with a political purpose?

Mr. Koyama continues to make extraordinary revelations to the *Yorozu Choho*, which, while publishing them, speaks of him in the most contemptuous terms. It introduces its account of the last interview by saying that Koyama came to the office of the newspaper, and warmed his dirty person at the stove while he ventilated his dirty opinions. It would seem that the *Yorozu* does not believe this wonderful receiver of bribes. Neither do we, for the matter of that. We are especially sceptical when Koyama alleges that he gave the whole of the money to needy politicians and *Soshi*. He announces that he thinks of organizing an association of *Soshi*; congenial work, we should think. But after all, the man is a member of the House of Representatives. Either he is a conscienceless liar or some very corrupt practices have been going on. How does it happen that no one takes up the matter? Is the House of Representatives content to have such a man occupying a place among the country's legislators?

DEFECTIVE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

It is well to invite the attention of the Authorities to a letter which appears in our correspondence column, describing the case of a man who was the victim of an apparently serious injustice. We use the qualifier "apparently" because our correspondent's statement of the facts is not sufficient to form the basis of a hard-and-fast conclusion. A man is arrested on a charge of fraud and forgery; he is kept in prison for a year and a half before his final trial; bail is three times applied for and three times refused, and at length the man is acquitted. That is an ugly story as it stands. But we can not be sure by any means that the Judge was wrong in refusing bail. The custom in Japan is to refuse bail when there is legitimate ground for apprehension that by setting the accused person at liberty he will be in a position to destroy or efface the proofs of his guilt. Such an apprehension was probably entertained in the case referred to. At any rate, we are not justified in assuming that the refusal to grant bail was an abuse of authority or a disregard of justice unless we can found our assumption on the facts as they presented themselves to the Judge. In short, incidents of this character require very careful investigation before any final inference can be drawn from them. But we can not forget that this case is by no means singular. Complaints of a like nature have been made on various occasions during recent years, and their aggregate effect is to create a conviction that criminal procedure in Japan has a very serious defect. The framers of the Code are understood to have believed that by providing bail, and by enacting that not more than 48 hours must elapse between the arrest of a suspected person and his examination before a magistrate, abuses of the kind under consideration would be avoided. But their confidence has not been justified by experience, as they themselves have acknowledged, and it is said that the amended Criminal Code, which will be submitted to the Diet this session, corrects the defects of the Code now in operation. It is well, however, that cases like these described by the Rev. A. F. King should be made known in order that public opinion may not become apathetic.

BOARD OF AUDIT.

Mr. Yamada Nobumichi, formerly Governor of Fukushima Prefecture, has been appointed President of the Board of Audit in succession to Viscount Watanabe Kunitake, whose resignation was accepted a few days ago.

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PRINCE IWAKURA.

Several vernacular journals have denied that Prince Iwakura's resignation of his post in the Imperial Household Department is connected in any way with politics, but the *Fiji Shimpo* writes very positively and explicitly on the subject. It says that when Viscount Hijikata was Minister of the Household, he interested himself directly in Cabinet changes, carrying messages from the Sovereign to the Ministers, and assisting generally to adjust crises. Prince Iwakura cooperated with him in that procedure. But when the present Minister of the Household, Viscount Tanaka, came into office, he advocated a policy of complete "aloofness," and would have had Prince Iwakura take the same course. The Prince, however, did not agree. He considered that the old method was more loyal and helpful, and at the time of the fall of the Okuma Cabinet, he acted freely on his convictions. Viscount Tanaka showed some dissatisfaction, and Prince Iwakura at once resigned, persisting in his resignation despite the Viscount's efforts to dissuade him. That, in brief, is the *Fiji's* version. We should have supposed that the decision of such a point rested with the Emperor. If His Majesty's desires to have messages carried, the Chamberlains have no choice, surely?

LOCOMOTIVES.

The Imperial Railway Bureau recently invited tenders for twenty locomotives of English manufacture, to be delivered in lots of five. The tenders were opened on the 22nd instant, and were found to be as follows:—

	£
Messrs. Takata and Company, for 5 locomotives	14,380
Messrs. Kondo and Company (on behalf of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company), for 5 locomotives	13,700
Messrs. Mitsui and Company, for 5 locomotives	13,796
Messrs. Yamada and Company (on behalf of Messrs. Illies and Company), for 5 locomotives	14,000
Messrs. Isono and Company, for 5 locomotives	14,519
Messrs. Okura and Company, for 5 locomotives	13,025

Messrs. Okura & Company's tender being thus £675 cheaper for 5 locomotives, and £2,700 cheaper for 20, than the next lowest offer, was accepted. It is remarkable that this Firm has been successful in securing the Bureau's orders for the whole 74 English-made locomotives hitherto put up for public tender by the Government Railway Authorities. The fact certainly constitutes a strong tribute to the enterprise of the Firm and to the excellence of its business arrangements. Messrs. Okura & Company, in common with the Mitsui and certain other great houses, are among the *Goyō Shōnin*, or Government merchants, to whom some of the members of the House of Representatives and some of the party newspaper organs have been accustomed to allude in very offensive terms, as having enjoyed a suspicious excess of official patronage in the days when the system of public tender did not exist. It appears, however, that the Government's choice of agents was judicious, for if Messrs. Okura and Company's organization is such that in open competition they can win the race so frequently, we may reasonably infer that their manner of transacting business has always been efficient and economical.

MR. JOHN BARRETT ON THE PHILIPPINES.

Mr. J. Barrett, recently Representative of the United States in Siam, made some interesting statements about the Philippines in an address delivered, a few days ago, to the students of the Semmon Gakko at Waseda. He said that virtually the whole of the island of Luzon is under the control of Aguinaldo and the Philippinos. The United States' troops hold Manila and its immediate vicinity down to Cavite, but Aguinaldo governs the rest of the island with its six millions of inhabitants. He has his duly organised administration, his cabinet, his portfolio-holders, his courts of law, his police, his local authorities, and his army of thirty thousand men. All these troops are not actually with the colours, but the entire force can be called out without delay, and all are provided with modern arms of precision. It is not exactly clear what attitude Aguinaldo intends to assume towards the United States. The organization at the head of which he stands was originally designed to resist the Spaniards in the event of America's restoring to them the sovereignty of the Philippines, but is not necessarily intended to assert the independence of the islanders whatever Power raises its flag at Manila. Some of Aguinaldo's lieutenants have employed language indicating an emphatic resolve to resist any and every foreign yoke, but Aguinaldo himself has preserved a discreet silence. Nevertheless it is plain that any attempt to break up his government and reduce his followers at once to a state of obedience would involve a protracted and costly military effort and must cause immense bloodshed. In fact, considering the nature of the country, the quality of Aguinaldo's troops—for although they can not be called skilled manœuverers or fine marksmen, they are sufficiently well drilled for concerted movements and sufficiently instructed in the handling of a rifle to be decidedly dangerous *en masse*—, and the difficulties of the climate, it is plain that a campaign against the new republic would demand the full energies of an army of twenty thousand men for a year, or even longer, and would be a much tougher job than anything that had to be undertaken in Cuba. But there is no occasion to drive Aguinaldo to extremities. Patience and tactful management can gradually establish American control throughout the island without any fighting or bloodshed. As for the resources of the Philippines, they are unquestionable. All the foreign merchants in Manila concur on that point, and are persuaded that the failure to develop the islands' capabilities in the past have been due solely to a defective form of government and to want of enterprise and capital among the people. America is temporarily obliged to employ a military administration at Manila, but she will soon exchange it for the system pursued by England in her colonies. There has been some talk about the debt of the Philippines and whether America should take it over, but the truth is that no such thing as a Philippines' debt exists in the ordinary acceptation of the term. Money is owed on account of the Philippines, but Spain herself is the debtor, and no source of local revenue has been hypothecated to the creditors. Mr. Barrett is strongly in favour of America's taking possession of all the Spanish islands in that quarter of the globe. He thinks that if Germany obtains the Carolines, she will soon be found in possession of a strongly fortified naval station which will most inconveniently affect the character of the American occupation of the Philippines.

THE RAILWAY PROJECT.

The latest shape which the project for the State purchase of private railways has taken, according to newspaper reports, is that nine lines—not four only as hitherto stated—are included in the scheme; that the shareholders are to receive five-per-cent. bonds, unredeemable for 25 years, and that the total amount of the bonds will be about 200 million *yen*. The military authorities are, of course, desirous of seeing the programme carried out. They have thoroughly investigated the German system, and they find it the best organized in the world for purposes of national defence, as it probably is. But among the civilian promoters there are doubtless not a few whose ruling motive is speculation, and the fact that such men are agitating in favour of the proposal is quoted by some newspapers as a strong argument against it. We can not sympathise with that view. Every great financial undertaking must offer some opportunity to speculators. The motive of this project, as we understand it, is to release the capital which has been fixed in railways. Considering that we have all been hitherto agreed with regard to the unwisdom of Japan's attempting to construct her railways with money so expensive as that obtained in her own markets, there should be no hesitation now about endorsing her wisdom in recovering the dear money thus expended and replacing it by cheaper. Such is plainly the intention of the Liberals in framing the proposal, for bonds secured by the Government and having a period of 25 years to run before redemption, would doubtless sell well in foreign markets, if not immediately, then surely at some future date. One question, however, has to be answered—is Japan in immediate need of floating capital? Most people would be inclined to answer in the affirmative without hesitation nor should we venture to contradict them. But, on the other hand, if any attempt is made to purchase bonds on a large scale in Japan, the buyer immediately finds the market rise against him. A banker told us recently that he wanted to make an investment in War Bonds or Consols, which were then quoted at 93. After he had operated to the extent of 2,000 *yen*, the price rose to 94. There can not be much desire to sell if a paltry transaction of that nature hardens the market so appreciably. Indeed, Japanese financiers say that the purchases commenced by the Bank of Japan last spring, under the Government's directions, and continued until October—purchases aggregating 40 million *yen*—, exhausted sellers, and that the remaining bond-holders are not at all anxious to realize. Of course that does not prove that if the money now sunk in railways were recovered, it might not find profitable employment in other enterprises. But it does seem to prove that there is no very keen demand for floating capital.

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MR. SHIMADA'S EXPLANATION.

Mr. Shimada Saburo publishes a very full explanation of the circumstances that drove him to sever his connexion with the Progressist Party after 17 years of association, but we shall not attempt to reproduce, or even to epitomise, his statements, inasmuch as the consistent attitude which he has long maintained with regard to the Land Tax amply accounts for the step he has now taken. But there are some interesting points in his *apologia*. He assigns the State's increased expenditures to the operation of three factors, growth of public business, appreciation of commodities, and expansion of armaments. The two first factors are inevitable but the last admits of adjustment, and it was Mr. Shimada's contention that the only logical method of procedure was to discuss the expenditures as a preliminary measure, and having reduced them to their lowest figure, to pass then to the question of revenue, and vote whatever additional taxation might seem necessary. That very rational view was shared by Mr. Taguchi Ukichi and the members of the Hiyoshi Club—a small body of politicians—until the very evening before the eventful day when the Land Tax Bill came up for discussion; but, at the eleventh hour, they abandoned their intention of introducing an urgency motion on the subject, in deference to an engagement on the part of the Liberals that every effort would be made to cut down the expenditures, and in consideration of the prospect that the loss of revenue resulting from the reduction of the originally proposed rate of Land Tax —from 4 to 3.3 per cent.—would furnish a lever for compelling the Government to reduce the programme of military expansion. We learn from this statement how narrow and uncertain was the majority that carried the Land Tax Bill. If Messrs. Shimada, Taguchi and their comrades of the Hiyoshi Club—6 in number, we believe—had adhered to their purpose of refusing to discuss the Land Tax Bill until the estimates of expenditure had been passed, the majority in favour of the Bill would have been reduced from 27 to 11.

Unpleasant experiences are generally connected with the operation of seceding from one's political party. We judge from the articles which Mr. Shimada Saburo publishes in the *Mainichi Shimbun* that he is having such experiences. The small dogs of the press are snapping and snarling at him, and his name is on the lips of many folks who would rather see him notorious than famous. He adopts a a fine bold tone in replying to them, but we need not quote his arguments, for our readers must be already quite familiar with the motives that influenced him. In his last article, however, he makes a point which is interesting for its own sake, though it scarcely finds a fitting place in the context of a dignified *apologia*. He asks what degree of sincerity can be attributed to some of the Progressist leaders when they have among him a man like Mr. Shiraoka. It appears that Mr. Shiraoka acted as chairman at the great Maple Club meeting of the Anti-Land-Tax-Increase Union the other day. But the same Mr. Shiraoka voted in favour of Count Inouye's Bill for increasing the Land Tax a few months ago. In fact, he was among the forlorn band of 27 who cast white ballots when the Bill came up for final decision after all chance had been lost of tacking to it a measure for re-assessing the taxable value of the land. Mr. Shiraoka, therefore, appears to be capable of taking very sharp turns.

THE PROGRESSISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

It is alleged that the Progressists have either handed to the President of the Lower House, or intend to hand to him, a motion of want of confidence in the Cabinet. Their reason is that the Government originally asked for an increase of the Land Tax from 2½ to 4 per cent. in perpetuity, declaring the change to be essential for placing the finances on a sound footing, but subsequently agreed to an increase of only 3.3 per cent. for a limited period of 5 years. A Cabinet whose policy is subject to such violent fluctuations does not command public trust and is evidently unfit to manage the country's finances.

The tactics of the Progressists with reference to this motion are variously stated. Some say that the document has been openly handed in over the signatures of Dr. Hatoyama and 24 fellow-members, and that it has 134 supporters. Others allege that it is held back, the intention of its signatories being to try and have it passed by a snap vote when the Liberals are off their guard. Others, again, report that it was withdrawn shortly after being sent to the President of the House. We do not believe for an instant that Dr. Hatoyama would be a party to the surreptitious procedure indicated in the second of these accounts.

FIGHT BETWEEN RUSSIAN AND JAPANESE MARINES AT NAGASAKI.

Vernacular newspapers report that, on the 18th instant, a fracas occurred at Fuchi-Inasa, Nagasaki, between some Russian marines and two or three Japanese belonging to the Torpedo Detachment. About 40 Russians landed on that day and partook freely of spirituous liquors. Half-a-dozen of them, making their way towards the shore and finding the road too small, collided with a Japanese, Ishida Sadakichi, who thereupon expressed a stormy opinion of their doings, and had to beat a precipitate retreat. Ishida procured the assistance of two or three comrades, and these, having armed themselves with gymnasium poles, went in search of the Russians. The police interfered in good time, but we learn from the *Yomiuri* that one of the Russians "accidentally wounded his own face."

QUICK-FIRERS FOR JAPANESE ARTILLERY.

According to the *Fiji Shimpo*, the military authorities have decided to arm the Artillery, both field and mountain, with quick-firing guns after a design evolved by Colonel Arisaka. A trial of various weapons was made last spring on the Shimoshizu plains, and the cannon of the Japanese expert was considered the best. It fires 7 or 8 rounds a minute against one round fired with the weapons now in use, so that the power of the artillery will be greatly augmented. The guns are to be manufactured abroad.

COTTON SPINNING.

The current year has been a bad time for the cotton-spinning industry in the Far East. The Ewo Cotton Mill of Shanghai, from October 1897 to October 1898, actually made a considerable loss, which, however, it would be misleading to state in figures, part of it being due to causes not connected with the working of the factory. Mr. Alford, of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Company, spoke at considerable length when presenting the unfavorable report to the shareholders on the 21st instant. He attributed the trouble mainly to the abnormal price that the Company had to pay for raw material. But he offered no explanation of the fact, nor can we derive any information from his somewhat vague suggestion that "experience of the local market for the raw material had not proved valueless" for purposes of future working. Our readers may remember that from the outset we expressed doubts as to the prospects of the cotton-spinning industry in Shanghai, our forecast being that if the Chinese Authorities did not tax the finished product of the mills, they would tax the raw material on its way to the mills. Whether the latter measure has been adopted we do not know, but it is certainly very disheartening to learn that one of the chief advantages foreseen by the promoters of the industry—namely, an abundant supply of cheap material at their doors—has thus far proved illusory. Mr. Alford did not say anything about cost of labour, yet we have been informed by persons whose knowledge of Shanghai affairs should be unimpeachable that the Chinese in Shanghai have combined to demand large figures, and, further, that it has been found impossible to employ female labour, the small-footed woman being unable to move about with sufficient rapidity. One of Mr. Alford's remarks was that the tendency of the market had been to favour India and Japan during the year. The Japanese would scarcely endorse that dictum. The *Shogyo Shimpo* gives figures showing the average dividends paid by the Japanese spinning companies during the past six years:—

	First half-year.		Second half year.	
1892 ...	11.16	per cent.	14 60	per cent.
1893 ...	11.10	,,	13 00	,,
1894 ...	12 40	,,	7 00	,,
1895 ...	9 40	,,	1 90	,,
1896 ...	9 40	,,	9 20	,,
1897 ...	9 40	,,	4 80	,,
1898 ...	5 90	,,	—	

Thus the figure for the first half of the present year is 37 per cent. less than the lowest corresponding figure in any preceding year. The Tokyo journal, while lamenting such an infelicitous result in the case of an industry whose products have come to stand second on the list of Japan's exports, seems to find no better reason than that, owing to the unwarrantably large dividends which were paid at the outset in order to encourage shareholders, capital was unduly attracted to the enterprise—over-production, in short. That may be true to some extent, but we have heard another reason assigned by experts, namely, that the Japanese mills have hitherto been obliged to lay in large stocks of raw material instead of buying just enough to meet the requirements of the time, and that the cost of the capital thus invested has greatly crippled their operations. That theory accords with Count Inouye's project for supplying them with cheap working capital.

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THE UNITED STATES IN THE FAR EAST.

We find the following in an American journal :—

A Washington special to the *Herald* says: Territorial possessions can be held by the United States and can be treated as foreign territory as far as the revenue laws of the country are concerned.

This in effect is the position taken by Attorney General Griggs in an opinion which he rendered in regard to the question of enforcement of the United States navigation laws in Hawaii. This opinion is of particular importance at this time on account of the important bearing it has upon the proposition to carry out the "open door" policy in dealing with the new insular possessions in the Orient. In this opinion the Attorney General said:

"The resolution of Congress with the corresponding action of the republic of the United States operated for international purposes to make those islands part of the territory of the United States. But when territory is acquired by treaty or conquest or otherwise its relations to the nation acquiring it depend upon the laws of that nation unless controlled by the instrument of cession. It may for certain purposes remain foreign territory temporarily or permanently, and is not presumed to be at once put upon the same footing as all other, but rather the contrary. When therefore Florida had been ceded and fully transferred to the United States, its ports were regarded as foreign within the meaning of our revenue laws."

The Attorney General also indicates that the position of the administration in adopting the "open door" policy would be much strengthened if it should be provided for in the treaty of peace, as he says in his opinion that when territory is acquired its relations to the nation acquiring it depend upon the laws of that nation unless controlled by the instrument of cession.

This question is of considerable moment to all nations having tradal interests in the Pacific. If the United States applies its tariff and navigation laws to its newly acquired territories, Hawaii and the Philippines, their prosperity must suffer severely. The theory of protection has no application to such cases. Neither the Philippines nor Hawaii has any industries that need be guaranteed against foreign competition, and the effect of imposing heavy import dues would be merely to oblige the inhabitants to pay high prices for commodities of daily use. A tariff for revenue purposes may, perhaps, be found necessary, but it should be as low as possible and should not discriminate in favour of any particular country's goods. One consequence of making the navigation laws operative in Hawaii would be that the steamers of the newly established Japanese Company, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, which is working in cöoperation with the Pacific Mail and Occidental and Oriental Companies, must give up calling there *en route* for San Francisco, and the same difficulty would exist in the case of the O. & O. vessels, unless they were transferred to the American flag. Hawaii, of course, would be the chief sufferer by such restrictions.

EXPORT DUTIES.

It is stated that the Government has resolved to introduce a Bill for abolishing all customs duties on exports from the 1st of April next, that is to say, the beginning of next fiscal year. The resolve to abolish these duties has long been entertained, but differences of opinion have been entertained as to the time for taking the step, and rumour says that only lately was a decision arrived at. We do not vouch for the truth of the report.

THE MAYOR OF TOKYO.

The career of the first popularly elected mayor of Tokyo, Mr. Matsuda, threatens to be stormy. The Business Men's Association has decided that he should be required to resign, and has appointed a committee to exert the necessary pressure. Mr. Matsuda's offence, so far as we can discover, is that in his capacity of a Progressist member of the Lower House, he opposed the Bill for increasing the Land Tax, and it has come to be thought that every opponent of that measure is an enemy of the urban population. If the Land Tax was placed upon a really equitable basis, that is to say, if it was brought into accord with the principles of the Single Tax, a very different view would be taken of it by the dwellers in cities. But at present the great bulk of the Tax is paid by the farmers, and the business men of Tokyo naturally think that Mr. Matsuda should have advocated the proposal to increase it. If that be the reason of their hostility to the mayor, we can not compliment them either on their sense of fair play or on their economical acumen. The Land Tax will be their Old Man of the Sea one of these days so surely as Japan is progressive.

TONNAGE DUES AND THE "JIJI SHIMPO."

We owe an apology to the *Jiji Shimpo* for misinterpreting its meaning. We made it suggest that the annual proceeds of the proposed tonnage dues—estimated at 400,000 *yen* annually—should be invested in public bonds until an aggregate of ten million *yen* had been reached, when the annual interest should be applied to harbour improvement. What our contemporary really advised was that the proceeds of the tax should be hypothecated to raise a foreign loan of ten million *yen*, which should be at once applied to purposes of harbour improvement. The *Jiji* does not speak of any provision for a sinking fund, but it probably thinks that the tonnage dues would increase sufficiently to satisfy that requirement.

THE BARLEY CROP.

The barley crop is said to have been unusually good this year. In the columns of the *Kokumin* we find the following figures :—

BARLEY CROP

Year.	Number of acres under cultivation.	Produce in koku.
1890	4,254 292	18 712,965
1891	4,284,138	18,088.333
1892	4,343.432	15,941,276
1893	4,360 025	16,625 229
1894	4.375,282	19.809 965
1895	4.429,059	19.526,123
1896	4.411.726	17,329.317
1897	4.373,929	18 005 490
1898	4 496,780	20,413,543

The average area under cultivation is taken as 4,371,775 acres and the average yield, 17,914,906 *koku*.

On the 11th inst., the godowns of Messrs. Sandilands, Buttery, and Company, at Singapore, were totally destroyed by fire, involving a loss of about $60,000 The building, which was insured for $3,000 with the London and Lancashire Company, was completely gutted. The damage to the produce is covered by insurance, with the National Insurance Company of Ireland and the National Assurance Company.

COUNT OKUMA AND HIS OMORI CRITIC.

A present resident of Omori, who contributes various articles to the foreign-settlement press, disagrees with Count Okuma's opinion that the foreign trade of Japan has made remarkable strides during the past twenty-five years. We express no opinion as to the general question at issue between the Waseda Sage and his Omori critic, but there is one feature of the latter's arithmetic which startles us. He says that, in 1872, Japan's external trade totalled some fifty million *yen*, which, with the dollar at 4s. 6d., means 11¼ millions sterling—we use approximate figures—, whereas in 1897 the total figure was 290 million *yen*, or 29 million sterling. Hence, he concludes, the increase in a quarter of a century was only 17 or 18 millions sterling. That is certainly a quaint method of calculation, intelligible only on the hypothesis that for a Briton money has no statistical significance unless it be expressed in sovereigns. Why should Japan's export trade be converted into sterling? Does the Omori critic really imagine that every million *yen* worth of commodities exported by Japan in 1897, with the *yen* at 25 pence, represented only 463,000 *yen* worth of commodities exported in 1872 with the *yen* at 54d.? In order to justify such an assertion, he would have to show that the silver prices of commodities in Japan fell, between 1872 and 1897, in exactly the same ratio as the appreciation of gold in terms of silver, which can not be shown, being greatly opposed to facts. Why, again, should Japan's imports from silver-using countries be converted into sterling? They have nothing to do with sterling. To express them in terms of gold which fluctuated enormously in purchasing power, instead of adhering to their original silver prices, which remained comparatively stable, is to introduce an arbitrary and misleading factor which has no legitimate place in the equation. The only portion of Japan's foreign trade reasonably subject to conversion into sterling for purposes of statistical comparison from year to year, is the imports from gold-using countries, and even there a mere statement of pounds, shillings and pence is misleading, for since gold prices fell largely between 1872 and 1897, a sovereign's worth of imports in the latter year represented a larger bulk, and therefore a greater consumption, than a sovereign's worth of the same goods in the former year. It would be a difficult problem to establish a really accurate comparison between Japan's foreign trade in 1872 and 1897, if the statement had to be made in values, but it would also be difficult to depart more widely from the truth than the Omori critic departs.

STUMPING THE COUNTRY.

The Liberals are determined not to let the grass grow under their feet. They have just arranged that their best men shall visit all the provinces during the New Year recess for the purpose of addressing the various constituencies. It is a wise move, for many of the rural electors will doubtless be anxious to learn why their representatives voted for an increase of the Land Tax.

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MR. BARRETT ON THE FAR EASTERN SITUATION.

WE report elsewhere an interesting lecture delivered by Mr. JOHN BARRETT, ex-Representative of the United States in Siam. Mr. BARRETT prefaces his remarks with a warm eulogy of what Japan has accomplished. We agree with him in the main, but are bound to say that the rate of progress has not been maintained during recent years. The Diet, with the endless political squabbles that have marked its career, is largely responsible for this check. The twenty-four years immediately subsequent to the Restoration saw Japan with an ideal administration for progressive purposes. The management of her affairs was in the hands of a band of publicists, the best statesmen and in every sense the greatest men that the country possessed. Working in harmony, and imbued, one and all, with an earnest desire to carry the empire from its very backward place to a prominent position in the comity of nations, these administrators were able to direct the country's efforts into the best grooves, and to utilize its resources for the most advantageous purposes. In short, Japan's career was then moulded by the highest intelligence at her command. But after the opening of the Diet in 1891, national progress ceased to be the unique aim of the Government, and energies which had previously been employed solely in the empire's interests, had to be dissipated in adjusting party differences or devoted to removing friction which threatened to stop the administrative machine altogether. All that was, perhaps, inevitable, and there will doubtless be compensations by and by. But a more radical trouble is Japan's premature anxiety to shake herself free from foreign aid. It is perfectly natural that she should desire to walk alone. That is not the point, however. The point is that she is making herself singular among the nations of the world by unwillingness to employ foreign assistance where it would be really useful to her, and where by employing it she would not be making any acknowledgment of her own incompetence, but rather gaining esteem for liberal shrewdness. She has succeeded in making a brave show in many directions, and the world justly gives her credit for a great deal of solid and remarkably rapid progress. But she has been praised so much that she can scarcely have failed to form a false estimate of her own capacities, and it is not possible for any impartial observer to ignore the fact that she has not yet supplied herself with really high standards, and that, in their absence, her tendency will be to retrograde rather than to advance.

Perhaps the most striking part of Mr. BARRETT'S address is his reference to the state of affairs in China. He speaks with diplomatic caution; but that rather adds to than diminishes the force of his remarks. Russia is all powerful in China to-day. When the news of her Liaotung coup reached us, together with the details of the railway concession she had obtained, we expressed the conviction that Manchuria must henceforth be regarded as a Russian provice. Everything has tended to confirm that impression. If Russia has now agreed to open Port Arthur and Talien to foreign trade—a statement which we greatly doubt—, it is merely a temporizing measure; a device to postpone complications which would be inconvenient just at present. She means to have Manchuria. People who have been there recently say that the very air is Russian, and that foreign residents and Manchurians alike have quietly resigned themselves to the fact. It is the same in Peking. Russian influence can be felt everywhere. A member of the Tsung-li Yamên is universally believed to be in Russia's pay, so that all the conferences and communications between other Powers and that Department are immediately known at the Russian Legation. The Cossack trooper, too, is everywhere. Twenty or thirty Cossacks dash out for exercise in a different quarter of the city daily, flashing in and out of the vista of the citizens in the north, in the south, in the east and in the west, and creating the impression that Russian troops have the capital at their mercy, while the little bands of marines stationed at other Legations, stay at home carefully so that their presence may be as little hurtful as possible to Chinese prejudices. Russia is playing her own game and playing it very cleverly. No one blames her, and if she were a Liberal Power whose policy was to admit all nations to the privileges she acquires, her successes would be a matter of general satisfaction. But she is an exclusive Power. Wherever she plants her foot, other nations are excluded. If, again, she were acquiring territories to which no Western State had enjoyed previous access, there would be little to say against her aggressions, from a practical point of view. But Manchuria and China are fields that have been already thrown open to the world's commerce and intercourse, thrown open primarily and principally through Great Britain's exertions, and all encroachments by an exclusive Power upon such fields means an unlawful restriction of the privileges acquired there by Europe, America and Japan under treaties and conventions. It is not possible to regard Russia's doings with indifference. How to correct the situation she is creating may well perplex the statesmen of the countries whose interests are menaced. Something must be done. England has pursued a policy which, though eminently praiseworthy on moral and cosmopolitan grounds, can not be called successful. The alternative policy is not pleasant to contemplate, but unfortunately it seems to be growing more and more inevitable day by day. Mr. BARRETT speaks with bated breath. His meaning, however, is plain enough, and British subjects as well as Japanese have reason to be grateful to men who, like him, are not content to embody the results of their observations in official despatches only.

THE SINGLE TAX.

VISCOUNT TANI, speaking in the House of Peers, accused Mr. TAGUCHI of employing new-fangled foreign theories to delude ignorant folk, and Count OKUMA, denouncing any increase of the Land Tax, declared that such a measure would array the urban population against the rural in an endless warfare. The former statesman seems to do a great injustice to foreign intelligence; the latter appears to regard the Land Tax in a light entirely different from that in which it is regarded by Western economists. We have received much correspondence on this subject, and we observe, with pleasure, that a movement is on foot among journalists in Tokyo to familiarize the public with the real principles of the Single Tax. It may be opportune, therefore, to say a few words on the subject.

One of the factors tending to obscure this question is defective nomenclature. We speak of a "land tax," thereby suggesting that an impost is levied on the land itself. That is not the case. The impost should be levied on the value of the land. The difference is fundamental. If the tax were assessed in terms of the produce of the land, as used to be the case in feudal times in Japan, it would not be in accord with the basic principle of the Single Tax. Moreover, it would then be a tax with invariable results so long as its rate was unchanged, for the products of a given area of ground are practically invariable. But the value of those products varies greatly, and the variation is due to causes which are beyond the control of the land-owner, and by which he has, therefore, no right to profit exclusively. This brings us to the first principle of the Single Tax; a principle which appeals to the most rudimentary sense of justice. It is that the individual is entitled to the sole enjoyment of the fruits of his labour; the community, to the common enjoyment of nature's gifts. Land is a natural opportunity. It is given by nature to all alike. No one person has any natural right to use land for his sole benefit. If he puts his labour into land, he has a right to the products of his labour, but he must first subtract from them the value of the land itself; that is to say, the premium which he has to pay to the owner—whether as rent or as purchase money—for permission to use the land. On that

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premium the Single Tax is levied. It is a tax on the ownership of land, not on its use or improvement. In assessing land for the purposes of the Single Tax, all values created by individual use or improvements, in short, all values created by individual labour, are theoretically excluded, and the only value considered is that due to means of communication, situation, population and such factors. In other words, the payer of the Single Tax contributes to the public exchequer a sum determined, not by what he produces, but by the value of the natural opportunities which he is allowed to enjoy. Land in Japan has increased greatly in value since the Restoration; not because the quantity of its products has increased, but because their value has increased. To what is the latter increase due? Not certainly to greater industrial efficiency on the part of the user of the land. The same labour that produced a *koku* of rice thirty years ago must be expended upon its production to-day. The increase is due to improved means of transport, by which remote regions have been brought within reach of the great markets, and to a steady growth of general prosperity with a corresponding elevation of the scale of living and appreciation of prices. It is plainly unjust to the community at large that the benefit of such changes should be enjoyed solely by the land-owner. The enhanced value of the nation's natural opportunities belongs to the nation. Politicians obscure the subject by talking of the petty land-owner. There is no question of degree and there can not be any question of degree. The principle is universally and uniformly applicable. A violation of the general right is a violation, whether it be on a small scale or on a large. The owner of land is the owner, whether he lets the land to another or uses it himself. The Single Tax is levied on him in his capacity of owner, not in his capacity of user. It may be that some land-owners in Japan who are also land-users, pay already as much tax as they can afford to pay. But if it be so, then one of two cases must be true: either these combined land-owners and land-users paid formerly the double or the treble of what they could afford to pay, which is an obvious absurdity; or, owing to insufficient taxation of the value of the land, its profit-giving capacity has been augmented so as to lead to its excessive division. But such questions lie entirely beyond the range of the theory itself.

We seem to have spoken here of agricultural land only. But everything we have said applies equally to urban land. The great mistake, as we think, of certain Japanese publicists is that they regard the Single Tax in the light of an impost upon the farmer not on the city dweller. In point of fact the Single Tax takes no account of the use to which land is put. If assessed with theoretical correctness it would compel the owner of land held idle to pay just as much as the owner of land in full use. The value of the land for letting purposes is the sole basis of assessment. The essential feature of the tax is that it secures to the community the product of opportunities created by the community. Nowhere are such opportunities more conspicuous than in the chief cities. The land in Tokyo, for example, derives its value from the presence of a great population and the consequent facilities for carrying on profitable enterprises of commerce and industry. Such factors are not due to individual labour: they are created by the community. Every *tsubo* of land in Tokyo, in Osaka, in Kyoto, in Nagoya, and in all urban districts should be taxed on the basis of its rentable value. Were that done, perfectly equal incidence of taxation would be established throughout the length and breadth of the empire, and there would be no room for deceptive rhetoric about the comparative hardships of the farmers and about conflicts between urban and rural populations. When we say "every *tsubo*" we mean literally every *tsubo*; not merely land in use but land held idle by speculators. One of the beauties of the Single Tax is that it forbids speculation in land; forbids great capitalists to withold large tracts of land from general use for purposes of individual gain.

It should not be necessary to catalogue the advantages of the Single Tax, but we do so briefly. It dispenses with all taxes on the products of labour and substitutes one impost on land values. It gets rid of a number of vexatious and troublesome taxes and of a multitude of costly tax-collectors. It simplifies fiscal administration to an incalculable degree. It removes all the temptation to fraud and corruption inseparable from the existing system, since it deprives the tax-payer of any opportunity for concealment, the land being a visible asset assessible by means which the land-owner can not falsify. It equalizes the incidence of taxation with absolute certainty. It encourages labour and the enterprising use of capital instead of penalizing them as do many of the taxes now levied; for taxes on houses, industries, and so on, are nothing more than fines imposed upon every one that puts up a handsome building, establishes a company, erects a factory, or otherwise adds to the wealth of the country. It solves the labour problem finally.

We have not space to write an essay, but must content ourselves with these mere outlines. On two points, however, emphasis should be laid. The first is that nothing prevents universal acknowledgment of the truth of the Single Tax except the difficulty of putting the theory into practice. In the majority of Occidental countries individuals have obtained unconditional possession of the land, and are thus enabled to appropriate solely to themselves profits which, as the outcome of natural opportunities, should belong to the community in general. Something like a revolution would be necessary to change that order of things. But happily for Japan her case is different. By a fortunate accident she is in a position to organize an ideal fiscal system. Nothing is necessary except to re-assess the taxable value of the land on a renting basis. Does she intend to deliberately throw away that inestimable advantage in order to adopt the illogical, uneconomical, and demoralizing system now unhappily pursued in Europe in America?

The second point is that so far from increasing, she would certainly diminish the weight of taxation in the rural districts if she altered her basis of assessment so as to bring it into accord with the principles of the Single Tax. Land in rural districts has no great value compared with land in towns and cities. Moreover, the increase of the former's value is virtually limited whereas the increase of the latter's is in perpetual proportion to the growth of the city's population and prosperity. It is impossible to conceive any greater misapprehension than that which calls the Land Tax an unfair burden on the agricultural classes. The Land Tax —we speak of the Single Tax—is expressly designed to leave labour absolutely untaxed. Hence, where Viscount TANI and others draw sentimental pictures of the farmer working from sun-rise to star-light, they demonstrate only their own complete unfamiliarity with the subject, for whether he worked from the dawn of creation to the crack of doom or slept from daisy-day to Yule-tide, his diligence or idleness could not in the slightest degree affect a tax levied, not on his labour, but on the natural opportunity that he enjoys as a land-holder. The greater his industry the greater the products of his labour, which products, according to the axiom of the Single Tax, are entirely and absolutely his own, not liable to any impost or fine of any kind.

MR. HOSHI TORU.

Mr. Hoshi Toru has certainly had an ample revenge. Not many years have elapsed since the House of Representatives removed him from his position as its President and actually deprived him of his membership. Nothing in the history of the House reflects such discredit on it as that act, which was justly denounced at the time as a flagrant exhibition of party prejudice. Mr. Hoshi's constituency returned him at once as its representative, but he shook the dust of the House off his feet and went to Washington as Minister. Now, he is the most prominent figure in the House. A great party obeys him implicitly, and a word from him can make or mar a measure. Events move quickly in Japan, but there has been something kaleidoscopic about these recent chapters of Mr. Hoshi's career. He is certainly a master of political tactics.

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THE BOOKSHELF.

Chinese Fiction (Religion of Science Library), Rev. G. T. CANDLIN, Chicago, Open Court Company, Publishers.

PROBABLY no field of literature has been less explored than that of Chinese fiction. The late Mr. Bancroft Joly published, in 1893, two large tomes, a literal translation of the *Dream of the Red Chamber*, one of the most celebrated romances of China. Two volumes, containing in all about a thousand pages, did not conclude this wonderful romance, but two volumes are all that we have had the pleasure of perusing. Perhaps Mr. Joly did not find any encouragement to continue his task. Perhaps ill-health interrupted it. But even two volumes constitute a monument of human patience. The impressions produced upon us by reading them were profound respect for a country where life is so long and uneventful that such stories can be a favorite pastime of generation after generation, and profound respect for the ability of a writer who, under the guise of romance, presented to his countrymen such a subtle satire on the customs and habits of the idle upper classes. The author of the *Dream* may almost be called the Rabelais of China, if we can imagine Rabelais without the disgusting coarseness that disfigures everything he wrote, for though the *Dream* deals only with the petty, the pettiest, affairs of ever-day existence, and makes no demand whatever on the imagination of the readers, it accomplishes for the gentlemen of China precisely what Rabelais accomplished for the noblemen and the courtiers of France, covers them with contempt and ridicule. Yet, it may be justly doubted whether a dozen Anglo-Saxons could be discovered who take even a faint interest in the moral attributes of the Chinese patrician, and the *Dream of the Red Chamber* probably failed to find any circulation in its English dress, though in Chinese it has passed through innumerable editions. The whole subject of Chinese fiction is now again brought upon the *tapis* by the Rev. G. T. Candlin, who contributes a long essay to the September number of the *Religion of Science Library*. After a somewhat lengthy and, as we think, unnecessary exordium to prove that the religious phase of a nation's character is truly reflected in its works of fiction, Mr. Candlin strongly traverses the view almost invariably taken by Western critics of China's romance literature, namely, that it is "crude, puerile, and grossly impure." He denies the justice of any one of these epithets, and declares that "the Chinese have an enormous quantity of prose imaginative writing, the great bulk of it by no means despicable, and some portions of it of a very high order of merit, which does not yield in interest or in literary finish, though perhaps it does in imaginative force, to the best Western fiction." That is a bold assertion and we are compelled to say that Mr. Candlin's selected specimens of Chinese literature do not seem to confirm the propriety of his very free praises. As to the magnitude of the library there can be no question. The list of prohibited novels alone contains a hundred and thirty-seven different works, from which the bulk of the whole repertoire may be roughly inferred. At the head of all stands the *History of the Three Kingdoms*, wherein are recounted the adventures of the three heroes Liu Pei, Kuan Yuin and Ch'ang Fei, figures that play almost as conspicuous a part in art as in fiction. This "masterpiece" was compiled during the Yuan era. Indeed, we learn from Mr. Candlin that the earliest Chinese romancists do not go farther back than the 13th century, the whole list of writers being included in the history of the last three dynasties, the Mongol, the Ming and the Tsing. Of the *History of the Three Kingdoms*, Mr. Candlin says that it is "not surpassed in any language for simplicity, force, and fertility of imagination." The three heroes, the "Three Musqueteers" of Chinese fiction, are all in very common walks of life. Liu Pei, though of royal lineage, is a shoe-seller and mat-maker; Kuan Yuin, a refugee, and Ch'ang Fei a vendor of wine and a butcher of pigs. Their portraits adorn the pages of the book—exceedingly ugly portraits, for in the matter of book illustration the Chinese never approached the Japanese. The three come together in the most haphazard fashion, swear fidelity to each other in a peach orchard, and repair at once to the wars, followed by three hundred braves who seem to have had no hesitation in placing themselves under the command of a shoe-seller, a refugee, and a pig-butcher. The story is thenceforth a long record of battles, murders, and sudden deaths, interspersed with transcendental surgery, magical strategy, superhuman swordsmanship, miraculous horses—as "Red Hare," which could gallop a thousand *li* a day, taking seas and mountains in his stride—, and, of course, woman's wiles. Mr. Candlin calls it the "Iliad" of China. We wish that he or some other competent scholar would translate it, but when we remember that eager students from the West have been prying into Chinese literature for a hundred years, we become sceptical that a new gem has been discovered now. Whether the author of the *San Kuo Tsu* was a Dumas or a Homer, there can be little doubt that the compiler of the *Contending States of the Eastern Chou* was the Munchausen of China; an artistic Munchausen too, for he prefaces his collection of "extravagant, miraculous and scandalous legends" with a statement that as he has not even time to tell the whole truth, he can not possibly be suspected of having leisure to concoct falsehoods, and therefore, though the veracity of his matter may render it dull, the reader can trust it from point to point. He is, in fact, a very refined liar, and again we wish that some one would translate him. Then there is the *Annals of the Water Marshes*, concerning which Mr. Candlin writes that "its style is phenomenal—coarse, direct, graphic, intense, each word like a fierce stroke from a graver's tool." Tantalizing information, and having given it, Mr. Candlin should really afford the world an opportunity of sharing his transports at first hand. His brochure is most interesting. We have only touched upon a portion of its contents; have not attempted to follow him from the historical romance to the mythic tale and the sentimental novel. But all seem to be well represented in the Chinese library, and we should not be surprised, perhaps, that Mr. Candlin claims for this people a rich endowment of "the mysterious creative power of imagination which gives to genius its light and to love its glory."

KOREA.

The Emperor of Korea has not only refused to pardon Pak Yong-ho, but has ordered the arrest of the person who petitioned for grace for the exile. His Majesty declares that Pak is to be regarded for all time as an arch-traitor. Farther ministerial changes are also reported from Söul, and the little Empire appears to be again falling into a state of unrest. It is the Cuba of the Far East.

SPIRIT OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

We have just witnessed a war between the hoe and the abacus in the Diet and the abacus won the day. The next great issue to be fought over is the amendment of the Law of Election. The Japan of to-day may be compared to England in the 17th century. The farmer is regarded as the foundation of the State and the merchant and manufacturer receive little consideration. But a change has been inaugurated. Henceforth the agriculturist will cease to be valued so highly and the urban interests will receive more and more consideration. A struggle has commenced which will probably last a long time, but its issue is pretty plain. The present Diet will continue the work it has begun, and, before it separates, will deal some further blows to the agricultural interest.—(*Asahi Shimbun.*)

* * *

The present Diet will probably bring its session peacefully to a close. Yet it can not be inferred that the Government is strong. The truth is that the country had become weary of unending political squabbles and perpetual cabinet changes. The people longed for some semblance of peace and stability, and the Liberal Party, appreciating the spirit of the time, lent its aid to bring about the desired change. But the Liberal Party itself is now likely to become an element of renewed disturbance. It has not worked for nothing. It began by waging an implacable war against the Government. Then, after a long struggle, it completely changed its tactics and became the Cabinet's ally. But it has never changed its purpose. It aims at getting the administration into its hands, and sooner or later its claim must be considered. Will the present Cabinet consider it? When the medicine is swallowed we forget its bitterness, says the proverb. The Government is very apt to forget the dangers and difficulties from which the Liberals rescued it, and in that case the struggle will be renewed as fiercely as ever.—(*Fiji Shimpo*).

* * *

The teaching of the time is that a close relation exists between military equipment and commerce. Germany's case is a good illustration. Her military strength is so enormous as to seem like an intolerable burden, yet her commercial development proceeds with extraordinary rapidity year by year. Her seizure of Kiao-chou appeared at first to have been dictated solely by a desire for territorial expansion, but was subsequently seen to have for its purpose the acquisition of mining and tradal privileges in the province of Shantung. England offers even more striking evidence. She is the leading commercial nation of the world. Her tradal and industrial supremacy is unanimously admitted. Yet

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there is no country in the world that wages so many wars. It may almost be said that she is never at peace. These facts deserve the attention of Japan's business men who object so strongly to the expansion of the State's armaments. Can they find an example of a nation which is commercially great without having military strength? The expansion of armaments is not merely the best method of insuring a country's life: it is also an indirect means of creating floating capital. The view taken by the business men is superficial and short-sighted.—*Kokumin Shimbun.*

* * *

The system of Government in Japan stands greatly in need of reform. The conduct of public business in the communes is almost at a standstill. So frequent are the changes of local governors that no one thinks it worth while to be active or enterprising. In the central administration, during the past two years, officials may be said to have led a kind of hand-to-mouth existence, never knowing what the morrow might bring forth; and it has been almost equally bad in the provinces. The country's best interests are suffering severely from such a state of affairs. May we hope that at last an era of comparative stability is in sight?—(*Kokumin Shimbun*).

* * *

The Progressists are approaching their doom. They played a gambling game and have lost heavily. From the time of their first appearance upon the stage the support of the urban population was the chief source of their strength. But now they have turned their back upon their old allies and become champions of the agricultural interest. Thus they have lost the support of the commercial and industrial classes. Have they, on the other hand, gained the allegiance of the rural population? It can not be alleged that they have. The rural population does not know what to think. It hesitates to trust men who have thus deserted their old constituents. At all events, there can be little doubt that the urban districts will no longer vote for Progressist candidates, and one consequence of their unpopularity in the cities will be a decrease in the circulation of their newspaper organs, which means a corresponding reduction of the area through which their views are disseminated. Again, can they hope to retain the cooperation of the Iwasaki family, who have been their great source of financial strength? In pledging themselves to the policy of imposing the whole additional burden of taxation on traders and industrials, they have alienated the Iwasaki, whose wealth is all invested in commerce and manufactures. Finally, there is Count Okuma's health. Count Okuma is the Party's mainstay. Deprived of him, their disintegration would follow speedily. But Count Okuma is not a strong man. He has never been a strong man since the bomb shattered his leg. The prospects of the Progressists are gloomy.—(*Jimmin.*)

* * *

The Government's policy in imposing heavy tonnage dues is not consistent. With one hand they grant subsidies to steamship companies and with the other they take back what they have given. The Directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha are asking for a further subsidy of 600,000 *yen* to help them to maintain their services to foreign countries, and it is understood that their application has met with official approval. Yet, at the same time, it is proposed to levy a tonnage tax which will greatly increase the expenses of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. If the Company is in a position to pay a large additional tax, how can it be in a position to justly claim State aid?—(*Shogyo Shimpo.*)

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The proposed tonnage dues are unquestionably a fair and proper tax, but if they are levied without any compensatory measures the effect may be very injurious. It is plain that if foreign vessels have to pay heavily on entering Japanese ports, they will if possible avoid making Japan a place of call, and will prefer Chinese harbours whenever they can make a choice. The people have had practical experience of the loss resulting from that sort of thing, for during the past two years the number of foreign men-of-war visiting Japanese ports has greatly diminished. Of course in one sense that is a matter for congratulation. But its financial consequences have been very bad. What is obviously expedient is that if tonnage dues are collected, the proceeds should not be absorbed into the general revenue, but devoted to purposes of harbour improvement. If Japan takes toll from a foreign vessel entering one of her ports, she is bound to provide all possible facilities in the matter of good anchorage and the loading and discharge of cargo. The tonnage of foreign vessels visiting this country yearly is 3,770,000 tons. The dues paid by them at the proposed rate will aggregate some 400,000 *yen*. The money ought to be put into public bonds until a capital sum of 10 million *yen* has been accumulated, and then the interest should be devoted to harbour improvement.—(*Jiji Shimpo*).

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT JAPANESE LITERATURE.

In Nos. 19 and 20 of the *Taiyō* appear two very long articles from the pen of Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō on the reform of Japanese orthography. Some of our readers are no doubt of opinion that this topic has already been fully discussed and would be glad to hear of some action on the part of those in authority in the direction of carrying out the changes and modifications which, it is acknowledged in so many quarters, are desirable. Dr. Inoue's essay is the most thorough that we have read on the subject. But space forbids us to do more than give the outlines of his argument. It is not necessary for us to go with Dr. Inoue into the extreme clumsiness and inefficiency of the present system. Any foreigner who has paid attention to the subject must have been more deeply impressed with this characteristic of the present mode of writing than it is possible for any Japanese to be. There is confusion everywhere, argues Dr. Inoue. This has been often shown in detail in these columns. We pass on to the proposed methods of reform. No less than eight of these are enumerated by Dr. Inoue. (1) It is proposed to reduce the number of ideographs in use considerably and to employ those as hitherto done with Japanese *kana* interpersed. (2) The substitution of *katakana* or *hiragana* for the Chinese characters has been recommended. (3) The exclusive use of Roman letters has been widely advocated. (4) The abolition of the Japanese language *in toto* and the adoption of English in its stead has been proposed. (The late Viscount Mori at one time thought this plan feasible.) (5) The invention of new symbols has been recommended. (6) The adoption of the Korean mode of orthography, which, as a system of phonetics, is superior to the Japanese method has been advocated. (7) The use of abbreviated signs such as serve the purpose of the stenographer has been pronounced to be the easiest way out of the difficulty. (8) Merivale's visible speech system has been recommended for adoption. To Nos. 2, 3, 5 and 7 alone is any importance to be attached, says Dr. Inoue. These he then proceeds to discuss in the following terms: At one time there was a strong feeling in favour of the adoption of Roman letters, but this has decreased considerably of late years, partly owing to the strong nationalistic spirit that exists and partly owing to the inconveniences connected with the use of Roman letters for writing Japanese. One of the chief of these difficulties is the tedious length which sentences written in an intelligible manner are apt to assume.* The Japanese *kana* has many advantages over *Romaji* in the matter of brevity and of familiarity to the people. Dr. Inouye goes into an elaborate comparison between the use of *Romaji* and the use of *kana* for telegrams, arguing that the *kana* prove most profitable in telegraphing to Korea, for instance. But it is quite plain that this argument cannot be relied on; as the present rates of telegraph companies are quite arbitrary and might be altered at any time. Dr. Inoue is in favour of the use of some kind of abbreviated form of the Chinese characters as a system of phonetics, which he thinks is all that is required. He is not altogether opposed to *Romaji* but prefers *hiragana* written crossways to *Romaji*. He gives a list of 25 articles and 8 pamphlets that have been written by well-known men on the subject of orthographic reform, and ends up by advising his fellow-countrymen not to be in a hurry to adopt *Romaji*, but to see whether they cannot invent a system for themselves that will answer better than the *Romaji*.

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The *Tōyōtetsugaku Zasshi*, the *Taiyō* and the *Sekai-no-Nihon* all comment on the reform advocated by Dr. Inoue. The following is the gist of their remarks: Although from time to time articles have appeared on the subject of orthographic reform, says the *Tōyōtetsugaku*, for many years past no attempt has been made to found a society with reform for its special object. But on September 10th an Association of this kind was formed. The meeting of promoters was held at the office of the Gakushikai (Imperial University) on the above mentioned day. Among the attendants were Doctors Katō Hiroyuki and Inoue Tetsujirō and Messrs. Yatabe, Miyake and Anezaki. Various schemes for improving the method of writing were discussed. Among them that of Mr. Tanaka Shūho afforded matter for amusement. He proposes that the number of strokes required for a charac-

* In order to make oneself understood in *Romaji* Japanese it is necessary to use Yamato-kotoba as much as possible and to avoid homonyms. In Japanese this seems very discursive and wearisome.—[*Writer of the Summary*].

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ter be reduced by indicating by the *hen* (the left-hand part of the ideograph) the class of object to which the individual mentioned belongs and giving the Japanese name of the thing in *kana*. According to this plan, 鶴, *tsuru*, would be written 鳥つ and 龜, *kame*, would become 魚か. The *Tōyōtetsugaku* writes in very scornful tones of this method, but we are not sure that as a preparation for the entire abolition of the ideographs it is not worthy of being tried. But the organ we are quoting says that the bringing forward of such a proposal as the above was enough to throw ridicule on the whole reform movement.

The *Taiyō* is in favour of proceeding deliberately with the proposed reform. It is desirable that the advantages and disadvantages of all the various methods suggested should be thoroughly discussed. Those who desire to effect a change must not allow themselves to become wedded to any one method of getting over the difficulties of the situation. They must be ready to concede a great deal to each other. To us, says the *Taiyō*, it seems that by far the easiest way to begin is to agree to reduce the number of ideographs in daily use to as small a number as will suffice for intelligibility. This, though constantly proposed, has not been effected. The difficulty of making any changes whatever in practice may be judged by the fact that, with the exception of the use of *kana* and *Romaji*, none of the newly invented methods of writing Japanese have been employed by anybody but the inventors themselves.

The *Sekai-no-Nihon* says that one of the items of expenditure included in next year's Budget provides for a thorough investigation of linguistic reform. That the Mombushō recognises the importance of taking some action is sure. But whether that Department will ever summon sufficient courage to enforce the carrying out of any definite scheme of reform is very questionable, says the *Sekai-no-Nihon*; and if they do not, then the numerous meetings held and the articles written on this subject will all have involved useless waste of time, for this is a reform that can only be successfully carried out by the State.

* * *

A school has been recently found in Tōkyō called the Tōkyō Seiji Gakkō, with Dr. Matsumoto Kumpei as Principal. It will teach political economy, Finance, Law, Sociology and kindred subjects. It aims, we are told, at fulfilling the functions of similar institutions in Paris, Philadelphia, and elsewhere. It has the support of the principal newspaper editors and college professors of Tōkyō, and supplies a want that is said to have long been felt throughout the country. As a preparatory school to the Tōkyō Seiji Gakkō, an institution to be called the Meiji Eigakkō is to be established. The course in this school will extend over three years. The Tōkyō Seiji Gakkō will be located in Sarugaku-chō, Kanda, Tōkyō.

* * *

Professor Matsumoto Kōjiro and others have started a New Magazine called *Jidō Kenkyū* (The Study of Children). The design of this new organ seems to be to collect material bearing on the lives and thoughts of Japanese children, with a view to aiding school teachers and others in dealing with the young. So it is to be a kind of imitation of Professor James Sully's interesting work entitled, "Studies of Childhood." The first number has the following articles: "The Importance of Studying Children"; "The progress made in the Study of Children;" "Methods of teaching Morality to children in their homes." "Results of the Study of Children." "Methods of Study, and of using the knowledge acquired, &c." The office of the magazine is in Awaji-chō, 1 chōme, Kanda, Tōkyō.

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The *Sekai Tsūshi* (Universal History) is a translation of a translation. The original work was that of Dr. Karl Ploetz, entitled "Auszug aus der alten mittleren und neueren Geschichte," which was rendered into English in America some years ago by Mr. William H. Tillinghast, and published under the title of "An Epitome of Ancient, Mediæval and Modern History." The original German work ran through 11 editions, and the English translation reached the sixth edition. The Japanese translation bearing the above title is by Mr. Wada Mankichi. Mr. Wada's work covers 930 pages. We are informed by the *Shigaku Zasshi* that Mr. Wada has consulted an 1895 edition of the original work and has added in an appendix all the notes contained in the original history. It is said that no such work exists in the Japanese language, and that the translator, while being faithful to the original, writes in clear, flowing language. The work sells at 1 *yen* 70 *sen* a copy at the Fusambō, Urajimbō-chō, Kanda, Tokyo.

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Another translation of considerable importance is that of Dr. Hans Brum's history of the German empire, which in Japanese covers no less than 1,920 pages. Messrs. Kumamoto, Amatani and Shiraishi are the translators. The work is divided into two parts: the first part selling at 1 *yen* 30 *sen* and the second at 1 *yen* 70 *sen*, at the Fusambō. This history gives a minute account of the consolidation of the German Empire under Bismarck, the conflict between the Government and religious bodies, the relations of the Government to the Diet, the attitude and the character of political parties, financial schemes, legislation, the foreign policy of the country. Its colonial policy, and the methods to be adopted for increasing the revenue are also minutely discussed in Dr. Brum's work, which gives all that is worth giving of the public life of the founder of modern Germany.

* * *

A little book has just been published by the Keiseisha entitled *Ro-shin Kankei* (The Connection of Russia with China), by a writer who does not give his real name. The *Shinseiki*, in a review of the work, says that whoever the writer may be is evidently well-informed on the subject he has discussed and is in close sympathy with the Chinese, who, in the opinion of the writer, have for years past been the victims of Russian craft and aggressiveness. The 300 pages of which the book consists give the whole history of the Russian advance towards China and depict in striking language the present situation and all the danger to the peace of the Far East that it involves. The work is divided into 21 chapters, in which some 40 important subjects are discussed.

* * *

During the past few months five or six new periodicals have come into existence in the provinces. At Niigata, in place of the *Tenrai*, whose death we recorded some time ago, a magazine called the *Hokuetsu Hyōron* has been started, with every promise of success, says, the *Shinseiki*. The editor, Mr. Imaizumi, is a thoroughly competent writer and the first number contains several brilliantly written articles. The *Nichi-eki Shinshi* is a Buddhist fortnightly magazine of a popular type, designed for circulation in and around Saga. The *Bunyū* (文友) *Zasshi* is a monthly published in Hakodate, which, as its name implies, is strictly literary. The *Shōyō* is also a monthly issued in Matsuye, Izumo.

The *Kōbe Jihō* is a very up-to-date monthly, well edited, and with every prospect of obtaining a wide circulation, says the *Shinseiki*.

The Association known as the Naichi Zakkyo Jumbikai, whose object it is to devise measures for rendering mixed residence a success, has started a magazine, which is published fortnightly. It is called the *Naichi Zakkyo-Jumbi Kai Zasshi* and is issued at No. 2, Imagawa Kōji, Kanda, Tōkyō. Its fifth number lies before us. It contains a picture of Commodore Perry, who seems to be regarded as the originator of the idea of mixed residence in Japan. Among the subjects discussed in the magazine are, the introduction of foreign capital and the holding of land by foreigners as security; the operation of the new treaties and its influence on Japanese finance: what Japanese have to expect when mixed residence begins; the naturalisation law; and a discussion of various provisions of the new treaties. The writers are all specialists.

The 國士, *Kokushi* is a new periodical started by Mr. Kano Jigorō in connection will his athletic school called the Zōshikwai (The *Samurai*-making Society). The Magazine has for its object the training and instruction of a superior class of young men who shall combine manliness of spirit and love of sport with a high moral tone; the best type of the old *samurai* being taken as a model of what is desired.

* * *

The 京華日報 *Keikwa Nippō*, a daily whose birth has already been mentioned in these columns, is a thoroughly conservative organ. It is not connected with any political party, neither is it in league with the Cabinet. The report that it is the organ of Count Yamagata is denied by the paper itself. The views advocated in its columns are those of the nationalists and ultra-loyalists. It represents the opinions of such men as Messrs. Futamiya Kumajirō, Takimoto Seiichi, and Kimura Takatarō, who write for it. It is issued at No. 15 Shinsakana-machi Kyōbashi, Tōkyō.

The Okura Shoten are about to issue a new French and Japanese Dictionary, which promises to be a valuable addition to the all too scanty lexicographical lore of this country. The compilers are Messrs. Nomura Taikō and Mori Noriyoshi, assisted to a certain extent by M. Boissonade. The work has been revised by Messrs. Nakajima Bunzaburō and Abe Zen. The page measures about 6½ inches by 4½, and each page has 2 columns. There are 730 pages, over 80,000 words, and over 100 illustrations. It is said to contain most modern words and to have made a specialty of legal and military terms. The ordinary price will be 3 *yen* per copy.

* * *

The *Keizai Taiji* (The Leading Prin-

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ciples of Economy). *Ginkō-ron* (Banks) and *Kōsai-ron* (Public Loan Bonds) are by the Vice-Minister of Finance, Dr. Tajiri Inajirō. The two latter works are used as text-books at the Universities, the Higher Schools, and at various Commercial Schools. The first sells at 50 *sen*, the second at 1 *yen*, and the third at 1 *yen* 50 *sen* per copy, the Yūhikaku Shoten being the publishers.

* * *

The literary panic among magazines still continues. A change of name often turns out to be the prelude to decease, the new name proving to be what the Japanese call an *okurina*. The *Meiji Hyōron*, changed to the *Chūgwai Jiron* and then to the *Jiron*. We are now told that it has given up the ghost. The *Shakai Zasshi* has not been revivified by swallowing the *Nihon Shukyō*. It is said to be in a bad way and the delay in publication which is taking place is alleged to be caused by financial difficulties. The *Shincho Gekkan* (Monthly Review of New Books), the *Shunyō Bunko* and the *Katei Zasshi* are no more. The *Teikoku Bungaku*, commenting on this state of things, says that no doubt general financial depression has much to do with it, but there are other causes as well, the principal being the dearth of writers and lack of general interest in high class literature. The *Taiyō* observes that a life of 5 or 10 years is considered long for a first-class magazine in Japan and, in view of the evanescence of this class of literature, it becomes a question as to whether the whole business of magazine publishing should not be pronounced an unpaying concern in Japan's present financial condition. Would not most of the writers for magazines be better employed if they took to other pursuits? Mr. Takayama Rinjirō, the editor of the *Taiyō*, deeply regrets the loss of the *Waseda Bungaku*. This occupied a place in Japanese literature similar to that filled by the *Edinburgh Review* for so many years. Mr. Tsubouchi Shōyō gave to this periodical a very high tone and as a purely literary organ it was second to none. The 柵草紙 *Shigarami Sōshi* was earlier in the field, but its life was very short and its successor the *Mesamashi gusa* only bears a distant resemblance to it. The Waseda School of writers are a class by themselves. The young novelists, Shimamura Hōgetsu, Gotō Chūgai, Mizutani Futō, Sugitani Daisui, Minakuchi Biyō, Satō Meiyō and others were all offspring of the Waseda School and closely connected with the *Waseda Bungaku*. The *Teikoku Bungaku* has produced a good many reviewers and critics and a few new style verse writers, but not a single novelist. The *Waseda Bungaku* owed its wide influence principally to one man, Mr. Tsubouchi, who, as the world knows, is equally at home as a play writer, a novelist, and a scholarly critic. The difficulties that he had to overcome in establishing this organ would have baffled a man of less resolution. That after such a successful career it should cease for want of funds is, concludes the *Taiyō*, a most sad affair.

* * *

The *Minpō Shinzoku Horon* (the Civil Laws respecting Relations), and the *Minpō Sōzoku Hōron* (the Civil Laws respecting Inheritance) have been issued by the Yūhikaku Shoten, Hitotsubashi-dōri, Kanda, Tōkyō. They are both from the pen of Mr. Okuda Yoshito, who was a member of the Committee appointed to examine and revise the Civil Code. It is stated that both works have been compiled with great care, abound with illustrations of the meaning and interpretation of the provisions of the code culled from foreign sources and with lucid explanations of abstruse terms and passages. Mr. Okuda, it is stated, has criticised unsparingly some of the language employed in the new Civil Code.

* * *

An interesting fact was stated by Professor Bell to the audience which assembled at the Kanda Young Men's Association Hall on November 13th, to hear his lecture, a report of which appears in the *Fukuin Shimpō*. When Professor Bell was experimenting at Boston with his telephone, in 1876, Mr. Izawa Shūji came to see him. After showing Mr. Izawa what his instrument could do in the way of transmitting messages in English, the Professor suggested that Mr. Izawa should test its powers as a medium of communication in Japanese. Messrs. Komura Jutarō and Takamine Hideo were in America at the time, and Mr. Izawa at once put himself into communication with them, and the three together thoroughly tested the new instrument as regards Japanese. So that it turned out that with the exception of English, Japanese was the first of all the languages of the world to be transmitted through this wonderful medium.

* * *

Professor Naitō Chisō has furnished to the *Kyōiku Jiron* the text of a remarkable article which appeared in one of the new organs published in the South of China from the pen of Chang Chih-tung, and has added certain comments thereon. This article advocates in a very powerful manner the despatch of students to Japan and the adoption of other methods of bringing the two countries into closer contact will each other. The writer is of opinion that nothing can save China but Occidentalisation, and that the quickest and cheapest way of effecting this is by utilising the progress that Japan has made. The translation of Japanese works into Chinese presents few difficulties compared with rendering English or French into Chinese. The policy advocated by Chang Chih-tung includes the creation of a powerful army and navy and the encouragement of the building of railways.

* * *

In the *Kyōiku Kōhō* appears a report of a long lecture delivered by Dr. Katō Hiroyuki on the much discussed subject "The Reform of National Customs." We have only space for the gist of Dr. Katō's remarks on this topic. The deterioration universally complained of in the manners and customs of the nation, Dr. Katō attributes to the removal of all the old restraints on the liberty of the individual. Feudalism had many disadvantages, but there is no denying that its minute rules and usages acted as a wholesome restraint on society. Then the teaching of the Chinese classics on the subject of ceremony furnished models for the lives of the middle and upper classes. Buddhism exercised a similar sway over the minds of the lower orders. Individual liberty has been proclaimed far and wide, and the authorities that used to be considered supreme are now assigned a very secondary position. What is the remedy for this state of things? asks Dr. Katō. It is quite useless, he says, to be talking vaguely about the need of cultivating filial piety and loyalty. The two terms *chū* and *kō* have been drilled into the heads of the young till they are quite sick of them. The late Mr. Nakamura Keiu introduced a new method of teaching morality when he translated into Japanese Smiles' "Self-help." To this work he gave the title *Risshihen* (The Character-forming volume). In this book moral attainments of a high class are held up to admiration by means of short biographies of remarkable men. This mode of teaching ethics is far preferable to any of the abstract methods usually adopted. For the young it is far better that they should know what men have actually attained in the way of virtue than be furnished with an elaborate set of principles which are difficult of application. Practical morality must be placed first and foremost in any scheme of teaching. But when we come to theoretical ethics, then modern teachers rely chiefly on two sources of moral action, namely intuition and utility. The intuitionist will tell you that men need no external prompting, that if they will but follow the guidance of their own consciences, they will do right. The utilitarian; on the other hand, says that to follow intuition alone often leads one astray, that it is only by experience of the consequences of actions that we can judge of their real quality. This experience may be our own or that of others. When students reach a reasoning age, Dr. Katō is in favour of their moral ideas being placed on a rational basis. They should be taught that egoism and altruism are not antagonistic principles, but that in a properly organised community as well as in the individual minds of the best men they work in harmony. It is desirable that this truth should be illustrated in teaching by constant reference to the actions of the most virtuous men the world has produced.

* * *

In an article entitled "Literature and Royalty," the *Kokumin Shimbun* traces the connection of the Imperial family with the publication of various standard works. The *Kojiki*, the *Nihongi*, the *Zoku Nihongi*, the *Go-Nihongi*, the *Fūdoki*, the *Manyōshū*, the *Kokinshū* were all published in obedience to Imperial commands or under Imperial patronage, says the *Kokumin Shimbun*. Even after the Emperors ceased to exercise direct control over the affairs of State they still retained their connection with literature. Writers in the employ of the palace existed in all ages. Even in the *Meiji* era there is what is called the O-uta-dokoro, a bureau whose duty it is to collect and publish not only the verses penned by royal personages, but well-written poems on any subject in which His Imperial Majesty may be interested. If the patronage of the Emperor does not extend to other kinds of literature, it is because the advisers of His Majesty on these subjects are remiss in their duties, and not on account of unwillingness on the Emperor's part to give encouragement to literature generally. The *Kokumin* refers to the keen interest which Louis XIV. took in French literature during the latter half of the 17th century, and the progress that it made under his patronage, and then proceeds to observe that the officials whose duty it is to make suggestions to the Emperor on this subject should ask His Majesty to order the carry-

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ing out of the following proposals. (1) That a perfectly reliable and exhaustive history of Japan be compiled and published. (2) That in this history special attention be given to the Tokugawa and *Meiji* eras. (3) That a thoroughly exhaustive and accurate Japanese Dictionary be compiled. (4) An Academy of Learning, similar to the French Academy, be established and supplied with sufficient money to make it a success: this money to be given in a lump sum to be used as capital or in annual permanent grants. Also that prizes be given for essays, and other forms of encouragement be adopted. (5) That His Majesty be asked to allow noted writers to be presented to him, and that pensions be granted to them. (6) That when theatrical performances take place at court, that noted modern plays should be acted and His Majesty's attention be called to the writers of these plays. (7) That decorations, orders and pensions be given to those foreigners who have by their writings made Japan known to the world. One great cause of the non-appearance of any great literary work in the Meiji era is lack of appreciation on the part of the general public, says the *Kokumin Shimbun*. The patronage of the Emperor would undoubtedly give to literature the impetus it so much needs. The majority of our scholars do not possess the means to enable them to devote years to the production of learned works. The rank that the *litterateur* holds in this country at the present time is far too low. His Majesty the Emperor, if rightly advised, would, we feel sure, be only too ready to take steps for raising literature to a higher level, concludes the *Kokumin Shimbun*.

* * *

We read in the *Tetsugaku Zasshi* that at a meeting of the Philosophical Society held on October 28th at the Imperial University, Dr. Katō Hiroyuki attacked in a most vigorous manner Dr. Inoue Enryō's Anti-materialism treatise entitled 破唯物論 *Ha-ibutsu-ron*. Dr. Katō entitled his lecture *Ha-haibutsuron* (The Confutation of the Confuter of Materialism). The lecture is to appear in full in a later number of the magazine. In the report given in No. 411 we are told that Dr. Inoue's accusing materialistic philosophers of being responsible for all the money-worship that exists, was shown by Dr. Katō to be absurd. There is no real connection, observes Dr. Katō, between the deductions of the scientist from his study of matter and what is called the worldly and grovelling spirit of the age. To say that one causes the other shows a thorough misunderstanding of the whole subject.

JAPANESE LITERATURE.

By Clay MacCauley.

(CONCLUDED)

MODERN LITERATURE UNDER THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE.

1600-1850 A. D.

The next noteworthy event in Japan's literary history was the revival, under the early Tokugawa Shōguns, of the study of the ancient imperial records, and of the writings of the classic age. The great first Tokugawa Shōgun, Ieyasu, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, subjected and quieted the warring clans of the country. An age of peace, to last for the next two hundred and fifty years, was then entered upon. Of the most important results of the literary revival that accompanied these happy days for the State was the full maturing of a standard language for literature. What Yoshida Kenkō had begun in "Tsure zure gusa"—the amalgamation of a Chinese vocabulary with purely Japanese forms of speech—was well carried forward by the Mito school of historians towards the opening of the eighteenth century (the "Age of Genroku," 1688-1703); and as the century advanced, was perfected by accomplished critics, novelists, and dramatists of the times. To such critics as Keichiu (1640-1701), Kada (1669-1736), Mabuchi (1697-1769), Motoori, (1730-801), and Hirata (1776-1843), Japanese literature is indebted for elaborate critical commentaries upon the "Kojiki," the "Manyōshū, and the ancient Shinto ritual; and from them the writers of after days received models in composition and style. The novelists, especially Bakin (1767-1840), and Ikku (1763-1831), created much-prized works in fiction; Bakin, master of a style almost classical in quality, and Ikku, notwithstanding an objectionable coarseness of subjects, displaying great literary skill. In the Tokugawa period appeared, among many others, two remarkable dramatists: Takeda Izumo (1690-1756), and Chikamatsu Monzayemon (1652-1714),—the latter showing such minute analysis of the motives of human character and action that he has been called the Japanese Shakespeare.

With mention of the work of these writers this sketch of the course of Japanese literature may close. Within the last half-century the life of the Japanese people as a whole has been subjected to a radical revolution. This secluded nation has opened its borders to free intercourse with the rest of the world. The recent history of Japanese literature, interesting though it be, is yet in largest measure but a story of the importation and adaptation of Western thought to Japanese uses. For present purposes it need not come under consideration.

Illustrative translations.

THE WORTHLESSNESS OF CHINESE PHILOSOPHY.

[Mobuchi, pupil of Kada and teacher of Motoori, was a voluminous writer. "His chief aim, says Sir Ernest Satow' translator of the following extract from his writings, "was to carry out the idea originated by Kada, namely to illustrate the prehistoric age." As a leader in the revival of pure Shintō, he was strongly opposed to the influences in Japan of Chinese thought. His hostility is well shown in this passage from his *Koku i-kō*]

Wherein lies the value of a rule of conduct? In its conducing to the good order of the state. * * * While the Chinese for ages past have had a succession of different dynasties to rule over them, Japan has been faithful to one uninterrupted line of sovereigns. Every Chinese dynasty was founded upon rebellion and parricide. * * * A philosophy which produced such effects must be founded on a false system.

When Confucianism was first introduced into Japan, the simple minded natives, deceived by its plausible appearance, accepted it with eagerness and allowed it to spread its influence everywhere. The consequence was the civil war which broke out immediately after the death of Tenji Tennō in 671 between the emperor's brother and son, which only came to an end in 672 by the suicide of the latter. In the 8th century the Chinese costume and etiquette were adopted by the Court. This foreign pomp and splendour covered the rapid depravation of men's hearts and created a wide gulf between the Mikado and his people. So long as the sovereign maintains a simple style of living, the people are contended with their own hard lot. Their wants are few and they are easily ruled. But if the sovereign has a magnificent palace, gorgeous clothing, and crowds of finely dressed women to wait on him, the sight of these things must cause in others a desire to possess themselves of the same luxuries; or, if they are not strong enough to take them by force, it excites their envy. If the Mikado had continued to live in a house roofed with shingles, and whose walls were of mud, to wear hempen clothes, to carry his sword in a scabbard wound round with the tendrils of some creeping plant, and to go to the chase carrying his bows and arrows, as was the ancient custom, the present state of things would never have come about. But since the introduction of Chinese manners, the sovereign, while occupying a highly dignified place has been degraded to the intellectual level of a woman. The power fell into the hands of servants, and although they never actually assumed the title, they were sovereigns in fact, while the Mikado became an utter nullity.

ON PAINTING.

[This illustration of art criticism is from the "Tamagatsuma" (Wicker Basket) of Motoori, an entertaining miscellany by this modern master of Japanese prose. Professor Chamberlain, translator of the extract given here, says that "as a stylist Motoori stands quite alone amongst Japanese writers His elegance is equalled only by his perspicuity.....This greatest scholar and writer of modern Japan" was born in Matsuzaka in Ise in the year 1730, and died in 1801. "To him more than to any other one man is due the movement which has restored the Mikado to his ancestral rights."]

The great object in painting any one is to make as true a likeness as possible of his face (that is of course the first essential), and also of his figure, and even of his very clothes. Great attention should therefore be paid to the smallest details of a portrait. Now in the present day, painters of the human face set out with no other intention than that of showing their vigour of touch, and of producing an elegant picture. The result is a total want of likeness to the subject. Indeed, likeness to the subject is not a thing to which they attach any importance. From this craving to display vigour and to produce elegant pictures there results a neglect of details. Pictures are dashed off so sketchily that not only is there no likeness to the face of the person painted, but wise and noble men are represented with an expression of countenance befitting none but rustics of the lowest degree. This is worthy of the gravest censure. If the real features of a personage of antiquity are unknown, it should be the artist's endeavour to represent such a personage in a manner appropriate to his rank or virtues. The man of great rank should be represented as having a dignified air, so that he may appear to have been really great. The virtuous man, again, should be painted so as to look really virtuous. But far from conforming to this principle, the artists of modern times, occupied as they are with nothing but the desire of displaying their vigour of touch, represent the noble and virtuous alike as if they had been rustics or idiots.

The same ever-present desire for mere technical display makes our artists turn beautiful women's faces into ugly ones. It will perhaps be alleged that a too elegant representation of mere beauty of feature may result in a less valuable work of art; but when it does so the fault must lie with the artist. His business is to paint the beautiful face, and at the same time *not* to produce a picture artistically inferior. In any case, fear for his own reputation as an artist is a wretched excuse for turning a beautiful face into an ugly one. On the contrary, a beautiful woman should be painted as beautiful as possible; for ugliness repels the beholder. At the same time it often happens in such pictures as those which are sold in the Yedo shops, that the strained effort to make the faces beautiful ends in excessive ugliness and vulgarity, to say nothing of artistic degradation.

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Our warlike paintings (that is, representations of fierce warriors fighting) have nothing human about the countenances. The immense round eyes, the angry nose, the great mouth, remind one of demons. Now, will any one assert that this unnatural, demoniacal fashion is the proper way to give an idea of the very fiercest warrior's look? No! The warrior's fierceness should indeed be depicted, but he should at the same time be recognized as a simple human being. It is doubtless to such portraits of warriors that a Chinese author alludes, when, speaking of Japanese paintings, he says that the figures in them are like those of the anthropophagous demons of Buddhist lore As his countrymen do not ever actually meet living Japanese, such of them as read his book will receive the impression that all our countrymen resemble demons in appearance. For though the Japanese, through constant reading of Chinese books, are well acquainted with Chinese matters,—the Chinese, who never read our literature, are completely ignorant on our score, and there can be little doubt that the few stray allusions to us that do occur are implicitly believed in. This belief of foreigners in our portraits as an actual representation of our people will have the effect of making them imagine—when they see our great men painted like rustics and our beautiful women like frights—that the Japanese men are really contemptible in appearance and all the Japanese women hideous. Neither is it foreigners alone who will be thus misled. Our own very countrymen will not be able to resist the impression that the portraits they see of the unknown heroes of antiquity do really represent those heroes' faces.

OPENING TO "GLIMPSES OF DREAMLANDS."

[This extract from the preface to one of Bakin's famous novels, published 1809-10, is part of a translation by Ludovic Murdwin, who characterizes Bakin as a rationalist of the most modern Teutonic type; and his grim satire and good-tempered cynicism remind us alternately of Carlyle and Thackeray.]

The length of man's life is fifty years, and even in ancient times men rarely reached seventy. A merely limited life is received from Heaven-and-Earth by man, but his passions have no limit. He is bound like a slave to the cent which he wears his nails to the very quick to obtain. Before the six-monthly term days arrives, payments and receipts are being briskly carried on, pleadings for grace or money, and loud lamentations; men borrowing with the meek, downcast look of a stone saint, yet rushing off to evil deeds with it whenever they grasp the desired treasure, and then repaying their loan with visage scowling like the King of Hell when he has his mouth smeared with red incense.

The popular proverb that "even in hell sins are estimated in money" is, alas! esteemed a *golden* saying. "My property," and "this or the other man's," although receiving the titles of their owners, remain but a little time like a passing traveller who tarries for a night; for if there is income there is also expenditure. Eating and drinking, after all, are the pegs which give strength and continuity to life; and when you are really hungry perhaps nothing tastes nasty. Barbarous foreigners buy the first *bonitos* of the season with a golden *koban*, and when they have devoured them still crave for more. If you try to fare on plain rice flavoured only with tea, it will travel but about three inches down your throat, and soon all will find its way to the public boats. A tight little house that you can get your knees into is quite large enough. The grand palace of the Chinese Emperor Shikō and a straw hovel differ only in being spacious or narrow, and in being placed in the country or in the capital. If you have but a room which a single mat covers, and in which you can just manage to stretch your legs, your body will be completely protected. So, again, when you have packed your five feet of carcass into clothes, they form a convenient temporary skin to your frame, while finest brocade or the [illegible] suffer only in being brilliant or dirty. When men die and become mere clay, no one by looking at their flayed [unclothed] bodies only can tell which of them wore the grandest raiment during life. A waist-cloth made of silk crape is after all only a waist-cloth. When the true principles which ought to regulate these things have been apprehended, our shoulders and knees will no doubt be covered with such patches of all sorts and hues as may first come to hand; but when one knowing of any costly article for which he has no special purpose, strikes a bargain on the condition of two six-monthly payments, adorns himself with a borrowed wadded gown, and points his toes to the pawn-shop, it is really a most pitiful state of affairs!

According to the kind of costume they wear, men are divided into great and mean; and it follows simply the laws of etiquette in regard to the cut and colour of his clothes, putting on even tattered pants and carrying a rusty sword in his girdle, though his possessions may be slender, still he can pay his debts. Performing all the duties assigned to him by Heaven, seizing the opportunity which a little leisure affords to turn over the green covers of an old book, viewing the ways and manners of the ancients, and resolving henceforth to mend his own ways, this is better far than purchasing pain with money. The Religion of Heaven does not give superabundantly. If a man has money he may have no children to bestow it upon; if his family is large his means may be small; handsome men are often fools, ugly men clever; taking sorts of fellows are frequently lascivious, and men poor in speech are strong in will.

CLOSING SCENE FROM THE "CHIUSHINGURA."

[This story, "Chiushingura," records the celebrated fidelity of the "Forty-seven Ronin," the great heroes of feudal Japan, 1701-2. Translation by F. Victor Dickins. It embodies the dearest ideals of a large part of the Japanese people. In dramatic form it is repeatedly rendered in Japanese theatres. Mr. Dickins's translation follows the modified text of a famous dramatist, Takeda Izumo, who shares with Chikamatsu a wide popularity.]

Another moment, and the body of Moronao lay on the floor, covered with wounds.

The conspirators crowded round it, wild with excitement, shouting:—

"Oh, rare sight! Oh, happy fortune! Happy are we as the *moki* when he found his waif,‡ fortunate as though we gazed upon the flower of the *udonge*, that blossoms but once in three thousand years."

But to you—to you, fell the glory of finding him, and it was you who dragged him here alive, into our presence. 'Twas a good deed, Yazama, acceptable to the spirit of our master; each of us would fain have been the doer of it. Comrades, say I not well?"

Yoshida assented on behalf of the rest.

"Delay not, Yazama," resumed Yuranosuke, for time flies fast."

"If it must be so," cried Yazama, as he passed forward uttering *gomen** in a low tone, and offered incense first of the company.

"And next our chief," exclaimed Yoshida.

"What man can that be?" asked Yoshida wonderingly, while his comrades echoed his words.

The *Karō*, without replying, drew a purse made of striped stuff from his bosom. "He who shall precede me," cried the *Karō*, "is Hayano Kampei. A negligence of his duty as a vassal prevented him from being received into our number; but, eager to take at least a part in the erection of a monument to his liege lord, he sold away his wife, and thus became able to furnish his share toward the expense. As his father-in-law had the money, and was murdered, and I caused the subscription to be returned to him, mad with despair he committed *seppuku* and died—a most miserable and piteous death. All my life I shall never cease to regret having caused the money to be returned to him; never for a moment will be absent from my memory that through my fault he came to so piteous an end. During this night's struggle the purse has been among us, borne by Heiyemon. Let the latter pass forward, and in the name of his sister's dead husband, burn incense before the tablet of our lord."

Heiyemon, thus addressed, passed forward, exclaiming, "From amidst the shadows of the tall grass blades the soul of Kampei thanks you for the unlooked-for favour you confer upon him." Laying the purse upon the censor, he added:—

"'Tis Hayano Kampei who, second in turn, offers incense before the tablet of his liege lord."

The remainder followed, offering up in like manner—amid loud cries of grief, and with sobs and tears, and trembling in the anguish of their minds—incense before the tablet of their master.

Cutting off their enemy's head with the dagger with which their dead master had committed *seppuku*,* they resumed their orgy, exclaiming:—

"We deserted our wives, we abandoned our children, we left our aged folk uncared for, all to obtain this one head. How auspicious a day is this!"

They struck at the head in their frenzy, gnashed at it, shed tears over it; their grief and fury, poor wretches, beggared description.

Yuranosuke, drawing from his bosom the *ihai*† of his dead master, placed it reverently on a small stand at the upper end of the room; and then set the head of Moronao, cleansed from blood, on another opposite to it. He next took a perfume from within his helmet, and burnt it before the tablet of his lord, prostrating himself and withdrawing slowly, while he bowed his head reverently three times, and then again thrice three times.

"O thou soul of my liege lord, with awe doth thy vassal approach thy mighty presence, who art now like unto him that was born of the lotos flower,‡ to attain a glory and eminence beyond the understanding of men! Before the sacred tablet tremblingly set I the head of thine enemy, severed from his corpse by the sword thou deignedst to bestow upon thy servant in the hour of thy last agony. O thou that art now resting amid the shadows of the tall grass, look with favour on my offering." Bursting into tears, the *Karō* of Yenya thus adored the memory of his lord.

"And now, comrades," he resumed after a pause, "advance each of you, one after the other, and burn incense before the tablet of your master."

"We would all," cried Yoshida, "venture to ask our chief first among us to render that honour to our lord's memory."

"Nay," answered the *Karō*. "'tis not I who of right should be first. Yazama Jintaiō, to you of right falls that honour."

"Not so," cried Yazama: "I claim no such favour. Others might think I had no right to it, and troubles might thus arise."

"No one will think that," exclaimed Yuranosuke. "We have all freely ventured our lives in the struggle to seize Moronao."

Suddenly the air is filled with the din of the trampling of men, with the clatter of hoofs, and with the noise of war drums.

Yuranosuke does not change a feature.

"'Tis the retainers of Moronao who are coming down upon us: why should we fight with them?"

The *Karō* is about to give the signal to his comrades to accomplish the final act of their devotion, by committing *seppuku* in memory of their lord, when Momonoi Wakasanosuke appears upon the scene, disordered with the haste he had used, in his fear of being too late.

"Moroyasu, the young brother of Moronao,

‡ Some drift-wood by which this sea-tortoise (*moki*) saw the light it had longed in vain to see for three thousand years.

* "Pardon me" (for going forward).

"Nay," said the *Karō*, "there is yet one who should pass before me."

* Suicide by *hara kiri*, or cutting open the abdomen.

† Tablet holding the posthumous name of the dead, and date of death.

‡ Buddha.

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is already at the great gate," cries Momonoi. "If you commit *seppuku* at such a moment it will be said that you were driven to it by fear, and an infamous memory will attach to your deed. I counsel you to depart hence without delay, and betake yourselves to the burial place of your lord, the Temple of Kōmyo."

"So shall it be," answered Yuranosuke after a pause. "We will do as you counsel us, and will accomplish our last hour before the tomb of our ill-fated lord. We would ask you, Sir Wakasanosuke, to prevent our enemies from following us."

Hardly had Yuranosuke concluded, when Yakushiji Jiūzayemon and Sagisaka Bannai suddenly rushed forth from their hiding-places, shouting.—"Oboshi, villain, thou shalt not escape!" and struck right and left at the *Karō*. Without a moment's delay Rikiya hastened to his father's assistance, and forced the wretches to turn their weapons against himself. The struggle did not last long. Avoiding a blow aimed at him by Yakushiji, Rikiya cut the fellow down, and left him writhing in mortal agony upon the ground. Bannai met with a similar fate. A frightful gash upon the leg brought him to his knee,—a pitiable spectacle enough,—and a few moments afterward the wretch breathed his last.

"A valiant deed, a valiant deed!"

Forever and ever shall the memory endure of these faithful clansmen; and in the earnest hope that the story of their loyalty—full bloom of the bamboo leaf §—may remain a bright example as long as the dynasty of our rulers shall last, has the foregoing tale of their heroism been writ down.

LITERATURE IN JAPAN.

We may take a glance, in passing, at the literature of Japan in general considered. As a whole, it has been for the greater part Chinese in language and script. As distinctly Japanese, this literature has had in fact only one period of dominance and high excellence—that lying between the eighth and the thirteenth centuries. The eighteenth-century literary revival was not a return to either the *kana* writing or to the native language of the classics; it was at the best an extension of the Chinese vocabulary, and the amalgamation of Chinese ideographs with the *kana* script in sentences that were Japanese in idiom and in construction. The Japanese literature of modern times has consequently been a composite of Chinese and Japanese words and writing. Chinese literature as affected by Japanese writers is at the present day rapidly decreasing in mass and in value.

Looked at as literature only, literature in Japan is exceedingly voluminous. It exists as extensive libraries of history, State records, and private historical digests; as regulations of court ceremonial; as codifications and commentaries upon civil and other law; as statements and expositions of doctrine and rituals for Shintō and Buddhism in religion, and of the ethics of Confucianism; as treatises upon Chinese philosophies; as biographies, records of travel, and works in fiction; as disquisitions on art; as general encyclopædias of topography, zoölogy, botany, and other departments of natural phenomena; as dramatic works; as records of folk-lore; and though last, by no means the least in mass, as poetry and comment upon the poems.

PRINTING IN JAPAN.

The art of printing, as block-printing, was brought to Japan as early as the eighth century. Printing from movable types was known at the end of the fourteenth century. In the seventeenth century the use of the press became general, and large quantities of the manuscripts hoarded for centuries reappeared as printed books, increasing in numbers until in recent times they have become one of the common possessions of the people throughout the empire.

§ The name of each boy in the Tokugawa Shōgunate contained the name *take* (bamboo).

II.

CONTENT AND VALUE OF JAPANESE LITERATURE.

Turning now from the history of Japanese literature, let us look for a moment at its content. How shall we characterize this? What is its value?

At the outset it must be acknowledged that in general the literature of Japan does not abound in matter of direct or living interest to Western readers. It had its springs in conditions and circumstances very different from those of the literature of the Occident. Its references to custom, to historic events, to personages and places of tradition, introduce the European and American reader into an environment almost wholly unfamiliar. Its motives for action, its praise and censure of conduct, are governed by standards which in many ways are unlike those dominant in the life of far-away peoples. Then its modes of expression have scarcely anything in common with the ways of speech to which the mind of the West has become habituated, and which the Western mind enjoys. In fact, the Occidental reader, generally speaking, has neither the requisite mental habit and intelligence, nor the peculiar mood, needed for an appreciative interest in the literature of the Japanese.

It would be injustice however to much that is of real value, to turn this judgment into a sweeping condemnation. Japanese literature is strange and alien; it is to the dweller in the West, as a rule, dull and unmeaning; its speech is painstakingly minute, dwelling upon details that in European speech are passed with hardly a touch,—the verboseness dragging its way through sentences that seem at times interminable. And then, in much that must be accepted as literature proper, as the *belles lettres* of the Japanese, there is a free display of thought and act forbidden in recent centuries by the moral standard of the approved literature of the West. But this literature holds the records of a peculiar and extensive mythology and folk-lore; it shows the origin and development of a unique system of government; it exhibits the elaboration of a social order of remarkable stability, and the operation of society under a system of ceremonial etiquette in the highest degree complex and refined. In this literature the ethnologist, the psychologist, the student of comparative religion, the art critic, the historian, and often the general reader, can find much pleasant entertainment and profitable study. There is in it, notwithstanding a mass of dull, prolix, and profitless matter, a considerable contribution to the world's means of diversion and stores of knowledge. The reader, it must be said, will look in vain into Japanese literature for intellectual creativeness or invention. The Japanese mind is characteristically neither original nor adventurous. In Japanese history, no philosophy or science has been started or been much advanced. From a remote past the people of this empire have been learners and followers of nations endowed as pioneers and discoverers. Their genius for the most part has lain in the appropriation and refinement of the gains first made by others. Accepting their monarchy as a direct descent of heavenly power into the lower world, the Japanese from ancient times have subordinated themselves to it under the sway of the twin chief virtues of the Confucian ethics, loyalty and filial piety. Under the influence of these principles a social order was developed, marked by a devotion to emperor, lord, parent, and to all superiors in the relations of man with man, that showed a self-abnegation such as has probably never been seen among any other people. Accompanying this universal social systematization was a ceremonial refinement, a graceful complexity of etiquette, developed with consummate excellence, and dominating even the humblest parts of the civil and domestic organism. As results of their social discipline, the Japanese as a people long ago accepted life as they were born to it, without disturbing impatience or restless ambition; they achieved great contentment with but small means for self-gratification; and they were prepared to yield life itself with a readiness almost unknown among self-assertive peoples. The learning of Japan—that is, the religion really directing the people, Buddhism; the principles and much of the detail of their law; whatever might be classed as science and philosophy — was received from abroad. Among the Japanese these things gained elaboration and in most of their relations received refinement with the lapse of the centuries. Hardly any of the industries, and we may say none of the fine arts, were originated by this people. The Japanese however have carried such interests, their arts especially, to degrees of excellence that have drawn to them universal admiration. Of all this and of much else, Japanese literature bears good record, and therefore has noteworthy interest and value to the peoples of remote lands.

JAPANESE POETRY.

In one department of letters, however, it may be said that the Japanese have wrought from a beginning, and have produced results that are specifically their own. Their poetry had its origin in a pre-historic age, and it has had a culture down to the present day distinctively individual and unique. Much Chinese poetry has been written in Japan, and by Japanese writers; but, unlike prose, Japanese verse has never been subjected to Chinese ways of thought and expression.

The cadence of Japanese poetry, Mr. Aston says, "is not marked by a regular succession of accented syllables, as in English." It has, says Prof. Chamberlain, neither "rhyme, assonance, alliteration, accentual stress, quantity, nor parallelism." These judgments are true, but with some qualifications. It is true that Japanese verse has normally an irregular cadence, yet much of it may easily receive, and often does receive, in the reading the movement of some of the simpler measures of English poetry. It is common, for example, to hear such verses as the following read as though they were composed in trochaic movement;—

Nikumarete
Nikumi kaetsu na
Nikumarero.
Nikumi nikumare
Hairitai kairitai

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Hated though you be,
Hate for hate do not return;
Hatred given accept,
If for hatred you give hate
Then to hating comes no end.

So, in the original of the *I-ro-ha* Buddhist hymn, given, above, the *Nori no Hatsu-ne*, "The Dominant Note of the Law," its lines generally take the rhythm of English anapestic verse as:—

Iiazura goto ni hi wo kasane;
Rokushiyu ruten no tane wo maki;
Hakanaku kono yo wo sugosū nari, &c.

In spending my days chasing things that are trifles;
In sowing the seed of the six-fold migration;
I pass through the world with my life-purpose baffled, &c.

However, the prosody dominant in Western poetry does not possess the poetry of Japan except, we may say, through the influence of a natural but unacknowledged rhythmic instinct. In large part, as Mr. Aston says, "it is only distinguished from prose by metre." In form, as noted before, Japanese poetry is peculiar is consisting generally of alternations of verses composed of five and seven syllables. "Lines of three, four, six and eight syllables," says Mr. Aston, "may be found in the oldest poetry,—but these variations are not intentional, and in singing or chanting the proper length of the lines is preserved." The standard model for compositions is the *tanka*, the five versed stanza of which quite a number of illustrative translations have already been given. Usually the *tanka* may be divided into two complete parts, the "first" or "upper" three lines, and the "second" or "lower" two. The reputed most ancient song treasured in Japanese tradition, the song of the god Susa-no-o, sung at the building of the bridal palace for a celestial pair, is the prototype of this popular measure. "When this Great Deity first built the palace of Suga," says the 'Kojiki' "clouds rose up thence. Then he made an august song. That song said:—

'Yakumo tatsu;
Izumo ya gaki;
Tsuma gomi ni
Ya gaki tsukuru;
Sono ya gaki wo!'"

This is, in somewhat free translation:—

"Many clouds appear:
Eightfold clouds a barrier raise
Round the wedded pair.
Manifold the clouds stand guard;
Oh that eightfold barrier-ward!"

Besides the *tanka* there are numerous variations in arrangement of the fundamental five and seven syllable verses, but the limits of this paper prevent their illustration. There are, however, two, extremes of composition that may be noticed in passing, the *naga-uta*, or "long-song," and the *hokku* or "first part." The *naga-uta* is indefinite in length. It is made up of couplets of the two kinds of syllables, the end of the poem being in an additional seven syllable verse. The legend of "Urashima Taro" given above is a good example of this kind of poetry. The *hokku* is a complete poem contained in only the seventeen syllables that make up the first three lines or "part" of the *tanka*. Necessarily it must be an exceedingly compact bit of word and thought skill to be worth anything—as literature.

The following *hokku*, which is also an acrostic of the word *yutaka* "fruitfulness," "abundance"—is a good illustration of its kind.

Yufudachi ya
Ta wo mi-meguri no
Kami naraba

If the summer shower
Would but round the rice-fields go
As it were a god!

In the construction of Japanese verse there are certain special oddities, such as redundant expletives, and phrases called "Pillow-words" and "Introductions." These expressions are purely conventional ornaments or euphonisms. Much of the superior merit of this verse-writing depends also upon a serious use of puns and of other word-plays. The "Pillow-words," says Prof. Chamberlain, are "as a rule, simply epithets that were formerly applied quite naturally and appropriately to various objects, places and actions, but which in most cases, by the process of phonetic decay, by being used in connection with expressions having but a very distant affinity to the expressions they originally served to define," &c., "have become almost unrecognizable and practically devoid of meaning." "They are prefixed to other words merely for the sake of euphony. Almost every word of note has some "Pillow-word.'" An "Introduction" is shown in the third song above, taken from the *Hyaku-nin-isshu*. Speaking of these and the other word plays special to Japanese serious poetry, Prof. Chamberlain remarks: "There is nothing in the nature of things constraining us to associate plays upon words with the ridiculous. Each literature must be a law unto itself."

The subject matter of the poetry of the Japanese, to characterize it generally, is simple and serene emotion in reference to person or nature. And,—still broadly characterizing it,—its quality is daintiness; its mood is meditation. Poetic imagination, as known in the West, has no place in Japanese verse; instead, the verse is given over to lyric fancies. It is conventional, suggestive, impressionist, like Japanese painting. It is not a chosen means for sounding and recording the depths of profound spiritual experience. It has never been the vehicle of an epic.

Leaving now this sketch of our subject, we are constrained to say in general judgment upon Japanese literature, so far as it has been disclosed, that it can not be given place among the great achievements of the human intellect. However, this fact is not to be wondered at. The limitations that have prevented its expansion into a larger and more commanding worth have almost of necessity surrounded it. The people of this empire—from time immemorial isolated in the farthest East; dependent for their letters, laws, philosophy, religious faith, ethics, science, industrial and fine arts, upon their neighbours of the continent; also hitherto denied by nature the creative or inventive genius—as a matter of course have been unable to go far or to rise to any great height in literary achievement. What they may hereafter do, no one can foretell. To-day they are living in an environment unlike any they have before known. Japan is now in intimate intercourse with the whole world. The Japanese people are now appropriating with marvellous speed the civilization of Europe and America. What may be called a world-consciousness and culture is becoming dominant among them. To what heights they may reach, actuated by this power; to what grand goal they may yet move, the future only can show.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

FRIDAY, DEC. 23RD.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers met at 10, 15 a.m.

PETITIONS.

A report was presented by the Petitions Committee, showing that 185 petitions had been received since the beginning of the session, of which 40 had been discussed, and of these 38 were recommended for adoption and presentation to the Government and 2 were rejected.

THE LAND TAX.

The Bill (sent up from the Lower House) for Reassessing the Taxable Value of Land was then read.

Count Matsukata, Minister of State for Finance, in a very brief speech recommended the Bill to the favourable consideration of the House. He explained that the correlated measure for increasing the Land Tax had been greatly changed by the House of Representatives, but, in view of all the circumstances, the Government had given its consent to the changes. The two Bills were inseparably connected, and he trusted that they would secure the consent of the House.

Mr. Nishimura Riyokichi condemned the proposed system of reassessment as not really calculated to give fair results, and asked for some explanations, which were furnished by the Government Delegate.

The Bill was handed to a special committee of 27 chosen by the President.

The Bill for increasing the Land Tax having been briefly introduced by Count Matsukata,

Viscount Soga inquired what course the Government contemplated for making good the deficiency of estimated revenue that would result from the changes effected in the Bill by the House of Representatives.

Count Matsukata replied that the matter was now under consideration, and that the necessary measures would be submitted in due time.

Viscount Soga inquired whether the Treasury would not be inconvenienced by losing a revenue of 3½ million *yen* at the end of 5 years, as would be the case if the new Land Tax Bill became law.

Count Matsukata did not anticipate inconvenience. The country's resources were constantly developing, and the state might look forward to largely increased revenues at the end of 5 years not only from the Customs dues but also from indirect taxes in general.

Viscount Soga found it difficult to trust any forecast of the kind. He recalled the fact that in 1873 the Government had issued a notification promising to gradually augment the indirect taxes and reduce the Land Tax proportionately until it stood at 1 per cent. It had not been found possible to fulfil that promise, and there was no apparent reason to suppose that the Government's anticipations would prove better founded on the present occasion. He desired to hear the views of the Finance Minister upon that point.

Count Matsukata considered that the conditions existing now differed so materially from those existing in 1873 as to forbid any comparison of the kind instituted by Viscount Soga. He (Count Matsukata) had been one of those concerned in drawing up the financial programme of 1873, and he could therefore explain the facts fully. When the financiers of that time spoke of taxes upon commodities being gradually substituted for the Land Tax, their idea had been to impose taxes upon the produce of the land, as rice, barley, and so on. To that course he had objected, his view being that the Land Tax was the simplest and surest form of revenue. But his objections had been over-ruled, and the notification had been issued indicating an ultimate transfer of the burden of taxation from the land itself to the products of the land, a policy which proved impracticable in the end. As to the future, it was of course impossible to speak with certainty about the conditions which would exist 5 years hence, but certainly to draw deductions about 1904 from the experiences of 1873 in a country where

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such changes had taken place and were still taking place, seemed unwarrantable.

In answer to further questions, His Excellency explained that the Government's opinion had been strongly in favour of raising the Land Tax from 2.5 per cent. to 4; but, failing an increase in that amount, there could be no doubt as to the advisability of consenting to the smaller figure voted by the House of Representatives. With regard to the apprehension that this additional burden would swallow up the resources available for educational purposes among the agricultural classes, he believed that the people had an ample margin of financial ability, and that no fear of the kind need be entertained.

Viscount Tani presumed that before imposing such a heavy tax upon the farmers, the Government had taken care to obtain accurate information as to the pecuniary condition of the people in the agricultural districts. It was altogether a superficial view to imagine that the land-holders were well off. In outward appearance they might show some signs of affluence, but there was a reverse to the picture. Had that reverse been examined? Did the Government know what the farmers' debts aggregated? He had no desire to press for an immediate answer, but hoped to receive an accurate reply after full investigations had been made. (At the conclusion of these remarks the Viscount left the Chamber excitedly, without awaiting the answer which the Government Delegate had risen to give)

The Bill was handed to the same Special Committee of 27.

PETITIONS.

Twenty-seven petitions were then brought forward *en bloc* by the Petitions Committee and adopted by the House for presentation to the Government.

URGENT NEW BILLS.

The President asked the House, as a matter of urgency, to consider six Bills just sent up by the Representatives with reference to the *Sake* Tax.

The Bills were handed to a Special Committee and the House rose at 3.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.15 p.m.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. Kuribara Riyoichi, on behalf of the Budget Committee, reported that the Committee, had adopted the Government's General Budget of Expenditures and Revenue for 1899-1900, with slight amendments, which he now presented for the House's consideration. He entered into minute explanations of the various appropriations and the proposed amendments, and, on the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Hoshi Toru proposed that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, and proceed to deliberate with closed doors, in order to receive Ministerial declarations.

Dr. Hatoyama opposed the project of a secret session, but the House voted against him, and the doors were closed at 1.50 p.m.

The secret session lasted two hours, during which time the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs made a statement of the Government's foreign policy.

The House rose at 3.55 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC 24TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers met at 10.15 a.m., and at once proceeded to consider the four Supplementary Budgets for the current fiscal year.

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGETS

Viscount Yuri, on behalf of the Budget Committee, having reported favourably on all these Budgets, they were passed, after a few unimportant questions.

FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN JAPAN.

Count Yoshii, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported that the Committee had approved the Bill for amending the Press Law in the sense of removing the restriction by which Japanese subjects alone being eligible to become

publishers, editors, or printers of newspapers or periodicals. The Committee recommended, however, that the word "actually" should be expunged in the clause "actually residing in Japan," for if the word were allowed to stand it might have the effect of obliging a foreigner to cease his journalistic enterprise during a temporary absence from Japan.

The Bill was passed without debate, as was also the Bill (sent up from the Lower House) for removing the tax upon ships in Okinawa Prefecture.

A PATRIOTIC REPRESENTATION.

Viscount Tani introduced a Representation urging that a suitable measure of State aid should be given for the restoration and conservation of the national shrine of Miyagi and the prefectural shrine of Sano in the same prefecture. The Viscount alluded to the fact that Japan alone among the States of the world could boast absolute immunity from foreign invasion ever since the founding of the empire, and an unbroken line of Sovereigns from the first ruler Jimmu Tenno to the present day. He spoke of the historical fact that Jimmu, a scion of the Gods, had worshipped his ancestors before setting out on his campaigns, and said it was a matter of national regret that the birth place of Japan's first Emperor could not be located with greater accuracy than the province of Hiuga. These shrines, however, had witnessed the Emperor's acts of reverence to his divine ancestors, and it was the country's duty to keep them in proper repair. Owing, however, to their out-of-the-way situation they were little visited by pilgrims, and unless something was done for them speedily they would fall into a hopeless condition. The Representation suggested that, on the occasion of the approaching Jimmu festival in April of next year, a "hall of reminiscence" (*Chōkō kwan*) should be erected and the limits of the sacred park extended, and that a suitable sum should be granted for the purpose.

The House voted the Representation without debate.

REVENUE MEASURES.

The four Bills (sent up from the Lower House) for amending the *Sake* Tax, interdicting the brewing of *Sake* for Domestic Use, &c., were then passed, as was also the Bill (sent up from the Lower House) for amending the Law relating to Infractions of the Indirect National Tax Regulations.

The House rose at 11.15 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.15 p.m.

PETITIONS

Mr. Yamamoto, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, reported that 52 petitions had been received, of which 11 were recommended for the House's consideration; 17 were set aside, and 24 were handed to the Government for purposes of comparison.

NEW SOURCES OF REVENUE.

Favourable reports of Special Committees were presented with regard to the Bill for amending the Income Tax Law, the Bill for increasing the note-issuing power of the Bank of Japan and taxing it, and the Bill for amending the Statutory Tariff in the sense of imposing higher import duties on Chinese *sake*, alcohol, and tobacco. The Committee recommended, however, that instead of the Government's plan of taxing the Bank of Japan's net profits, the impost should take the form of 1 per cent. of its note issues. Mr. Inouye Kakugoro moved that the Committee's figure should be amended to 1½ per cent., and the House adopted his proposal. The other Bills were all passed as amended by the Committees, the amendments being insignificant.

THE BUDGET.

The House then proceeded to discuss the Budget of Revenue and Expenditures for 1899-1900.

Mr. Takaoka objected to the action of the House on the ground of precipitancy. He considered it impossible to discuss such a subject as the Budget intelligently in the short space remaining at the House's disposal before the New Year's recess.

Mr. Ishiwara thought that both the Budget itself and the Committee's report were unintelligible. He moved that they be withdrawn for future presentation; and he supported his motion in a speech of great length which elicited many marks of impatience from the House.

Both of these motions were rejected, and the House proceeded to debate the Budget item by item.

Mr. Taguchi Ukichi moved that the allowance for a consulate in Spain be struck out of the Foreign Office's appropriations, and the motion was passed, although Viscount Aoki spoke in opposition to it.

Mr. Tanaka Shozo asked a question about the Expenses for Shrines in the Home Department's section, but before he could receive an answer Mr. Tsunematsu moved that the Committee's amendments of this Department's appropriations be at once passed, whereupon Mr. Tanaka became highly excited, and protested with such vehemence and intemperance that cries for his expulsion from the Chamber were raised in several quarters.

When the Finance Department's section came up for discussion, Mr. Tanaka Shōzo demanded why no appropriation appeared on account of sums spent in bribing members.

Mr. Shimada Saburo moved that the expenditures on account of the Army be reconsidered by the Government. He had always advocated full discussion of the expenditures, and their reduction to the lowest possible figure before the question of revenue or increased taxation was considered, but the taxation bills had been carried with a rush. Nevertheless the amendments made by the special committee in the Land Tax Bill had created a deficiency of revenue to the extent of 7 millions of *yen*, and they had now to determine how that deficit should be made good. He believed that retrenchments aggregating 2 million *yen* could be made in the expenditures of the Foreign Office and the other Departments, but even then there would still be 5 millions to find. On what source of revenue were they to rely? Since the Diet had adopted the programme of armaments expansion after the war, dissolution of the House had succeeded dissolution, and change of Cabinet had succeeded change, solely because of the difficulty of dealing with the finances. The fact was that the framers of the armaments expansion programme had fallen into the error of imagining that war would follow immediately on the footsteps of war. The well-known English statesman, Sir Charles Dilke, whose knowledge of foreign affairs was profound, had said, with reference to Japan when her army consisted of 7 Divisions only, that she was a great military Power and that England should seek an alliance with her. It was therefore a mistake to allege, as some alleged, that if Japan wanted to be regarded an an eligible ally she must increase her army. The great thing was to have a thoroughly well trained and efficient force rather than a large one. The House should observe that not only was the number of Divisions increased, but also the peace footing of the battalion was raised from 800 to 1,000 men. Formerly, too, it had been the custom to pay for the army's weapons by means of the money saved on account of soldiers allowed to leave the colours before their time, in consideration of special proficiency, but that system had now been abandoned, thus creating additional expenditure. He also condemned the plan pursued with regard to Formosa as needlessly costly and not calculated to give the best results. He did not profess to be familiar with the details of administrative business, but he held it to be the duty of the Ministers of the Crown to spare no effort for bringing the finances into a sound condition. Ever since the Restoration the Army's part in that great event had invested it with such prestige that for its sake the Navy was neglected, and now, in consequence of the War with China, a factitious value seemed to be again given to the military service. He wished it to understood that he was not opposing the

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Government, but rather sought to assist it in the vitally important task of bringing the finances into order.

Viscount Katsura, Minister of State for War, reminded the House that the programme of expansion, which now came before it in the regular course of events, had been approved by the Diet in its 9th session, and endorsed by succeeding Diets. These expenditures which they were now asked to vote were absolutely essential. Ever since he received the portfolio of War he had devoted himself assiduously to introducing order into military affairs, and he had succeeded in effecting economies which enabled him to establish a Division in Hokkaido without making any additional demand on the Treasury. With regard to Formosa, no measures of expansion were contemplated. The programme did not extend beyond completing the system of fortifications commenced by the Chinese. No pains had been spared to cut down the expenditures wherever retrenchment was possible, and he trusted that the House would give its consent to the appropriations as they stood.

The Home rejected Mr. Shimada's amendment.

Mr. Taguchi moved, and the House passed the motion, that the appropriations on account of the Educational Investigation Society, the High Council of Agriculture and Commerce, and the High Council of Education be struck out, and that the grant in aid of the Physical Training Society be reduced from 15,000 *yen* to 10,000 *yen*.

Mr. Tanaka Shōzo moved that the whole of the appropriations for the Department of Agriculture and Commerce be expunged, but no notice was taken of this proposal.

The whole Budget was finally passed as amended by the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Hoshi Toru moved that the House rise for the New Year's recess, and that the session be resumed on January the 16th.

The President thought that business might be resumed on the 10th of January, but the House endorsed Mr. Hoshi's proposal and rose at 6.05 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 27TH.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers met at 10.15 a.m.

THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AUDIT.

Viscount Tani explained that he had withdrawn a Petition to the Throne, presented by him but not yet brought up in the House, impeaching the conduct of the President of the Board of Audit. In answer to questions put in the previous session, the Government had acknowledged the impropriety of the President's conduct, but had pleaded the want of any law for dealing with such a case. Now, however, the official had resigned, and his successor had been appointed, so the matter might be allowed to rest.

REVENUE MEASURES.

The Bill (sent up from the Lower House) for amending the Income Tax Law was then read and handed to a Special Committee, after an ineffectual effort on the part of Baron Ozaki to have its consideration postponed until after the New Year's recess.

The Bills for taxing the Bank of Japan and increasing its note-issuing power were both handed to the same Committee. With reference to the former Bill, the Government Delegate explained that the amendment made by the Lower House, namely, the taxing of the Bank's note-issues instead of its profits, would apparently reduce the amount of the tax. On the other hand, the tax on profits would not be leviable unless the Bank was prosperous, whereas the tax on note-issues would have to be paid under any circumstances. The Government preferred the tax on profits.

On the motion of Marquis Kuroda the House agreed to debate the Land Tax Bill and the Re-assessment Bill together.

The report of the Special Committee on these Bills showed that the majority of the Committee strongly disapproved of the amendments made by the Lower House in the Land Tax Bill, but agreed to vote for them in consideration of the peculiar circumstances of the time.

Viscount Tani spoke at great length against the Bills, and took occasion to attack Mr. Taguchi Ukichi, with whom he recently carried on an animated controversy. He said that Mr. Taguchi had taken up foreign theories about the Single Tax, and had misled ignorant folks.

Mr. Kaneko Kentaro replied, and was followed on the other side by Mr. Kamada, who attacked the House of Representatives vehemently for voting by unsigned ballot.

Mr. Miura called Mr. Kamada to order. He said that the House of Peers was not the proper place to find fault with the procedure of the House of Representatives, and he called on Mr. Kamada to withdraw his remark, or on the President to expunge it from the record.

Viscount Tani excitedly advised Mr. Kamada neither to notice Mr. Miura's criticisms not to withdraw his assertion, and the President ruled that he himself had no discretion in the matter.

A signed ballot was taken with regard to the Bills, when 155 voted for them and 55 against. The second and third readings were carried at once.

ADJOURNMENT.

A private Bill, providing that certain changes in the classification of lands might be effected by administrative order, was then passed, and the House rose at 5.20 p.m., to meet again on January 9th.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A WORTHY PHYSICIAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In these days when we hear so much of the Doshisha matter, of unfaithfulness to trust and responsibility, of imperfect standards of ethics and morals, on the part of Japanese and see there are many who are quite ready to attribute the revealed qualities of the few to the whole race, it may not be unpleasant now as the time of goodwill to all—Christmas—draws near, to hear of a case of devotion to the highest ideals and self-sacrifice for those ideals, which the writer is happy to believe is not so much more rare in this country than in other lands: a case of self-immolation requiring grace such as the writer would feel wholly incapable of.

Though in no way connected with it, the writer has had occasion more than once to visit an institution in Meguro, one of the quiet suburbs of Tokyo, called the "Rest Garden for the Outcasts"—"I Hai En." The outcasts are lepers. A faithful physician and his wife give their lives to this work, in a tainted atmosphere, not in gloom or melancholy, but in cheerfulness and joy. Seldom have I heard a merrier or more gleeful laugh than comes from the lips of her who, with her husband, is living out her life in quiet, humble, secluded devotion.

They seem to me to represent a self immolation which very few even of those who count themselves exponents of high ideals would be willing to make, even if called upon to do so; surely less to originate and take up of their own freewill as this Japanese doctor, the head of this institution, and his wife have done. An outsider can scarcely comprehend the dreary, not to say disgusting, round of daily menial tasks, the attention to minutest details, the unfailing courage and perseverance hourly needed.

One may see lepers on the street begging; and they are allowed to live freely, and even to marry, all over Japan. But perhaps it is only human nature that when efforts are made to gather them into a home, to make them more comfortable and less of a menace to their fellowmen, they to whose neighbourhood they come should not be pleased, so that it requires the greatest wisdom and tact on the part of the local manager to secure the goodwill and, if may hap, sympathy of neighbours and local officials, as this man has done.

Of the many and varied self-set duties which this man and his faithful wife discharge he might not be pleased to have me speak; but this I am sure will not meet his eye.

The daily washing of putrifying sores with his own hands, attending to all the bodily needs of helpless patients whose hands have ceased to be useful, watching by the bedside of the dying who crave earthly sympathy and companionship as they go down to the river's brink with no relative or loved one near.

Attending to the careful sanitation of the whole place, which includes the scouring of basins and all utensils, of floors, the use of disinfectants, the careful sweeping of the garden, the very dust of which must be disinfected and carried away, so that well people may come; constant and daily housecleaning and washing and repairing of foul clothing, for helpers are few.

The simple matter of personal precautions, exchange of garments in going constantly back and forth from hospital to residence, and a thousand careful, thoughtful, necessary things that must become tedious beyond expression when done day in and day out, year in and year out, if not from motives of Heavenly love.

Fruits and garden produce which ripen in the tainted air may not be cultivated in the garden. Careful supervision is needed over all.

The physician and head is also an ordained minister, the spiritual needs of his beloved outcasts are dear to him, and many are they who have gone down into the dark valley in hope and peace and trust knowing that the Father's love was round about them, and underneath were the everlasting arms, for whom but for the ministrations of these saints all would have been dark.

There might be some compensation from a worldly point of view in such a work were it a large hospital, where many admiring comers and goers looked in and saw it all. But this is a quiet work in a corner with few who see or even know.

This man who has taken upon himself this work these many years, with few helpers, is not so strong and robust as he was when he began the task. The long almost daily walks which must be taken into the city where there is no means for jinrikisha hire, are especially wearing on him, and this past summer his health has well nigh broken, for there can be no summer or holiday vacation to those for whom no substitute could be found.

In these days of bicycles none could need one more than he—why not give him one? May not this work be remembered this Christmas time?

H.F.P.

THE FANCY DRESS BALL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

DEAR SIR,—As Secretary of the above, I shall be glad if you will insert this letter in your next issue, in order to correct what I am told is a wide-spread misunderstanding as to the object of the Ball. It is to provide funds to meet the present urgent necessities of Christ Church; *i.e.* to pay for the Services now being held in connection with it: and has nothing whatever to do with the New Church Building Fund.

Thanking you in advance, I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

CATHERINE V. WILSON.

69, Bluff. Tuesday, Dec. 27th, 1898.

HABEAS CORPUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—A Japanese friend of mine was arrested in June of last year on a charge of fraud and forgery. The amount of money said to have been fraudulently obtained by him was about *yen* 200. In the following September bail was applied for but refused. In March of this year the preliminary examination (*roshin*) was concluded, and the prisoner was committed for trial. Bail was applied for in June and again in August, but both times refused. The trial (*kōhan*) began in November last, and resulted after some days postponement in a verdict of not guilty.

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In other words, this unfortunate man was imprisoned for very nearly a year and a half before his case was decided; he was denied the privilege of being allowed out on bail for any portion of the time.

The man has a wife and five children dependent on him. He was earning a salary of *yen* 17 when arrested, and this was entirely forfeited after he had been in prison a few months. The family had to manage as best they could with the help of friends.

Now, sir, it is considered, and rightly so, one of the blessings of the *Meiji* era that torture of prisoners has been totally abolished. But in such a case as I have mentioned above, it is doubtful whether some prisoners would not prefer a briefer confinement with a little thumb-screwing to the prolonged suspense of a year or more in prison and the knowledge perhaps that in consequence wife and children were being reduced to direst straits for daily food.

I write in hopes that if public attention be more fully drawn to so serious a flaw in the administration of justice in this country, those in authority may be prevailed upon to provide a remedy.

I am, yours obediently,

ARMINE F. KING.

11, Sakae-cho, Shiba, Tokyo,
December 22nd, 1898.

POSTAL DELIVERIES.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I beg to bring to your notice the following alteration in delivery, which is necessitated by the sudden increase of mail matter during the first week of January.

From the 1st to the 7th January, 1899, the following four deliveries will take place in this city:—

1st	6 a.m.	3rd	2 p.m
2nd	10 a.m.	4th	6 p.m.

Yours faithfully,

K. YAGIU,
Director.

"STAR IN THE EAST" INSTALLATION.

The annual installation meeting of Lodge Star in the East, No. 640, S.C., was held on Tuesday evening (St. John's Day) at the Masonic Temple, Yokohama. The ceremony was conducted by Wor. Bro. Adam R. G. Clark, who ably installed Bro. E. C. Fox as R.W.M. The following officers were then invested.

J. G. Cleveland	I.P.M.
A. R. G. Clark	D.M.
H. Smith	S.M.
J. Tornoe	S.W.
C. Pope	J.W.
H. W. Lea	Treas.
J. T. Griffin	Sec.
John Diack	Arch.
A. G. Smith	S.D.
W. H. McGowan	J.D.
R. McCance	D. of C.
O. Keil	Org.
F. L. Elliott	I.G.
J. B. Coulson	Stew.
F. Bielfeld	Stew.
J. Delbourgo	Tyler.

Thirty-two of the Brethren afterwards sat down to dinner with the newly installed master and a pleasant evening enlivened by toast and song ensued.

DEATH OF THE REV. C. E. GARST.

We regret to chronicle the death of the Rev. Charles E. Garst. He had been sick only about a month; and was at first attacked with *la grippe*, and afterward with pleurisy, but finally strong symptoms of pneumonia set in. His wife and children were absent on a visit to her sister, Mrs. Dr. Macklin, in China; but they returned about a week ago to find him somewhat better. However, an operation was found necessary; but even after that he did not rally, and gradually failed. He retained consciousness till about an hour before death, which came at 2.25 on Wednesday morning. The end was quiet and peaceful, and the fact that he called often for his wife to sing "Faith is the victory" is sufficient evidence of the triumph of his faith. He has been a very earnest and devoted missionary, and has sacrificed his life in the prime of his years.

He was only 45 years of age, and first came to Japan 15 years ago. He was a graduate of West Point (U.S.A.) Military Academy, but abandoned regular army service to enter upon a missionary's life. He spoke Japanese excellently and was beloved by the Japanese people. He has also been well-known as an ardent advocate of the Single Tax. He leaves a wife and three children.—*Communicated.*

MR. BARRETT AT THE ORIENTAL SOCIETY.

The New Treaties: the Future of the Philippines; Siam; and the Open Door.

The Hon. John Barrett, late American Minister to Siam, delivered a most interesting and instructive address on subjects of much importance to Japan, on Sunday, the 25th, at the hall of the Imperial Educational Society, Tokyo, before a large audience composed of members and invited guests of the Oriental Society. The speaker, who is regarded as one of the best American authorities on Far Eastern questions, was four years in Siam, where he made an excellent record as a diplomat, conducting to a successful conclusion many important negotiations. His official reports, and contributions to Reviews on America's interests in Asia have attracted widespread attention. On leaving Siam in May he went to the Philippines and remained until about the first of November. Since then he has been travelling in China, including a visit to Peking, studying political and commercial conditions before returning to America. Although invited some time ago to address the Oriental Society, this was his first opportunity to accept. The last address before the Society was delivered by Earl Spencer, and the next is expected to be by Lord Charles Beresford. Mr. Barrett returns to Shanghai about January 4th to speak on the Philippines under the auspices of the General Chamber of Commerce. From there he returns to Washington via India and Europe. He has been asked to deliver addresses in both London and New York on the Eastern situation. Among the prominent members of the Society present to hear the distinguished speaker were H.H. Prince Tokugawa, Capt. Saito, Vice-Minister of the Navy, Mr. Watanabe, of the House of Peers, Mr. Satemi Chinda, Japanese Minister to Brazil, Mr. Manjiro Inagaki, Japanese Minister to Siam, and Hon. Secretary of the Society, Mr. O. Sasano, of the Foreign Office, Mr. Nakamura of the Home Office, Mr. Matsuura, and many other wellknown members.

In a few appropriate words Mr. Inagaki, former colleague of Mr. Barrett in Bangkok, introduced him to the audience. His remarks, which follow, were ably interpreted into Japanese by Mr. Midori Komatsu, Secretary and interpreter at the Foreign Office:—

Mr. President and Members of the Oriental Society:—When invited by this distinguished Japanese Society to deliver an address under its auspices, I had misgivings as to my ability to meet the standards of an organization whose membership includes so many of Japan's eminent statesmen and leaders of public opinion. I have, however, accepted the great honour conferred upon me by this invitation, not with the expectation of advancing ideas and expressing views which might be new to most of you, but with the simple hope of describing certain conditions and relating a few facts that have come under my particular observation in the Far East, and which may concern the welfare of Japan as well as of the United States and other great Powers whose future prosperity largely depends upon the developement of Pacific lands and the government thereof.

The privilege of addressing a similar gathering of my own countrymen would be great, but that of speaking before an audience exclusively Japanese and composed of men prominent in the successful conduct of the affairs of this remarkable empire will ever be remembered and appreciated by me as a unique experience and special honour. I thank you for assembling in such numbers and for extending so cordial a welcome.

Before taking up the main thread of my remarks, I wish by way of prelude to express to you my own personal feeling as an American towards you as Japanese and towards Japan, your country. In that way I may more readily awaken your interest and sympathy and not seem to be only a stranger and foreigner speaking from a foreign standpoint. Please consider me, although not of your race and blood, as one deeply concerned with you in the great problems of the Pacific, which are destined to affect Americans no less than Japanese. For Japan, for His Majesty your Emperor, for your statesmen and for your people I have that profound respect which is born of a close study of the wonderful rise and present progress of the Japanese empire. History does not record its parallel.

My own land has a record of growth and advancement material, political, and social that has invoked the admiration of the world, but if Japan forges ahead during the next two score years as she has during the past forty, America will be compelled to divide honours with her. Right here let me impress upon you that no other nation is watching more hopefully the progress of Japan than the United States. There is a spontaneous sympathy that wells up in the heart of America with Japan's magnificent ambition to rank, and hold her position, among the controlling Powers of the world. In the brotherhood of nations—or should I not say the sisterhood of nations, because we must class this beautiful land as "fair Japan,"—there will always exist indestructible ties of intimate relationship between the lusty youth of the Occident and the maturing maiden to the Orient.

Japan has been making history during the last decade that is written in indelible letters upon the scroll of time. Guided by an Emperor whose greatness and goodness is recognized in all lands, and by statesmen who seem to have been created for the special work in hand—like those great men led by the immortal Washington, who framed the fundamental laws of the United States and directed the nation's course though the most critical period of its existence—Japan stands to-day upon the threshold of immeasurable opportunities.

May she continue to be equal to the demands that will be made on her patience and good judgment is the prayer of all her well-wishers. The year 1899, may be the most important in Japan's history since the coming of Commodore Perry. The initiation in a few days of the new tariff law, followed in six months by the much graver step of the application of the new treaties which abrogate extraterritoriality and place your kingdom on an absolute equality of laws with other nations, will cause the statesmen, the students of international economics, and all persons interested in the evolution of a nation's political and social fabric, to watch and criticise, praise or condemn, honour or arraign you and your aspiring empire as never before.

In the continuous differentiation from simplicity to complexity there are difficult hazards to be encountered as well as favouring elements to encourage. Possibly Japan's most important step onward will be taken on July 17th, 1899, when she completely discards the swaddling clothes of political childhood, graduates, as it were, from the nursery of nations, and endeavours to carry with dignity the mantle of maturity. Speaking as an American, I have no fears for the success of the experiment. America and England showed their confidence in Japan when they led in the framing of new treaties. They now look forward to the confirmation of this confidence.

As a foreign representative of the United States, it has been my lot to study and exercise jurisdiction under extraterritorial treaties. While recognizing their inconsistencies, weaknesses, and anomalies, I have also noted their absolute necessity under certain conditions and in certain lands. Japan is about to demonstrate to the world that the necessity of such treaties no longer exists inside her borders. May I not, then, as an unprejudiced student of politics, and as anxious as if I were a Japanese for the success of the new system, express the hope that as a government and people you will practice a liberality of spirit towards foreigners and foreign interests in both the enacting and the administration of laws that will surely touch a responsive cloud of gratitude and appreciation throughout the world.

Such a spirit is, I am sure, already exerting its influence, as the passage of certain amendments to your codes proves. Japan has everything to gain and nothing to lose by such a policy. But I would not in this appeal to your judgement, belittle

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the necessity of reciprocal action on the part of foreigners and foreign interests. They also must play their part with fairness and good faith, but Japan can well afford in her strength and growth to even lead the foreign element within her confines in setting an example in generosity of legislation and catholicity of administration until it shall soon be heralded abroad that the new is better than the old!

It was not my intention in beginning this address to touch upon the question of treaties, but having come in contact recently with the foreign settlements of Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki, and been impressed with the marked interest in the subject, I have taken the liberty of referring to it solely with a desire to help on the good work of friendly cō̄peration of Japanese and foreigners in accomplish a successful and hence satisfactory administration of Japanese jurisdiction. Unless I am mistaken in my judgment of your statesmen whom I have met and questioned, Japan will faithfully strive to prove to the treaty powers that their confidance has not been misplaced.

Turning now to a direct consideration of the entrance of the United States into the field of Asiatic politics, we find a situation which must be of interest to Japanese as well as Americans. A few months ago it required some fifteen days steaming and the looking across 5,000 miles expanse of sea for Japanese to consider the United States as an actual neighbour. Now barely 300 miles, or one day's steaming, separates Japanese from American soil. From southern Formosa of Japan to northern Luzon of the Philippines is not a long call. From Yokohama to Manila direct is only 1,585 miles, or practically the same distance as to Hongkong.

The chief ports of Japan are nearer by several thousands of miles to those of the Philippines than the nearest port of the home county. San Francisco, by the way of Honolulu, is 7000 miles away from Manila, while from Hawaii to the Philippines is a stretch of 4700 miles. I would emphasize this neighbourly position of Japan's territory to the Philippines because it is a special bond of interest only noted by a careful study of the map. What this means for Japanese commerce can only be appreciated when the resources and opportunities as well as the location of the islands are discussed and understood.

The Philippines hold the same relative importance on the map of South Eastern Asia as Japan on the North. Whether they will ever occupy a position of like political importance, the future alone can tell. As Japan commands the approaches to Northern Asia so do the Philippines connect the southern approaches. Hongkong, Saigon, Bangkok, Singapore, and Batavia are all, as it were, within hailing distance of Manila. Hongkong is only 630 miles and two days steaming distance to thenorthwest. Singapore, is 1285 miles and 4 days, to the southwest.

The great stream of ocean commerce that pours through the Suez Canal and the straits of Malacca on its way to and from the Far East and Europe passes by the front door of the Philippines and will in the near future make Manila an important port of call not unlike Yokohama on the marine highway that leads, on the other hand, to and from America. From Manila to Port Darwin, in Northern Australia, is only 1,690 miles and steamers on the Australian route from the ports of China and Japan will soon find it to their advantage to stop *en route* at Manila.

Lying between 5° and 21° North latitude they reach right away to the North for a distance of 1,000 miles, or as far as from Nagasaki to Hakodate. From West to East they extend in longitude from 122° to 134°, or approximately 700 miles. Reliable estimates place the number of islands, large and small, in this wonderful archipelago at 1,500, but of these only about 25 figure conspicuously in the map or are usually visited in travel or commercial intercourse.

The total area is not definitely known. The Spanish government never made an accurate survey or, if it did, never published to the world a statement of area which could be accepted without question. Estimates run all the way from 50,000 to 150,000, but I am inclined to accept, after comparing the figures of the best authorities, the probable extent of the entire archipelago as approximately 115,000 square miles.

The principal island, Luzon, is itself 520 miles long and nearly 150 miles wide, northernin the and greater portem. The southern part is long and very narrow. If we take the section from Manila Bay north to Cape Engano we have a length of 260 miles and an average width of 125 miles, which equals an area of 32,500 square miles. It is a conservative estimate to place the area of all Luzon at 50,000 square miles.

Mindanao, the second largest island and the farthest to the south, covers at least 30,000 square miles. If these two comprise 80,000 the entire group must easily reach 115,000. I devote this much attention to the area because the question has been so much discussed and because correct idea of size are always important in grasping an accurate knowledge of land, especially where the county is so generally fertile and useful as in the Philippines.

Nature has certainly been prodigal in her provision for this archipelago. Speaking from my own observations and travels not only in the chief cities and along the winding coast line of the group, but in the interior, and comparing what I have seen there with what it has been my experience to observe in extended travels in other parts of the world, I am prepared to state and prove, if questioned, that a richer isolated land, or group of islands, viewed comparatively as to area and population, variety of agricultural, mineral, and forest resources undeveloped, as well as those already improved, cannot be found on this globe.

Quoting from an article on the subject which wrote for *Harpers Weekly*, I say:—"But it is not only I that say this. Every authority that I have consulted affirms this opinion or adds to its emphasis. There are not only gold and silver, but iron and coal; not only vast forests of ship and house-building woods, but rarest qualities for furnishing, finishing, and ornamenting; not only great areas given up to the cultivation of sugar, hemp, tobacco, rice, cocoanut, spices, and coffee, but wide reaches of virgin soil untouched and waiting the hand of the pioneer, supported by an honest government.

There are one or two railways, but there should be a score. There are a few lines of communication with the numberless islands, large and small, but there should be systems of launches and steamers by which everyone of these garden spots could be reached and developed. When I first visited the Philippines I was so impressed with the prodigality of nature that I made a list of resources that came under my observation.

Of woods there are cedar, sapan wood, iron-wood, bamboo, ebony, log-wood, palma brava gum, and a wonderful variety of ordinary hard and soft woods. Cultivated or growing wild are to be found hemp, sugar cane, tobacco, rice, coffee, bananas, ginger, vanilla, cassia, pepper, indigo, pine apples, cocoa, cacao, wheat, maize, ramie, cotton, as well as tamarind, mangoes, durians, oranges, guavas, limes, citrons, jack-fruit, custard apples, and all kinds of garden products. Of minerals, aside from gold and silver, iron and coal, already mentioned, there are copper, quicksilver, tin, antimony, saltpetre, sulphur. From the sea come coral, tortoiseshell, amber, and pearls. Beds of marble and deposits of gypsum are being worked to a small degree. Among the more useful animals are hardy ponies, indispensable water buffalos, swine, cattle, goats, and a few sheep, with a long list of wild fauna as varied as the flora which are windeed marvellous in both beauty and utility. Deer, wild boar, wild-duck, pheasants, snipe, pigeons, woodcock, afford sport all the year round.

The present foreign commerce of the Philippines can be placed approximately at 62,0 0,000 *yen*, about equally divided between exports and imports, except that the former generally exceeds the latter by a few millions. Indulge in no exaggeration when I declare that this commerce should expand to 100,000,000 *yen* within the next five years. The bulk of the exports is made up of hemp, tobacco, sugar, copra, sapan-wood, gum-mastic indigo, and mother-of-pearl, with a long list of lesser articles. The greater portion of the imports are manufactured products like cotton piece goods, yarns of all kinds, forged and cast iron, machinery, hardware, galvanized iron, cutlery, earthenware, glassware, as well as wines and liquors, canned goods, flour, and kerosene oil.

Both exports and imports are so capable of great extension in variety and value, that already since American occupation the list of articles exported and imported has shown a remarkable increase. A consideration of the articles which I have enumerated, together with the miscellaneous imports and exports which enter and leave all trading countries, will show to the commercial interest in Japan whether they have any concern in the trade of this valuable archipelago.

This leads up to the all important question; what will be the policy of the United States in the matter of duties or customs? Will these be differential in favour of the United States, or will they be the same for all nations including the United States? As this is a query which all commercial nations are waiting to have answered, it is not probable that it will be definitely decided until the pros and cons of both sides are fully discussed in the United States congress and in the public press, for until the American people have fully made up their mind to open or close the door of trade in all their new acquisitions.

The question cannot be now answered more than to say that no one in America, not even the President, yet knows what laws will permanently govern the administration of the Philippines and the customs. Sentiment in America is much divided on this point and from the home standpoint there are strong arguments in favour of either side. I think, however, that I am free to say that, owing to the present agitation over the open door policy in China, there is a strong feeling in favour of maintaining a "fair field and no favour" in the Philippines.

I will not, on the other hand, hide the fact that there is prospect of a high protective or discriminating tariff being applied as an experiment through the influence of the high protection element in one of our great political parties, but its opponents urge that it will prove a costly and hence not permanent experiment. The experience of the French in Saigon in comparison with that of England in Hongkong and Singapore will have an effect on our people when they study the issue.

The most convincing argument advanced by the advocates of the open door in the Philippines, aside from the question of comity of relations with other powers and consistency in defending the open door in China, is the fact that to-day all over China and the Far East, American products are meeting and successfully competing with European goods and hence require no special protection in the Philippines.

If I were candidly asked what I thought would be the ultimate policy of the United States in its Asiatic possessions, I would say that of fair trade for all, but I would not deny that from the standpoint of the protectionist there may be strong arguments for descrimination. The necessities of revenue will not permit free trade, as the term is used in America, any more than they do in Japan or the United States. At the present moments the Philippines tariff applies to all nations alike and will not in much probability be changed until the Government at Washington has determined what shall be the form of Government for the Islands—and that conclusion may not be reached for another twelve months.

From a knowledge of the views of United States senators and congressmen with whom I am in correspondence, I am able to say that the United States will not rush headling into any particular line of policy but will endeavour to enact laws that will be suited not only to the local conditions but to those which are unexpectedly developed by the entry of the United States into the arena of Asiatic international politics.

Returning again to the general features of the Philippines, we can placet he population at 8,000,000 for the entire Archipelago, of whom 5,000,000 reside in Luzon. In appearance, characteristics, and language they are not unlike the Malays and Siamese. While they have many of the indolent tendencies of all tropical peoples, they are more industrious than the majority of races living in the same latitude. Under guidance of good government and just laws they should be capable of making the islands as rich and attractive as Java or Burmah.

Although divided into tribes who speak different dialects, they resemble each other in the main points of physique and habits. The controlling branch are the Togalos, who are the prevailing people of Luzon. Next to them are the Visayas, who are the principal tribe of the southern islands. This leads me to speak of Aguinaldo, the present native leader, of whom you read so much. While I cannot espouse his cause nor sympathize with his efforts,—if he shall make them,—to resist American authority, I believe that he is deserving of far more credit and consideration than are usually given him. Perhaps the best appreciation of his ability and the strength of his organization can be attained by my stating that he is practically governing the entire island of Luzon outside of Manila and Cavite, where alone American jorisdiction prevails, that he is preserving law and order among the people, that he has a regular ministry, with its departments of foreign affairs, interior, war, finance, &c., a carefully organized congress of some 100 members, and an army of 30,000 men equipped with modern rifles and ammunition.

Brought back to Luzon by the consent of Admiral Dewey and cooperation of Consuls General Wildman and Pratt, and Consul Williams, he has gradually strengthened his position after co-operating with the American forces for the capture and expulsion of Spanish arms, until now he is a strong factor in the settlement of the future control of the islands. It is my belief that if he is approached with good judgment and diplomacy on the part of American officials, a conflict with him can be avoided, and peace and prosperity established forever among

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the natives under American jurisdiction. I have confidence that with such men as Admiral Dewey and Major-General Otis directing affairs the difficulties of the situation will be happily solved.

Manila, the capital and metropolis of the Philippines, is a city of 300,000 population, with its mediæval and modern sections like most other Asiatic cities. It is located in a beautiful bay much like Yokohama, and is a great and growing emporium of trade. The only other important towns where foreigners are located are Iloilo on the island of Panay, and Cebu in the island of Cebu, both to the south. The leading islands in resources and business after Luzon and Mindanao, are Panay, Cebu, Negros, Mindoro, Bohol, Leyte, Palawan, and Sulu.

In the limits of this address it is only possible to give a cursory glance at the Philippines and I have merely attempted to enumerate those salient features which will enable you to carry away an intelligent idea of new American territory in the Far East and your own near neighbour in the south which has heretofore been enveloped in such mystery. I will close my discussion of the Philippines by expressing the hope that they may be the means of more strongly binding the commercial and political ties of Japan and the United States. Is it not remarkable that while one great American naval officer, Commodore Perry, was instrumental in introducing new Japan to the world, another distinguished naval hero, Admiral Dewey, has taken the step which has opened the Philippines to the light of nineteenth century progress and civilization after being practically closed for four centuries? While the causes that led up to these two historical incidents are entirely different, may the results of the latter never cast any shadow or reflection on the former.

In concluding my remarks on the Philippines, I cannot do better than to turn to Siam, another land of growing importance in south-eastern Asia and one which to day is endeavouring to make commendable progress along the lines where Japan has set her so splendid an example. Siam should prove of special interest to all Japanese because of the recent successful negotiation of a treaty and the opening of closer diplomatic and commercial relations. Your own able representative and first Minister to Siam, Mr. Manjiro Inagaki, has already made exhaustive reports on the resources, characteristics and possibilities, of the kingdom, and hence I can do little more than emphasize the main points of interest. Without hesitation I can say that I believe Siam should afford Japan an extensive market for many of her manufactured products and that the exploitation of this tropical land by energetic and capable Japanese merchants would bring decided benefits to both countries.

Siam's foreign trade amounts to about 40 000,000 *yen* per annum, with exports slightly in excess of imports. Her chief exports are rice and teakwood, while her imports are not unlike those of the Philippines. With a population of 7,000,000, an area of over 200,000 square miles, made up of vast well-watered valleys and richly forested uplands, and a capital city, Bangkok, of 500,000 people, which is one of the busiest trade centres of Asia, Siam presents an interesting and resourceful field for development and investment.

After a residence of four years when I had abundant opportunity to study the country and people, my remembrances and impressions are such that I have only kind words for them and I trust that Japan's relations with Siam may be fraught with great good to both. Siam deserves encouragement at the hands of Japan in her efforts to improve her government and the conditions of her people and I trust that you will lend your strong influence to assist her where your own experience has told you what is wise and best in the evolution of an Asiatic Power from a secondary position to one of the first rank. Siam is blessed with an able ruler, and, if his counsels prevail, he will enjoy the prosperity and progress for which he aspires. Siam is too rich, her resources too manifold, and her location too important to be neglected by other powers. Unhampered by embarrassing political entanglements, I am confident that she would make a name for herself among the lesser nations of the world. May her powerful neighbours Japan, not be unmindful of the good that can be accomplished by closer relations with a land of such potentialities.

In concluding my address, to which you have given such kind and considerate attention, I take the opportunity to refer to the general situation of international politics in the Far East and the part which it seems to me such powers as Japan, Great Britain, and the United States should play. Rather than mince words or be guilty of not speaking the truth, I do not hesitate to say that in my humble opinion the outlook for the great commercial nations is not bright and that unless some united action is soon taken or some strong-handed policy followed, vast interests, both existent and prospective, will be irretrievably lost. I refer particularly to the situation in China and the necessity of maintaining equal rights of trade from Canton to Newchwang. My opinion is based not only on my own observations but on the reports and views of the leading merchants, consuls, and experts of the principal ports of China. The unanimity of opinion is so marked that there can be no doubt that it is well supported by actual conditions and plain facts. If anyone is skeptical he has only to travel and study the ground as I have done in order to be convinced. I entertain no unkind feelings against nations that are following the exclusive policy. They are doubtless acting for their best interests and cannot be blamed, but the powers already mentioned which have like and greater interests must not put off the day of action until it is too late. The rule of survival of the fittest applies to nations as well as to men. The test is at hand. Shall those Powers whose future integrity and greatness largely depend on similar influences not unite in an offensive as well as defensive policy of which the avowed object is the "open door?" In other words, shall we not act as well as talk? It seems to me that it is now or never.

The conclusion of the address was followed by hearty applause, which was repeated when Capt. Saito, Vice Minister of the Navy, on behalf of the Oriental Society, thanked the speaker for honouring them with so interesting a discussion of important issues.

On Monday night Mr. Barrett was entertained at dinner by Mr. Tsuzuki, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. During the last few days he has had special interviews with Marshal Yamagata, Count Okuma, Viscount Aoki, Count Matsukata, and many other leading Japanese statesmen, who talked freely with him on questions affecting the United States and Japan in the Far East.

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held at the Parish Buildings, No. 54, Tsukiji, on Wednesday, the 21st December, at 3 p.m., the Rev. D. C. Greene, D.D., being elected to the chair.

It was agreed that the minutes of the previous general meeting should be taken as read.

The CHAIRMAN having consulted the meeting on the point, it was decided that the reading of the Papers prepared for the occasion should precede the transaction of the regular business of the annual meeting.

INSTRUCTIONS OF A MITO PRINCE TO HIS RETAINERS.

The CHAIRMAN accordingly called upon Professor E. W. Clement to read his paper entitled "Instructions of a Mito Prince to his retainers," of which the following is a summary:—

Mitsukuni, the second Tokugawa Prince of Mito, was born in 1628, assumed the government of the clan in 1661, retired in 1690 and died in 1700. He was commonly known as Mito Komon, or Mito Chunagon, because he held office as one of the Advisory Council of the Shogun; in fact, he was considered a sort of Vice-Shogun; and after death he was honoured with the title Giko ("Righteous Prince"). In the government of his clan, he adopted "a wise and kind policy," and was highly esteemed by his contemporaries, especially for his learning and patriotism. He was himself a scholar and the patron of scholars, so that he has been aptly called the "Japanese Mæcenas." His literary labours, carried on with the assistance of Shu Shunsui, one of the Chinese scholars who fled to Japan from their native land on the overthrow of the Ming dynasty by the Tartars, were very extensive. Most famous of all, of course, is the Dai Nihon Shi, a standard work on the history of Japan. For further information concerning Mitsukuni and his work, I beg leave to refer to my papers on "The Tokugawa Princes of Mito," "The Mito Civil War," and "Chinese Refugees of the Seventeenth Century in Mito," in the Transaction of this Society.*

One of the smaller of his productions was a little pamphlet entitled "Giko Meitei" ("Giko's Instructions"), or, more fully, "The Instructions of Mitsukuni, Mitō Kōmon, to his Retainers." A copy of this was presented to me during my residence in Mito, and seemed to be worth reproducing in English. It is true, of course, that such instructions were commonly issued by the princes during the feudal period, and may, perhaps, be picked up without difficulty. But probably no better one can be obtained from any other source as merely a sample of such documents; and Mitsukuni's reputation as a prince and as a scholar seemed to be a guarantee that his instructions would be different from those of other princes. I take great pleasure, therefore, in submitting the following as the gist of his official instructions, probably given orally to his retainers, and afterwards published in pamphlet form:—

PREFACE.

The reason why I now propose to offer my humble opinion in detail as to what I think we must bear in mind is, that both you and I, together developing in righteousness and correcting evils, may not be ashamed to be compared with the honourable lords and retainers of ancient times, and may make ourselves well qualified to be referred to in the future, by way of illustration, as ideal lord and retainers. I ask you to appreciate my inmost heart and give me your opinions and counsel in all things and on all occasions. In ancient times sagacious princes invited the remonstrances of their retainers. How much more reason is there that I, who, without any merit, became prince through the accumulated virtues of my ancestors, be anxious morning and evening lest I should act contrary to your wishes and violate the principles which should govern the conduct of a prince. I beg, therefore, that you will kindly inform me without reserve of anything which is not right in my private conduct and in all matters pertaining to the administration of my province. Among such matters the government of the province is one which concerns the people, however trivial the question at issue may be. Therefore, as small matters even are of importance, I am bound to receive your instructions on the subject. You should not act in this matter with reserve. I fear, however, that you may be actuated by the feeling that what you say would offend me. And you may shrink from repeating your warning, because I have shown myself to be so unworthy as to become angry at a sharp remonstrance directed against my private misdemeanours. Should such a feeling ever arise on my part, it will be only momentary, for I affirm with bow and arrow† that my real desire is what I am now expressing to you. Therefore, as I have no wish to conceal anything from other persons, I implore you to remonstrate with me, without regard to my feelings, about anything, no matter what it may be, which you may see or hear or which others may tell you. Whether it be true or false does not matter. If it be, for instance, that I am too much inclined, even in a slight degree, to amusements or wilfulness; that I am too fond of women; that there is too much extravagance in my household; that I am haughty on account of my position or ability; that I do not heed advice; that I am unjust in the bestowal of rewards and punishments; that I keep worthy retainers at a distance and encourage flatterers; that I neglect learning and military preparations; that I have no sympathy with my retainers and the peasants; that I have a passion for useless articles; that I squander money; that I devote myself too much to building; that I forget what I owe to my position; these, and many other things which may occur to you, call for remonstrance. With reference to such things, you may place your views before me, when we meet, either orally or in writing. If it is a matter which should not be made public, you may send me a confidential letter, which, of course, no one else will be allowed to read or to delay in delivering to me.

Section I.—LEARNING.

Learning is nothing else than knowledge of the Way in which men should walk, and is necessary above all things. It should not be superficial or obtained from a merely selfish motive. It includes not merely reading, but also meditation and good behaviour; and in some cases it may be acquired simply by listening to well-informed friends. The works recommended for a course of study include "Shogaku;" "Shisho" ["Daigaku," "Chuyo," "Rongo" and "Mencius"]; "Kinshiroku" [a commentary by Shushi on Chinese philosophy]; and, if possible, "Gokyo" ("Five Classics"), including "Ekikyo" (a treatise on chances or changes), "Shokyo" (a treatise on moral and religious topics), Shikyo (a treatise on poetry), "Shunju" (an historical work), and "Raiki" (a treatise on etiquette), these, of course, are all works of Confucius and his disciples.

Section II.—FILIAL PIETY.
Sections III., IV.—FIDELITY.

The true *samurai* must have a heart as firm as iron and stone; but he must also be a man of

* Vol. XVIII., Part I.; Vol. XIX., Part II.; and Vol. XXIV.

† An oath used by *samurai*.

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gentleness and mercy. He must not be hypocritical but perfectly sincere.

Section V.—Politeness and Humility. Section VI.—Simplicity. Section VII —Honesty. Section VIII.—Etiquette. Sections IX., X.—Military Preparations.

Sections XI., XII.—Mourning.

Cremation strictly forbidden. Fifty days' mourning for parents. Decorous conduct during period of mourning.

Section XIII.—Informers.

Section XIV.—Feasts

Very plain supper at social gatherings. Entertainment does not necessarily mean nice liquor and delicious food, but rather a warm reception and kind treatment. Story about Hojo Tokiyori and Taira Nobutoki.

Section XV.—Military Equipments. Section XVI.—Buildings. Section XVII.—Philanthropy.

Section XVIII.—Duties of *Samurai*.

There are four classes,—*Shi*, *No*, *Ko* and *Sho*. Each has its own business. Those belonging to the *No* class are devoting themselves to agriculture; those of the *Kō* class are promoting industry; while those of the *Shō* class are engaged in trade. All of these three classes contribute something towards benefiting human society. What, then, is the use of the *Shi* class? Its only business is to preserve or maintain *giri*, ("right"). The people of the other classes deal with visible things, while the *samurai* deal with invisible, colourless, and unsubstantial things. Some may think, therefore, that the members of the *Shi* class are entirely unnecessary. But, if there were no *samurai*, right (*giri*) would disappear from human society, the sense of shame would be lost, and wrong and injustice would prevail. Therefore, *samurai* must be unselfish and manly and pursue a straight-forward course, regardless of their own interests. Story about Kogikyū, a Chinese official, who would allow no vegetables to be raised or clothes to be woven on his premises, because salaried *samurai* should not compete with the common people in pursuit of gain and deprive the latter of their means of livelihood; *samurai* should not be actuated by avarice or selfishness, but should always act in accordance with the principle of *giri*, as expounded by the ancient sages. "Now I have no further instruction to give."

Note A.—It was on the fourteenth day of the tenth month, in the third year of Genroku (1690), that Prince Mitsukuni became 63 years of age. On the following day he retired from active service and was honored by the Shogun with appointment to the position of Gon-Chunagon. With reference to this promotion he wrote the following poem:—

Kurai-yama
Noboru mo kurushi
Oi no mi wa;
Fumoto no sato ni
Sumi yokari keri.

"The ascent of the mount of rank is difficult for such an aged person; it is better to dwell in the village at the base." There is probably a pun in the expression "Kurai-yama," which may mean also "dark mount," and would then refer to the unforeseen future. Prince Mitsukuni was certainly not an ambitious man, and at that advanced age might well dread promotion to a responsible position at the court of the Shogun. Being a scholarly man, he much preferred retirement from active, public life in the quiet and beauty of Nishiyama, a few miles north from Mito. There he died in 1700.

Mr. Gubbins then read a short paper, intended to be supplementary to that read by Professor Clement, on the Laws of the Tokugawa period. In this he remarked that it was hardly necessary to call attention to the fact that the instructions given by Prince Mitsukuni to his retainers were part of a whole system of laws and regulations issued under the Tokugawa administration. These were of various kinds, were issued under many different titles, and covered a wide field, their range embracing administrative matters, ceremonial, etiquette, religion, family law, ethical teaching, and official duties, and including even precepts for guidance of the Throne and regulations for the Imperial Household. As a rule they concerned only the military class, and the titles under which they were issued varied with the source from which they emanated and the scope of their application. Some were issued directly by the governing Shogun, others by the Council of State, or some prominent statesman of the day, and some again were issued by local Daimios for the guidance of their retainers. To this last category the Prince of Mito's instructions seemed to belong. Quoting from a manual of the military class printed in 1838, the writer gave some particulars in regard to the issue of one set of Tokugawa laws,—the "General Laws for the Military Class," and a precis of these laws taken from the text published in the manual in question. In conclusion the writer observed that his paper touched only the fringe of the subject, which he hoped to be able to treat more fully on a future occasion. The little he had placed before the meeting was, however, perhaps sufficient to indicate how wide the subject was, and what large sources of information for those who sought to know more of Japan in her feudal days this class of literature contained.

The Chairman, on rising, thanked Professor Clement and Mr. Gubbins on behalf of the Society for their interesting and valuable papers which deserved an important place in its Transactions. He expressed his deep regret that the unavoidable absence of the honoured President of the Society deprived it for the time of the benefit of the full information upon the general subject embodied in these essays which was at his disposal,—a subject which deserved the careful attention of all who wished to prepare themselves to understand the institutions and life of modern Japan. Hence all students, whether members of the Society or not, would wait with much eagerness for the more comprehensive paper which Mr. Gubbins had kindly promised.

BUSINESS.

The regular business of the meeting was then proceeded with.

The Chairman called upon the Corresponding Secretary to read the following Report of the Council for the Session 1898:—

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

In spite of the paucity of meetings which characterized the early portion of the Session now drawing to a close, the Society was able to add to its Transactions by the publication of a Supplement to Volume XXIV., consisting of a valuable paper on the Flora of Formosa. Later on in the Session an increased activity became apparent in its proceedings, and although the record of the year's work shows only one lecture and two meetings at which papers were read, those papers alone will furnish sufficient materials for another volume in addition to Volume XXV., which is now in the press, and judging by the number and character of papers which have been promised, and are in course of preparation, there is every reason to expect that the ensuing session will compare favourably with many of its predecessors.

Seven new names have been added to the List of members during the session, two deaths of members have occurred, and there have been three resignations.

It will be seen from the Treasurer's Report, which, with the other usual appendixes, will be attached to the next Volume of the Transactions, that the finances of the Society are in a flourishing condition, the balance now standing to the Society's credit being *yen* 2,275 $\frac{44}{100}$.

The Council are glad to be able to announce the completion of the work of arranging the Library, which is now open for the benefit of members, and they take this opportunity to mention that several interesting books have been presented to the Library by the Authors.

This Report having been adopted, the Librarian explaining that his Report was included in it, the Treasurer read his Annual Report, which was accepted.

NEW OFFICERS.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of the officers for the coming year. The outgoing Council submitted the following list of names of officers to form the Council for the Session 1899, which was unanimously approved:—

President—Sir Ernest M. Satow.

Vice-President (Tokio)—The Rev. D. C. Greene, D.D.

Vice-President (Yokohama)—H. S. Wilkinson, Esq.

Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary (Tokio)—J. H. Gubbins, Esq.

Recording Secretary (Yokohama)—H. G. Parlett, Esq.

Treasurer—J. McD. Gardiner, Esq.

Librarian—E. W. Clement, Esq.

Councillors—B. H. Chamberlain, Esq., Dr. Divers, A. H. Lay, Esq., the Rev. A. Lloyd, Hon. J. MacCauley, Esq., W. B. Mason, Esq., Masujima, Esq., R. S. Miller, Esq., M. Revon, Esq., and the Rev. W. J. White.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 4.45 p.m.

CALENDERS, ETC.

We have received Calenders, etc., as follow:—

The New Zealand Fire and Marine Insurance Company; established 1859; subscribed capital £1,000,000; paid up and reserves, £435,000; revenue for 1897, £302,475; Yokohama Agents, Messrs. Fraser, Farley, and Company.

The London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company; subscribed capital, £2,127,500; reserves, £973,245; premium income for 1897, £839,970; Yokohama Agents, Messrs. Butterfield and Swire.

South British Fire and Marine Insurance Company; capital, £1,900,000; losses paid since 1872, £3,126,167; Yokohama Agents, Messrs. Smith, Baker and Company.

Royal Exchange Assurance, Life, Fire and Sea, established 1720; funds exceed four millions sterling; claims paid, thirty-eight millions sterling; Yokohama Agents, Messrs. Butterfield & Swire.

Commercial Union Assurance Company, Ltd.; Fire, Life and Marine; capital £2,500,000; total assets exceed £4,500,000; total annual income, exceeds £1,600,000; Yokohama Agents, Messrs. Kingdon, Schwabe & Company.

Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company, Fire, Life and Annuities; established 1836; total invested funds, *yen* 76,603,000; Yokohama Agents, Messrs. Mollison & Co.

Phœnix Assurance Company of London; established 1782; losses paid, over £22,000,000; Yokohama Agents, Messrs. Kingdon, Schwabe & Company.

The Manchester Fire Assurance Company; established 1824; total funds and security, exceed £2,600,000; Yokohama Agents, Messrs. Kingdon Schwabe & Company.

The Imperial Insurance Company, Limited; established, 1803; subscribed capital, £1,200,000; paid up, £300,000; special reserve, £400,000; assets, £1,600,000; Yokohama Agents, Messrs. Browne & Company.

The Netherlands Fire Insurance Company, established 1845; Yokohama Agents, Messrs; M. Raspe & Company.

The Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, founded 1797; Yokohama Agents, Messrs. Cornes & Co.

The "Box of Curios," Printers and Publishers, Yokohama Japan; a highly ornate sheet, illustrating the technical ability of this firm.

Messrs. Pope & Company, Yokohama, Japan; Cyrus Noble Whiskies, Crown Cocktails, &c.

Mr. K. Tamamura, Photographic Studio, Yokohama; a beautiful view of Enoshima from the east, with Fuji-yama faintly outlined in the distance.

A blotting book from the Standard Life Assurance Company; annual revenue £1,100,000; bonus declared, £6,000,000; accumulated funds, £8,800,000; claims paid, £18,000,000. Yokohama agents, Messrs. Fraser, Farley, & Co.

THE CHINESE CLASSIC DRAMA.

(By a British Philistine.)

The Yokohama community misses a good deal by its want of curiosity in things Japanese and Chinese. There were only a few dozen people at the Public Hall on Friday evening to witness the performance of a Chinese play by the Suey Fong Min Troup, though such a performance in a European building is almost as rare an occurrence in Yokohama as it would be in London. Those who did not attend missed much. In the first place as a spectacle alone the play was well worth seeing.

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The dresses were gorgeous in the extreme, and the acting was full of Chinese solemnity, which approaches pretty nearly to European farce. Then there was plenty of the raw material of humour in the performance, as seen by European eyes. Not that it was intended to be humorous; Heaven forbid that a great Chinese dramatist should descend to frivolity. "Matrimonial Jars, or, The Inconvenience of an Imperial Daughter-in-Law" is a grave and stately play written in classic Chinese by an Oriental Corneille, and celebrating an incident in the life of one Kwak-tze-i, who, as the Chinese "Who's who" would probably inform us, lived in the Tung dynasty quite a number of years ago.

The motive of the play is quite simple. The author is not concerned with neurotic heroines with three husbands and an episode or two behind them. He recks nothing of the woman with a past or the male sinner with a future. He does not deal in *divorcées* and women's rights ladies and psychological nonsense. They were not thought of in the time—happy, happy time—of the Tung dynasty. The whole plot of "Matrimonial Jars" turns on a point of etiquette. Kwak, it appears, does not—as his name would seem to apply—belong to the medical profession, but is a highly respectable military man, being no less a personage than the chief General in the Emperor's Army. There has been a great rebellion by someone somewhere—the geography is vague—and Kwak somehow—the means are also vague, for he would appear to be wildly ignorant of warfare—manages to defeat them and save his country. The Emperor, after duly boiling the ringleaders in oil, considers what honours he shall award Kwak, and finally decides to bestow the hand of his daughter on Kwak's son. Young Kwak has inherited apparently much of his father's courage, and accepts the lady. It wanted pluck, if she resembled at all closely her stage representative. For her Highness, as she came on the stage, was a figure to strike terror into the heart of any suitor. Twenty-thousand a year and a house in Park-lane would not tempt us if we had to accept Miss Royalty along with them. She wore a fearful and wonderful headdress of red flowers, beneath which her thin, rice-powdered, ghastly little face smiled wanly like a death's head trying to look jolly. She wore a lot of complicated silk upper garments and sashes, and a pair of loose unnameables, at the bottoms of which her tiny feet appeared, for all the world looking like the walnut shells that naughty boys sometimes fix on a cat's paws. She walked with a stiff gait; giving the suggestion that her legs were two rods of sealing wax, and might be expected to snap at any moment. When she frisked about the stage playfully it was positively painful.

Young Kwak, however, appeared rather pleased than otherwise with his bride, and we may be sure that he bragged about her pretty well at the Club, and lost no opportunity of referring to her as "my wife—she was the Princess Che-foo, you know, old boy." John Wang Smith, who had only married an Admiral's daughter, and Wei hai-wei, who had formed an alliance with a lady in the oil and chandlery line, were probably green with envy. But matters did not long run smoothly in the Kwak household. Old Kwak's birthday came round, and on it everybody in his family and visiting list was expected to call and *Kotow* to him—to render him reverence almost as a god. Kwak was a venerable-looking gentleman, with a long white beard of untwined rope—which he stroked from time to time, whether from pride or to assure himself that it was not coming off is not clear. He looked a thoroughly worthy old gentleman, and was probably respected and esteemed by all who knew him. Everybody was perfectly willing to *Kotow* to Kwak except his royal daughter-in law, and she flatly refused. "The idea of such a thing," said she in the choicest Mandarin language, "the idea! Me, a real live Princess, who have been educated regardless of expense, and taught French and extras and the globes, and used to such good society at poor dear Papa's, expected to go on my knees to that old fright. No, I won't, so there now!"

Young Kwak was very angry at this refusal. He regarded it as a slight on his family, and decided to exert his authority—which in China apparently is a euphemism for corporal punishment. The Princess receives a mild—a very mild—drubbing, just enough to make her what Americans call "mad," and not enough to subdue her. It is reported to the elder Kwak. He is now in a dilemma. On the one hand, as father-in-law, he is entitled to the homage of his son's wife; on the other, his son has laid violent hands on a Princess of the sacred Royal blood, which is something very like sacrilege. The old man sees his duty clear. With a sense of duty equal to that of half-a-dozen Brutuses he decides to sacrifice his son. The latter is arrested, and sent for trial before the Emperor. His Majesty, who appears to be in the habit of going circuit like an Assize Judge, comes down, in gorgeous robes, Imperial dignity, and a long black beard, and hears the case. His summing up is favourable to the prisoner. He decides that Kwak junior was wrong in striking his wife, because she is a Princess, and Princesses should be exempt from matrimonial arguments of that kind. But his wife was also wrong in not making obeisance to Kwak senior, for by the law and custom of China a daughter-in-law must do reverence to her father-in law, and, though she were fifty times a Princess, her duty towards him is none the less certain. So he decides that on the whole honours are easy, and releases young Kwak. The last scenes are the effecting of a reconciliation between Kwak and the haughty Princess, in which the bye play was very amusing, the lady at last relenting, and going gaily off the stage on Kwak's arm.

After that there was a little Chinese fencing, and two generals in most gorgeous uniforms made various splendid poses on the stage. They both carried great peacock feathers in their headgear, and had a couple of signalling flags fastened to each shoulder in lieu of epaulettes, for it appears that Generals were in the habit of going about under a heavy press of canvas in those days. It must have been awkward for them in a typhoon.

There were also some novel acrobatic feats, which were cleverly performed, though with a certain clumsiness of foot. The orchestra was a rather barbarous one. One squeaking string instrument ran through the whole score, diversified by the banging of a gong, a tatoo of chopsticks on lumps of wood, and the clashing of some very brassy cymbals. The Princess sang a song which threatened to stretch out to the crack of doom, accompanying herself on a species of string instrument which she struck deftly with a pair of long thin ivory rods. The instrument afforded about three—possibly four—notes, and there was just a suspicion of monotony about the performance.

CHINESE NEWS.

The Sultan and Sultana of Perdang are visiting Shanghai.

H.M.S. *Phœnix*, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, has just received the new explosive (Lyddite), the chemical that caused such havoc at Omdurman, smashing the Kalifa's palace and the tomb of the Mahdi.

Lord Charles Beresford intends to leave Hongkong on the 5th prox. in the *Coptic* for Yokohama, and after a short stay in Japan will proceed in the new steamer *America Maru* to San Francisco *via* Honolulu.

The *Universal Gazette*, of Shanghai, states that the Russian Governor of Port Arthur recently issued a proclamation inviting Chinese to settle in the vicinity of Port Arthur and Talienwan. Houses are promised rent free to all who come, and such as have no trade or business can have permanent employment as labourers at one and a-half Newchwang "tiaos" of cash per diem, or 240 cash. Those who come, however, must bring their families with them. According to other native accounts, the harsh methods adopted by the Russians, when they first seized Port Arthur, literally drove nine-tenths of the native population from the region, and the consequent sparsity of inhabitants now has probably been the incentive for this proclamation, especially as the Russians imply that they have plenty of unoccupied houses on hand.

The *Universal Gazette* received, on December 18th, the following telegram from Hangchow:—"At about 8 o'clock last night (17th) some portion of the Government powder factory in the Lower City here caught fire resulting in frightful loss of life and property; no less than some 1,500 persons are said to be killed and several hundreds of houses destroyed by the explosion of hundreds of barrels of newly-made gunpowder. The Upper and Middle Cities are, however, untouched." A second telegram, dated the 19th inst., is as follows:—"I now learn that the explosion caused great destruction to houses situated within a radius of three or four *li* of the scene. Several hundred houses were either set on fire or blown down but fortunately the loss of life was comparatively small, my yesterday's estimate of some 1,500 lives lost being according to the reports in circulation at the time."

A Nanking dispatch, as translated by the *N. C Daily News*, reports the death, on the night of the 15th instant, in that city, of H. E. Fêng Shen, Tartar General of Kiangning. H. E. Liu Kun-yi, Viceroy at Nanking, will therefore be also Tartar-General *ad interim* pending the appointment from Peking of a new Manchu official. The deceased officer was formerly Assistant Military Governor of the Tartar City of Hangchow.

Prince Ching recently held a combined review of the troops of General Tung Fu-hsiang's Kansu Corps, and the Peking Field Force, aggregating exactly 60,000 fighting men. Every soldier and trooper was armed with a breach-loader and there was not the slightest indication of an antiquated musket or bow and arrow in the whole region—the Southern Hunting Park.

General Sung Ch'ing Commandant of the Wuyi Army Corps of 30,000 men, left North Kinchou on the 19th instant for Shanghai kuan with the bulk of his forces. This last-named post has been chosen by the Empress Dowager to be General Sung Ch'ing's headquarters in her grand scheme to surround Peking with a quarter of a million of foreign-equipped troops to oppose invasion from Manchuria or the Gulf.

Western journals, says the *Shanghai Mercury*, have recently been filled with marvellous tales regarding a Chinese slave girl who many years ago, in time of famine, was sold by her parents to a Manchu lord and who showed such precocity that she became a great favourite in the household, was given a good education and afterwards presented to H.I.M. Hien fung, in whose harem she rapidly rose from a subordinate position to that of a secondary wife and, on becoming the mother of his only son, was made an Empress, and then became the Empress-Dowager, who for nearly forty years has been the real ruler of China. It is a very romantic story but unfortunately for the relaters the slave-girl portion of it is wholly fictitious. There is no place perhaps where myths grow more readily than in China and it is a weakness of the Chinese people to desire to represent their own race as having in some way outwitted their Manchu rulers and put a Chinese upon the throne. There used to be a story in circulation with regard to the Emperor Hienfung that he was a Chinese child smuggled into the palace. As for the Empress-Dowager she is the daughter of one of the most prominent families among the Manchu nobles, and was chosen by H.M. Hienfung as a secondary wife. On the birth of his only son, Tungchi, the happy mother was hoodwinked with the title of "Empress," but the Empress who was

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distinguished by the appellation of "the Eastern Empress" from the location of her palace, while the mother of the heir to the throne was called the "Western Empress." Both women after the death of Hienfung united to rescue the young prince from the hands of the cabal which was planning to obtain control of the Government, and fleeing from Jeh-ho to Peking, they obtained the assistance of Prince Kung, the brother of Hienfung, who was able at once to secure the arrest and execution of the traitors. These three persons then formed themselves into a regency and managed all the affairs of the empire during the minority of Tungchi and continued their regency through the minority of his successor the present Emperor Kuanghsu.

The *Echo de Chine* has received a telegram from Amoy reporting the total loss off Dodd Island of the American ship *Berlin*, which left New York on the 24th of July last for Amoy with a cargo of kerosene oil. Nothing was known as to the crew.

To a telegram from Viceroy Chang Chih-tung to Viceroy Liu of Nanking, the other day, asking the reason of the latter's recent war preparations, the following reply, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, was received by Viceroy Chang:—"The Ningpo cemetery riots have up to now not yet been settled. The French having without cause slain or wounded several tens of Chinese during riots are still unreasonable and refuse to grant compensation to their families. On the contrary, they (the French) are still determined upon removing the cemetery and demanding an extension of their Settlement. On account of them also Tsai Taotai has been removed from office. The French are unreasonable and unjust in the extreme. Hence I am determined not to give way to them. Rather ten thousand times war than that. Although the Throne may ask me to give way I am determined to oppose the French demands."

The report and statement of accounts of the Hongkong branch of the Navy League show that the number of members and associates since the beginning of the year has risen from 93 members and 20 associates on 3rd December, 1897 to 268 members and 50 associates. There is also a balance of $661.64 in hand.

It is reported that through the Russo-Chinese Bank there has been ordered in Scotland two of the most powerful steam excavators, for employment in deepening the harbours of Ta lien-wan and Port Arthur.

Hu Yü-fên, Director General of Northern Railways, who has made his headquarters at Tientsin, started on the 13th instant for a prolonged tour of inspection of the route of the proposed railway extension to Newchwang. H.E. will also visit North Kinchou, to which city a branch line is to be made, and from that city will journey towards Newchwang. H.E. Hu expects to be absent from Tientsin for a month at the least.

The *Hongkong Daily Press* hears that the Chinese at Canton, both mandarins and populace, are well satisfied with the verdict and sentence in the Toulmin case, but consider it a hardship that the friends of the murdered man should have been called upon to pay the costs of the trial.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A most important experiment is to be tried this winter, according to recent London advices. That is the effort to keep the Baltic Sea open to trade by means of a gigantic ice-breaker which has just been launched in England. The vessel, which has been built for the Russian Government, is provided with a forward propeller, which is calculated to vastly assist in the crushing process by disturbing the water under the ice and depriving it of support. The stern of the ice-breaker is cut into a recess, into which the stern of another vessel can be securely lashed, and thus attain the utmost protection from her powerful consort. Besides convoying the merchant ship, the ice-breaker is capable of herself carrying a heavy cargo. It is confidently expected that, through her agency, the principal trade routes which depend on Baltic ports will be kept open in winter, and thus provide continuous employment to an enormous section of the community.

A salvage party under the direction of Mr. Moulsdale, the Manager of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co., left Singapore on December 10, for Labuan in the Company's tug-boat *Mercury*, with pumps and other necessary gear, to render assistance to the steamer *Abana*, which has been wrecked near Labuan while on a voyage to Port Arthur, laden with coal.

The P. & O. steamer *Brindisi*, one of the two steamers with which the unfortunate *Yayeyama Maru* collided in Moji harbour, is considerably damaged, having been cut down from the hawse-pipe on the starboard bow close to the stem of the vessel below the water. The damage below the water-line is not yet known. In addition to this, the vessel has lost two anchors, with 75 fathoms of chain, and also two boats on the starboard side. At Moji, to enable the *Brindisi* to reach Nagasaki, she was filled up forward of the collision bulk-head with layers of sleepers and concrete. The vessel will go into the local dock for repairs, which, it is thought, will take several weeks to execute.—*N. Press*

The formidable volume of London street traffic was strikingly illustrated in an address delivered Sir John Wolfe Barry before the Society of Arts. He estimated that sixty millions had been spent on the construction and extension of railways within the Metropolitan area since 1858, and put the daily influx and efflux by railway alone between the suburbs and Central London at nine hundred and fifty thousand persons. To gain some notion of the amount of street traffic in urban London he had had observations made, and found that the number of vehicles and passengers passing a given spot in four thoroughfares at a busy hour were as follows:—Cheapside: vehicles, 992; pedestrians, 6,358. The Strand: vehicles, 1,228; pedestrians, 5,660. Piccadilly: vehicles, 1,497; pedestrians, 3,910. Tottenham Court Road: vehicles, 661; pedestrians, 5,586. The police worked marvels in controlling the traffic, but it was becoming daily more and more unmanageable. To remedy the difficulty he contended that wide arterial improvements in the streets themselves were likely to be far more effective than additional railways, overground or underground. The latter only tended to add to the congestion of the streets. A scheme of new main thoroughfares of adequate width for present and future traffic should be laid down, and this be realised as time would permit.

Commercial life, remarks *Bradstreets*, appears to be proving more and more attractive to college men, if statistics recently gathered by a Yale professor are to be taken as fairly representative. The statistics are derived from the records of the academic department at Yale, but they refer to the vocations of about 7,500 graduates, and perhaps it is only fair to regard them in a general way as typical. The figures show but little change in the proportion of graduates following the law during the century, that profession in each scholastic generation enlisting about a third of the graduates. At the beginning of the century the ministry, which in the earliest days of Yale attracted a larger proportion of the graduates, followed the law as a close second. The proportion attracted by the law has in the interval suffered little change, but the ministry is not chosen by nearly so many graduates as formerly, and its former place seems now to be taken by the mercantile vocation, which enlists about one-third of the graduates at present. This vocation, indeed, seems to be growing more attractive to university-bred men under modern conditions, and it may be that in the near future it will attract even a larger proportion than at present.

H.B.M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before H. A. C. Bonar, Esq., Consul and Assistant Judge.

FRIDAY, December 23rd.

THE FIRE ON THE "TROOP."

The hearing of the charge against Emil Gorig, boatswain of the British ship *Troop*, of setting fire to the ship, was continued.

Paul Meihs, seaman, identified the knife produced as his. He heard that it was in the boatswain's possession and asked him for it. He said he had lent it to the mate. This was after the fire.

Lewis Henry Abel, an American citizen, in the employ of the Standard Oil Company, to which the *Troop* was consigned, said it would be impossible to pick out the two damaged tins of kerosene which had been referred to in the evidence. A number of damaged tins had been landed and some had gone out of the godown. He produced two sample tins of oil, one full and one empty. In order to get at the oil a screw cap at the top might be unscrewed and the tin pierced from there.

By prisoner: Witness could not say whether the stopper could be wrenched off by anyone in the dark. It was soldered on to the tin, and if the solder were melted the hole left would be smaller than if it were cut round.

The Master, recalled, said the two tins of kerosene which had been referred to had been landed, and therefore could not be produced. Witness could not identify them if produced. Witness described how the Customs House officer sealed the ways of access to the hold at night and specified the means by which access could be obtained to the hold. Witness did not know the requisite conditions for spontaneous combustion. Witness described the experiment of sending the man Maier down the air shaft. Maier was the largest man on the ship.

By prisoner—The two tins referred to as standing on sails where the seat of the fire was, had the screw tops taken off them, but they were not cut out. He could not say whether they had been taken off by a knife, or melted off by fire.

In answer to the Court witness described the means taken to secure the knife belonging to Meihs from the mate.

Emil Maier, sail maker, was called, and repeated his evidence given at the enquiry. When he saw the sails after the fire he noticed a strong smell of kerosene. He could think of no accident by which the sails could have taken fire. The sails were quite dry when he was working on them a day and a half before the fire.

William Blanchard, second mate, was recalled, and asked a few additional questions by the Court.

The Court then adjourned.

On resuming William Dunstan, steward, gave evidence as to the sealing of the means of access to the 'tween decks by the Customs House officers.

Henry Nelson Gilbert, the black cook of the *Troop*, repeated his evidence.

John James Efford, marine surveyor, said he was called to survey the damage done by the fire. He went on board on the 14th, and afterwards the next day. He found on the starboard side that the spar ceiling was burnt away to the extent of eight to ten feet. A large area of paint was also scorched. Witness's opinion when he first saw the damage was that the fire was the work of an incendiary. The fire on the port side had burnt and charred the deck planking to a greater extent than on the other side. There were two quite distinct fires. The cargo was very much damaged by fire and water.

Nils Hansen, a boy on the *Troop*, also gave evidence.

By accused—Witness had said he had had a light down below the day before the fire, but he could not remember if the mate had told him he must not say anything about it.

Accused—Are you afraid to tell the truth because you will get kicked on board?

Mr. Bonar—I can't allow you to put questions like that.

Mr. Lowder—Were you there with a light the day before the fire?

Witness—Yes.

Who was with you?—The mate. It was the lamp usually used, and witness had carried it there before. Witness did not remember the mate telling him to keep it secret that a light had been taken down below.

By the Court—He slept in the same cabin with the accused; but heard no noise during the night.

Peter Legsdin, able seaman, said the day before the fire he was engaged in stowing planks down below. He was not smoking.

William Scott, recalled, said he remembered the customs officer sealing a door leading to the

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between decks the evening before the fire. Witness did not know whether or not the seal was moved the next morning.

James Matthews, able seaman, said he acted as watchman on the night before the fire. He described his discovery of the fire, and said just after he saw accused coming from the lavatory.

By accused—Witness probably saw two or three men on deck during the night, but he could not say who they were.

By the Court—It was a very windy night, and witness would not hear anyone at a little distance.

The mate, recalled, denied that he told the boy Hansen that he was to keep it a secret that they went down below with a light the day before the fire. He said nothing at the time, but after the fire he told him people would be accusing them of setting fire to the ship if it became known. It was so dark in that part where they had to go that a lantern was necessary.

This completed the case for the prosecution.

After being cautioned the prisoner said—I wish to state that I have had nothing to do with setting fire to that ship either accidentally or maliciously. I think it is put up to bring somebody into a scrape, and I am pitched on, and that some of the witnesses would have a better memory and speak freer if they were clear of the ship than now they have to go a voyage on her. I think fear prevents many from answering the questions in a straightforward manner.

Prisoner was committed for trial.

TELEGRAMS.

(From the "Japan Times.")

PUNISHMENT FOR TREASON IN FRANCE.

London, Dec. 23.

The French Senate has adopted a Bill prescribing the death penalty in the case of officials found guilty of treason in times of peace.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF CRETE.

Prince George of Greece has had a splendid reception in Canea. He promised to govern the island impartially and urged oblivion of the ancient hatreds.

THE STRANDING OF THE "CHINA."

The Board of Trade has ordered that the investigation into the stranding of the S.S. *China* be reheard generally by a High Court of Justice in England, owing to representations that those conducting the previous inquiry could have no practical knowledge of the onerous duties and responsibilities of merchant Captains.

AERIAL NAVIGATION.

A steering balloon started by the *Daily Chronicle* left the Crystal Palace and crossed the Channel in five hours.

MAJOR MARCHAND'S ABYSSINIA EXPEDITION.

The *Temps* says that Captain Largeau, commanding at Meschrael-Rek has joined Major Marchand, and will accompany him to Abyssinia. The members of the expedition are all well except a lieutenant, a sergeant, and eight Senegalese who are returning by way of the Nile.

RUSSIA AND AMERICAN CAPITAL.

London, Dec. 24.

A *Times'* Philadelphia despatch says that Russia is renewing her efforts to place a loan of £18,000,000 sterling in the United States at 3½ per cent., and that it is expected she will succeed.

NICARAGUA CANAL.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador at Washington, has been instructed to negotiate with America for the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, preparatory to the conclusion of the treaty guaranteeing the neutrality of the Nicaragua Canal.

LORD IVEAGH'S MUNIFICENT DONATION.

Lord Iveagh has given a quarter of a million pounds to the Jenner Institute to enable it to extend researches in bacteriology. He also proposes to expend another quarter of a million in improving insanitary areas in the centre of Dublin.

RUSSIAN LOAN IN AMERICA.

London, Dec. 26.

Russia has declined the American terms for the loan.

PREMIER SAGASTA ILL.

Senor Sagasta, Premier of Spain, is suffering from pulmonary catarrh, and his condition is causing anxiety. Spanish stocks are falling.

INDO-CHINESE R.R. LOAN.

The Senate (French) has passed the Indo-Chinese Railway Loan.

AMERICA TO OCCUPY WAKE ISLAND.

American warships have been ordered to take possession of Wake Island in the Pacific.

FRESH TROUBLE AT JOHANNESBURG.

Great indignation has been caused among the Uitlanders of Johannesburg, by the shooting of a European by a Boer policeman, who has since been released on a trifling bail. A meeting of Britishers led to a scuffle with Boers, sticks being freely used. The meeting adopted a petition to the Queen praying for justice.

WAKE ISLAND AS A CABLE STATION.

London, Dec. 27.

Wake Island is to be utilized as a station for the projected cable between America and the Philippines.

BOER POLICEMAN RE-ARRESTED.

The Boer policeman who shot a European, has been re-arrested and will be kept imprisoned until his trial.

THE "TIMES" ON THE TRANSVAAL QUESTION.

The *Times*, discussing the matter, does not expect any serious political trouble to arise therefrom for the present, but admits that it is idle to shut ones eyes to the chronic dangers due to the present system of government in the Transvaal.

PLAGUE PATIENT ARRIVES IN ENGLAND.

The *Golconda* has landed Mr. Mill whilst suffering from the plague at Plymouth, whence he was to proceed to London. The patient, who is an officer of the British India Steamship Company, has been isolated.

RUSSIA AND THE OPEN DOOR.

Shanghai, Dec. 23.

According to a telegram received by the *North-China Daily News*, Russia has agreed to the opening of Port Arthur and Talienwan to trade.

QUEEN VICTORIA TO VISIT NICE.

London, Dec. 28.

The President of the British Chamber of Commerce at Paris speaking at a dinner, was able to state that the Queen's visit to Nice had been decided on, proving the existence of better diplomatic relations.

FOREIGN ADMIRALS LEAVE CRETE.

The Admirals have finally left Crete.

PLAGUE IN MADAGASCAR.

Altogether 108 deaths from plague have occurred at Tamatave, including one European.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

London, Dec. 29.

It has been finally decided to communicate the secret dossier in the Dreyfus case to the Court of Cassation under conditions assuring non-publication of anything affecting the security of the State. The *Times'* Paris correspondent believes the dossier consists mainly of reports of French secret agents abroad, upon which the accusation against Dreyfus was based. The identity of the agents is therein revealed, hence the necessity for secrecy.

THE QUEEN'S CUP.

The Devonshire Regiment has won the Queen's Cup in the Army shooting competition.

ILOILO SURRENDERED BY SPANIARDS.

It reported from Madrid that the Spaniards surrendered Iloilo to the Americans on December 23rd.

ILOILO EVACUATED.

[Later.]

An official despatch from Washington states that General Rios with the Spanish troops evacuated Iloilo on the 24th and the insurgents occupied the city on the 26th. It is believed the Americans, on arriving, will request the insurgents to surrender the city, thus raising the whole issue on the possession of the Philippines.

(From the "N. C. Daily News.")

REPORTED FRESH RUSSIAN DEMAND.

Shanghai, Dec. 13, 3 47 p.m.

It is reported from Peking that Russia has demanded a lease of the Miao-tao Islands as a torpedo station.

These islands lie across the entrance of the Gulf of Pechili, south of Port Arthur.

THE KANSU AND WUYI CORPS TO COMBINE.

Peking, December 22.

Instead of proceeding to garrison cities on the Shansi-Chihli borders as first intended, General Tung Fu-hsiang has received a secret edict commanding him to join his Kansu army corps with the corps of General Sung Ching at Shanhaikuan.

(From the "China Mail.")

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AT HANGCHOW

Shanghai, December 20.

There has been a terrific explosion in Hangchow, within three miles of the Settlement. The powder magazines, surrounded by the camps containing upwards of fifteen hundred troops, have disappeared, together with seven or eight hundred houses. The loss of life must have been immense.

About a square mile of houses has been levelled by the explosion.

The Sisters of Charity's Mission and the mission houses of the Southern Presbyterian Mission, two miles off, were destroyed, but no one is reported seriously injured.

Main's hospital is also damaged. General Ju Kwei was killed.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Shanghai, Dec. 28.

It is understood here that two spies have arrived from Peking for the purpose of arresting leaders of the Reformists. The latter are taking measures for their own safety.

Tientsin, Dec. 26.

The War Office has decided to send some military officers to Japan next year to be instructed in foreign drill

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

Söul, Dec. 27.

Mr. Li Chong-kwoong, President of the Privy Council, has been appointed an official of the Imperial Household, and Mr. Li Hayang, ex-Minister to Tokyo, succeeds to the vacancy.

His Majesty the Emperor has promulgated an Imperial Ordinance abolishing meetings of the Progressionists and the pedlers.

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JAPANESE CHESS.

In the "Westminster Papers," as far back as 1875, we find the following interesting article from the pen of a valued Chess friend, Mr. W. B. Mason, of Tokyo, who was then a resident of Nagasaki:—

JAPANESE CHESS.

It never was my good fortune to find in any Chess library to which I have had access, any reference to the game as it is played in Japan. Chess historians traverse ancient Babylon, India, and China in their vain endeavours to discover the spot that gave it birth, and though I do not desire to assert that Japan may be entitled to the honour, there are a few remarkable facts on the subject worthy of elucidation. The following diagram represent the game of *Shogi*, or Chess, as played in this country. As the pieces have no definite shape, beyond some being larger than others, and principally distinguished by the written characters upon them, I am necessarily obliged to append the names only of the various *Shogi-Koma*, or Chessmen, in their respective squares.

Yari	Kei-ma	Gin	Kin	Ou	Kin	Gin	Kei-ma	Yari
	Hisha						Kaku	
Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu
Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu	Fu
	Kaku						Hisha	
Yari	Kei-ma	Gin	Kin	Ou	Kin	Gin	Kei-ma	Yari

It will be first observed, from the above diagram, that the board consists of 81 squares, or 17 more than that used in the European game. The movements of the piece are as follow:—

Yari, or spear, moves downward to the end of the file on which it stands, when, however, it reaches the square of the opposing *Fu*, or Pawn, it can become a *Kin*. Its movements are similar to those of the Rook, on the single file.

Keima or *Uma*, a horse, is identical with the Knight, but it only moves forward. It can also become a *Kin*.

Gin, or silver, moves one square diagonally at a time, also one square forward. If removed from its original position, it can retreat one square diagonally only, and when it takes possession of the ground of an opposing *Fu*, it has the option of becoming a *Kin*.

The movements of *Kin*, or gold, are somewhat like those of *Gin*. It has, however, the power of moving one square on each side of itself, but cannot return diagonally.

Ou, or King, is in all respects similar to our King, and the object of the game is, of course, "Otezume ni suru," or to checkmate him.

On the second line we have two pieces; *Hisha*, a chariot, whose movements are the same as those of a Rook; and *Kaku*, a corner or angle, which moves diagonally, like our Bishops.

Fu, a Pawn or foot-soldier, moves one square forward at a time, and, after attaining the square of the opposing *Fu*, it may likewise claim the rank of a *Kin*. The operation of capturing a piece by a *Fu* is not done diagonally, as in our game, and as so many pieces are liable to reach a higher grade, the transaction is simply made by turning them over, the new title being written on the reverse side. There are other minor ramifications of the movements, which it is unnecessary to detail.

It will thus be seen that a wonderful likeness exists between the two varieties of the one game. The Japanese system is undoubtedly more elaborate than ours, but whether it admits of greater scientific combinations I am unable, at present, to determine. The game is regarded by the Japanese as a game of mimic warfare, and it is played by all classes; holding much the same position as Draughts do in great Britain. On the other hand, the game of *Go*, or Japanese Draughts, is considered much more difficult, and is patronised almost exclusively by the upper classes. In fact, with our game of Checkers, there is little comparison, there being 361 *goishi*, or round pieces, employed in playing the Japanese game. But the origin of Japanese Chess is an interesting questions for investigation. From where and by whom was it introduced into a country excluded from all intercourse with the outer world till within the past few years?

That it has been an established recreation in Japan for centuries there can be no doubt, but one point is worthy of special notice. The absence of a Queen, or a piece endowed with a like power, is a conspicuous feature in the Japanese game. So important is this that, at the first glance, one would imagine to attempt to prove an analogy between the European and Japanese games without it would be as effectual as the Darwinian theory minus the "missing link." But, in my opinion, that is not so. It is now upwards of a thousand years since the Salic law existed in this country, and a Queen not having held the reins of Empire for that period, the name has almost become a nonentity. And it is just possible that this fact might have had at one time so far modified the aspect of the game. Certainly, the universality of chess seems to favour the idea that, like that of Language, its origin must be traced to one common source.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City R. Janeiro 1	Sa. Dec. 31
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 2	M. Jan. 2
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	———	W. Jan 11
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking 3	W. Jan. 11
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 4	Th. Jan. 12
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Su. Jan. 15
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Jan. 16
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hohensollern	W. Jan. 18
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	M. Jan. 23
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Th. Jan. 26

1 Left Nagasaki on the 28th inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 26th Dec.
3 Left San Francisco on the 23rd Dec.
4 Left San Francisco on the 24th Dec.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Dec. 30
America	P. M. Co.	City R. Janeiro	Tu. Jan. 3
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Indus	W. Jan. 4
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Satsuma Maru	W. Jan. 4
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. Jan. 11
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	Th. Jan. 12
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	F. Jan. 13
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Jan. 16
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Tu. Jan. 17
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Hohenzollern	F. Jan 20
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	W. Jan. 25

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 23rd December,—Shanghai via ports, 17th Dec. Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hohensollern, German steamer, 1,900, E. Woltersdorff, 24th Dec.,—Hongkong, 18th Dec., Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 24th December,—Yokkaichi 23rd December, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Yamanouchi, 24th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, 23rd Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pathan, British steamer, 1,762, Graham, 24th Dec.,—New York via Suez Canal and way ports, Kobe, 23rd Dec., General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,709, C. Bainbridge, 24th Dec.,—London via ports. Kobe, 23rd Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pak Ling, British steamer, 2,875, E. Warrall, 24th Dec.,—Liverpool via ports, Kobe, 23rd Dec., General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Olympia, American steamer, 1,691, Truebridge, 24th Dec.,—Tacoma, Wash. and Victoria, B.C., 1st Dec., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, F. R. Evans, 24th December,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 23rd Dec., Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 24th Dec.,—Portland, Oregon, 31st Dec., General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, J. McGillivary, 25th Dec.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 7th Dec., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,109, J. Giese, 27th Dec.,—Hakodate, 25th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamerr, 1,827, N. Umezono, 28th Dec.,—Kobe, 27th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bowhead, Argentine steam-whaler, 240, J. Cook, 25th December,—Uraga (Dock), 25th Dec., Ballast.—American Trading Co.

Indus, French steamer, 2,300, Chevalier, 27th Dec., —Marseilles via ports, Kobe, 26th Dec., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,797, Tsunt, 28th Dec.,—London via ports, Kobe, 27th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rossall, British steamer, 1,751, C. Glanfield, 28th Dec.,—Batoum via ports, Singapore, 10th Dec., Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 29th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Belgian King, British steamer, 2,170, T. L. Weiss, 30th Dec., Hongkong via ports, Kobe, 28th Dec., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, T. Tibballs, 29th December,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, M. Yagi, 29th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Ternick, 30th December,—Moji, 27th December, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

DEPARTURES.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,661, W. Smith, 23rd Dec.,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Swatow, German steamer, 631, Jespersen, 23rd Dec.,—Moji, Ballast.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Hakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,692, F. L. Sommer, 24th Dec.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 24th Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tai Sang, British steamer, 1,544, W. E. Sawer, 24th December,—Kobe, Sugar.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, S. Ishikawa, 24th December,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hohensollern, German steamer, 1,900, E. Woltersdorff, 26th December,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co. Nachf.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3 072, F. R. Evans, 27th Dec.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Japan, British steamer, 2,795, G. K. Wright, 27th Dec.,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, K. Nobeta, 27th Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, E. P. Bishop, 28th Dec.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 28th December,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Olympia, American steamer, 1,691, J. Truebridge, 28th December,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Ningchow, British steamer, 1,735, Rodway, 28th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell Carlill & Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 28th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, A. W. S. Thompson, 28th Dec.,—Moji, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.

Asturia, German steamer, 3,405, Holm, 29th Dec., —Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Diomed, British steamer, 3,005, Thos. Bartlett, 28th December,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Pak Ling, British steamer, 2,875, E. Warrall, 30th Dec.,—Batavia, Ballast.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Eagle Crag, British barque, 1,347, Shimmin, 30th Dec.,—Columbia River, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, J. McGillivary, 30th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell, Carlill & Co.

Nagato Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,149, T. Murai, 29th December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,109, J. Giese, 29th Dec.,—Moji, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Yamanouchi, 29th December,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, M. Yagi, 26th December,—Yokkaichi General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 27th Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K. Yabe, 28th December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, K. Tsuda, 28th December,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Miss E. Pallister, Mr. A. Harting, Capt. Heidrich, Mr. E. Savouret, Mr. W. Schwath, Master Waddilove, Mrs. R. Ozaki and child, and Mr. R. Denra, in cabin; Mr. Ching Ping Tong Mr. King Kong Shing, Mr. Ling Loo Dong, Mr. M. Rivera, in second class; 19 in steerage.

Per German steamer *Hohensollern*, from Hongkong:—Professor S. L. Janson, Mr. G. Kunst, Mr. E. Hug, Mr. E. West, Dr. Harbeter, and Dr. Schab, in cabin, Mr. R. Wendt, Mr. S. Brasch, Mr. W. Behr, and Mr. O. Tchling, in second class; 16 in steerage.

Per American steamer *Olympia*, from Tacoma, Wash.:—Miss Josephine Desmond, Miss Cora Pike, Miss Wilhelmia Watson, Miss Catherine Ricker, Miss Maud Albertson, Miss Ida Porter, Mr. Geo. W. Cummings, Mr. A. M. Fisher, Dr. W. F. Lamson, Mr. E. H. Vickers, Mr. A. J. Forsyth, and Mr. V. L. Boeck, in cabin; 60 Chinese, and 8 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Glenogle*, from Tacoma, Wash.:—Miss Wallace, Miss Bennett, and Mr. W. A. Keen, in cabin; 1 intermediate; and 99 in steerage.

Per French steamer *Indus*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Drabble, Mr. Musgrave, Mr. and Mrs. Klingen, 3 children and amah, Mr. and Mrs. Lorraine, Mr. Gordon Smith and boy, Mr. Rottkay Udo, Mr. R. Jeckel, Mr. Richards, Mr. S. A. Sultkay and boy, Mr. Toeng Kee M. Idris, Mr. Hendrick Hartogh, Mr. Toeng Koe Brahim, Mr. Joseph Blasius, Mr. Goldmann, Mr. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Osai, Mr. and Mrs. Cokato, Mr. Denys Larrien, Mr. Y. Selless, and Mr. Sailer, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Tam Pok Sang, Mr. R. H. Smart, Mr. H. J. Owen, Mr. M. McBain, Lieut. H. B. Duncan, Lieut. E. B. McCormick, Lieut. C. E. Hooper, Mr. J. D. Lamberts, Mr. F. R. Mowrer, Miss Evans, Mr. W. Braune, Mr. Stadlemann, Mr. F. Kiene, Mr. L. C. Pareto, Mr. Pocklington, and Mr. Drewell, in cabin; Mr. Charlton, intermediate. In Transit:—Major Matthews, Capt. R. Renton, Mrs. L. E. Johnson, Mr. C. M. Reynolds, Capt. Carry, Major G. Bowring, and Mr. W. E. Torrens, in cabin, 1 intermediate, 36 European, 3rd class; 403 Chinese, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakata Maru*, for London via ports:—Lieut.-Com. T. Kondo, Surgeon F. Yendo, Paymaster R. Shimazaki, Mr. K. Matsukata, Mr. J. Itami, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Woodburn, Capt. de Labry (French Legation), Mr. Yurgen Schlesinger, and Mr. R. J. O. Spencer, in cabin; Petty officers H. Sakamoto, K. Tukuhisa, and Mr. T. Nakagumi, in second class; 111 Japanese in steerage.

Per German steamer *Hohensollern*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. W. Vehling, Mr. F. J. Collins, Mr. H. Bowie, Dr. J. H. Rosenberg, Mr. O. Pollack, Mr. W. Hussmann, Mr. R. Ehlers, Dr. Proskomiakoff, Mr. Juan Cologan, Mr. P. Th. Pietzcher, Mrs. Ritter, Mr. George Kirchner, and Inspector and Mrs. Creutz and 2 children, in cabin; Miss H. Sachse, Miss de Kantzow, Mrs. Chang Ting Shing and 2 children, and Mr. Fan Ting, in second class; 33 Chinese on deck.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. A. C. Roberts, Mr. Christian Locke, Mr. J. B. Brooks, Mr. W. Lettark, Mr. Robert S. Officer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Szivinski, Mr. K. Inouye, Mrs. Inouye, Mrs. Greene, Miss Greene, Mr. Andrew J. Gaughran, Mr. John A. Waybright, Mr. L. Rosenthal, Mr. John McKenzie, Mr. Geo. J. Cruenthal, Mr. John W. Nelson, Mr. Louis T. Witmer, Dr. Crawford, Lieut. A. G. Wright, Mr. F. Walker, Mr. Geo. S. Brebr, Mr. Jas. Keith, Mr. J. Luna, Mr. T. Lovad, Mr. M. Maife, Mr. E. L. Curtis, and Mr. K. von Gilder, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Japan*, for London via ports:—Mr. H. H. Raines, Mrs. H. H. Raines, Mr. Finch, Mrs. Finch, Misses Finch (2), Mr. F. B. Abenheim, Mr. Jensen, and Mr. Didrik Coppelen, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. A. H. Kelly, Mr. C. Holman, Mr. D. Whedon, and Mr. Ting Chee, in cabin; 3 Chinese, and 2 children, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Capt. Geo. G. Graham, Mr. R. H. Woolfall, Capt. J. C. Curnow, Master Thosbeagle Denbigh, Inspector Surgeon M. Nagai, I.J.N., and Mr. Liao Yu Chun (Chinese Legation), in cabin; 20 Japanese, and 5 Chinese, in steerage.

REPORT.

The German steamer *Hohensollern*; Capt. E. Woltersdorff, reports:—Left Hongkong on the 18th December at 8 p.m. Passed Turnabout on the 20th December at 2.30 a.m., Yoko on the 21st December at 0.20 p.m., Siwo Point on the 23rd December at 10.30 a.m., Rock Island on the 24th December at 0.20 a.m., and arrived at the Roads on the 24th Dec. at 6.45 a.m. On the first day out from Hongkong had fine weather, later on had North to N.W. winds, strong, with high sea.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Tacoma*, for Tacoma, Wash.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	BOND. LOND.	TOTAL PACKAGES.
Hongkong	—	—	—	16	—	16
Shanghai	—	3,415	—	—	—	3,415
Yokohama	—	—	659	—	—	659
Total	—	3,115	659	16	—	4,090

SILK.

	RAW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	75	—	75
Shanghai	—	—	—
Yokohama	182	—	182
Total	257	—	257

Raw and Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Hohensollern*:—

	RAW. Option	Italy	France	WASTE. Italy	England	
Sieber, Brenewald & Co.	103	—	—	93	25	—
Sieber & Co.	25	—	—	—	—	—
Otto Reimers & Co.	28	—	—	—	—	—
C. Giussani	—	25	—	—	—	—
Nabholz & Co.	—	—	20	—	—	—

Total—301 bales Raw Silk; 118 bales Waste Silk.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 668 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 425 bales.

Following were silk shippers per T. K. K.'s steamer *Nippon Maru*, for San Francisco, Dec. 27:—

	Bales.
Ulysse Pila & Co.	50
Doshinsha	102
Total	152

Following were silk shippers per O. & O. steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong, Dec. 28:—

	Bales.
Siber, Brennwald & Co.	500
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	57
P. Doutille	40
Varenne & Co.	36
Pila, Ulysse & Co.	20
Robison & Co.	15
Total	668

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS

The holidays have had their effect on business which, during the early part of the week, was far from brisk, despite the near approach of the new tariff. More movement, however, has been apparent latterly in some lines.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.55 to 2.85
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 38½ yds. 45 inches	2.85 to 3.35
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.80 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—12 yards, 44 inches,	1.60 to 2.30
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches,	2.00 to 3.75
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.14 to 0.25

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.30 to 0.50
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.38 to 0.40
Mousseline de Laine—Cape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.15½ to 0.22½
Cloths—Pilots, 51 @ 56 inches	0.35 to 0.50
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.72½
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40 to 0.85
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb, per lb	0.55 to 0.67½

	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.50 to 8.92½
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches,	0.60 to 0.00
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.40 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 31 inches	2.50 to 3.52½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 24, Singles	$34.50 to 36.50
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 32, Doubles	41.00 to 41.50
Nos. 42, Doubles	44.50 to 45.50
Nos. 2/60, Plain	64.00 to 65.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	76.00 to 77.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	97.00 to 99.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	70.00 to 75.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	84.50 to 90.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	112.00 to 115.00

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	$18.50 to —
Indian Broach	18.25 —
Chinese	18.25 —

METALS.

The market is quiet, with no alteration in prices.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch, and upward	4.00 to 4.35
Iron Plates, assorted	4.25 to 4.65
Sheet Iron	5.00 to 5.80
Galvanized Iron sheets	9.25 to 11.00
Wire Nails, assorted	6.05 to 6.25
Tin Plates, per box	6.20 to 6.50
Pig Iron, Tex. 5	2.08 to 2.10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1¼ inch)	5.00 to 5.25

KEROSENE.

The market remains inactive at last week's rates.

American	$2.18 to 2.20
Russian	2.15 to 2.17
Langkat	1.95

SUGAR.

Trade remains steady at last week's prices.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.20 to 5.25
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.60
Brown Daitong	4.00 to 4.25
Brown Canton	3.90 to 5.60
White Java and Penang	6.80 to 7.00
White Refined	7.05 to 0.85

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Only a few transactions have been put through, and there is a large stock in hand. If holders would come down a little in their demands, business might be done as there are plenty of orders in hand from Europe.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra 9/11, 10/12 den	$930 to 940
Filatures—Extra 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den	910 to 920
Filatures—No. 1½, 10/14 deniers	870 to 880
Filatures—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	890 to 900
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	850 to 860
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	870 to 880
Re-reels—No. 1, 13/15, 14/16 den.	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½, 13/16, 14/17 den.	870 to 880
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	850 to 860
Re-reels—No. 2½, 17/20 deniers	830 to 840
Re-reels—No. 3, 18/20 deniers	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	860 to 870
Kakedas—No. 1	830 to 840
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	800 to 810
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

The market is quite lifeless, though some big shipments have been made by native firms.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filature, Best	$110 to 120
Noshi—Filature, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Oshu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	67½ to 70
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	65 to 67½
Noshi—Bushu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi—Bushu, Good	105 to 110
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	80 to 85
Noshi—Joshu, Good	55 to 65
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	50 to 55
Kibiso—Filature, Best	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	75 to 80
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	20 to 25

TEA.

Practically no business is doing, and quotations are nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal.
Choice	Nominal.
Finest	$29 to 30
Fine	27 to 28
Good Medium	25 to 26
Medium	23 to 24
Good Common	21 to 22
Common	19 to 20

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EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, December 29th.

Rates have all ruled steady to-day at the highest range experienced since the introduction of the Gold Standard, closing for the mail per steamer *Empress of Japan* as under.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/8
— — Bills on demand	2/0 3/8
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 3/8
— Private 4 months' sight	2/1 1/4
— — 6 months' sight	2/1 1/4
On Paris—Bank sight	259
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	264 1/4
On America—Bank Bills on demand	49 3/4
— Private 4 months' sight	51 1/4
On Germany—Bank sight	1.09
— Private 4 months' sight	2.14 1/4
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3 1/4 to 3 1/4 % dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	5 1/4 to 5 1/4 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	74 1/4 to 5
— Private 10 days' sight	76 to 7
On India—Bank sight	153
— Private 30 days' sight	157
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/16

[Messrs. Bisset & Urr's List.]

Yokohama, December 29th.

Hongkong wires us the following quotations to-day:—Sales of H. & S. Banks 248 per cent. premium, of National Banks at $17, of China Fires at $88, of Hongkong Fires $320, of H. & W. Docks at 268 per cent. premium, of H. & K. Wharfs at $76, of Douglasses at $52, of Indo Chinas at $60, Raub Mines at $43, of Hongkong Lands at $75, of China Traders at $62, and of H. C. & M. Steamboats at $26.50; and Sellers of Punjom Mines at $6 25, of Union Insurance at $130 of Straits Insurance at $7.

LOCAL STOCKS.

Iron Works are in demand at *yen* 225. Grand Hotels are wanted at *yen* 225. Club Hotels are offering at *yen* 105. Offers of Oriental Hotels Ordinary shares are wanted; offers for Founders' shares are wanted. Bretts can be had at *yen* 9.50, buyers offer $9. North & Rees have buyers at *yen* 200. Langfeldts can be had at *yen* 235. Japan Brewery Debentures are obtainable at *yen* 108 and Oriental Hotel Debentures at *yen* 110 ex accrued interest in both cases.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50	205 B.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld., $100, Old	305 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. *yen* 30 (*yen* 30 paid up)	225 S.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100	225 B.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100	105 S.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100	110 Sa. & E.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Fdrs.), $125	450 S.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., *yen* 200	45 S.
North and Rae, Ld., $100	200 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $10	9.50 S.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100	235 S.
Hingo Gas Co., Ld., $100	180 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	108 S.
Kobe Club 6% Deb., $50	50 B.
Yokohama United Club 5 1/2% Deb., $100	100 B.
Brett & Co., Ld 7% Deb., $100	100 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100	110 S.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100	100 N.

Reserve Fund.—1, *yen* 110,000; 2, *yen* 3,200 equalization of dividends and *yen* 30,000 fluctuation of property; 3, *yen* 17,770-80; 4, *yen* 16,308.44.

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady N.=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries.

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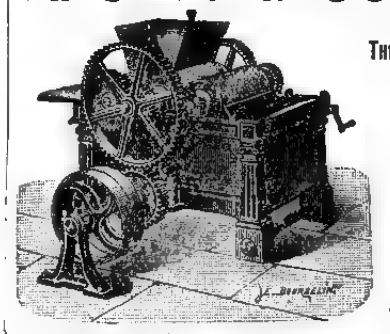

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